



Dear Alumni member,

Normal service is resumed as this is the April newsletter. The first day of this month saw the start of haggis shooting season in Scotland. Things must be on the up as we are, hopefully, visiting school this month to look at the archive. We need to restart the Tuesday morning get togethers as the temperature rises and the fear of covid reduces. We also need to start thinking how to set up the FPA AGM and the annual dinner. A lot to think about.

Firstly I need more information from you all, what are you doing, how you have survived the pandemic. I am running out of information to put in the newsletter and will have to resort to obscure facts – you have been warned.

In this newsletter which is shorter than usual there are more thoughts about Don Ramsden but there is also too much for my liking about me. However we need to keep the newsletter going and therefore please can you send in some information.

David

This could happen to us all soon

Many years ago I lived in rural Essex where the school that I worked at was hosting a new community radio station. Several teachers and sixth formers were in charge of this venture. One of my colleagues who was the radio engineer received a phone call from his mother one day who said that her radio was too loud and how could it be turned down – he turned it down for her by turning down the whole radio station sound output.

Move it 30 years on I was talking my mother through changing her radio back to radio 4 from some obscure channel whilst on the phone to her. I said to her change the dial until you hear talking or music, are you doing that? Yes the answer came back. Strange I can't hear anything – that's because the radio is not turned on.

Donation to School DofE

In March the FPA received a donation from the late Nick Evans for £770 for the school's DofE Award Scheme. The school after many years of using private bodies to look after the expedition section are moving back to a DIY set up. I wish them the best of luck with that.

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.

Baines Alumni Volunteers

We are looking for people to help with the Archive. Either helping to catalogue it; or scan the items so that they can be stored electronically. We also need items for the archive so if you think you can help in any way then please do not hesitate to either contact me or Muriel Ryding.

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 web address.

Contacts

Baines Alumni

Baines Alumni email

Bainesalumni@btinternet.com

Chairman: Alumni

Muriel Ryding

Secretary: Alumni

David Astall

School contact

Helen Kenyon

hke@baines.lancs.sch.uk

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Baines Alumni website

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

Baines School

Official school Facebook page

Baines School

Many thanks for this donation, which has been passed onto the school.

Talking of DofE. Whilst teaching at Baines I looked after the Award for many years with Greg Hurst, with help from many staff including Sue Biggs and the late Kate Griffiths. We had some great times. Nowadays I tend to do the less dangerous job of assessing.

The Wheels on the bus go round and round...

...but we are going sideways.

DofE can be stressful but whilst on duty in Lakes in early April we had to check a gold group at Boot in Eskdale and the driver of the MOD van I was in thought it would be fun to drive over Langdales, Wrynose and Hardknott passes. It was a bit hair raising trying to get the van around extreme bends (50 point turns), very tight cattle grids and a bit steep on the tops (1 in 3 and 1 in 4). Added to that it was raining. On the way back we were joined, in the rain by a long wheelbase minibus, that got stuck on one of the extreme bends on Hardknott Pass. The wheels were going round but the bus went sideways closer and closer to the 300 foot drop.

We stopped (on the 1 in 4) and my driver applied the brakes and said he had put it in gear. When the rocks alongside the van were moving slowly forward I realised I was in trouble so quickly applied the hand brake harder and prayed. The trouble did not stop there, cars could pass the minibus but not us so we reversed down the road in a van with only side mirrors and with no seat belts in case you had to leap out. The only way to get the minibus out of trouble was to leap on the front of the bus and then leap off when it set off. We did get the bus and ourselves moving – but returned to base another way – unfortunately it was by Birker Fell, oops!

Three Eats challenge



Former music teacher, Robert Richmond has organised a new Challenge Walk to rival the three Peaks it is called the Three Eats Challenge. It is going to be a fun event on June 25th 2022. Eating, drinking, walking, and meeting friends and other nice people along the way. The walkers should also all be able to derive much satisfaction from having raised a good sum of money for Alzheimer's Research UK. In order to get the ball rolling you need to donate £10 (one donation covers a family group) to the charity, and register some entry details with Robert Richmond via WhatsApp.

