



Dear Alumni member,

The writing of this newsletter started so well with a number of sporting members of the Alumni that I could write about, so much so that I thought of making it a sporting special. However, the number of deaths we have had in the past few months has meant that these have been reflected in the newsletter.

Those of you that read the scanned copies of the Poultonian on the Alumni website will have noticed a break in the changes to the schedule unfortunately this is due to work commitments. Even though at the moment it is still a relatively quiet time work keeps dropping on my desk. But this is the calm before the storm as it is soon to crank up so preparing the October and November newsletters is important before I get into the thick of things. Having said that if there is anything you would like to add to the newsletter/website then please contact me.

This month as mentioned previously the newsletter is mostly about former pupils and a bit of controversy (not been known to shy away from this), plus the answer to what happened to Room 35. If you look closely you will notice a peek into the 21st Century with new links. Let's hope they work. They are not little crosswords or the map of the Hampton Court Maze (I panic trying to find my way into that one), they are QR barcodes. I could do with someone testing them and reporting back. Hint!

Meet the Alumni

Michael Johnson (2006-14)



congratulate him on this.

Many of the members of the Alumni will remember Michael. He has had a number of jobs both in the UK and in France since leaving Baines and he has just been promoted to Senior Executive Education Consultant at In Professional Development (InPD). So we

After leaving Baines he attended The University of London Institute in Paris, where he read and gained a degree in French with History. He undertook a number of activities whilst at university including Women's Rugby Coach and the ULIP Eiffel Tower to Blackpool Tower Bike Ride. This 600 mile ride was set up to support the mental health charity Mind. Michael was the founder and its first Chairman of this group. These sporting connections followed on from his sporting activities at Baines which included football and cricket.

Interactive

Click on the images shown or the QR barcodes to link to the websites.

Baines Alumni website



This the general website for all Baines Alumni news.

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

If you wish access to the members only part of the website, then please contact me for a link.

or you could click here



If this works, then these could be used as an extra link.

Baines Alumni Archive



A new website dedicated to the archive is coming soon. Before this is operational the archive

can be viewed on the Baines Alumni website.

Baines School Website



This is the link to the main school website

<https://baines.lancs.sch.uk/>

Email links



To contact me about the newsletter or website or to contribute simply email

bainesalumnui@btinternet.com

Former Pupils Association: email

fpa@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Social Media



Baines School 300



Baines School

Roger Bingham (1959-1966)

Whilst emailing John Cardy, one of the former pupils he happened to mention Roger Bingham, another former pupil who was working in the US.



Roger was born in 1948 and attended Baines between 1959 and 1966. After leaving Baines and attended University College, London.

Roger, is a science educator, a prolific author and television presenter based in La Jolla, California. He is the co-founder and director of the Science Network (TSN), a virtual forum dedicated to science and its impact on society. He is also the creator of the Beyond Belief conferences and is a member of the research faculty at the Centre for Brain and Cognition, University of California, San Diego, focusing on theoretical evolutionary neuroscience.

Roger developed the Science and Society Unit at the Los Angeles TV station, KCET. Where, he wrote, produced and presented the Frontiers of the Mind series which was broadcast in many countries. He also co-wrote and presented the television series The Human Quest. The Human Quest episode The Nature of Human Nature won a Writers Guild of America Award. In 2009, Roger was named a member of the Board of Advisers of Scientific American.

Roger Bingham – at the 2005 Skeptics Conference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv4STsi8AIY>



Condolences

Here are the members of the Alumni that have recently sadly died.

Keith Hardy (1950-54)



Keith died peacefully on 31st July in hospital following, a short illness. He was 84 years old.

Keith was originally a primary school teacher who went onto to work as a Master Coach, British Gymnastics Honorary Life member and Women's Artistic Gymnastics High Performance coach. In 2016 he was awarded the Nik Stuart Foundation Diploma and UK Diploma of Honour for his services to gymnastics. He was a highly respected coach and mentor, renowned for his technical expertise, patience and kindness.

Throughout his gymnastic career, Keith held many administrative positions within British Gymnastics, being a member of both the Board of Control and Executive Committees and also a member of the Women's Artistic

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.



Drop in Sessions



We hope to restart our regular Tuesday morning sessions shortly.

We are looking for former pupils and former staff, who have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved (even if it is only to make a cuppa and have a chat) we would love to hear from you. If you are interested, please drop us an email at

bainesalumni@btinternet.com

Alumni Snippets



For those of you that visit the website will notice the Alumni Snippets.

This is your way of letting others know what is going on with your links with the Alumni.

Click the link below to see the up to date Snippets.

