



## Dear Alumni member,

Hope you are all well and you are prepared for Christmas even under the current restrictions. I would like to thank everyone for the support and emails that I have received this year regarding the newsletter and the alumni/FPA.



This month there is a free gift, for you to print, with the newsletter. A Christmas card from me to thank you all for sending in information to help with the writing of the newsletter, without you there would be nothing to write about. Once again work overtook me in November, and I could not get enough time to write the newsletter.

Well, another year has been and nearly gone and we are still here clinging to the wreckage. Gradually we can see a returning to normality, even though going to press we have Omicron to deal with. I think I must have overslept as the last variant I heard of was Delta. As you can see from this month's newsletter there are reports from a number of reunions, if you are having reunions then please get in touch and I will report back on these.

We have a bumper one this month, six pages again. Something for you to read during the Sound of Music or the Wizard of Oz films. It may be something to do whilst you warm up following the Christmas Dinner eaten with the doors and windows open.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David

## Congratulations



Dave Ashworth, Baines Site Supervisor, has won the "Unsung Hero Award" at the Gazette Annual Education Awards. It is a very apt award for Dave to have won as it is Dave and his team that keep the school functioning

so efficiently. The school has always valued and included all members of staff who work to keep the school going, whether involved in administration, caretaking, grounds maintenance, catering or the doughty ladies who supervised the lunch breaks.

## Stronger Together



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.

## Interactivity

Many areas of the newsletter are linked to the Alumni website; simply click on the links to access it. Or visit the site by typing the address.

## Contacts

### Baines Alumni

#### Baines Alumni email

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

#### Chairman: Alumni

Muriel Ryding

#### Secretary: Alumni

David Astall

### School contact

#### Helen Kenyon

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

## Follow us on Social Media

### Facebook

Baines School 300

### Baines Alumni website

<https://e-voice.org.uk/bainesalumni/>

### Baines School

#### Official school Facebook page

Baines School

## 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).

An [application form](#) is available on the Alumni website.

Let us thanks other members of the caretaking staff of the recent past, namely Joan Waters, Trevor Bamber (who sadly died in post) and his assistant Gill (Gilbert) and Jason.

We would also like to thank Dave for all the help and assistance he gives us with the Alumni and the FPA.

**Joan Swan:** Jason and Dave were an amazing duo!!

**Andy Darbourne:** Here here - all lovely people

**Muriel Ryding:** Well done Dave and very well deserved. We owe you a real debt for your help setting up the Alumni Archive room and your continuing help and support .

**Kevin Matthews:** I gave him some singing lessons in 2006-8 when did a further stint at Baines!!

### Re-unions galore

Did you know: We have a Parliament of Owls, a Murder of Crows, a Nut-case of MPs, and a Congress of Reunions. The last two might not be correct.

As we crawl out of the embankment after the COVID pandemic we are starting to collect together again. Here are a few reunions that I have heard of recently.

You wait a long time to hear about reunions then five come at once. However it's always good to hear that you have been meeting up with old friends and colleagues.

When I thought, we were going to get any news I added this one. Eighteen months of the virus takes its toll so when I received the call to carry out a DofE assessment I jumped at the chance (no wonder my feet are bad). The groups came from my old friends at Framlingham College as we visited the Yorkshire Dales. As you can see Covid has had no effect on the wildlife in Yorkshire.



I had missed the joy of waking up at 5:45am EVERY morning, walking in the rain and cold; but returning to lovely cooked meals and great banter plus Garstang Blue (Cheese) and Port after supper was bliss.

However even COVID has had an effect on DofE as we seemed to spend a lot of time in coffee shops.

### Former Pupils Association 2021/22

#### President

David Astall

#### President Elect

Muriel Ryding

#### Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

#### Treasurer FPA

Mick Baron

#### Former Pupils Association: email

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

### Noticeboard

Congratulations to Muriel and Gary Ryding who recently celebrated their 61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Last year they missed their 'Diamond Anniversary as both had succumbed to Covid.

### Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery Goes to Alison Chapman, head of the School, who has contracted the dreaded COVID. Worse than that he had to miss the FPA Christmas Dinner.