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

Former Pupils Association

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

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

Noticeboard

Snippets

Coming home

Former Maths and ICT teacher, Margaret McCann is anticipating her eldest son's relocation to the UK at the end of March. He has been in Singapore for 13 years.

We wish him all the best in his new job at SMD in Tyneside.

You can hide, but we will find you

Former pupil, member of the FPA and former maths teacher, Hugh Mett seems to have vanished from the Fylde. It is believed that he went into hiding thinking that we would not find him but 00111 (subtle Computing and maths joke – its binary) was seen in a ladies shoe shop in Farleton and the information relayed back to HQ.

Hugh and his new American wife. are living at Mere Brow near Southport. He says that they have been married for about a year. He kept that one quiet.

We wish him all the best. There is one question what was he doing in a ladies shoe shop in Tarleton?

Further information on how to do all this can be found on the '3 Eats Challenge' Facebook Page <https://fb.me/robertsramble> where you will find a further link to the Just Giving Fundraising page for the event at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/3eatschallenge>

Not all of you will want to attempt the full 25k walk, so there are alternative routes that will be available on the day. Details of all 4 routes are on the robertsramble page. Perhaps you might be tempted by the 5.5 mile mini-loop which starts and finishes at Farmyard Ales visiting Walling's Ice Creams along the way. Or perhaps the 100 metre challenge would suit you better, which is a late afternoon start and involves walking from the carpark to the bar at Farmyard Ales. (A designated driver may need to be assigned for this challenge).

Robert thought it would be nice to have a long walk on a Summer's Day, with friends, taking in the delights of Cockersand Abbey and Glasson Dock. Along the way we might want a snack or two, Potted Shrimps, Salted Caramel Ice Cream, a pint of craft beer (or smoked cheese, sorbet and Fever Tree).

Big Get Together

After the Easter break I am hoping to visit the Headteacher, Alison Chapman to discuss a possible Summer get together for Alumni and the FPA. It has been far too long since the last annual dinner and we need a carrot to aim for.

More memories of Don Ramsden

These memories are from John Maguire who has emailed the Alumni. He remembers Don as a warm-hearted character that he was.

It's no coincidence that the member of staff who looked after the cricket and football first XIs was Jim Paterson, the German teacher. He was the kind and thoughtful mentor that would have resonated with a personality like Don's.

A couple of anecdotes about Don:

He was taking part in the javelin event on sports day and stumbled on his run-up. He was brought to a stop but threw anyway... and won.

An informal, out-of-term rugby match was arranged with Thornton-Cleveleys. I couldn't play but was watching from the touchline. Our team obviously had a scanty knowledge of the laws, and at the kick-off of the second half, the school team received the ball. From the crowd of players, Don emerged, head and shoulders above

Tony Stuart

Some of you I know have been asking about former Art teacher Tony Stuart. It was good to see Tony at one of the former staff get togethers recently. He was in good spirits and looking really well. I am hoping he can restore his internet connection so that he can read the newsletters.

Three postponements and a wedding (hopefully)

Congratulations to Dave Ryding (Muriel's grandson) and his future wife Mandy who are getting married on 14th May. They have had it postponed 3 times already due to Covid.

Condolences

Condolences are sent to the family of George Hill, who died recently.

Baines Alumni Archive

The archive is looking very healthy at the moment but we are still looking for more items, either digital or physical.

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

Any notable Alumni you would like to add to the list then please contact me.

Updating PDFs

Much of the digital archive is scanned and stored in PDF form and this can be a nightmare when it comes to changing it to word processed form.

I have been working with one of my colleagues to try and solve this problem and even though a little more work is needed it seems that we have a solution. Thanks goes to David Fuller for his help and assistance with this.

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.

everybody else, and with his considerable defender's skills, headed the ball 30 yards down the field.

