



Dear Alumni member,

What a time I have had since the last newsletter. Work has carried on a pace but I finished one project a month ahead of schedule so that has lifted a great weight from me. It has also given me some breathing space. Added to all this I managed to get sepsis so have been rather incapacitated lately.

What has been happening on the Baines and the Alumni front? On the 27th April we had another successful Annual Gathering and Former Pupils' Association (FPA) AGM. We even attracted to of our younger members of the FPA to both events. Also attending the Gathering were former staff John and Ann Edwards, John Bradley and Ray Wilson. We also had Mike Wallace over from Canada. A great afternoon was shared by all, leaving us all buzzing as to the way forward.

David

Erratum

I have learnt not to write a newsletter when I tired. I have to apologise to Jordan Shuck who I congratulated on being part of the team that won the RTS (NW) Award for Morning Live which is on BBC1 not ITV1 as I stated. I also got his attendance dates wrong Jordan was at the school from 2010 to 2017 not 2000 to 2017. Sorry!

Old techroom at School

Some of you may have noticed as you pass the school that the lower car park gates are always closed and locked. This is not designed to keep the staff locked in but rather due to the changed status of the old techroom/Sixth form library buildings which have now become an educational unit.

Visitors to the James Baines room now need to call at the front office to gain access to the room.

FPA AGM 2024

The AGM this year took place on 27th April and thank you all for attending. This year I separated the invitation to the AGM from the Annual Gathering as I felt that this affecting the numbers. Amongst those gathered were two of the youngest members, Jordan Shuck and Nathaniel Read who came up with some great ideas to attract new members and to publicise the FPA. We are now looking at these ideas and I will report back soon on the progress.

One of the ideas put forward and welcomed by all those present came from Jordan Shuck who is a gold standard

Community Section

Interactive

Click on the images shown 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 Alumni Members Area then please contact me.

Baines Alumni Archive



It is hoped that the digitised archive will move to the Alumni website.

Before this can take place items need to be digitised by scanning and that takes time.

We are looking very closely at the archive and will be taking stock of what we have got. There are a lot of photographs where the pupils and staff are unknown.

From time to time these scanned school photographs will appear on the website when we would like members to identify those, if they can, on the photographs. This then will enhance our history of the school.

Currently there are two main websitesm the Baines Alumni website and the Baines School official website. Currently there are two Facebook sites Baines School 300 and Baines Grammar @ 300. We are planning t set up a new Baines FPA facebook page.

Baines School Website



This is the link to the main school website

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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award holder as is Nathaniel Read (also present at the AGM) who gained his gold standard with school. The FPA have long given money to the DofE in school through the F J Stafford fund and recently added £1000 to the cause from the FPA. What about the FPA sponsoring the DofE in school on a more permanent basis? This would help the school to purchase equipment and staff training as well as raise the profile of the FPA amongst the school. Why had no one else thought of this before? This is one reason we need younger members in both the Alumni and the FPA to generate ideas of this type.

The committee will now work out a plan to move this forward but will involve the school, Jordan and Nathaniel in the process as well as the views from the Alumni and FPA members.

The meeting included a number of reports from the Treasurer and the Secretary. The President's report is posted on the Alumni website under the report of the AGM. When I get time, I will record it as well. The meeting left us buzzing with new ideas some of which are listed below.

No changes were made to the roles of President, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary.

Annual Gathering 2024

Having come up with the title – every time I look at it it sounds like some migratory event and David Attenborough will pop up to report on it.

Here is a comment from former Head of Governors and Former Pupil, Robert Fletcher:

I thought last Saturday's event was brilliant in all departments and it was so enjoyed by those present. Thanks for the hard work and organisation put in especially John Noon (chef) and team and Ailsa Bamber (who set up the bar).

Everyone that was spoken to about the event was so positive about the atmosphere, conversation and the food. The food was all cooked in house and was superb, none of the old style school meals – this was top notch. Next year we want to see more of you attending the event.