### Thanks

#### Robert Wright

As the Baines Wartime project runs into a 4<sup>th</sup> volume, I would personally like to thank Robert for lighting the blue touch paper to make this fascinating social history project possible. Without his lists of the fallen I would have had major issues with the writing.

The books give a back story to those boys that fought in the Great War and World War Two.

The volumes to date are: The Fallen of the Great War (completed)

Those Boys that fought in the Great War (ongoing)

The Fallen of the Second World War (completed)

The correspondence between the Boys, parents and the School during WWII (ongoing)

### Five go Cycling in the Brecons

The next reunion involved five school friends from 1990-1997. John Newman, Kieran Lawton, Ben Keen, Marc Lees and Ben Smith.



A cycle ride in the Brecon Beacons, a mere 86.19km and 1388m of ascent. They spent the time cycling then returning to a quiz about School (wonder who found out all the trivia). Glad you all had a good time.

### And another reunion



A few weeks ago (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov) we had a visit from Mike Wallace (1967-71) who is now living in Canada.

He met myself, Muriel Ryding, Ray Wilson, Ian Ridley and the

current Head Alison Chapman. His visit to the School included a tour of the buildings followed by Mike taking us all to lunch at Seniors in Hardhorn. We had a great day of nostalgia followed by a tour of the school and a talk about some of the plans the school has for the future.

*Within this newsletter is a note on what Mike has been upto since leaving Baines with a longer report on the website.*

### The FPA Christmas Lunch

Not to be outdone twenty five members of the FPA met at Singleton Lodge on Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Dec to celebrate Christmas Lunch, which had to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic. It was so good to see so many present, who had braved the elements, for a great meal and a great chat. It is hoped that the Bowling will go ahead next year.

Special thanks must go to Ian Miller for organising the super event.

### Return of Andy Darbourne (for one night only!) Then the border guards found him...

Andy escaped the North last summer to live in Leicestershire visited for a few days a couple of weeks ago. It must have been a shock to return North after the balmy climate of Market Harborough. To celebrate his return with an evening of past colleagues at Guys Restaurant was organised. A great evening was had by all; with good food and great banter.

I don't think there will be the back story of the Boys who fought in WWII as there were over 700 of these. But any volunteers?

The volumes ultimately will be presented to the School Archive, presented to the Commonwealth Graves Museum and be available to the Alumni.

### Ian Miller

Thanks go to Ian for organising the FPA Christmas Lunch at Singleton Lodge. This is no mean feat under the current situation.

### Scott Law

Thank you to Scott for donating the Plan Chest for the James Baines Room. The chest will be used to store plans and the larger photographs from the archive.

### Barry Stott

Thanks for donating a copy of Pagett's History of the school, and other items including a copy of the FPA directory from 1912/13, probably the earliest copy of this publication.

### Baines Alumni Voices

We also have the facilities for members to record and store memories on the site and in the archive.

### Revamped Website

I have started work on updating the website to make it easier to find information. This will take some time so please bear with me.

Hopefully in the near future someone will pop up and help make this temporary site more of a permanent feature.

### FPA AGM - Reminder

The 2022 AGM will be held on **5<sup>th</sup> March 2022** (Date to be confirmed). It is hoped that the face to face meeting will also have Online facilities to allow those members that cannot attend in person to participate.

### Donations

The FPA recently gave a donation for the restarting of the DofE Award in School. I had a really nice letter from Mrs Moxham, who has taken over the mantle of running the award in School.

Ray Wilson who attended the meal was getting up at 5am the next day to travel by train (the scenic route) for a day in Newcastle or perhaps it was only 10mins. However he only got as far as Carnforth, due to storm Arwen – better luck next time.

### **Featured Alumni - Mike Wallace (1966 – 1971)**

Mike left Baines L6th to join the BP Tanker Company under its sponsored Merchant Navy Cadet Engineering Officer programme. The first 2 years was spent studying for an OND at Riversdale COT, Liverpool.

He resigned from BP in 1974 to follow his passion for aviation, and luckily gained a place on a 5-year sandwich undergraduate apprenticeship with British Aircraft Corporation (now BAE SYSTEMS) at Warton, reading Mechanical Engineering at UMIST graduating in 1978.

