

**Dear Alumni member,**

Happy New Year everyone. I apologise for the tardiness of this newsletter but again due to work pressures around Christmas and New Year I could not spare time to write it. However, I think I am back on track with the work and 2023 ends tomorrow (hopefully). Although as I sit here watching the Pig Formation Flying Team practicing – doubts are creeping in.

What will 2024 bring? Hopefully a peaceful year, we can hope. The Highways Agency have already given the people in Fylde a Christmas Present to remember – Garstang New Road. The new bypass from Windy Harbour lights to The River Wyre Hotel, bypassing the Shell Garage and Mains Lane. This brand new road has changed the travel time from Windy Harbour to Baines from 10mins to 45 mins! At an average speed of 5mph.

The school is undergoing a major change in the next academic year but the school and ourselves have ensured that both the Alumni and the FPA are protected from any upheaval, but more about that in the newsletter.

The eagle-eyed of those amongst us may have noticed a change to the banner of the newsletter. The original banner was causing problems with my software so I have had to remove the block colour – these computer things will not catch on. There are other subtle changes to the newsletter as well in order to improve the layout.

My New Year Resolution is to catalogue and digitise the archive for future generations. I will however need help from members of the Alumni to put names to faces.

David

Interactive

Click on the images shown to link to the websites.

Information**Baines Alumni website**

This the general website for all Baines Alumni news.

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

If you wish access to the Alumni Members Area then please contact me.

Baines Alumni Archive

It is hoped that the archive will move to the School website. Before this can take place items need to be digitised and that takes time.

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

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.

Christmas do and Gary's birthday

On Wednesday 6th Dec 2023 the annual Christmas lunch at Singleton Lodge was held. Due to falling numbers in the Summer for the St Georges Day lunch we thought that the lunches would cease to be but how wrong one can be. It was a great gathering with 29 people present. There was a great atmosphere in the room and some good conversations. This is the kind of atmosphere we are trying to achieve for the Annual Dinner, friendly, chatty and nostalgic. The burning topic of the day was however was not the food or the weather but the difference between a Llama and an Alpaca as Singleton lodge have a number of alpacas wandering the grounds.

The day also saw Gary Ryding's birthday. I am told that Gary thought he was going out to a special do – well he was! I wonder who spilt the beans that it was Gary's birthday! (answers on a postcard).

It was good to see him looking fit and well and even had some new jokes to boot. It was good to see other former pupils looking well too and venturing out on a cold, but sunny day.

Llamas and Alpacas

What is the difference between the Alpacas that roam the plains of Singleton Lodge and Llamas. The topic was so strong that we even had the jokes of 'Panic in the building' as someone had set a llama off. Thank you Paul, don't give up the day job.

The difference is that Llamas are heavier and taller than Alpacas. Alpacas are very gentle and shy and are therefore stress busters. (All teachers should have one), while Llamas are very confident, feisty and brave animals. Alpacas are more comfortable as herd animals, while Llamas are solitary animals. Llamas are known for spitting quickly (like Camels when they get the hump) when they feel threatened, whereas Alpacas are much gentler and just spit as their last resort when they're angry or scared.

AGM 2024

This will take place on 27th April 2024, starting at 2:30pm in the Resource Centre at School. More information in the next edition.

Annual Buffet 2024

This will take place on 27th April in the old school which is a far cosier setting than in the School Hall. It starts at 4:30pm.

The food will be prepared by the school chef, so I suggest a diet before you attend as his food is good.

To mix the old and the new some traditions are being kept like Mike Adron's famous raffle and the singing of the school

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



The school has agreed that the James Baines Room will be made available to Alumni members every Tuesday during term time. If you wish to visit please contact me. I am looking for former pupils who can put names to faces in the school roll photographs.

The James Baines room is in the lower playground and used to be the Headmaster's office, the tech office, and sixth form study room depending on how old you are.