The event last year was so good that we even managed to attract those from the former colonies. Former pupil Mike Wallace who now lives in Canada attended the event. I wonder if he managed to catch his bus home after it.

I was concerned that our younger guests would feel a little out of it but I did not need to worry as Mike Wallace was at school with Jordan's Shuck great uncle – something that only came to light during the meal.

Email links



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

bainesalumnu@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.

Stronger Together

As I emphasised in my speech this year Baines Alumni and FPA are here to help and support you.

Its members have many skills, expertise, and friends to give you advice and support if we can.



We are also here to help the school and many members can use their skills to help the youngsters of the day.

Career development is very important and some members already give support and advice to pupils looking for a career in certain fields. Why not join them !

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.

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.

The evening involved a hot buffet rather than the formal dinner. There was a mix of the old and the new with some traditions being kept like the singing of the school song. Members of the senior prefect team served the food and one of them, Thomas, provided the musical interlude. Thank you to the headteacher and her prefects for doing this. Claire Docherty, the headteacher, was also serving the food.

Put this event in your diary for next year. It will be around this time.

New Headteacher

Clare Doherty has now officially been appointed the 19th Head teacher of the school. Congratulations to her. Claire is a hands-on headteacher who is committed to steering the school to higher things. She has also shown that she is committed to working with the Alumni and FPA.

British Success in Slalom

Muriel Ryding, a former Headteacher of the school has a sporting grandson, Dave Ryding who is the UK's No 1 slalom Skier. He has made UK history this year by becoming the first Brit to come in the top 7 in the world. Not bad for a guy who started his career on a dry ski slope in Lancashire.

The ski season is over and with it Dave's last race of the season. The snow was awful and he only finished mid field. However, at the end of the season the total points from all the races are calculated and the top 7 skiers are classed as Elite.

Being in the top seven means that he will always be drawn in the top 7 start positions next season which can be a great advantage.

So where now for Dave, retirement? Far from it on Saturday I was told that he wanted to compete in the XXV Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina in 2026. So there is at least two more seasons at least before he can hang his skis up.

The grand piano

I sent out an email to all members of the Alumni and FPA about the school grand piano and thanks to all those that replied. All replies have been passed onto the school. No decision has yet been made about the piano which will cost thousands of pounds to repair. However the piano is still down south in storage at £150 per week !!!

School Fields

B field (across Highcross Road) has been in a sorry state for a few years. But all that may change soon as the school are working with both Squires Gate Football Club and Fylde Cricket Club for them to use the fields for practises when the school does not need them.

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.

Congratulations – Luke Halstead

We send congratulations to Luke on his appointment at a physiotherapist at Blackpool Victoria hospital.

I needed someone to sort out my gorilla arm (caused by using a touch screen).

People you meet.

Recently I was undergoing medical treatment and I got talking about school. The young lady with the scalpel happened to say she was a former pupil at Baines. Luckily as she was wielding the scalpel I had not taught her. Her name was Poppy and her husband another former pupil was Ryan Easter.

Joining the Alumni

Membership is free so If you wish to have access to the Alumni Members area of the website then simply visit the site and register.

A changing school



A lot has changed since the wooden huts were removed. Now replaced by the Sports/ILC section (big building on the right). Good to see the old school and the house still survives mostly intact.

Touring the school

As we were all buzzing following the AGM at the weekend a number of new incentives are to be introduced.

First of all the Headteacher, Clair Docherty is planning a couple of tours of the school for the Alumni/FPA to see how much it has changed since you were at school. If members contact headspa@baines.lancs.sch.uk they will give you more details of the dates available.

Golf Association

Another incentive. Last year a Golf Day was organised but due to circumstances there were issues and the Alumni/FPA did not take part. Now the school has organised a Golf Association consisting of 8 members of staff some of which are former pupils and invite the Alumni/FPA to join it in golfing events.