Don's pace was genuinely fast, way above the standard of school cricket. I kept wicket to his bowling for two years. It's great to see Lew Miller mentioned in the tributes in the February newsletter. He opened the bowling from the other end of Don. The famous game where Don had his "9 for 1" was at Fleetwood Grammar School. We went there again next year, my first year in the team, and with Don still in front, we got them all out for 21.

and from Barry Stott

I never had to bat against Don Ramsden, the demon fast bowler - even in the inter-house fixtures, as we were both in the same house, Whittington.

Tall and lanky, Don could bowl at ferocious speed. My main job was to find the bails that would be scattered far and wide, several times an innings.

I remember a moment involving the broad-shouldered Lew (Ian) Miller who was the school javelin thrower (but sadly for Lew, not in Whittington). Don's first ball was beautifully met by Lew's bat and seemed to be sailing over Don's head surely, to the boundary. But no. Don in his follow through and apparently whilst looking down at the pitch before him, simply raised an arm and without even a glance at the ball, calmly caught it single-handedly in the middle of his palm. No fuss.

And now the obscure facts

With a lack of information from the Alumni or the Former Pupils I have to resort to my obscure facts about the Baines family.



It has been reported in the past that the later members of the Baines family were famous, one a painter in East Anglia, Henry and another John Baines travelling with Livingstone. The uncle of these two brothers, James Baines lived in Liverpool and was the owner of the Black Ball Shipping Line in Liverpool.



One of their famous ships they owned was the James Baines built in the East Boston, US on 25th July 1854. This clipper was one of the fastest ships of its day

Between September 12th - September 24th 1854 it sailed from the Boston Light to the Rock Light off Liverpool which took 12 days, 6 hours, is still the sailing ship record. Captain Charles McDonnell, late of the same

Alumni Business Club

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.

Share your story

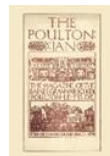


We are always very proud to share stories from our Alumni Community.

If you know of anyone that has been missed off the notable Alumni then please get in contact.

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.

Poultonian



Due to the pressure of work and lack of time I have been unable to find the time to post the Poultonian magazine on the Baines Alumni website. The posting of the copies has restarted and currently I am posting the 1945 editions on the website. These show and insight into the school during the war years.

Poultonian copies can be found here: [Alumni website](#).

owner's clipper ship Marco Polo, was in command. It gained the Blue Riband of the Atlantic.

The James Baines is believed to still be in Liverpool Harbour but it has not been located. It caught fire on Thursday morning, 22 April 1858 while discharging her cargo in the Huskisson Dock at Liverpool following her only voyage from India. The ship burned down to the waterline. Her remains, including the most of the undischarged cargo, were abandoned as a total loss amounting to £170,000 to her owner James Baines because the ship's insurance policy had expired three days before. The damaged hull was sold to the Liverpoolian shipowner Robert Pace for £1,080, who converted it into a coal barge which is said to have collided with the barge, William in 1860 at Galway harbour, Ireland.

Following this it is thought that the ship became a landing stage in Liverpool harbour for the debarking steamer passengers. Capt. Chas. McDonnell, the first and last master of James Baines was broken-hearted following the disastrous end of his fine ship. He retired from naval service and died of pneumonia a few months later in his mother's cottage at Glenariff, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

And finally From the internet

Steve field found this picture in his loft



And another one

This from Graham Waller



Not sure if this has been on before so apologies if it has. School U13 football team 1964. Back row John Wylie, Graham Waller, Valley Jones? Fish, Michael Lee, Davies?? Terry Lloyd Front row H Ellis Tomlinson. Yates?? Michael Owen, Peter Donohue, John Bentham, Wilson? Graham Lawton? Question marks show I'm not sure of the name. Double question marks means I'm taking a real guess - well it is nearly 58 years ago.

Headteacher's Newsletter

The headteacher's newsletter is available on the Alumni 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.