

Dear Alumni member,

We have reached October and the year seems to have flown by. A great deal has happened since the last newsletter and this is reported on, in this edition of the newsletter. The main event is that school has reopened to all students and it certainly feels a different place. The first big difference is the apparent lack of students even though all are present. However recently Year 11 students have been self-isolating due to a positive test of one of their number.

As for the Alumni, things are moving on a pace with talks underway for the creation of a new website. The current website was meant to only be in operation for the lockdown but recently it has had a daily makeover with new sections and information added as this acts as a test bed for a new site. If you haven't checked it recently then click here to see the changes. [Website](#).

The Alumni has only been in operation a short while but what we have achieved in that time has been phenomenal. Thank you for all the words of encouragement from what has been achieved. I am pleased that you find what we have done is helping to keep the community together.

Please know how grateful we are for the continued support of our Alumni community.

Getting back to reality

In mid-September former headteacher Muriel Ryding, FPA member Robert Wright and myself ventured into School; quite a surreal exercise. Even though the school was full and operational there were so few pupils about. The reason for this is that due to the possibility of infection it is the teachers that move classrooms now not the pupils.

The reason for our visit was to discuss the new website and to sort out the archive that we have. However what happened was a pleasant surprise. We were handed loads of artifacts from the main building, including photographs, architectural plans, the James Baines copy of the will that used to be in the hall and a drawing of the old buildings on linen, possibly from the 1890s.

All will now be preserved in the archive and scanned to produce digital copies.

Help and Support

The Alumni is here to help and support you. Its members have many skills, expertise and friends to give you advice and support if we can.

This section of the Newsletter reflects that:

More links

You will notice from this newsletter that there are more links with the website. Simply click on the link to find more information on a topic.

Success

Steve Foster has been found. Thanks to those Alumni members that contacted Steve to let us know that we were looking for him. Hopefully he has now been put in contact with his former colleagues.

Our thoughts

We do try to be positive in the newsletter but there are times when I need to report on negative things.

I hope you all join me in wishing former Headteacher **Brian Wilson** and FPA member **Gary Fretwell** a speedy recovery, both are in hospital.

John Ashton-Rigby

I have to report the passing of John on the 10th September following a long illness. Our thoughts are with his wife, Anne and family. His son, Mark, also attended Baines

Alumni members

We feature in the newsletter Notable and Featured Alumni. Everyone in the Alumni matters, whatever job they do. If you want to let others know what you have been doing since leaving Baines then please let me know and I will add it to the newsletter and website.

The new Website

When the current [website](#) was created it was meant to act as a test bed for a fully fledged website and to keep the Alumni together during the pandemic. I have enjoyed working on it and it is developing daily with new features. But the Alumni should be shaped by its members as should the content of the website, hence the call for ideas for the new site. Thank you to those that have contributed to this discussion so far.

When the new site is fully operational the current website will be phased out, but the newsletter will continue to be published.

Frequency of the newsletter

The newsletter has been produced every month except August. As the students go back to school my workload will increase over the next few months therefore, I will endeavour to publish the newsletter every month but there may be some delay at times.

Another Mystery

Linen drawings of the old school

The linen/parchment drawing of the old school and house presented in 1999 by the then president of the former pupils' association, G Rae has been handed to the Alumni for safe keeping. We had a photocopy of this artifact but always wondered where the original one was.

The drawing is painted onto the 'canvas' in colour and is inscribed with a description of the buildings. The drawing is possibly on linen or parchment but without removing it from its frame we cannot be sure. It had been found in the school and stored under the stage for safe keeping. The artifact is in a poor state and looks like it will need some TLC from the Repair Shop.

Featured Alumni

Further information about the featured Alumni can be found on the Baines Alumni [website](#).

Kieran Lawton (90-97)



For those that know Kieran he is well, living just south of Manchester with his wife and two children. Kieran went to Newcastle University where he gained a BA (Hons) in Business Management. He has worked in the NE, London and now Manchester. His achievements include Young Corporate Financier of the Year in 2015. Kieran is a Senior Investment Director at a private equity company in Manchester.

If anyone wishes to contact him, I can pass on your details.

Welcome

Keiran Lawton and Katie Beisly (nee Mercer) have been added to the Alumni lists.

Baines in the News

Here is a link to the Head's interview on Radio Lancashire on 15th September. She was talking about the restarting of school in September.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08q8ks4>

The section is 3:50:15 to 3:55:08

Articles from the younger members

Many of the articles that are sent in are from the older members of the school community, but we also need to hear from the younger members of the Alumni. Any photographs or stories you have I am pleased to include them.

