



**Dear Alumni member,  
Happy and Healthy New  
everyone.**

As I sit and write this in my somewhere in the heart of Yorkshire you will notice that I sneaked under the barbed wire on the Pennines and escaped the county. Just for a few days to write my educational reports. There is one good thing about Zoom and Teams meetings – you can be anywhere.

We are well into January and it seems like only yesterday it was the FPA Christmas Lunch at Singleton Lodge – Tempest Fugit. Well there is one good thing the days are getting longer and at least there is more chance of getting up in the light rather than being knocked up by a man with a six foot pole. I was going to write a shorter newsletter this month, but it runs to 5 pages. My sources of information are drying up – a plea for more copy.

This month's newsletter looks at two giants in the School former music teacher Walter West and former Headteacher Thomas D Whittington.

### **James Baines Room – an update**



We start this first newsletter of 2022 with some good news. We have been able to get all the archive material back in the James Baines Room after its temporary removal due to Covid.

The plan chest, donated by Scott Law, has been delivered and now contains School photographs and architect's drawings that were found under the school stage. The school has donated a

lockable glass display cabinet for the room which we hope will allow us to have items of memorabilia on permanent display.

Thanks to former pupil Barry Stott who has donated a copy of *The History of Baines School* by A.G Pagett, Four copies of *The Poultonian*, and a copy of the Membership Handbook for the Old Boys Association dated 1912-13 which we have not seen before and is a great item to add to our collection. Thanks also to Gary Fretwell's wife for two items – a small handbook dated December 1945 listing the names and details of all Old Boys serving in H.M Forces (700 names) and a small gold coloured medallion, which is thought to have belonged to Gary's father, Herbert Fretwell (1912-1920?). The medallion has F A R L Championship 1919 engraved on the back but we'll need to do some research to find out exactly what this is.

Year

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have

## **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://evoice.org.uk/bainesalumni/>

#### **Baines School**

#### **Official school Facebook page**

Baines School

### **Former Pupils Association 2021/22**

#### **President**

David Astall

#### **President Elect**

Muriel Ryding

## **FARL Championship**

Does anyone know anything about this? At the time of writing, I am contacting the FA in Lancashire as I believe it stands for Football Association of Rural Lancashire Schools but cannot be sure. But then again, I know nothing about football.

I remember some years ago talking to the PE department and explaining that one guy on the pitch always cheated by picking up the ball when he was on the pitch and it wasn't Madonna!

## **And just when we thought we had turned the corner**

Due to rising cases of Omicron in the School the JB Room is out of commission again.

## **The Father of Baines School**

When was Baines School created?

- A 1675 [First mention of a school on the site]
- B 9<sup>th</sup> March 1717 [setting up the Foundation]
- C 6<sup>th</sup> June 1919
- D 1934

The answer is C. Bet that has come as a shock.

Who created Baines's School? If you thought James Baines then you would be wrong. Looking back on the old maps from 1675 to 1717 the school was called Hardhorn-with-Newton Free School. When the school was taken over by the trustees of the James Baines Foundation in 1717 it became the Hardhorn-with-Newton Endowed School. No mention of the name James Baines. We need to look over 200 years on from that date and the arrival of a new headmaster Mr Thomas Davies Whittington who changed a village school into a pseudo public school.

Whittington not only changed the name of the school but its whole ethos. One of his first PR exercises was to create the history of James Baines. A G Pagett ably helped him in this task in the book *'The History of Baines Grammar School'*.

Prior to the 1900s I doubt if many in Poulton knew much about James Baines but all that was to change. Pagett claimed that there was no record of Baines' birth in the Parish Registers. Actually, there is but you have to look very closely. It is recorded as a death possibly due to his mother being gravely ill at the birth or the fact that his twin was still born but we will never know.

In reality Baines was born on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1648 at Berkenhead Farm in Nether Wyresdale. No one knew where and when he died either – an enigma. Again in reality he was buried in Marton at midnight on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1717 and recorded in Victorian times in both St Chad's and St Paul's, Marton. If you look at the very front of the Parish Register for St Chad's it states St Paul's Marton – oops!

