



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter October 2014

"A school in which science subjects and science methods should be the main instruments of education.
To use science as an instrument for training the mind," E M Dixon, Headmaster 1878

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Editorial

EUREKA !! Probably it would be more correct to say, HALLEUJAH !!! This is a Newsletter without any requirement for fill-ins from Mike or from me, simply a case of pasting, copying, setting, spell-checking (seldom) and grammar-correction (occasionally). However, we can truthfully say it is : from you ; about you and by you.

Within the pages there are a number of positives and negatives. On the plus side there is the possibility of a resurrection of *Allan Glen's School*. Not in the same format as our Old School, the costs would be astronomical, but, in a practical and realistic manner. Additionally there are 2 new scholars that are able to take the benefit of the Educational Trust. There was a very high standard of applicants. Also there is the on-going Allan Glen's Golf match every September which is still thriving.

On the negative side there is an article on the sad demise of the *Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club*, the last of the adherent UK Clubs (There is also a notice of a Meeting of the Toronto Club).

Many thanks for your contributions, keep them coming. The annual mailing was posted out on 25th September. I hope to see as many of you as possible at this year's Dinner when we will have Henry Dargie and Ian Roger speaking on the new developments aiming at keeping the tradition of Allan Glen alive in education. If you did not receive the dinner invitation, e-mail membership@allanglens.com for a copy. This year Alan Garrity will be pleased to receive your bookings.

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

Second Friday of the month - Monthly Town Lunch - (0141 942 2216)

Last Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch - (0141 357 0137)

Friday 21st November 2014 - Tribute Lecture - Strathclyde University.

Room 1- McCance Building

Saturday 22nd November 2014 - Annual Dinner - Trades Hall

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A new Allan Glen's School - consideration from Gregor Egan

Following on from the work of Henry Dargie and Ian Rogers there has been a renewed interest among Club members in the project to create a new Allan Glen's School. A school that we all share a special attachment to and that we knew and attended. We also share a dream that the School could be re-established now in an identical format.

However, is that a realistic dream? More importantly, is that what Allan Glen would do today as he viewed the current needs of the children of Glasgow?

With that in mind, I would ask you to reflect on the fact that the School we knew is not the one that Allan Glen envisaged creating with his legacy.

We all know that the original School was founded in 1853 and financed from the remaining part of his legacy which totalled £21,000. From that sum his Trustees built a new building with three class rooms and teacher accommodation. They were also able to fund a qualified teacher and one assistant teacher cum janitor. The School was to educate 50 or 60 boys. There were no charges made to the pupils or their parents and each pupil was to be given a full set of clothes every year and two pairs of shoes. The Trustees dealt wisely with Allan Glen's bequest and managed to increase the funds available and the original school carried on like this for 19 years.

At this stage the school was a charity school and just an ordinary school with an emphasis on technical subjects.

A less well known fact is that Allan Glen's Will also charged the Trustees with the responsibility of founding an Industrial School. An Industrial School taught destitute children to do regular tasks such as knitting, sewing preparing firewood kindling etc., and some basic scholastic subjects. It was a low cost educational option because some of the things made by the children could be sold to generate funds to meet some of the costs. The Education Act of 1872 removed the need for industrial schools and the Trustees decided that this released them from their obligation to start the Industrial School that Allan Glen had included in his Will. Instead they used the surplus funds to extend the school building and increase the number of pupils to 150.

The Allan Glens Institution Act of 1876 revised and extended the powers of the Trustees which allowed them to re-direct the future of the school. An important clause in this Act allowed the Governors "to admit pupils on payment of such fees as they appoint while providing free education and clothing for those whose circumstances were less fortunate." The Trustees were also "empowered to grant bursaries to boys proceeding to Glasgow University or to schools affording a higher class of education." By these means Allan Glen's School was transformed from a small obscure charity foundation to Glasgow's High School of Science.

In 1878 Mr Edward Maxwell Dixon, the then headmaster, on the advice of Lord Sandford transformed the school from just a technical school to a science school which he described as:

"A school in which science subjects and science methods should be the main instruments of education. To use science as an instrument for training the mind, combining with science just as much literary teaching and no more than is needed for every educated man to possess." That mantra describes the school we all knew.

In 1882 the school was affiliated with Anderson's College although it retained its separate identity and its emphasis on science. This was at a time of re-organisation of technical education and it was deemed desirable to bring all the technical schools in Glasgow together. It is interesting to note that in 1889 the school roll had increased to 580 pupils.

In 1912 the school was separated from Anderson's College (which had in the intervening period changed its name to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College) and was transferred to the Glasgow School Board. This divorce was forced by a lack of funds both at the school and the college. The Trustees of the School believed that to increase the fees to the necessary level to fund their plans would be against the original ideals of Allan Glen. Under the auspices of the Glasgow School Board grants would be available. After the divorce the College became the Royal Technical College.