[Alumni Snippets](#)

Contacts

Chairman: Alumni
Muriel Ryding

Secretary: Alumni
David J Astall

Items for the Newsletter and Alumni News

The newsletter and the Alumni News section of the website is very important to let other members of the Alumni know what is happening.

If you have any items for the newsletter or Alumni News then please email me at Bainesalumni@btinternet.com and I will endeavour to publish the information.

Technical Committee. He acted as Head of Delegation and coach on numerous international events, and also spent time as the Assistant National Coach to both the junior and senior national squads.



David Fish CBE (1960 -67)



Thanks to Ray Wilson for passing this information on to me. David died at his home in Chapelton, Scotland on 31st July after a long battle with leukaemia.

David was born on 4th Oct 1948 in Blackpool, attended Clairmont School and after passing his 11+ attending Baines following in his father's footsteps. At his time in school he was a member of Founders House and was a Senior Prefect. He was a prolific footballer and cricketer although according to the Poultonian he fared better in football. In 1962 he was chosen to play in the U14 Town Team and scored in every game, he also played that year in the Tower Youth Cup. In 1964 he was chosen to play for Blackpool Boys Team and the Swift Cup.

Another former pupil Richmond (the Poultonian does not give first names) and David scored 94 goals between them for the school in 1966 season, some feat! He was a very talented footballer who played for who played for a number of local teams. His brother tells me that he should have been a professional footballer. However he felt that the dangers of being a footballer and getting injured were too high a price to pay and therefore went down to London in 1968 to work in the Overseas Development Ministry. This work ultimately took him to Glasgow in 1981 where he was Head of the Department for International Development in East Kilbride and Africa Director. He visited Africa for his work on many occasions. He was awarded the CBE for his work.

Condolences to his wife Marion, his family and his brother Michael.

From Paul Thompson "Tonk"

I remember him as a good footballer and a good all-rounder at cricket.

My cricket memories of him are sharpest. He was a fast bowler, and because he didn't like me, he would take a longer run-up and increase his pace; but that meant his accuracy went, and he would bowl long-hops which, to his frustration, I could hit! I used to bowl dead-slow off-breaks, and once at the end of a Wednesday games session I bowled out three of my classmates with three balls that crept under their bats. At stumps, Dave said, "Bowl me one of those, Tonk." I did. He danced out to it and hit it into orbit!

Baines School Former Pupils Association

FPA News

The website also includes news for the FPA. If you wish to contribute to the news then please email me.

Sad News

All those that have passed away shortly are in the main part of the newsletter.

Contacts

School contact

Helen Kenyon

hke@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Former Pupils Association 2022/23

President

David Astall

President Elect

Muriel Ryding

Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

Treasurer FPA

Mick Baron

Joining the FPA

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.

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.

Mr Richard C Johnson MD FRCS (1976-1983).



Richard died recently, aged 57, following a long battle with cancer. Richard and his twin brother joined Baines in the hot summer of 1976 at a time when the school was changing to a comprehensive school and therefore going through a great deal of change.

He really enjoyed his time at school from both an academic and a sporting perspective and was captain of a very successful school cricket team.

He was appointed head boy and achieved the A level grades required to pursue his long-held ambition of becoming a doctor.

After leaving Baines he went to Cardiff University to study Medicine. After qualification and various training posts, Richard dedicated the last 24 years of his career to the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend and the Breast Cancer Service within various local hospitals.

In his most recent role prior to his illness, he was Director of Acute Care at the Princess of Wales Hospital, working as part of the senior leadership team responsible for the delivery of medical and surgical services across the hospital.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Richard was one of the eminent voices championing the recovery of surgical services both in his role locally within the hospital but also nationally in his position as Director in Wales of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Throughout his life, he continued to be a keen sportsman with a passion for rugby, cricket, football and cycling. He had an extensive network outside the NHS, being the club doctor over many years for the likes of Celtic Crusaders, South Wales Scorpions, Wales Rugby League and the Dragons among many others. With regard to his football interests, he was the medical director of ISF (associated with Leisure Leagues) and went to the European six a side Championships in Croatia in 2015 and the World Cup in Lisbon (2018) and Crete (2019).

During the 2015 Championships his expertise and easy nature helped him become the 'Doctor of all nations'. When, on the last day in Croatia, a local man broke his leg in a bar, it was Richard who was first on the scene, walking towards the injured man, whilst everyone else, in shock, was moving away.

Richard had an easy nature and ready smile. His laid back personality made him immediately popular with everybody, and the warmth of his personality and his integrity, leave a huge loss to all those that knew him.

