

OFRC stalwart publishes first novel – and he’s only 81.

It’s never too late, so they say, and this has been proven by the OF Rifle Club’s most senior member whose first novel has hit the bookshelves at the tender age of just 81.

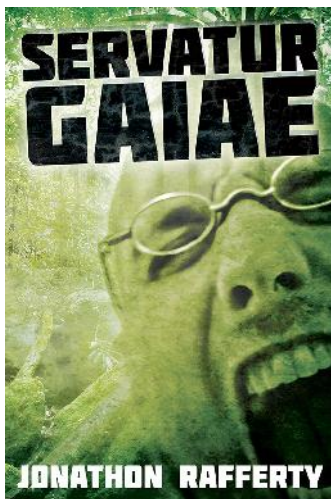
‘Servatur Gaiae’ (Gaia’s Saviour) by Jonathon Rafferty is published by London-based Austin Macauley and hits the shelves this week.

Neil Joy (R 1947-51), affectionately known in the club as ‘Father of the House’ decided to pen his book for the best of reasons – too much time on his hands.

The retired Chemical Engineer who studied at Imperial College, spent much of his long career travelling to obscure parts of the world and became, “increasingly frustrated at reading about the continuing environmental destruction and being unable to do anything about it other than write the book.”

Like all OFRC members, Neil came to shooting at Fram and carried it on while serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during National Service.

Widowed five years ago, the grandfather of two needed something to do with idle hands.



He says: “This novel presents a possible, though fairly unlikely solution of the current ecological problems facing the world – typically pollution, deforestation, exhaustion of resources, over-population and species extinction.

“It supposes that an alien intelligence is so concerned at the way the world’s problems are developing and the apparent inability of the world to overcome these problems, that it intervenes remotely to prevent the ultimate catastrophe facing the world, that of its own self-destruction. Its reason for the intervention is simply the uniqueness of the earth within the cosmos.”

Explaining his nom-de-plume, Neil says: “I’m in the phone book and I’m too old to deal with stalkers, even female ones! Besides, I wanted a name with rhythm and Jonathon Rafferty sounds, well, raffish.”

It is available via Amazon and other good sites <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Servatur-Gaiae-Jonathon-Rafferty/dp/1784558915>

Neil is willing and able to sign copies for all OFs.