Finally in 1973 came the demise of the School that we knew and Allan Glen's became a "Territorial Comprehensive School for boys and girls".

If we take that as the pick up point for a new school then these are some useful facts.

Robert Finlayson, the then headmaster had a staff of 57.

I calculate that at today's salary levels that would be about £3 million annually

If you allow overheads at a very conservative 150% that adds another £4.5 million

Assuming the School had the same number of pupils annually as in our day that would be about 750 (boys and girls) across the 5 years of secondary school. This means educating each pupil would cost £10,000 plus books and other materials.

Compare that to existing fee paying schools in Glasgow,

Hutcheson's Grammar currently charge £10,500 per pupil in secondary school.

Kelvinside Academy and Glasgow High School both charge just under £11,000 per pupil and Glasgow Academy is just under £16,000.

To provide a new building would cost £30 million plus fitting out with the current science equipment.

Bullet points:

1. AG was founded as a charity School in 1853 for 50-60 boys.
2. Allan Glen also wanted an Industrial School to be built but this was ruled out in 1876 and payment of fees were permitted at this time.
3. In 1878 it was transformed into a science school
4. In 1882 it was affiliated to Anderson's College
5. In 1889 it had grown to 560 pupils
6. In 1912 it was divorced from the College and came under the auspices of the Glasgow School Board
7. In 1973 it ceased to exist as a specialist school and became a "Territorial Comprehensive School".
8. Over the years it became a school that Allan Glen would not have recognised

It is obvious from the current Scottish political climate at both local and government levels that public monies will not be used to contribute to any educational establishment that charges fees nor are they likely to support a school which is selective on merit or any other basis. Consequently, the only option would be to establish a totally independent fee paying school.

The conclusion from this is that it would require a Herculean effort to raise sufficient funds to start a new Allan Glen's from scratch and I personally think that it is a non starter.

Allan Glen's Education Trust Scholarship awards.

A good turnout of AGSC members joined David Tanner, Club President, and other Trustees at the City Chambers on 1st October 2014 for the presentation ceremony to the two successful engineering students.

Catriona (Tina) Holland from Cleveden Secondary School (Mechanical Engineering at Glasgow University) and Anthony (Tony) Devine from St Paul's High School, Pollok (Aeronautical Engineering also at Glasgow University), were joined by proud family members and teachers.

Jim Wilson, Head of Quality Improvement, Education Services at Glasgow City Council, and a Trustee, welcomed everyone to the City Chambers and congratulated our two latest Allan Glen's Scholars.



Our President reported that there were originally twenty-one applicants overall and that the quality was of a high standard. The assessors, Ian Valentine (AGSC) and Prof Scott MacGregor (Head of Engineering Studies at Strathclyde University), had interviewed the six best fitted to our criteria. The two successful students were "outstanding by any measure." Unfortunately, the two assessors were unable to attend the ceremony but had reported that the two successful students had been extremely impressive in what they had already achieved and in the way that they had presented themselves at interview.

After a brief description of the Allan Glen's Trust and our founder's legacy the students were presented with a copy of the History of the School and School Club and their first scholarship cheque.

David thanked all those in attendance and Glasgow City Council for organising the day's ceremony in such a prestigious building. He concluded by wishing Tina and Tony continued success and hoped that they would keep in touch with the trustees.

Footnote: We were delighted to learn that Tina's proud grandfather, David McLintock from Gifford, East Lothian, was an Allan Glen's Old Boy (1938-43) and Club Member. Sadly, David has recently suffered from a stroke and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Allan Glen's golf match Thursday September 11th 2014



The annual golf outing took place at Pollok Golf Club on Thursday 11th September attended by 14 players. On a beautiful day, the John G Kerr trophy was won by David McLaren. A further 8 Old Boys came along for the dinner and presentation of the trophy.

Brian

Pictured left to right:-
Allan McLaren (Vice-president) David McLaren and Brian McAllister

Maureen McKenna, Director of Education addresses the monthly Allan Glens Lunch

On Friday 12th September 2014 there was a record turnout of 55 members at the Allan Glens Club monthly lunch in the Arthouse, 129 Bath Street, Glasgow to listen to a progress report on the proposal to commemorate the name of Allan Glen in a new school. Everyone was welcomed by Allan McLaren, the Club's Vice-president who read out a list of messages of support from former pupils spread as far afield as Australia, Canada, and other parts of the UK who were unable to manage to attend the lunch. Allan gave a special welcome to Frazer Brownlie, one of our Endowment Scholarship Bursary graduates who is now studying for his Doctorate.

