

Dear Alumni member,

I apologise again for not having a newsletter for November but unfortunately work got in the way with flights from far off lands arriving late it meant the work was spread out over more weeks than usual. As I write this, I have just finished an interview with New Zealand Radio and just about to go into another one. What a life for a celeb.



We are nearly at the end of the year and what a year it has been, who would have thought back in January that the world would have changed so much in such a short amount of time. Even in March we were thinking it was going to be short lived. Let's hope that 2021 holds better prospects for us all.

We have another bumper newsletter but a lot of it for sad reasons. I have included a bit of research into the descendants of the Baines family that you may be interested in. People say I am a dustbin of knowledge and during a recent conversation with cousins in Norfolk the name Baines came up. The result is quite fascinating (well I think so). There are a lot of topics I could have included but that will have to wait for another day

Christmas card

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIEa77xf9D0>

I had planned to scan in one of the old Baines cards but one of my work colleagues sent me this retro card. It used to be the scourge of the staff room in the 90's. Who was that guy who disabled the break and escape keys on the keyboard?

FPA News

Recently I have heard of three deaths in the Alumni, John Anderton (46-53) and David Gregory (57-64) both old boys of the school and the former headmaster Brian Wilson (81-87). The details of their school careers are listed on the Alumni website.

John Anderton (46-53)

To watch the funeral, which was held at Altrincham Crem on 15th Oct. Simply click the [here](#) and enter the order ID and password that is shown.

The order ID is: 51172
password is xpfazmew
And check the box I agree terms and conditions

**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 is therefore here to help especially at this strange time we are living in.

Physical newsletter

It has been suggested that I move over to a totally online and interactive newsletter. This is something I am resisting as many of you may not have the facilities to read it. Therefore the newsletter will continue in this form for the foreseeable future.

FPA meeting

A few members of the FPA held an online planning meeting in early December to plan for the 2021 AGM and AGM dinner. The 2021 AGM and meal will be different due to the pandemic. When we have finalised this, we will get back to you.

Tuesday get together

The school is out of action for the time being due to the pandemic, therefore so that we can get everyone talking again in these strange times I am setting up a series of Online get togethers from January 2021.

The get togethers will be on Tuesdays from 10am. If you are interested, then please contact me and I will send you the details. It is hoped that if we run online get togethers then members from far afield will be able to chat.

Do you remember... Dave Blundell

He was Head Prefect in 1991. I have recently been in contact with him. He is a Blockchain strategist at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. He is currently working on digital passports for care home workers.

A report on John's career is posted on the website. Simply click here – [John's Career](#).

David Gregory (57-64)

David died in early October in Newcastle. Many alumni members will remember David for his sporting prowess in both soccer and athletics. He represented Baines, district and county with distinction. He was also a very modest, charming and unassuming man with a great sense of humour. After retiring from teaching, he built up a successful PR and media business based in Newcastle, serving customers nationwide.

He leaves his wife Dorothy, ex Arnold High, and a son and a daughter. He will be sorely missed by all

Brian Wilson

Brian Wilson sadly passed away on Sunday 25th October at Cleveleys Nursing Home on Rossall Road.

Brian had previously been hospitalised for some time at The Clifton Hospital. Unfortunately, Brian's wife Liz has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and I understand is naturally quite confused at the moment.

Many fond memories are being posted about Brian and the current Headteacher at Baines will be including them in the next newsletter.

We send our condolences to Liz and, the family and friends.

Covid lockdown V2.0 has meant that we will not be able to show our respects to Brian in the manner we would wish. However, the funeral director has sent the link to view the funeral service recording on your computers/tablets/phones etc.

The link is <https://vimeo.com/475938285/de68915e9d>
No password required

Comments on Brian Wilson from subsequent Heads



Alison Chapman, the current headteacher will be writing about him in the next school newsletter but was pleased to have chatted to him about his memories of the school at the recent reunion.

Muriel Ryding who took up the post when Brian retired from his post writes 'For me I feel very privileged to have known him as a colleague and as my professional mentor. He was a joy to work with, always on an even keel and totally professional. He supported

Congratulations

Alison Chapman the Head of the school has been appointed as a Fellow at the Chartered College of Teaching.



Success

We have managed to link up Gordon Beresford and Stephen Bell. As well as Graham Mills and John Simmons.

If you wish to contact former colleagues, then please get in touch and we will try our best to do it for you.

