

Special Feature

Shakespeare, Raleigh, Drake and Ragged Edge!

When Charles Marshall (guitar), Roger Hollingdale (guitar), Gordon Halliday (keyboards) and Dan Rogers (vocals) performed in 2000 as *The*



Wychwood Wannabees little did they know that in years to come they would be asked to perform at one of London's most historic venues!

Ragged Edge Arrives

Following a couple of appearances in variety shows at Beaconsfield Hall the band was re-named *Ragged Edge* and the line-up evolved with the addition of me (drums), Frank O'Neill (bass) and Becky Marshall (vocals, saxophone and percussion).

The band started playing mainly for charity and, to date, has performed for free at events that have raised in excess of £14,000. People then started asking us to perform at parties and dinners, and requests for our services have been accepted as far afield as Bath, Worcester and Windsor.

So it was that on mid-summer's day the band fulfilled a prestigious engagement in London at Middle Temple Hall. The Hall was completed in 1573 and has changed little since. In 1602 Shakespeare's *Chamberlain's Men* gave the first recorded performance of *Twelfth*

Night and it is believed the great man acted in it himself. Regular visitors to the Hall included Elizabeth I, Walter Raleigh, Francis Drake, and Martin Frobisher and it has a prestigious

reputation as an entertainment venue.

Entertaining in Middle Temple Hall

So, overlooked by priceless portraits of many monarchs and with the assistance of a provided professional sound engineer, *Ragged Edge* prepared to entertain 200 guests, ranging from end of year legal students in their 20's to the more mature, including several judges! From Eddie Cochran to James Blunt, The Rolling Stones to Dire Straits, the crowd danced the night away. The band not only aims to offer variety in the selection of music played but also flexibility within the personnel, with no less than five different members taking lead vocals.

At 11 pm *Stand by Me* rang out as our final song, the crowd applauded and cheered. It did take some time for us to leave the hall though as many people offered their thanks and appreciation. From humble beginnings to this! We would like to thank Peter and Anne Hilling for their hospitality and look forward to seeing you at a 'gig' soon.

Terry Tew