After a convivial and very enjoyable lunch, Henry Dargie opened the proceedings with a slide showing the time-line of the meetings he has attended with several interested parties. He stressed that all of these meetings including those with Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities had concluded with positive support for the idea of a new school. In fact none more so that his meetings with Maureen McKenna, Director of Education in Glasgow District Council. The second slide took us back to our origins and showed the floor plan and photograph of the original school building which was financed from a legacy of £22,000. It was built on land owned by Allan Glen in North Hanover Street. The point being made was that this was a modest building with three classrooms and one teacher to accommodate 50 to 60 boys and that to finance a similar building today would cost in the region of £20 to £30 million. He stressed that our objective must be to look forward and not back. Times have changed, different circumstances prevail in school education and some are now needing to be addressed. There seems to be a consensus that the current emphasis should be given to STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This would be appropriate for a school which had the motto "Cum Scientia Humanitas". The third slide featured a picture of Robert Smith (Lord), who everyone recognised from his involvement with the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Henry explained that Lord Smith, a former pupil from intake year 1956, is working behind the scenes and is very supportive of this project. He then went on to explain that with the help of Robert Smith, Glasgow University, Strathclyde University and Alumni we will be trying to raise our share of the finance for the project. Henry closed his part of the report by quoting Lord Smith's final words from their meeting on Wednesday 10th September which were "Let's get this thing done".

Maureen McKenna, Director of Education opened her contribution to the report thanking the Club for their support for the scholarship scheme which she knew had helped many young people to proceed to a University Qualification. Reference was made to the changing needs of today coupled with the fact that there has been a drift away from STEM subjects over the last 20 years leading to a gap in the skills market which now needs to be addressed. Maureen identified herself as a maths graduate and went on to explain what she was proposing for the Allan Glens STEM's Academy. It would not be a stand alone building because the funds to meet the £30 million build cost and the revenue costs for running it are well beyond the resources of public funds. Reference was made to the new building currently being erected on the site of the most recent Allan Glen's School. This is being funded by the Scottish Funding Council which funds Universities and Colleges in Scotland with the objective of widening access to young people. What is being proposed is a Hub with a small group of core staff who will work inside the Cathedral Street Campus in a space that is a flexible learning area with IT access, and other resources. This will allow the staff to reach out to the schools and to raise the profile of STEM subjects with children and young people. Children in 3rd and 4th years are not equipped to understand what various science based careers are available to them and this hub will be used to raise their horizons and provide a taster experience which can lead to more people taking up careers based on STEM subjects. Maureen cited an example of ten young men who last year started on engineering scholarships where they worked at College for 2 days a week, worked at school for two days a week and worked in a business for one day a week with the result that six are now doing HND's and the other four are doing apprenticeships. The proposed Hub would allow this to be developed further and the concept is supported by Lord Smith and Sir Jim McDonald, Principal of Strathclyde University. The Hub would have access to the facilities of the University as well as the facilities at the City of Glasgow College including the Riverside Campus on the site of the former Nautical College. The Hub would also have access to the Innovation and Technology centre on George Street.

Regarding time-scale, Maureen said she is keen to start small and grow but also to start quickly. In August 2015 there will be access into the Riverside Campus where it will be possible to have a small outreach staff preparing the ground to be ready when the Cathedral Street Campus opens in 2016. She finished by confirming how pleased she was that the Club had contacted her with our ideas and that she is looking forward to working with us.

Ronnie Wright asked the first question which was about the process of selecting potential students. Maureen explained that she did not visualise a selection process per se, but rather a situation where the school staff would make all pupils aware of what was on offer and allow them to self-select on the basis of taster sessions. Jim McRitchie asked how this would compare to the existing sport school at Bellahouston, the music school at Douglas Academy and the dance school at Knightswood. Maureen said she thought this was something that could evolve and explained that the annual revenue budget for the dance school was 1.3 million pounds alone and the school of sport has a budget of 6 to 7 hundred thousand pounds. She went on to say that if the hub is successful then they would look to the Universities to create elite pathways and explained that there was a real challenge to go beyond just elite and to widen access in the Allan Glen's tradition and to having more and more young people accessing better and better jobs. (From an employer's viewpoint the logic to this argument should be expressed as, the more useful the young person is to a business then the greater the possibility of them landing a better job.) The question of whether the catchment area was just for Glasgow was mentioned and although this would be the initial plan it would ultimately be extended to include adjoining local authorities. The funding framework was explained as "evolving" but would involve the Scottish Funding Council who would provide the accommodation, the office and access to IT. Access to lecturers would be part of the existing arrangement the Council has with the colleges. The Allan Glen's contribution being sought would be in the order of one hundred thousand pounds per year which would fund a full time member of staff, administration and resources and the staff would be tasked with pulling in more funding from industry because it is desirable for the project to be industry led. At this point Henry referred to his meeting with Robert Smith on the previous Wednesday when this was discussed and Robert said he did not envisage any problem in raising this sum for the first few years. Alan McLellan asked how the hub would be described, would it be the Allan Glen STEM education system and would the Allan Glen name be in it? The answer was that it would be up to us, the Club to decide. John MacDonald said he thought that 14 years of age was perhaps a bit late as a starting point. Maureen answered this by saying that the Education Department already does a lot of work with younger age groups. She explained that the council does a lot of outreach work and has primary engineering projects and that every primary school child in the city has access to the science centre. The plan would be that this would dovetail in to what is already happening at primary level. At University level Strathclyde have an engineering academy and they do something similar and what this project hopes to do is target 14 to 18 year-olds which will dovetail into the other projects such as city of science and primary engineering. Douglas Tait mentioned what was lost with the demise of Allan Glen's and asked how the heritage could be exploited. Maureen responded that she has a press office and that she is ready to start things moving when we give the go-ahead. She even promised to tweet about her lunch with Club members. Norrie Kilpatrick asked how these plans would fit in with the existing Endowment Scholarship Bursaries. Maureen said that it would be entirely separate and that the Council would issue employment contracts and issue invoices to the fund that we set up meaning there would be no contract liabilities to the fund. The final question came from Ian Rogers who asked if there was any likelihood of obstacles at the council level. Maureen replied, absolutely not. The proceedings concluded with a final vote of thanks from Vice-president Allan McLaren.

