

The Baines Family of Trentham

In 1939 the Baines family were living at The Woodlands on the Longton Road at the junction with Meadow Lane.

Messrs C J Baines and Co. Ltd had been colour manufacturers since its establishment in 1855. In 1897 William Baines died and his widow Mrs Ann Baines took over control of the company and became the chairman. Her son Charles James Baines went on to manage the business.

In 1919 Charles married Ethel Hales and they had two children: Rita Pauline Baines, born on 13/11/1921 and Charles James Baines, born on 19/6/1925. Charles Jnr., always known as Jimmy, was expected to follow his father into the business when he finished his education.

In 1939 three generations of the family were present at the opening of a new block of Baines Company offices and factory extensions in Barn Street Fenton.

During the war Charles volunteered at the ARP Keele Control Centre and Ethel volunteered as an ambulance driver.

Charles and Ethel were active members of Trentham Golf Club.



Rita Baines was educated at Felixstowe Ladies College and a finishing school in Lausanne Switzerland. In the 1939 Register, aged 17, she is listed as looking for work.

1939-42 - Rita worked for the Central Clearing House in Trentham ballroom which was convenient but she found it boring and she became intrigued by the fact that, only five miles away, in Blythe Bridge there were aeroplanes being built.

1942 - Rita answered an advert in The Sentinel and applied to work in the Rootes factory at Blythe Bridge on final flight inspections of Blenheim and Beaufighters, constructed on site, before they left from Meir aerodrome for delivery to the RAF.

After 3 months training in Bristol she started work on £2.14s.6d a week.

Jimmy Baines grew up with his sister, Rita, at The Woodlands on Longton Road. He attended Chaucer House School in Dresden and then was sent to prep school at Trearddur Bay in North Wales.

On the 1939 register he is to be found boarding at Haileybury School in Hertfordshire where he was in the Officers Training Corps and later the Home Guard.

