



Dear Alumni member,

The summer has finally arrived and the temperature here is climbing and should be in the 90s over the weekend. I am at a Speech Day for my old school, When I arrived at the B&B that I usually stay at I was greeted with a friendly smile and a crash helmet. Six foot and six and low East Anglian wattle and daub houses are not a match made in Heaven.

This was always going to be a bumper edition as work had taken a great deal of the summer and stopped me writing. I was spending a bit of extra-curricular time producing the newsletter and upgrading the website then it happened I lost both the partially written newsletter and the backup copy. I am still flummoxed as to why it happened, so as you can imagine I was a tad upset. Although this newsletter may be better than the one that was planned.

Anyway, it has been a long time since the last newsletter, that was in April then examinations took over, first the traditional ones then the newer holistic ones, now its all the admin and the 2023, 2024 and 2025 writing to complete and check before we all start again in late September. So, for those insomniacs here are six pages of script.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter as you will see from these pages and there is a lot to come in the next twelve months if all goes to plan.

So, I hope you enjoy this summer's newsletter. The next one is in September so if you have anything you would like added then please let me know,

New website

At the start of the pandemic, I created a website and this newsletter to help keep the Alumni in touch with each other. Over the past three years I have slowly been developing the site in preparation for a more professionally produced site.

In order to plan for that changeover the current site had to go through a number of changes to become a test bed for the brand new site when it gets produced in 2023. And this is where you come in. I need feedback on the site, how it looks, what could be added to it, what could be removed. I have tried to incorporate all those ideas that some of you have requested. The only part that is an issue is the archive.



Stronger Together



Baines 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

As we move towards a new era of the Alumni it is hoped that the newsletter will be able to be presented both in this form and electronically. Prior to that there will be hyperlinks placed in the newsletter back to the Alumni website. You can also visit the site by typing in the web address.

Contacts

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Baines School 300

Baines Alumni website

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

Baines School

Official school Facebook page

Baines School

Former Pupils Association 2021/22

President

David Astall

For those that have visited the site before will notice a few differences. The home page is now cleaner and uses links to navigate the site; click on an image and it takes you to the area you want. There is a navigation bar on the left for those that prefer this.

From time to time there will be special features from the archive and the school war project will be a permanent feature.

For those members that are sad at the demise of the FPA directory you will be pleased to learn that this has returned and has been placed in a member's only area. This is separate from the main site although linked to it. Members that wish to access it need to register with me via email, you will then be sent an invitation to join. All members joining will need to be approved [keeps your data safe]. Even if you are a member of the main website you will need to register separately for the private area. You do not have to be a member of the main site to be a member of the member's area.

Please visit the site and let me know what you think. It is important that we get the design and content right before moving onto a professional site.

To access the site click [here](#).

Baines Alumni

Baines did not just have one visionary but two main ones, who in their time at the helm helped transform the school to what we see today. The original was James Baines, whose apprenticeship scheme paved the way for a new school in Hardhorn with Newton; the school that ultimately became Baines School. The second man was Thomas Whittington, who at the turn of the 19th Century rebranded the school and created the 'Family' of Baines.

Baines Alumni builds on this legacy, it is there to assist the school, not just in monetary terms but in expertise and skills.

When your time at Baines comes to an end, your lifelong membership of the Baines Alumni is just beginning. Every member of the Baines family can become a member of the Baines Alumni, the choice is yours. A member of the Baines family can be former pupils, teaching staff, support staff, governors and even friends of the school.

First and foremost, the Alumni exists to promote the interests of Baines School. The Former Pupils Association, 'Old Boys' was formed under Thomas Whittington in 1908 and has over the years made a massive impact on the School that we know today. A unique school like Baines needs a strong

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

A new Great grandmother

We send congratulations to Muriel Ryding becoming a great grandmother. Her grandson the Alpine slalom skier David and his wife Mandy gave birth to a baby girl Nina Skye Ryding. Congratulations to both of them

Quiz Time

How many Presidents of the FPA have been both an pupil and teacher in the school ?

Possibly three

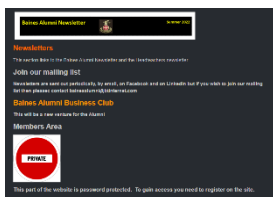
H. Ellis Tomlinson, Charlie Okell and Hugh Mett

Unless anyone knows differently

Finding former friends

David Stanley Fish

Roger Hedgeland is looking for David. He was in the school in the 60s leaving after sixth form in 1967. He went onto join the Civil service in London (Ministry of Overseas Development later Foreign and Commonwealth Office) He was incidentally a player in the Soccer 1st XI which (under the captaincy of Ian Smith) had that amazing run of 2 full seasons without a single defeat in 1966 and 1967!! David was a prolific goal scorer.



Alumni to keep the family together and therefore the Alumni will continue and develop in future. There are a number of changes planned in 2023.