-Gregor Egan

Lunch report 10th October 2014 Gregor Egan

After Club members had dined at the Arthouse on Friday 10th October 2014 we were reminded of the original proceeding at the September lunch by Ian Valentine who have a brief précis of the project at that time. No further meetings had taken place with the Education Department so there was nothing new to report. Various members such as Ronnie Wright, Callan Dick, Ross Graham and Norrie Kilpatrick raised points with regard to protecting the club's interests in areas such as the existing Endowment Scholarship Trust and legal protection for the Club in the event of any contractual obligations. Jim McRitchie asked if the Club owned the name "Allan Glen" which had not been raised before. It was thought that the registration of the School's Coat of Arms by the Court of the Lord Lyon against the Allan Glen's Old Boys Club and the School would be adequate protection of the name. Ken Anderson thought that we may be able to call on the services of one of our former pupils who are lawyers to check this out. Explaining the lack of detail available at this time, Ian Valentine and Henry Dargie stressed that the details of the proposed hub were still to be defined and that the Education Department is currently in the process of bringing together a project team to discuss and define the Hub project. The Club will be represented on this team by Henry Dargie and Ian Valentine. They hope to be able to report back to us at the next lunch.

ALLAN GLEN'S EAST of SCOTLAND CLUB

Extraordinary General Meeting

Held on 9 July at 9 Blinkbonny Road, Edinburgh. EH4 3HY

Chairman : Mr S Ian Hogarth was elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

Apologies : Apologies for absence were received from Jim Strang; Iain MacMillan and Eddie Gatner.

The Chairman confirmed that the *Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club* (the 'Club') had no formal Constitution. He informed the Meeting that the 'Club' was formed as a Luncheon Club in 1953 and quickly to an active membership of fifty former pupils and masters of *Allan Glen's School*, holding regular meetings including an Annual Dinner. The oldest current member was believed to be William Brackenridge, who entered the School as a pupil in 1933. Today, the active membership was no more than fifteen. In recent years the Annual Dinner had only been viable due to the attendance and support of Officers, members and wives of the Parent Club, *Allan Glen's School Club*. Following the death in February 2014 of Bryan Brown, the Club's President, the Secretary, Ian Hogarth, called the Extraordinary General Meeting of Members to consider the Club's future.

Following discussion of the possible alternatives open to the Club for the Club's continuation, the Members present unanimously resolved that :

'Due to the fall in the number of active Members, the *Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club* should disband forthwith and encourage all members to give their full active support to the Parent Club. *Allan Glen's School Club*.'

The Chairman reported that the Club's finances were sound and the Meeting authorised him in his role as Secretary to transfer the Club's Funds and Financial Records to the Treasurer of the Parent Club, recording appreciation of the support received from the Parent Club towards financing of the East of Scotland's Annual Dinner.

The Meeting also recorded its wish that the Annual Visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre, organised by the Club should be continued in the future.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm with a vote of thanks to the Chairman in recognition of his many years of service to the Club.

Those present : K A Aukland; W F Coghill; S I Hogarth; H Kahn; D MacFarlane; I S Meikle and R B Taylor.

Apologies : E Gatner; I M MacMillan and J Strang.

For Information : W Brackenridge; D McLintock

SIHogarth

WILLIAM BRACKENRIDGE 1920 – 2014

Bill's Family lived in the Cathcart District of Glasgow and, from the Primary School there, he won a Bursary to *Allan Glen's* in 1933. In 1935 he left the school, aged 14, to take up work in a Glasgow Office, it being necessary to increase the family income in those hard times. In 1938, he met Chris but their courtship was disrupted by the war. Bill was conscripted in 1939 into the RAF, where, after initial training, he was posted to the section that recovered shot-down or crashed planes. A major part of his War Service was in the Middle East. In 1948 having settled down to civilian life and work with Lairds (Scrap Merchants) Chris and he married. He spent his working life as an assessor valuing the metal in equipment that had become obsolete or on demolition sites. After working for two generations of Lairds he moved to Bardyke Metals. His children, Christine and Billy said that their Father's tools of trade were a magnet and a large roll of ban-knotes.