Finding former colleagues

If you have lost touch with former colleagues or school friends then we are here to help. Simply contact me and I will post a request in the newsletter and on the website.

The Poultonian

Many of you seem to be enjoying reading the uploaded [Poultonians](#). By the time this newsletter is completed and sent to you we will have finished the 1960s and will move backwards to the 1950s. In the future we have plans to include the 1970s and a special scan of the 1940s as we have had celebrations for VE, VJ, Battle of Britain etc.

I also will include from time to time articles from the school magazine.

When we get a full website it is hoped that full copies of every Poultonian and school magazine will be available.

Events

When it is safe to do so will be reopening the James Baines Room and inviting you down to view the archive and have a cup of tea on our Alumni Tuesday.

In November's issue

The full story of DofE and the horse's head incident.

Graham Mills (1957-64)

Graham is a true Bainesian being a former pupil of Baines Endowed as well as the Grammar school. After leaving Leicester University he was employed with the UK Atomic Energy Authority at Culcheth Laboratories, Warrington, researching reactor materials metallurgy. During this time, he spent time at the Radio and Space Research Station in the Falkland Islands.

After 1973 he began working for the offshore oil and gas construction industry, first with Unit Inspection Company, a subsidiary of British Steel, working at Nigg Bay in NE Scotland helping build the BP Forties Field offshore platform, Highlands 1.

Then he joined Oceaneering for diving and underwater remote technology for offshore oil and gas developments in the North Sea and Middle East.

Following this he planned to retire, but he was hired as the Project Contracts Manager for an FSPO for Tullow Oil and Gas destined for offshore Ghana.

He is currently retired, living principally in Bangkok with a flat in Singapore and one in Aberdeen.

A fuller report on Graham can be found on the [website](#).

Other featured Alumni

On the website I have written a report about [Prof David Caton Flenley](#), professor of respiratory medicine in the University of Edinburgh

1962 Swimming team

Thanks to Alan Christy (56-63) for this picture. Can anyone fill in the gaps.



School swimming team of 1962 showing Mr Hoyle and Mr Field. The names of the boys on the front row are from left... Richmond, Bennett, Thorpe, Simmons, Williams, Hedgeland, Christy, Bottomley, Hedgeland. On the back row from left the names are ?, ?, ?, Brown, ?, Hoyle, Field, Palfreyman, Smith, ?, ?

What's new on the website?

A [Rogues Gallery](#) of former staff and pupils. The list of [Notable Alumni](#) are now in some semblance of order with links to the sections.

I have also added a calendar, a noticeboard, a community advertisement section, a set of photographs from sports days and a discussion section

Former Pupils Association

If you wish to join (£10 per year) please contact Paul Bamber (FPA Secretary) on fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk.

Welcome

We welcome former pupil John Newman as the newest member of the FPA.

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

Baines Alumni website

e-voice.org.uk/bainesalumni

Secretary Alumni

David Astall

Chairman Alumni

Muriel Ryding

Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

School Archive

As mentioned previously in this newsletter the school archive is ever growing, both the physical archive and the electronic one. If you have anything to donate then please either send them to the Baines Alumni email address or drop them into school, telling the office staff they are for the Alumni.

The website now has a [Rogues Gallery](#) where photos like this will be displayed so that you can fill in the names and a photograph album.

From the School Magazine 1996

A special Ceremony for Sarah (and the School)

Founders Day is a regular event in the school calendar. The main purpose is to commemorate the founding of the school by James Baines. It has to be admitted that sitting in the church for a length of time does not appeal to everyone but this year it was an honour to attend.

The event is attended by years 7 and 8, the lower Sixth, teachers and other members of the school community.

It was the first year that a Head Girl was to be presented with their own medallion. Usually this badge of office is shared between the Head Boy and Head Girl. Nine Senior Prefects also received badges of office from the Bishop of Blackburn. Prior to Sarah receiving her medallion the Bishop gave a blessing to bring prosperity to the school and for Head Girls of the Future.

Head Girl – Sarah Irvine, Head Boy – Kieran Lawton

Baines Voices

We have recording equipment to record your stories at your time at Baines

However due to the continued pandemic you may like to record using your own computers on the computer's voice recorder (found in settings) and then submit it to the Alumni email address.

Circulation of the newsletter

This newsletter is emailed to all members of the Alumni and Former Pupils Association 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.

Future notable and featured Alumni

Radio 2 and 6 Music controller – Jeff Smith
Fashion Designer – Frank Strachan
H Ellis Tomlinson – coat of arms designer

Newsletter compiled by

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