

## Dear Alumni member,

This year seems to be flashing past so quickly, already we have completed a 12<sup>th</sup> of the year. The days are getting longer and soon we will be thinking about all those places we should have been going to for our summer holidays. I have already booked my trip to Iceland, then Booths the week after.

Many of the older members of the Alumni and FPA will have received their first dose of the vaccine by now. The vaccines have been administered in many places, Cathedrals, football grounds and even some of the old stomping grounds of the Alumni (allegedly) like the police cells in Lancaster Town Hall. Even some of the more important younger members of the community have received theirs (like me).

We have another bumper edition this month running to five pages. I have already started collecting information for next month's edition too.

## Baines in the media

There used to be a folder in the school called 'Baines in the News'; this was resurrected last year. It seems that this year former Baines students and staff have been in the media.

## Dancing on Ice

January saw the return of Dancing on Ice to ITV. This year one of the ice dancers is former Baines student Joe Warren Plant who plays Jacob Gallagher in Yorkshire TV's Emmerdale Farm. Joe is temporarily swapping his wellies for ice skates.

Emmerdale Farm is filmed at a purpose-built set on the Harewood House Estate on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors. It used to be filmed at Arncliffe in Littondale, a popular spot for Baines DofEers.

Joe will be following in the footsteps of former Baines students Daniel Whiston and Stuart Widdall who are both professional ice dancers and have both appeared on the show.

## Long Lost Family



In another ITV programme Long Lost Family a former pupil Phillip Holme was featured. He was reunited with his long lost sister, Donna Cowell after 40 years. They only lived 3 miles apart. Phillip and his two siblings were adopted. Donna and Damien by one family and Phillip by another.

## 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.

## Contacts

### Baines Alumni

#### Baines alumni email

[Bainesalumni@btinternet.com](mailto:Bainesalumni@btinternet.com)

#### Facebook

Baines School 300

#### Baines Alumni website

[e-voice.org.uk/bainesalumni](http://e-voice.org.uk/bainesalumni)

#### Chairman Alumni

Muriel Ryding

#### Secretary Alumni

David Astall

### Former Pupils Association

#### President

David Astall

#### Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

#### Treasurer FPA

Mick Baron

### Former Pupils Association

[fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

### Baines School

#### Official school Facebook page

Baines School

## Erratum and apologies

Last month I reported on a photograph of the 1949 cross country and suggested Peter Ramsden was son of former teacher Don Ramsden. Unfortunately, it was medically impossible (due to ages).

## From exams to 100 year old rhubarb

For those of you that listen to Gardeners Question Time on Radio 4 (29<sup>th</sup> January, available on BBCSounds) will have heard a former Head of ICT at Baines asking a question about 100-year-old rhubarb. This person was also heard/see on BBC World News talking about this summer's examinations and the impact that the virus will have on them.

## FPA News

### Garry Fretwell (47-52)

Garry has been reported in the newsletter for a few months since he was taken into hospital last year. He was then moved to a hospice in Blackpool where he passed away in January.

Garry was a former pupil of Baines and when he left in 1952 joined the then District Bank (NatWest) eventually becoming the manager. Garry was a very active member and keen supporter of the FPA. He was also a past president. He leaves a wife Ann.

This is from the July 1953 Poultonian pp29

#### Valete

AUTUMN TERM, 1952.—T. J. Campbell (IIx), J. B. Crossley (Vx), P. Eastwood (Vx), G. Fretwell (Vm), R. Hale (VIb), B. Milner (IVm), K. P. Newton (Vm), R. W. Roughley (VIa), C. R. Stead (IIIs).

*Valete is an obsolete word for farewell.*

Garry's funeral is on Weds 16<sup>th</sup> Feb at 1pm at Carleton Crematorium. Due to Covid restrictions you will not be able to attend the service but if you wish to see the coffin pass then mourners can line up outside.

## Featured Alumni

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

It has taken a few months to include this report of Harold Ellis Tomlinson in the newsletter. Better late than never.

### Harold Ellis Tomlinson MA PhD FHS (28-33)



Before the great lockdown of 2020 I used to have meetings at the University of Cambridge at Warwick University. The hotel we used was in Kenilworth. Every time I drove down I would pass the town arms on the road by the 'sandstone' castle – hence the red castle on the arms.

But what has this to do with Baines? Here is the Baines arms. Both are designed by heraldic designer and former pupil and teacher at Baines, H. Ellis Tomlinson.



Thank you to the eagle eyed Alumni members who corrected my mistake.

## Requests

A number of you are asking for back copies of newsletters and the Poultonian. I do have a number of scanned Poultonians but due to the pandemic many of the early ones are trapped in school. As soon as they are scanned I will post them on the website. As for the scanned ones I will send these to the Alumni that requested them but it may take some time due to work commitments.

Each Monday the Poultonian are posted on the [Alumni website](#).

## Looking for former friends

I have had an email from Don Sidebottom MBE who is looking for a former classmate of his, Tom Sumner (48-53). Does anyone know his whereabouts and how we can contact him? If you send me an email I will pass it on to Don.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Chris Jackson (64–71) who is now on the mailing list for the Alumni. We would also like to welcome Neil Smith (81-88) featured in this newsletter who has joined the FPA. We do need some younger members of the Alumni joining the FPA in order to keep it going for future generations. Details of how to do this are listed on the website and in this newsletter.

## Get togethers

The school is still out of action and as such I would like to sort out Zoom meetings, with Alumni members.



If you are interested, then please contact me, with possible days and times that you can meet 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. They won't be as chaotic as the Handforth Council Meetings though.

Baines School arms – like many of Ellis's designs used elements of the history of the school. Including the ham bone from the Baines family coat of arms, the market cross for Poulton and the red rose of Lancashire.