For many people, leaving school often means the last time they ever see many of their classmates. However, the Alumni is there to ensure this does not happen, so close friends do not lose touch. We are perhaps guilty to have perhaps lost touch with this part of the Alumni but in the near future we plan to organise events to reconnect and reminisce about school days as well as looking ahead together. We are planning to enhance new technology and bring the FPA and the Alumni into 21st Century.

The role of the Alumni is to ensure the connection between younger members of the Alumni, who are just starting out on their journey, and older former pupils and staff, who have gone on to develop their careers. The shared experience that these two groups have, benefitted from a Baines School education, provides a connection in more ways than just circumstance. The morals, principles and commitment to individual interests are present in recent pupils just as they are held by our more senior Alumni too. Each member of the Alumni therefore has much to gain from a shared bond, either professionally or simply for social reasons. It is a central pillar of the Alumni that shared experience and different perspective enriches us all, it is the role of the Alumni to facilitate this.

Where are they [hiding] now?

Past President – Hugh Mett



After recently discovering my new whereabouts, President David has invited me to write a short account of my post-Baines activities.

After leaving Baines Maths Department in 2001, I spent 3 years as Head of Maths at Bispham High School. This was an extremely challenging post but I am pleased to say there was a big improvement in students' grades during my tenure.

Previously to starting my teaching career, I had worked as a musician for a well known American cruise line. In the mid noughties I got the opportunity to return to this career with a well known British cruise line. For the next four years or so I travelled to many wonderful destinations in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean/ South America. A particular highlight was visiting Rio de Janeiro and the statue of Christ the Redeemer.

During this time I was amazed to encounter (as passengers) several parents of ex Baines students plus a couple of Baines teaching staff (who shall remain nameless!) Who would have thought eh?

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. Alternatively use the new members area of the Baines Alumni website.

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 within the new archive. There are also a number of images that show 'unknown' pupils that need identifying.

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.

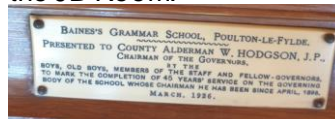
Baines Alumni Archive

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.

Newest acquisition

We have acquired from the school a chalk drawing of W Hodgson, who was chairman of the Governors from 1898 to 1926 (45 years). This superb drawing that looks like a black and white photograph was drawn in chalk by the grandfather of OB Michael Aldron. This will soon be on show in the JB Room.



When the drawing is hung in the JB Room I will include an image for the newsletter/website.

New Golf trophy

The School recently presented at Speech night the Chris Johnson Golf Trophy to a student. Chris was an old boy of the school who died recently leaving money to the school.

Back on dry land again in 2010 I started work at Cardinal Allen School in Fleetwood, as a part time member of the Maths department. I was working a couple of hours per day tutoring students 1 to 1, mainly Year 11's who needed extra help to achieve their target grades. It was a wonderful job and extremely rewarding. I worked there until finally retiring in 2019.

By this time I was spending a lot of time in the USA with Susan, my American girlfriend. We were having a great time with lots of travelling to exotic places and then...the pandemic hit. It has been a difficult time for all but some good news did come out of it. I am delighted to say that Susan and I were married in the UK in 2021.

Last summer we moved house to a lovely and quiet (and fairly remote) part of West Lancashire. I doubt I will meet any ex colleagues living here. Apart from...bumping into a certain former Headteacher (who is also Chairperson of the Baines Alumni) whilst out shopping for shoes (for Susan!) a couple of weeks ago.

Notable Alumni

John Laurence Cardy FRS (58-65)



John was born on 19th March 1947, in Blackpool and is a British – American Theoretical physicist at the University of California, Berkeley. He is best known for his work in theoretical condensed matter physics and statistical mechanics, and in particular for research on critical phenomena and two-dimensional conformal field theory.

After leaving Baines he was an undergraduate (BA 1968) in Mathematics and postgraduate (PhD 1971) in Theoretical Physics from Downing College, Cambridge University, before being elected to a fellowship at the college. After postdoctoral studies at CERN, Geneva and the University of California, Santa Barbara, he joined the faculty at Santa Barbara in 1977.

His research into particle physics led in the 1980s to help develop the theory of conformal invariance and its applications to these problems, ideas which also had an impact in string theory and the physics of black holes. In 1991 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1993, he moved to the University of Oxford, where until 2014 he was a senior Research Fellow of All Souls College (now Emeritus) and a Professor of Theoretical Physics in the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics. He currently holds a Visiting Professorship in the Physics Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

And still on sport

The FPA recently purchased a new outdoor multi-gym for the school grounds. Not sure if this is for the pupils or for the staff to calm down.

Speedy recovery

We send speedy recovery to headteacher Alison Chapman who has succumbed to Covid again. This is the second time – that's just being greedy.

Alumni Business Club

With the rebranding of the Alumni we plan to launch a business club to help those members of the Alumni that are in business. More information to follow.

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 and the website is for everyone that is part of the Baines Alumni then 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.