In 1953 Billy was a Founder Member of the *Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club* and was the last survivor of the Founder Members.

Bill's hobbies were cars and he only gave up driving last year; do it yourself and gardening. Chris and he created a beautiful garden outside the french window of their flat in Gullane.

Bill died in the Western General Hospital on August 20 after a short illness. He is survived by Chris, their two children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

SIHogarth

Toronto Lunch 17th October

I hope you are all enjoying the summer.

I writing a little earlier this year as I am planning our lunch earlier. Howard Kahn, (AGS 1963) is visiting Toronto again. Some of you will remember his visit a few years ago.

I have made a provisional booking for 17th October as usual Canyon Creek Front Street Toronto 12.15. Let me know please if you can make it or not.

Regards, Ken Clark

News Items

Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame

Thomas Graham Brown (b. 1933), (AGS 1945- 1951) engineer who developed the first practical medical ultrasound machine, to pioneer ultrasound diagnoses in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Tom Brown was responsible for converting the idea of using ultrasound scanning for medical purposes into a practical proposition.

Tom Brown trained as a Research & Development Engineer with Kelvin & Hughes Ltd, the Glasgow scientific instrument company founded by [Lord Kelvin](#). He worked on the development of ultrasound equipment for testing welds in large pressure vessels. When he was 23, he learned that Professor Ian Donald was attempting to use one of the firm's Flaw Detectors to distinguish between fibroids and cysts and he offered to help. It became clear to Tom that some form of pictorial imaging was needed and he believed that it might be possible to make radar-like images of internal organs. Brown conceived and designed the low cost prototype which was to be the first direct contact ultrasound scanner, and had it built onto a borrowed hospital bed table in the firm's workshops. The company applied for patent protection with Brown as Inventor.

The prototype was made available to Professor Donald, assisted by Dr John MacVicar, in early 1957. They quickly realised its potential, and began exploring its clinical applications, which led to the Donald, MacVicar and Brown Lancet paper in June 1958, less than two years after the initial contact. Kelvin & Hughes insisted that the firm, including Brown, should remain in the background and encouraged Donald to become the public face of the project.

| Age | Event | Year |
|-----|---|------|
| | Born in Glasgow, Scotland on 10 th April | 1933 |
| 11 | Entered Allan Glen's School, Glasgow | 1945 |
| 17 | Technical apprentice, Kelvin & Hughes Ltd, Glasgow | 1951 |
| 23 | Research & Development engineer, Kelvin & Hughes Ltd, Glasgow | 1956 |
| 23 | Contacted Ian Donald to offer assistance in use of A-scope Flaw Detectors | 1956 |
| 23 | Conceived and designed prototype direct-contact ultrasound scanner | 1956 |
| 25 | Applied for British Patent No. 863874 "Improvements in and relating to the examination by ultrasonics of bodies having a non-planar surface" made on 28 th April | 1958 |
| 25 | <i>The Lancet</i> paper by Donald, MacVicar and Brown published on 7th June | 1958 |
| 26 | Designed fully automatic mechanical scanning machine | 1959 |
| 27 | British Patent 863874 published 29 th March | 1961 |
| 30 | Head of department, Kelvin & Hughes | 1963 |
| 30 | Took "Diasonograph" scanner close to production readiness | 1964 |
| 32 | Engineer with Honeywell | 1965 |
| 34 | Engineer, Nuclear Enterprises Ltd, 2D medical scanners | 1967 |
| 39 | Research Fellow in Medical Physics, University of Edinburgh | 1970 |
| 40 | Team leader for multiplanar 3D scanner, Sonicaid | 1973 |
| 44 | Production of 3D scanner | 1977 |
| 66 | Quality Manager, Radiological Protection Centre, St George's Hospital, London | 1999 |
| 69 | "Retired" to Scotland | 2002 |
| 72 | Founded NoStrain Ltd to address musculoskeletal disorders affecting sonographers | 2005 |
| 74 | Honorary Fellow ad eundem of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists | 2007 |
| | Awarded Ian Donald medal for technical development | |
| 81 | Inducted into the Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame | 2014 |
| 81 | Honorary Fellow of IESIS | 2014 |

The significant breakthrough in the application of flaw detection equipment for medical diagnosis would not have happened in Scotland without the engineering genius of Tom Brown, the unsung hero of the invention of medical ultrasound.

Queen's Baton Relay

On 19th July 2014, Prior to the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth games, the Queen's baton passed in front of the Allan Glen's School Club-house in Bishopbriggs. Despite the weather, a good crowd turned out.



