

Welcome

We have reached May; a third of the year completed and time seems to have flown especially over the past six weeks, and people say I am sarcastic. Certainly, everywhere is looking like a ghost town although having said that traffic is increasing on many of the roads. I hope you are all well and keeping safe in the pandemic, finding things to keep you occupied. My plan of always completing work as it arrives has backfired this year and I have finished everything way ahead of the contract final dates, although I do have a number of online meetings in the pipeline. I am now working on the 2023 contracted work.

I hope you are all staying well both in mind and in body and where possible are getting out and about for your hour-long exercise. A good thing to do in times like this is spring cleaning but remember if you are thinking of throwing out any Baines items like photos then please keep them for the archive, everything is appreciated.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep everyone informed about things that have been going on and therefore if you have any news items or things you would like to share then please contact me and I will include them.

PPE visors for the NHS on the Fylde

You probably read in the press or my previous emails that a former pupil of the school, Ben Johnson 2003-2009 is helping the NHS by printing visors using the school's 3D printers. Ben works for a 3D printing distribution service in Chorley. He is helped in his task by another former pupil, now teacher at Baines, Bill Cropper. The 3D printers in school were purchased with the help of a grant by the Former Pupils Association. Well done to Ben for this sterling work and thanks to the Head for allowing this to happen.

Getting by in the lockdown

I have heard from one or two of you about what you are doing during the lockdown. Gardening, jigsaw puzzles, bike rides in Blackpool, quizzes, walks and tidying up. These are the standard ones, but other tasks are emerging. For example, I am singing with Gareth Malone's Virtual Choir although the house next door appears to have gone up for sale for some reason. I am also working through my collection of Victorian recipe books. Margaret McCann contacted me and tells me that she is teaching ceilidh dancing online to her confined home language students.

Contact me if you are doing something for the lockdown that you might want to share with others.

Featured Alumni

I am planning to set up a Featured Alumni section in the newsletter to tell others about what you are doing. I had planned to contact one or two of you, but sad news interrupted this therefore the first Featured Alumni is David Dagnall which some of you may have remembered either as a colleague or as a Maths teacher.

Events

The Baines Alumni Cookbook.
All other events are postponed until after the lockdown.

Former Pupils Association

If you wish to join (£10 per year) please contact Paul Bamber (FPA Secretary) on fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk or contact Mrs Kenyon in the school reception or myself and we will pass your details on to the FPA.

Looking for Alumni

It is sad the first of the Featured Alumni has to be an obituary, but I am hoping that you will contact me to tell the rest of the Alumni what you have been doing since leaving Baines.

Contacts

Baines alumni email
Bainesalumni@btinternet.com

Former Pupils Association

fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Facebook

Baines School 300

Official school Facebook page

Baines School

Items for the newsletter

If you have any items that you would like to include in the newsletter then please contact me on the above email and I will endeavour to include it. I am hoping that through the lockdown period to keep you all up to date with what is going on, monthly.

David Dagnall (1946-2020)



David passed away recently in Acle, Norfolk as a result of complications to Parkinson's Disease. Even though when he taught at Baines he speared to be a quiet gentleman this hid a past life that was far from quiet and sedate.

David was a former deputy headmaster and acting Principal at Northlands School in Bermuda. He taught in Bermuda for 19 years and was known for his ebullience in sporting circles. He died at the age of 73.

He was born in Appleby, Westmorland, and was deputy principal then acting Principal at Northlands School in Bermuda. He was a keen sportsman playing cricket, (a formidable left hander), rugby, a marathon runner, referee and mountain trekker. He went to the same teacher training college as George Purves as well as lodging with him for three years in Morecambe.

As a runner he completed the New York Marathon in 1988. He trekked to the Himalayas, to base camp at Everest, Switzerand and even Wales. He also completed the 500 mile El Camino de Santiago, one of the oldest Christian pilgrimage routes in the world that is held across Spain and other parts of Europe.

After he returned to England in 1991, David continued to teach mathematics, run and referee football matches until the onset of Parkinson's disease, in 2013, which slowed him down. Even with this disease he still continued to follow the fortunes of his favourite football team, Carlisle United. He even named his Norfolk home Brunton Park after the Sky Bet League Two side.

His other claim to fame was that he featured in a BBC documentary on snoring. He was not only a snorer but also a shouter and swearer in his sleep. In fact in the BBC documentary he classed he said 'it turned him into a monster, in bed'.

I have written to his widow on behalf of the Alumni.

Circulation of the newsletter

This newsletter is emailed to all members of the Alumni, that have given us email addresses, it is posted on the closed group Baines School 300 Facebook page as well as the Community pages on the School website.

Baines Alumni cookbook

During the lockdown you may have been digging out those old recipes or using some new ones. The Head of Baines and myself are compiling a cookbook recipes. We are looking for any recipes to include. The standard headings like starters, mains, puddings but also local recipes for local people (Northern recipes) and pick me ups like tonics. We will even accept recipes from our neighbours like Haggis or even Dutch Appeltaart.

Baines Picture Quiz

Anyone know where this picture was taken? Hint: It is part of a former Baines property.



Newsletter compiled by

David J Astall, President of Baines FPA and Secretary of the Baines Alumni.

This is the example of the layout and one for you to try.

River Road dessert

This is a southern states dessert, sweet and rich. A comfort food made after Katrina hit the Southern States.

Ingredients

½ cup grape juice

16 marshmallows

½ pint whipped, whipping cream

Method

Melt the marshmallows in grapejuice. Allow to cool. Fold in the whipped cream and place in a fridge.

Serves 8

Submitted by:

...and finally

Keep safe in the lockdown and I will write to you all again in June when we may or may not still be in lockdown.