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

Obituary

As the list is rather large it has been placed on the website in the Alumni Section. [Click here](#) for the link

Announcements

If you have any announcements of birth, marriages or deaths please contact me and I will include them.

song. Members of the FPA and the Baines Alumni will be invited to the event. The earlier time gives time for members to go clubbing afterwards.

New Foundation Governor

The school has appointed a new Foundation Governor, the FPA Secretary, Paul Bamber.

Paul attended Baines for the Sixth form but many of his family prior to this were old boys of the school. He currently has a family member as a pupil at the school. We wish him the best of luck with this new appointment. He will be linked with the Business Studies and Computing faculty.

Your views sought.

The school is exploring the possibility of becoming an Academy and is looking at becoming a member of the Cidari Multi Academy Trust.

Every member of the FPA have been sent a letter and rationale about this plan. The school are therefore asking for your views about this. Your views can be sent to the Headteacher and the closing date is Friday 26th January 2024. As the letter does not state where your comments can be sent, I suggest pa@baines.lancs.sch.uk.

From the archive - James Baines Day

Whittington resurrected the tradition of the James Baines Day where the School community celebrated James Baines' life. This took place on 9th January every year and involved a church service at St Chad's Church in Poulton. It was the day on which James Baines died in 1717. It must have been the forerunner of the Founder's day which many fondly remember.

When he died Baines left the residue of his fortune to the establishment of three charity schools at Hardhorn-with-Newton, Thornton and Marton. As Hardhorn-with-Newton School (Baines School) was an existing school, built in 1675, possibly run by James Baines it is assumed that it was a private school. He also set up an Apprenticeship Charity to allow boys and girls to enter life under respectable auspices.

He was born in the reign of Charles I and lived through the Carolean Era. We are now in the second Carolean Era with Charles III on the throne. Everything seems to come full circle; Baines gave money to the setting up of a scheme to help young people to gain the skills needed to move into employment whereas one member of the Alumni/FPA is finalising plans to give part of his fortune to the establishment of an Outdoor Training Centre unfortunately at another school. More about this later in the year.

Obituary - Neill Pafreyman

Neill was a former pupil and member of the FPA committee, Neill Palfreyman. His children Heather, Hayley, Andy and Naomi all attended the school. He died suddenly on 21st Dec at Blackpool Vic. He was 78 years old.

The funeral is on Monday 15th January at 10am at Carleton Crem. Colourful/comfortable clothing is allowed.

Due to recent issues the information has been checked with the funeral directors.

Joining the Alumni

Membership is free so If you wish to be added to the mailing list of join the Alumni Members area of the website then simply visit the site and register then send me your email details.

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.

Contacts

School contact

Anna Bailey

aba@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Former Pupils Association 2023/24

President

David Astall

President Elect

Muriel Ryding

Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

Treasurer FPA

Fred Vickers

Cultural Section

To celebrate Bainesians in media I have grouped together all the recent news.

Awards TV

Jordan Shuck (2010-2017) was part of the team that won the Royal Television Society's North West Awards for the Best Factual Series. This went to BBC1's Morning Live.



Another Bainesian that has done well.

A trip to Scotland

I cannot say much about this but former pupil Paul Robinson (1991- 2007) could be heading to Edinburgh in August 2024 to perform in the Edinburgh Festival.

The Sound of Music (in Fleetwood)

Over the years Fleetwood has seen a lot of major events with the removal of its fishing fleet (the largest in the World); the demise of Prof Aubrey on the front, those dancing dogs and puppets next to the Lido and more recently the disappearance of the pier.

Thirty years ago this year it held another tradition – the annual Baines School Musical. Musical director was Robert Richmond and Director – Tony Stuart. The Golden Days of the School Musical.

In March 2023 the town was invaded by staff on the beach removing sand to place in yellow suitcases as ballast for the chorus in Mikado. I wonder what happened to all those brown umbrellas and yellow suitcases, we need them for the archive. The programme for the musical was complete with 'Souvenir Origami' – you don't get that at Covent Garden. Having got over the 'Invasion of the Beach Snatchers' the year after in 1994 the Pirates Invaded. The school presented the Pirates of Penzance to packed houses.