Correspondence

Hello Alan,

I have been meaning to contact you for some time after your comment about the lack of content in the July newsletter.

Some ideas which could be expanded are:

Mini biographies or recollections of and from former teachers - memories of past teachers has been done before but could be repeated for some others, especially of a more 'recent' vintage i.e. 60s, 70s. I was at Glens from 1960-66 and in 3rd year we had an excellent maths teacher who saved many of us from sinking beyond trace in that subject. He was Charlie Thomson, who I believe became deputy head of Morrison's Academy in Crieff. He is still alive according to a retired teacher friend I spoke to a couple of months ago. (Charlie is an AGS Club Member and lives in Crieff – see June 2009 Newsletter - Ed)

The Wikipedia entry for the school also has a list of 'Notable Alumni' and there must be material there for mini biographies - perhaps one or two featured in each issue of the newsletter. I was surprised to find that the Councillor who presented me with a service certificate on my early retiral from Glasgow City Council was also a fellow alumni - Bob Winter who later became provost of Glasgow.

A few years ago I modified the Wikipedia page on AGS to add that if your parent was a Glasgow Corporation ratepayer, he/she was entitled to substantially lower fees at the school. I came across a receipt many years ago from my time at School in the 60s for just a few pounds for the term, but I am not certain of the exact figure now. Although we lived in Renfrewshire, my Dad and his brother had a business near Glasgow Cross and paid business rates. That was the only reason that my parents could afford to send my brother and myself there - the major expense then being uniforms and books. This aspect is often forgotten but meant that a lot of the pupils there came from more 'humble' backgrounds, reflecting Allan Glen's original ethos in establishing the school. A friend was telling me recently that her partner returning home to 'Toonheid' after school had to brave the locals mocking his short trousers which were compulsory up to & including 3rd year.

Interestingly, an elderly retired Doctor I got to know here in the North East when I met her in 2000, had the same English teacher - 'Soapy' Somerville - although said friend is 92 - a generation older - and was at Hutcheson's Grammar. 'Soapy' must have started his teaching career there and then moved to AGS. However, I was surprised when this friend commented that science was not a major subject there and a fellow pupil of his was moved by his parents to Glens for better science teaching. I had always assumed that all schools of that standard were teaching a similar curriculum, but apparently not.

Perhaps the above may stimulate some ideas and help in the future. If anything else comes to mind, I will get in touch.

Regards,

Roy Milligan

On 16 September 2014 12:52, **Steve McConnell** <SMcConnell@dawn-group.co.uk> wrote:

Guys,

I cant recall which of you always comments on the frontage of the building at Bishopbriggs however the only comment for a while should be complimentary as you can see. (Picture bottom of page 6 - ED)

Like many sports clubs with declining turnover primarily due to economic situation and altering social leisure habits we have a restricted budget and must undertake reactionary rather than the preferred planned maintenance. The expenditure on showers, toilets and roof were our priority and we have spent approaching if not in excess of £20K on these areas.

The RBS in partnership with SRU hold an event called Rugby Force whereby they provide £250 for materials to be utilised by volunteers within rugby clubs on expenditure within their clubs. At Glens we took this to heart and the initial sum was expended during a large scale event on the Rugby Force day of 9th August which was well supported. That was however only the start and with additional materials supplied by Sports Club many hours of personal voluntary commitment and effort have seen the changing rooms revamped, the external front fence scraped and repainted and the whole frontage repainted. The main 'Glens Boys' changing room was the project of member Scott Muir. Graeme Thomson the current RC President spent every Sunday and many evenings scraping and painting the fence. David Hughes, a professional decorator and member/ex player and parent, gave up other jobs to complete the whole repainting of the frontage.

These efforts are symptomatic of the spirit that we continue to maintain and grow at Allan Glens with our sports club and particularly our thriving senior rugby teams and youth academy recognised as a strength within our community.

I know you do a newsletter and maybe a word about the voluntary works within the Allan Glens clubhouse could be fitted in. You may need sunglasses to fight the whitewash glare when you next have your lunch at Bearyards!!

Cheers

Steve

CSM John Skinner, VC. DCM Allan Glen's School 1885-1918

'The History of *Allan Glen's School and Allan Glen's School Club*, 1853 -2003' contains several references to Sergeant Major Skinner, VC, an Old Boy of the school. Recently my daughter and granddaughter were in Belgium and Northern France, touring WW I sites, partly because my grandfather was killed in France in 1915. They bought a book (see below) which I had a chance to look over and I found a reference to CSM Skinner (see attached). I thought this might be of interest to readers of our Bulletin. Al-

In the second Vlamertinge cemetery, the New Military Cemetery" (1,813 British graves. 11 unknown, and seven Germans, two unknown), on the Ouderdom road to the south of the village (across the railway and the new road), there lies another VC — CSM John Skinner, VC. DCM. of the 1st Bn. King's Own Scottish Borderers (Plot XIII. Grave H15). He won his award in 1917 for bravery in the Third Battle of Ypres when he put three blockhouses out of action in one continuous battle in August.