He became a Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a Chartered Engineer in 1985. In 1987, while working as a Senior Project Engineer on the new Swedish JAS 39 fighter programme, he was asked to deputise for his Manager in providing reports and presentations for Senior Executives.

Within 12 months he was promoted to be the youngest Head of Department at BAE Warton, tasked with improving the performance of the Bid Proposals Centre. A year later he was promoted again and became the youngest Senior Executive in the Company, appointed to lead the North Sea Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation Range project. The Range was completed in 1990 and became the world's finest system, serving most NATO fighter squadrons and a few non-NATO customers.

By 1995 he was 'invited' to lead a Company commitment for industrial investment in Saudi Arabia. This was a \$1 Billion programme under which BAE had contracted to develop the Saudi industrial base away from the oil and gas industry. He was promoted to Director, Economic Development. had to significantly re-structure the organisation and develop new international investment techniques. The Programme was completed over the next 9 years. In addition, he developed parallel subsidiary programmes to further support employment opportunities for young Saudis. He worked with Prince Charles and the Saudi Crown Prince to introduce the Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust into the Kingdom.

One of the new companies he was working on involved the commercialisation of Saudi Arabian genetics research into a disease diagnostic biotechnology company. In 2005, the Saudi partner invited him to join them and lead the commercialisation of its research

### **Looking for former colleagues**

If you would like to make contact with former colleagues or staff then please get in touch and we will be happy to help, if we can.

### **Poultonian**



The Poultonian magazine is posted on the Baines Alumni website. It has been delayed recently due to work issues.

Currently I am posting the 1940s editions on the website. These show and insight into the school during the war years.

Following this I will continue posting copies up to 1979, hopefully by then some of the older copies will have been scanned.

Poultonian copies can be found here:

[Alumni website.](#)

### **Advertising**

During the pandemic many businesses have been hit hard therefore if you would like to advertise your business then there is a section on the website to do this free of charge.

### **Noticeboard**

As I receive notices from the Alumni they will be published on the Noticeboard section of the website.

### **Social Events**

As I receive information about any social events they will be published on the Events Calendar on the Alumni Website.

If you wish to publicise any Alumni events or add to the noticeboard then please let me know.

### **Erratum**

In last month's newsletter there was an article on The Three Peaks Challenge. Now I won't say what my first degree was in but 1992 to date is THIRTY years not TWENTY. Took a former music teacher to find it.



programmes. For nine years he was the Chief Operations Officer of the project the first in Saudi.

He met his Canadian wife in 2005 while I was working with the Hospital. She was a manager in the Heart Institute. They decided in 2014 to take early retirement and left to set up a lakeside home in Southern Ontario, where they are very happy amongst the wonderful Nature and wildlife.

### **In Memorium Nick Evans**

We are very sad to hear that former pupil Nicholas Evans (Nick) 1976-1983 who died recently after a long illness. We send our most sincere condolences to his parents Charles and Mavis, his brother Christopher (1979-1986) and the members of his wider family. I am sure he will be remembered fondly by the pupils and staff who knew him and on behalf of the Alumni, we have written to his family expressing our sympathy and support.

### **The Three Peaks Challenge 30 years on (part 2)**

This is the second part of the report that Gordon Beresford originally wrote for the school magazine in 1992, plus a few asides from Big Mega. The full report will be on the website.

It was good to get going as the engine of the minibus purred smoothly along. Outside the weather was a real adventure. Even small John found the going tough, so that he had to lose weight en route. Much to the amusement and delight of the local crows at Ribbleshead. After we drank oodles of lemonade and ate chicken curry and John just sat in a corner and thought dark thoughts of how it might have been apple pie and knickerbocker glories and Yorkshire Pudding.

"Why not go on the Lyke Wake?" – "Please, please, can we go on the Lyke Wake? – I know every inch of it – we won't get lost - we don't need compasses and the weather is always 'gud' in June", said Big Mega – words he was to remember at 2am on the Friday of the walk as the super car 'phone' failed yet again to work and the sausages shrank further and further inside the quietly simmering pan. [The super car phone was huge and heavy. It was so good that at one point at Chop Yat at the top of the forest with the minibus at the bottom of the forest said, "This phone is so good I can hear the team even though you have the phone to your ear". That's because we didn't need the phone. It seemed to be forgotten in the minibus shortly afterwards.]