Our thoughts

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

I hope you all join me in wishing FPA member **Gary Fretwell** a speedy recovery, he is in hospital.

Muriel and Gary Ryding have recovered from the Covid.

Farewell

Andy and Diann Darbourne are leaving the area to live in Market Harbrough to be closer to their family. We wish them all the best in their new home.

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.

Welcome

We welcome Paul Guy Lincoln (1994-2001) who has recently joined the Alumni. Glad to see some more younger members.

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.

and encouraged me and recognise that I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

During his time as Head, Brian brought tremendous intellectual foresight and energy to the development of the School during the challenging years of change. His vision of quality education for all, was at the heart of everything he did. He was as concerned for pupils going to University as he was in addressing the problems of pupils with special needs. He wanted to broaden the range of experiences on offer to pupils but always to make them relevant to the needs of the modern society. He set up a pilot project for the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) and we became a leading school for the scheme and through it we were able to establish close working links with local businesses and industry; which worked greatly to our mutual benefits. The scheme was later taken up by all Lancashire Schools and in 1987 Brian left Baines to become its Director.

Brian will be sadly missed from the Baines Family but not forgotten.

A Mystery

School crest. We all know the school crest designed by Ellis Tomlinson but why is it different in the windows? The windows were erected in 1930s then Ellis 1940s (designs). I am hoping to have a report on Ellis in future newsletters.

Featured Alumni

Further information about the featured Alumni can be found on the Baines Alumni [website](#). We do however need you to tell everyone what you have been up to.

A tale of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) was a big thing within the school for many years. Here is a tale from one of the gold expeditions.

The gold expedition was always the highlight of the DofE calendar, and the summer of 1995 was no exception. We were using a new campsite in Grinton, Swaledale. The three staff taking the expedition were myself, Susan Biggs (nee Nuttall) and the late Kate Griffiths. Now perhaps the staff should have realised that all was not well when I said that the campsite was idyllic next to the river; it even had a bath.

Unfortunately the bathing facilities had to be shared with the cows in the next field. However luckily for me the weather was good and the site super. Next to it was a pretty church complete with automatic church bell that chimed EVERY quarter all night long. The expedition had been good, blessed with good weather

The Poultonian

Many of you seem to be enjoying reading the uploaded [Poultonians](#). We are well on with the 70s then this will be followed by the 50s and then the 40s. If you want back copies of the Poultonian then contact me and I will see what I can do.

I do have digital copies from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

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

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

and this being the penultimate day everything was going to plan until one of the silver groups were late arriving in. When they did arrive they were questioned as to where they had been as they had been seen quite some time ago and were walking well. The answer was 'we have been at a wedding – WHAT? It seemed that the bride and groom couldn't find a chimney sweep in the village (lucky at a wedding) so decided 6 hikers would do just as well.

After a good night's sleep, the sun rose on our field and it was time to get up. I was up early, and sat reading the paper in the minibus. The female staff were still in the harem of a tent they slept in, when one of the lads came to the bus claiming they had found a load of tent pegs. They kind of fell out of the ground around the staff tent. But the tent was still standing. All that was holding it up was two pegs at the front. Suddenly two more pegs were brought to me as the tent descended to the ground and out of it emerged Susan Nuttall and Kate Griffiths.

However. smiles and laughter soon faded, when the kids saw what Kate had around her – a horse's head blanket. I am sure I could hear the church bells were chiming the Godfather Theme! Strange the groups left quickly afterwards.

The Baines brothers

We all think of James Baines as the benefactor of the school but what of his descendants. James' great great great great grandsons were John Thomas Baines and Henry Baines. John the elder was born 200 years ago this year and Henry was born in 1823.

Both were artists with Henry the more successful with his pictures selling regularly for 6 figure values. John Baines was an artist in Africa and was part of the David Livingstone expedition. Having left the expedition, he went onto South Africa where a nature reserve is named after him and to Australia where a mountain and a beetle is named after him. You can read more about these remarkable descendants of James Baines [here](#).

And finally...

I think that is all I need to write about this month; I am bound to have missed something.

The Alumni would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, hopefully a better year than the last one.



address or drop them into school, telling the office staff they are for the Alumni.

We are looking at trying to have one of the items from the school archive renovated by the Repair Shop.

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; LinkedIn as well as the Community pages on the School website.

Future notable and featured Alumni for 2021

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.