## **Secretary FPA**

Paul Bamber

## **Treasurer FPA**

Mick Baron

## **Former Pupils Association:**

email

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

## **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.

## **Noticeboard**

### **From the Poultonian**

This is from the Poultonian April 1920, it sounds familiar. The editor was complaining that the magazine needed copy. He felt that the British war correspondent in 1914 could not make bricks without straw, but straw appears to be in short supply.

Let's move this 102 years on, I cannot make bricks (a newsletter) without straw (copy). Please could I have some news to write about.

### **Get well soon**

Best wishes for a speedy recovery goes to former teacher Gill Simpson, who has contracted the dreaded COVID. But I am told is a mild form of it.

Also best wishes should go to any other members of the Alumni and FPA that are ill with COVID or other illness and we hope they have a speedy recovery.

### **Sad news**

I learnt recently of the death of Barbara Jackson, wife of former teacher Harold Jackson. Thoughts go to the family at this sad time.

15 Maria T. of John Witherspoon January 1772  
The James Bayne of Nouton Deceased Buried  
Martin Hultonsman Buried

January 1717  
 Mr James Baynes of Boulton Roman Curio -

[illegible]

Within the first year he had introduced the school colours, school sports day, school scholarships, increased the size of the school population by doubling it and had enough money to carry out urgent repairs. His greatest assets in his first year was to rename the school as Baines's Grammar School, introduce boarders and give the school a motto, and a school song. Gradually the run down Endowed School was changing into a pseudo public school. In the early years of the 1900s he introduced Speech Day, rare on the Fylde, the Old Boys Association (1906) and on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1909 the Poultonian. On 16<sup>th</sup> June 1919 the school

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Following this I will continue  
posting copies up to 1979,  
hopefully by then some of the

officially changed its name from Hardhorn-with-Newton Endowed School to Baines's Grammar School. Basically he had changed the school into a pseudo public school and had ensured its future for many years to come.

However in 1919 the school was taken over by Lancashire Education Committee which meant it lost its boarders, which it had housed since 1901. By 1919 there were over 40 boarders in the school, and losing these meant a blow to numbers in the school and finances. This was to have a devastating effect on the school as it led to Whittington ultimately resigning.

What is Lancashire had not taken over the school, would we be looking at another Royal Grammar School which is one of only a handful or State Boarding Schools. Certainly looking at the past history of the school in the early 1900s the school attracted pupils from all over the country and the world.

Thomas Davies Whittington died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1947 and is buried at St Philip and St James Church, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire.

### Walter West's Elegy



Former pupil Alan Dronsfield was attending a weekday Evensong in Liverpool Cathedral about 15 years ago and as is usual for a weekday, the recessional music is on the quiet side. He was impressed but couldn't place the piece, so he enquired. He was told it is called 'Elegy', unpublished, and by Walter West who lived in Cleveleys.

Walter was a former master and briefly taught Alan music as a 14 year old at Baines Grammar School,

Alan's recollections of him are few, but with his speech day concerts, he moved the school music up a notch having hitherto fallen away rather. There is a copy of the elegy on the Baines Alumni website, click [here](#).

Thanks to Alan Dronsfield for his research in locating this piece of music.

### Can anyone help

Walter West was a locally respected organist. Alan knows little of Walter West so if anyone else has any information then please contact me.

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.

### 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.

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.



## And news from 45 years ago

In September 1977 Kathryn Taylor, Joanna Hutchinson, Louise Tomlinson and Alison Fisher were the first girls to be taught at Baines since 1900.

Here is the report from the Poulton-le-Fylde News



## The Dragons are back in their den and...

Former pupil – Jordan Shuck is seen here in the Dragon's Den. Unfortunately, Jordan is not a Dragon yet he is just working for the production company.



The school are seeking volunteers to assist with interviewing Year 11 students. If you think you can help then please get in touch with Miss Kinder for more information – [kki@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:kki@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

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.

## 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.

## Newsletter compiled by

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