Finding former friends

If a name is not listed in the directory and you are trying to find former pupils/colleagues then please contact me and I will see what we can do.

By the Way

Noticeboard

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

Events

2nd Dec

Christmas Fair 3pm – 6pm at the school. This is a chance to buy your Christmas presents. All Alumni and FPA members are welcome.

9th Dec

FPA Christmas Lunch

10th Dec

FPA Committee meeting. If you have any items you would like discussed please contact the secretary, Paul Bamber.

14th Dec:

Creative Arts exhibition in the school from 6:30pm. All members of the Alumni and FPA are welcome to look at the work created by the pupils.

6th May 2023

AGM and FPA dinner

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.

As this newsletter and the website is for everyone that is part of the Baines

The Baines Alumni Website

The changes Baines Alumni Research Archive

As mentioned previously a bit of controversy. By 2030 all State Schools are to become Academies. This could have a drastic impact on the FPA and the school archive. When a school becomes an Academy it is taken over by a larger body and it could result in schools merging therefore it is imperative that our archive is preserved for ever both physically and electronically. If the school merged then the FPA would cease to exist in its current form although the Alumni would continue.

Much of the school archive was lost in the late 90s and early 2000s and it was the promise of Muriel Ryding, the Chairman of the Baines Alumni to re-form it and keep it safe for future generations. We are therefore slowly rebuilding the archive and scanning it to store it on the 'cloud'. When complete the physical and digital archive will be made available to all members of the Alumni. The physical copies currently are housed within the old school.

Even though the archive is a set of artifacts it is essential for research work. Currently the archive has been used to research the 'lost' history of James Baines, the road that never was and more recently the Boys that fought in the Great War. This virtual museum will be a great asset to the school allowing research to be carried out remotely. The archive contains materials and stories from the earliest days of the school to present day.

One item in the archive is the History of Baines Grammar School by Pagett. It is our plan to update that book with the history to modern times.

Currently some of the digital archive is stored on the Baines Alumni website but this will be moved to a new resource.

The Side Navigation bar

I had one or two complaints about the side bar of the Alumni website being confusing, so it has been removed. Navigation is now through the main pages.

From the Archive

As we near Armistice Day I have been delving into the school archive. We start with a tale of initiative from August 1914. This is from a correspondence in the Poultonian.

Baines and the outbreak of The Great War

Ever thought you might be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Philip Wood, a former pupil at the school was with a party of friends touring France during August 1914 when the Great War was declared. On the day War broke out they were in Paris, now you are probably thinking that's easy, jump on a train and get back to England as soon as possible. One small problem lots of others had had the same idea. The only way was a 14 day hike to Le Havre to catch the boat to England.

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.

Poultonian

As the Poultonian can contain personal information it has been moved to the members area of the Baines alumni website.

Currently the Poultonians being posted are from the 1950s.

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](#)

As you can see, we have moved into the 21st Century with QR barcodes. Click on it and it should take you to the school website.



Impromptu concert

We all know that Baines and Music are synonymous, but it had a fairly active Music Society at one point.

One incident is quite humorous and involves a quite competent piano player - John Reid. At the time there was a very nice grand piano - a Hopkinson - that Bunny Rawes guarded quite strictly. John Reid - found that by laying wood (12") rulers on the wires, a honky-tonk sound that Winifred Atwell made resulted. (younger readers will definitely have to search the history books!!).

So he started playing. After about 5 minutes of the "concert" Bunny ran into the hall from the masters common room with a very red and worried face to find out who had wrecked his prize piano. He was calmed down, but he insisted on the removal of the rulers! He spoiled a good concert!

Reporting back

What's happening at School?

What did happen to Room 35?

Room 35 has become the new toilet block replacing the boys toilets originally at the bottom of the stairs, the girls toilets at the end of the bottom corridor and the disabled toilet near the entrance to the refectory. A new medical suite will be soon finished and this will be housed in the old boy's toilets.

The new toilets are individual cubicles with a girls, boys and non-binary section. The pupils were consulted on the design of the new facility, even down to the colour of the doors. Red for boys, Yellow for girls and Orange for non-binary.



Commonwealth Games Stars

Former pupils: Rohan and Jordanna Williams



Rohan and Jordanna competed at the Commonwealth Karate Championships in Birmingham. Rohan won the silver medal in the Junior Individual Kata (16-17) after only moving to the older age group 3 weeks previously. Jordanna competed in the Under 21 category where she won the Bronze medal.

We wish them both well for the England selections that are approaching for the World Championships and are very proud of them.

New website

We are still discussing the form of the new archive website. As soon as I have further news I will get back to you.

Next month

Armistice edition

Newsletter compiled and written by

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