Luncheon Club

As mentioned at the FPA AGM over the weekend the FPA luncheon club had not met for some time. The school are keen on preserving this Club, say once a month in the school, not the refectory with the pupils. The meals will be cooked in house by John Noon, the chef. His food is super. More details to follow. However, you can contact the Heads PA at headspa@baines.lancs.sch.uk. The luncheon club is planned to be in the old school (lower car park)

Meet the Alumni

The things you see when you are out shopping. I had not seen Mike Hoffman for several years and then saw him twice in a day.

Being added to the mailing list

If you wish to join the mailing list and receive information and the news letter simply email me at:

bainesalumni@btinternet.com and send me your details.

New member

Brian Blundell has recently been added to the mailing list. He attended Baines from 1963.

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 2024/25

President

David Astall

President Elect

Muriel Ryding

Secretary FPA

Paul Bamber

Treasurer FPA

Fred Vickers

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.

Michael Hoffman

What has Mike been up to since leaving Baines? After leaving Baines he was working in Skelmersdale as exams officer which soon became a data manager as well. The school he was at was a very different school to Baines, but as it was close to where he grew up he knew what to expect.

As Mike moved to Garstang (to be nearer his wife's family) travel meant he had to change jobs and gained a job at Westholme School (Independent!) in Blackburn with the very grand title of Academic Systems Manager - basically all things SIMS which he liked to think he became quite good at, who knew what SIMS could actually do! SIMS is an educational management system.

Six years after leaving Baines he finally retired and involved himself in voluntary work - St John's Hospice in Lancaster, the COVID vaccination roll out, Millenium Green in Garstang, H&S at the local church and more recently Garstang Food Bank and the Lions - so keeping himself pretty busy.

Changes to the website

Following the ideas from the AGM the website is about to undergo a major overall with new livery and content. I am planning to make it easier to read and the layout easier to navigate. This will be subtle at first with only menu changes until the colour theme changes then I will need to close it for a few days.

I am also working with the school on updating the Alumni and FPA sections of the school website.

Flash from the past

Recently posted on the Gazette website some images of the 1990's and 2000's at school.



Year 12 (L6) 2003 Chemistry

Baines Volunteers

Are you willing to volunteer to help digitise the Archive?

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. 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.

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 and on the website.

Forthcoming events



School Speech Day. The speaker this year is the England T20 cricketer Richard Gleeson, former pupil of the school.

If you know of any former pupil that you may think could award the prizes at Speech Day then please contact headspa@baines.lancs.sch.uk

The school is looking for former pupils to undertake this task.



Pupils gave up their mod cons for a month in 2009 as part of an experiment for the Tonight with Trevor McDonald television program - Make My kids Happy.

Pictured left to right are Joel Clark, Johanna Rutherford, Jak Latham, Lydia Whiteoak, Lucy Cook and Ellie Cowley.



Sixth formers in 2009. Shouldn't they be working !

More images at:

<https://www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/retro/24-retro-scenes-which-snapshot-poulton-le-fylde-baines-high-school-in-the-90s-and-00s-3806372?page=1>



1990/ 91 Graham Nicholls, Wendy Shimmin, Dean Wilson, Vicky Edge-Baron and Simon Quarrie - and an MP, but which one?

Poultonian

We have copies from 1908 to 1980 some as bound copies. Some of the copies have already been scanned but the plan is to scan all of them and make them available on the website.

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).

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.

From the electronic world

Message from John (Bob) Leigh posted on Facebook

I was known as Bob Leigh. I was looking for photos of Baines Grammar

Sad News



I heard recently about the death of a former pupil, Denis James Barrington Shaw, who was at school 1958-1965. Denis took a first class degree in geography and a Ph.D from University College, London. He lectured at Birmingham University and became a Reader. His speciality was Russian historical geography. As a research student he spent a year at a Russian university and later attended many conferences in Russia. His published work (books and articles) is enormous. Just try Googling it.

Former pupil Steven Wood (1956-65) had only been in contact with Denis in the last month.

and came across the Italy trip in 1961 posted by Robert Wright. As I was ill on the day of departure I did not go on the trip, which has been a memory for me all my life.

Newsletter compiled and written by:

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