My lasting memory of the performance was the fight between the Pirate King (George Purves) and the Sergeant of Police (me), He was armed with a sword and I was armed with a rubber truncheon complete with squeaker!! I had the upper hand.

That was the highlight of the school year and the enthusiasm and teamwork from both staff and pupils was fantastic. It also spurred many to take jobs in the media.

Those were the days – 'Too Late Naa'

Joining the FPA

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

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

Baines Alumni Volunteers

Are you willing to volunteer to help digitise the Archive. When complete it will be made available on a website.

Jobs would include helping to catalogue it; or scanning the items so that they can be stored electronically. There are also a number of images that show 'unknown' pupils that need identifying. Any help will be most appreciated.

Extras for the archive

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. Items can either be physical items or scanned and electronically saved.

Noticeboard

As I receive notices from the Alumni they will be published on the Noticeboard section of the website. These are the ones known so far this year.

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 do so.

Calling all younger members of the Alumni

Why not share your progress after leaving school. Simply send the information to me and I will publish it on the newsletter.

The Art of Tony Stuart

I was going through some things at home recently when I came across some drawings by former Art Teacher Tony Stuart. Thought I would share.



Former pupil, teacher and President of the FPA – Hugh Mett and on the right former English teacher – Andy Cotterall.

Correspondence From Peter Ramsden

How Spud Hopkinson (born 1934 and entered school 1946) got his nickname.

In the late forties the school dinner system was similar to that of a works canteen. You joined a queue, grabbed cutlery and a plate and filed past a hatch. Dinner ladies doled out the grub onto your plate. All that changed when we got a new head cook, a Miss Schofield. She was fresh from catering college, and full of new modern ideas. She aimed to create a more civilised dining environment. Every boy was permanently assigned to a specific table of eight. Monitors collected large dishes of each menu item and the table members served themselves from these. Some things were not very appetising and by the end of the meal there were unused portions still in some of the dishes. Potatoes was one such disdained item. Spud was a well known unique case. He loved his potatoes. Every day, when people were moving on to the pudding course, Hoppo went from one table to another pleading 'Got any spuds left?' He could, and did, consume all he could get. Hence the nickname.

From Nigel Stewart

We have had an email from New South Wales, Australia from the son of a former pupil **Jeffrey Stewart** who joined Form 1b in 1942 and was in Hodgson House. He was a good swimmer and a former Scout. If anyone knows anything about him then please send an email and I will include it in the newsletter and send to his son.

His son has written to donate some articles for the archive.

Forthcoming events

March 2024



School Production – details to follow

27th April 2024

Annual FPA AGM at 2:30pm in the school library

27th April 2024

Annual FPA/Alumni Hot Buffet from 4:30pm in the Old School

Poultonian

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

We have copies 1908 to 1980 some as bound copies, some as physical copies and others as scanned copies. If you would like to research copies then contact me and I will post them on the website or pop into one of the 'get togethers'.

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](#)

Share your story

As I produce the newsletter myself it helps if members can send information to me to include. I am always very proud to share stories from the Alumni Community.

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 (video or audio).

Changes to the website

I will be updating this when I get a bit of time.

Tuesday Get Togethers

Before Christmas I visited the James Baines Room and did some tidying up of the archive. This year the plan is to scan much of the material and digitise it. Lets hope this year the room is used less for examinations so that we can get into it to carry out these tasks.

And finally...

Christine Jolly, a former PA to the Headteacher is alive and well. The Chritine Jolly that was featured in the obituary of the Blackpool Gazette was someone else.

I was telephoned by a member of the FPA and emailed Christine to see if she was still alive. Strange she cottoned on quite quickly to why she had received an email out of the blue asking about her health.

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 and as a way to keep in touch with each other.

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.

Next Month's Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be the Easter edition

Newsletter compiled and written by:

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