"How much further is it?", came the plaintive little cry from Johnny and Ronnie.

### **The James Baines Room**

Muriel Ryding and myself went down to the James Baines Room so that the Archive is back in situ. The room now houses a display cabinet donated from the school and the plan chest donated by Scott Law.

The idea behind the James Baines Room was to house the School Archive and to be used to hold meetings. Much of the archive is boxed up and difficult to find easily therefore we aim to catalogue this and digitise it onto a dedicated server so that viewers of the Alumni website will be able to access it.

### **School Archive**

If you would like to donate items to the archive then please contact me or hand them into the front office stating they are for the Alumni.

If you can help in the cataloguing, digitising, cleaning or preserving then please contact me. However you may have to fight Muriel for the iron!

Also, if you wish to add a recording of your memories at Baines to the archive then we do have recording equipment to help in this process or simply send your file to us.

Everything is gratefully accepted.

### **Headteacher's Newsletter**

The headteacher's newsletter is available on the Alumni website. 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](#)

### **Share your story**



We are always very proud to share stories from our Alumni Community.

As this newsletter is for everyone that is part of the Baines Alumni therefore if you have any memories, events, tales you would like to share, then please get in touch and I will include them. These can be written or recorded.

"Not very far – you see those golf balls on the hill .... Well its just past there", Ronnie looked determined and serious and grave and worried but then he plodded off disconsolately onto Lockton Low Moor – "I may be some little time" he said as the others followed.

[Ronnie turned to Big Mega as he walked off the Railway track in the early morning, "How do you know this is the correct track?". The answer came back quickly, "See that bent piece of grass I remember pushing that over last time I was up here". Ronnie looked at bit surprised but then he believed everything Big Mega said.]

Meanwhile things were going from bad to worse, the fifth member of the team – young Matthew and just out of shorts – had run out of his regular supply of Kiplings; "How was he to carry on?" Should he wear his blue contacts, his red contacts or his German Jurgen glasses, and where would it all end? Were these people really his teachers once upon a time or was he having one of those Freudian dreams again that so upset him. Did these Y11 girls really like him? The sight of the new Kirkham minibus brought him up sharply. Afterwards they drank oodles of lemonade and ate Yorkshire Pudding.

But George wanted more – he continually pushed the gang and pushed himself, in pursuit of the Ultimate Challenge. His wild look and his manic ways frightened the team. Would he be able to mend the minibus? Would people be tall enough to look at his display on the [English] corridor and would he be well received by Ben Nevis after all these years in exile? And finally, at the end of each walk, would Chef have another cup of coffee ready? These thought drove him on.

John walked calmly and determinedly into the Ben Tosh Kebab House and salivated at the prospect of Scottish Chicken McNuggets. "Delicious" he thought. "I'm really going to enjoy these now I'm away from Staining". Little did he know that they would have their revenge in the end. Snowden would never be the same nor would John and nor would be the reliable old minibus which had carried them 900 miles in perfect comfort and luxury. [Even the wing mirrors wanted a piece of the action, trying to get into the cab as we drove up and down the M6].

And they drank oodles of lemonade and ate very big pizzas and dreamed of sausages and beans, and what they would do now the Challenge was over.

## **From the School**

This arrived from the School on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, but is you want extra cards or cards for next year then this is from the Steven Beech Foundation. Steven attended the school from 1990 – 1997 and was killed a couple of years ago.

Candles/Christmas Cards available from the Foundation..

## **Candles**

Priced at £20 each, of which just under £10 goes to the Foundation. The inside of the lid contains the Foundation details, the inverted lid making an ideal stand for the candle when lit.

At this time of year approaching Christmas, the Remembrance sentiment is particularly relevant as people reflect on loved ones no longer with us.

## **Christmas Cards**

Packs of 10 cards are priced at £6, of which £4 goes to the Foundation.

Here is a mock up of the Christmas Card

## **And finally...**

## **News Snippets**

If you miss any of these they will be posted on the Alumni website noticeboard for a month after publication of the newsletter.

## **Next Month**

Featured Alumni is the 'Father of the School' – Thomas Davies Whittington.

## **Newsletter compiled by**

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