Ellis was born at Northwich in Cheshire and in 1928 he moved to Lancashire, where he was to spend the rest of his life. He liked to describe himself as a "Welsh-Cestrian". Like many later pupils he progressed from pupil in the school to teacher in the school. He gained a degree in French from the University of Manchester and taught French for most of his life but teaching apart Ellis's life was dominated by two passions – Blackpool FC and supra omnia – heraldry. In 1940 he returned to Baines as a master becoming a legend in his own lifetime affectionately known to generations of boys as 'Toss'.

He was an early Fellow of The Heraldry Society, and in 1985 was awarded a PhD from the University of Lancaster for his thesis French Historical Elements in the Civic Heraldry of the United Kingdom.

There can be few, if any, areas of civic, academic and other corporate heraldry that did not benefit from Ellis' subtle and intelligent touch. His heraldic work began in the 1940s and he was instrumental in the design of arms for many organisations including The Independent Broadcasting Authority, The British Airports Authority, many towns and cities around the world, The Northern School of Music, universities in this country and overseas and many building societies to name but a few.

He wrote a number of heraldic publications including The Heraldry of Manchester (1944) as well as providing the illustrations for Sir George Wollaston's Heraldry (1960) and C.J. Smith's The Civic Heraldry of Warwickshire (1974). Ellis also was heraldic advisor to the Rural District Councils Association from 1954 to 1974. He designed arms for many local authorities and corporate bodies in England, Australia and South Africa.



When he was asked to design the town arms for Spennymoor – he created the town motto '**with hope nobody shall fail**' or Spe Nemo Ruet in Latin.

Ellis was the President of the Old Boys' Association in 1957 and Editor of the Old Boys' section of the magazine for 28 years. He retired from teaching on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1974, in a school where he had spent forty years of the forty six years since joining Form 1H. He died in 1997. In modern times one of the school houses was named after him. There is a longer report on Ellis on the website, [click here](#).

## New on the website

There are a few minor changes. I have also added some images from Chris Willoughby (57-63) of his classmates in 1960 and 1962 and staff from 1962. When I get some more time I will be adding more pages.

## Success

We have managed to link up former teacher Sue Royle with former pupil Carol Bonfield

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.

Also can we send thoughts to those in hospital, or ill and for those family and friends that you may have lost recently.

## Reporting events

Due to the pandemic many events slip under the radar, but if you have things to report then please get in touch and I will include it in the newsletter.

## 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.

## 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.

For those members that promised me information on what they are now doing, please send as I am running out of ideas.

### Neil Smith (81-88)

I hugely enjoyed my time at Baines, and it was very nostalgic to recently look at the photographs of many of the staff who taught me. As my main academic interest at school was History, I have fond memories of all those in that department who taught me, especially Messrs Stevenson and Edwards: their interest in the subject and ability to convey this to the pupils (especially at A Level), was hugely influential on me, and later choice of career.

After graduating with a degree in History and Politics, I went into teaching and stumbled into the independent sector for my first post, getting a job at Leeds Grammar School. After 4 years I moved across the Pennines to run the Politics department and teach History at Cheadle Hulme School, before moving to The Manchester Grammar School to teach History and Politics in 2002.

After staying at MGS for 16 happy years and performing various roles there, I returned to CHS to take up a headship in September 2018. Being a Head at this moment in time has certainly presented me with experiences and problems which I could never have envisaged when I started the role, but it has been hugely rewarding to see the School respond so well to the many challenges which it has faced since the start of the current Covid crisis.

Whilst Baines was considerably smaller in the 1980s than it is today, it is a little bizarre that I have come across several Baines alumni at CHS, either through their employment as teachers (there may be as many Baines alumni as Old Waconians at the School), through their role in organisations who we work closely with, and even as parents.

Beyond teaching, I have written several education-related books, and enjoyed a very cheap thrill when my book on the Vietnam War was, for a very brief period, the best-selling book on the conflict on Amazon.

A more detailed report of Neil is on the [website](#).

### Neil is in good company

Many old Bainesians have crossed paths with Neil during his career and you may remember them.

Andrew Leaitherland

Elaine Roskell who teaches Maths at Cheadle Hulme School, Elaine joined Baines from Millfield in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form  
Clare Monk, who is a peripatetic music teacher at CHS.

### Houston we have an issue



Many of you seem to be enjoying reading the uploaded [Poultonians](#). I have started to upload the 50s but as these copies are very large. Some of the files are far too big for the current website as there is a limit of 20Mb; emails have a limit of 25Mb. Therefore if you have requested copies of the Poultonian and they exceed the file size then I will send them to you via Google Drive. Apologies to those that are missing copies. When we have a dedicated website this will not be an issue. 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.

When we eventually get back into school and the archive other Poultonians 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](mailto:fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

### 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.

### 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.

## **And finally...**

### **Twist in Time**



Many of you may remember the school production of A Twist in Time presented at the Marine Hall in July 1990. A video of the production and backstage items was recently posted on Facebook by former pupil Nicolle Anderson. We are pleased to state that Nicolle has given permission for this recording to be placed in the school archive.

This was the show that featured former Maths teacher George Purves on roller skates and former music teacher and ENO singer Kevin Matthews doing backstage. Kevin writes on Facebook - 'Let's just say I discovered my talents were better suited ON stage'

Reading the comments on the Baines School 300 page of Facebook it has certainly generated a great deal of comment and memories.

### **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; Linkedn as well as the Community pages on the School website.

### **Current School Newsletter and other messages**

The headteacher's newsletter is available on the Alumni website and is sent with this newsletter. From time to time there may be other notices sent by the headteacher and these will be posted on the website. To read the newsletter on the website please click this link. [Newsletter](#)

### **Newsletter compiled by**

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