With the revamped website and changes being made in 2023 we are looking out for more engagement with

Awards

2000 - the Dirac Medal of the Institute of Physics
2004 - the Lars Onsager Prize by the American Physical Society
2010 - the Boltzmann Medal by IUPAP
2011 - the Dirac Medal of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

He produced The Cardy formula for black hole entropy, the Cardy formula in percolation theory and the Cardy conditions in boundary conformal. More recently Professor Cardy has worked on questions of quantum entanglement and non-equilibrium dynamics in many-body systems. It is not surprising that at school he was a brilliant mathematician.

His father was George Laurence Cardy who was head of Maths from 1955-67 at Baines and died in service following an operation.

In his spare time he paints with acrylics; here is an example of his work. Click the link below to see other examples.

[The Art of John Cardy](#)



And another Notable Alumni

Air Marshall Sir Barry Thornton KCB, CEng, FIMechE, FCMI, FRAeS



Barry is an old boy of the school and the University of Nottingham. He is married to Delia, a trained midwife and family law barrister. The couple has two sons, Oliver and William.

1976 – Barry joined the RAF
1988 - Given command of the Engineering and Supply Wing at RAF Honington and subsequently deployed to Tabuk Air Base during the Gulf War.
1991 - took command of the RAF's nuclear weapon inspection team.
1997 - joined the Defence Procurement Agency as the Director of Maritime Projects with responsibility for the Merlin and Nimrod programmes.
2000 - he became Controller of Aircraft on the Air Force Board
2003 - he was made Director General Equipment Support (Air) and then Director General Logistics (Strike) at the Defence Logistics Organisation.
Jan 2006 - he became the last Commander in Chief Personnel and Training Command serving until April 2007 when the command was merged into Air Command

the Alumni especially the younger ones, so why not share your experiences.

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 will restart from the 1945 editions. These show an insight into the school during the war years.

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

Work experience

The school has an annual work experience and interview evening. They are always looking for work placements that link the pupil's potential career with that place of work. If you think you can help then please contact the School.

Founder's Day

Remember those walks down to St Chads for the annual Founders Day. The highlight of the school calendar in May. Staff used to drive to Poulton at lunch time ready for a quick get away after the service.

Then the head Roddy McCowan moved the Founders Day service to Christmas time and merged it with the Carol service, allowing only year 7 to attend the evening service.

Well this year due to the pandemic the service has returned its former timings. Hopefully this change will be a permanent one.

St George's Day Dinner

This was held again at Singleton Lodge on 24th April. Again it was very well attended and the food was super. The lady sitting alongside me kept passing her leftovers my way, hoping to build me up I think.

2007 - he then took up the post of Chief of Defence Material (Air) at Defence Equipment & Support. He retired in May 2009.

On his retirement he was awarded the Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.



From 2009 when he retired from the RAF he has been the managing director of Ascent Flight Training amongst other organisations. He is currently chairman of the Queen Mary Roehampton Trust.

Generations

Many years ago, families used to live very close together many on the same street. Carrying out research into ancestors is easy in the 1800 and 1900s as once you found one member of the family then others living close by could be found. It was the same in the school, if your father attended the school then there was a very good chance that the sine did as well.

So, when we were approached by OB John Hodgson about his family attending the school we thought nothing of it, but how wrong could we have been.

FPA secretary Paul Bamber can claim three generations at the school, but not direct line. His uncle attended, both he and his brother attended and then his brother children attended.

John Hodgson can go one better than that. His father, John Hoyle) attended the school (23-29), so did John himself (53-60) his son Philip also attended, and Philip's daughter (Sophie) is currently a member of the school. Four direct line generations at the school and possibly five, but we do not have any proof (all at Lancashire Archives) that John's grandfather (William Braithwaite Hodgson) who was born in Blackpool in 1882 may have attended the school. He lived in Layton up to the age of 10 and then moved to Blackpool.

The four generations



John Hoyle



John



Philip



Sophie

Is this a record, or do you know differently?

As it was such a lovely day whilst waiting for the others to arrive I sat and watched the Alpacas being walked around the paddock by the paying punters. This gentleman approached me and started chatting about the ATC and his life after school. I asked did he know certain people like Ray Wilson and he seemed to – very knowledgeable he was about Ray Wilson. I thought I hadn't seen him before but he was interesting. It all turned out he wasn't an old boy of the school just someone waiting for his daughter.

2023 and all that

The pandemic halted a great deal of the work of the alumni and the FPA and we are just starting to get back to normal.

Next year sees a re-branding of Baines Alumni and a return of the old favourites namely the AGM, which is hoped will be a mixed live/electronic meeting, the return of the Annual Dinner but this will be moved into the summer months.

New innovations of an annual Alumni BBQ and larger Christmas and St George's day lunches. Also planned is a brand-new website incorporating much of the archive. We also hope to involve more of the younger members of the Alumni.

Great Eccleston Show

Anyone visiting the show this weekend I will be the one gasping for breath in the Homecraft tent

Headteacher's Newsletter

The headteacher's newsletter and any relevant correspondence is available on the Alumni website. To read these on the website please click this link.

[Newsletter](#)

Newsletter compiled by

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