He returned to forEngland the investiture byKing George V and the customary 14 days leave. At the end of this time, when he reached Folkestone, he was sent to hospital and posted to the Reserve Battalion in Edinburgh. However, a few days later, he was seen with his company back in the Salient

He had refused to go to Edinburgh and. having his return leave warrant in his pocket, after two days in hospital he had risked a court-martial to return to his men. He also had a bet with a pal, CSM Ross. Both had been wounded eight times and the wager was: who would get the ninth first. Skinner won the bet on March 17. 1918 when he was shot between the eyes trying to rescue a wounded man.

His funeral was remarkable. The South Wales Borderers' Padre, the Rev. Kenelm Swallow, officiated at the ceremony in the pouring rain when his body was brought to the cemetery in Vlamertinge on a gun carriage drawn by a magnificent team of horses and then carried to the grave by six brother VCs of the 29th Division. The ceremony took place on March 19. 1918 and is unique in military history.

Website update

Those of you who have looked at the website recently will have noticed that it has recently undergone a major overhaul.

A members-only section has been added which is gradually expanding. At the moment the photo galleries are there. It may be possible for members to access the complete database of 13,500 members and various other archive material. A forum is also proposed. To obtain your password for this area you need to e-mail either membership@allanglens.com or webmaster@allanglens.com with your request. You will then be given a temporary password that you then need to change at first login.

The other main benefit of the redesign is that updating of specific pages can be allocated to different people. The effect of this will be to make the content more up to date.

Thanks go to Callan Dick, our webmaster, for all his work on the website.

Mike McCreery

My First Day at Allan Glen's - Alistair Munro

I attended a rather genteel primary school - sometimes called Battlefield Primary and sometimes Queen's Park Annex. It was set in a very attractive sandstone building among pleasant grassy surroundings which I remember were filled with a mass of colourful blooms in springtime. From there I sat the AGS Scholarship exam and, having been successful, I was accepted for admission to the school in the autumn of 1944. Rationing was intense but somehow enough coupons were dragged together to fit me out in suitable clothes and I mentally prepared myself for the daily commute by a number 11 tram from Sinclair Drive to George Square, followed by the healthy climb up North Frederick Street and North Montrose Street.

On the day of my first attendance I was wakened early by my mother who gave me an especially nourishing breakfast to sustain me in this, my first move towards manhood. I got dressed in my brand new uniform, gave my face an extra rub with the face-cloth, and tried very hard to make my hair lie down ("Like straw hanging out of a midden" was the usual fond description of my coiffeur by my doting parents). I settled my new cap straight on my head, braced my shoulders and set forth on my own, having thwarted an attempt by my over-fond mother to accompany me to the school gates. I walked to the tram stop and at that point the pattern of my life was indelibly set for the next six years.

As I was leaving home my mother had said solemnly to me, "Now remember, you are going to a school for young gentlemen so be sure to behave yourself properly!" Battlefield Primary had been so proper that it was difficult to know what I had been doing wrong that I must now correct, but her words rang in my ears as I entered the school playground. All of us rookies stood there apprehensively, waiting for our new life to unfold while round us a mass of older boys pushed and jostled and shouted familiarities to each other. Some of them were kicking a tennis ball around and at one point the ball dribbled over towards me. "Kick it back!" Shouted a young stalwart, so I obliged. Unfortunately the ball disappeared over a nearby wall.

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"You f---ing idiot!" Yelled the young gentleman. And thus was I introduced to the civility and refined manners of life at Allan Glen's.

Teachers at Allan Glen's

Discussion about the use of the strap to keep order in the class or to administer punishment brings back memories of my time at Glens between 1949 and 1954. While I would agree that the tawse/strap might not have done us any harm, I doubt if it did any good: the best teachers hardly used it. I never had Fleming as a teacher but I can still see his mad sadistic face as he lashed out at some student or other. (I have since been told that he suffered from shell-shock from the War) McCrae never used it, but I remember Jimmy Hinds, filling in for Andy Orr, getting each member of the class to say the Lord's Prayer and belting those who made the slightest mistake, which I think was everyone in the class: don't know if this increased the sum total of Christians in the school. Then there was Andy Orr trying to beat a particular student into submission, with the class counting the strokes, but in ever more hushed tones as the belting went into the teens and Andy Orr finally gave up. As a frequent recipient of the belt (usually justified) I think I can claim some authority here. A now well-known member of the class of 1949 told me that Paris, on guard at the gate belting all the students who came in late, only ever gave him the slightest tap. Butch Herd ruled with an intellectual authority and I can hardly remember him ever using the belt: his style of part lecture and part quiz was in some ways bizarre as a student at the bottom of the class could whiz to the top for answering a question that stumped the rest of the class. I remember the good humour of his response to a Saint Valentine Day's card we sent him, filled with comments on his various idiosyncrasies, including a poem that began:

What is this life if full of care
Teachers have no time to spare
No time to teach us Latin or Greek
With only 50 minutes a week

Miller in music was a wonderful raconteur; I loved his stories: Milton too, usually on the number of occasions in which he narrowly avoided a terrible death somewhere in Europe: Topping made some risqué comments (not related to Physics) which left some of us baffled but inquisitive. Russell taught English and refereed the rugby, but my memory was of him allowing me a try that should not have been given – and ordering me to spend time on the cross-bar of the rugby goals after I got up there to try and stop a last minute free kick.

Sandy is doing a great job collecting memorabilia, but he has not mentioned, so far as I can tell, the *Glenallen*, a student compilation started by a wonderful English teacher whose name escapes me, but I think was Johnstone. Published pieces were awarded canteen stamps which allowed some of us to escape the school meals set before us in the lower reaches.

Bill (Buff) Murray, 1C 1949

Why I Attended Allan Glen's - Alistair Munro

It's a hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War and my daughter and granddaughter, who are fascinated by the period, have recently toured WW I battlesites and graveyards in Belgium and France. This included a visit to my grandfather's gravesite in Northern France where he has lain since dying in battle in 1915, fighting with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. My mother worshipped his memory although she didn't talk about him a lot. His family had a Highland background and he had attended the Highland Society School in Glasgow which was sited in Rottenrow. By the time I was born it had disappeared but because it was so close to where Allan Glen's stood my mother decided that the one had somehow morphed into the other. She never told me why, but all through my childhood she would say from time to time that I should become an Allan Glen's pupil and when the time came I obediently sat the scholarship examination and was fortunate enough to be admitted. Mother had never done any homework on the school and had no idea of its bias towards science and engineering. I was very happy at Allan Glen's but it gradually became clear that my talents weren't exactly those sought after by my schoolmasters. I was very good at English, History and Latin and I did pass Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics in the Highers, though not with any great distinction. Why Latin? Well, that was another of my mother's projects. She had decided early on that I should go into Medicine and the legend at that time was that Latin was required for this. Anyway, I did well enough to get a third year bursary and eventually a university bursary and I've had a long and rewarding career in Psychiatry. And I still treasure my experiences at Glen's, no matter how happenstance my presence there.

For my schooldays there were all based on a misapprehension. The Highland School and Glen's were quite separate - or were they? A while ago I came across a reference to the fact that our school and the Technical College (now Strathclyde University) were under the same Board of Governors for some years around the end of the 19th century and for a brief spell the Highland School was also included in this arrangement. So you could say there WAS a connection and that maybe some slight influence from the one school was passed on to the other. So maybe I was indeed carrying on my grandfather's tradition.

My mother had died by the time I made this discovery but had she still been alive I could imagine the satisfaction in her voice as she would have said, "See!"

Student Notes - compiled by Ian Valentine

Two new scholarships have been awarded this year. Tony Devine attended St Paul's High School in Pollok, where he was head boy for his house. An excellent footballer, Tony spent much of his spare time organising sporting events for younger people in his school and in the community. However, his voluntary work certainly didn't get in the way of his studies. Having got four As and a B at Higher in S5, he followed it up in sixth year with an A and a B at Advanced Higher, as well as a B in a crash Higher Biology. Tony attended two of the Allan Glen Tribute Lectures and he says it was these that helped make him determined to be an engineer. He has now started on his Aeronautical Engineering degree course at Glasgow.

Tina Holland, house captain from Cleveden Secondary, is now also at Glasgow, and she's doing Mechanical Engineering. Another high achiever academically, Tina is also a champion gymnast and a member of the Scottish Acrobatics 'A' squad. Both of these young people really impressed at interview and we're sure that both will do very well indeed in their chosen careers.

This year also saw two of our scholars graduating. Frazer Brownlie passed MEng with Merit in Aero-Engineering from Strathclyde and is now going on to do a PhD there. Frazer has already attended one of our lunches and will return at a future date to speak to members about his studies and his PhD research project for Weir Oil and Gas. Zoe Henretty passed her masters in Civil Engineering at Strathclyde. Zoe is currently volunteering in Africa and we hope to see her at a lunch when she returns.

Progress reports have now been received from all of the other eleven scholars making their way through university, and these make very good reading. I've taken one quote from each report:

- "I passed all nine of my classes over my first year at University, achieving 7 A passes and 2 B passes. This saw me recognised on the Dean's List as the second highest achieving first year in the engineering school at the university."
- "Overall I am happy with my progress this year, finding most of the classes both interesting and challenging but not overwhelming. All of the main subjects were relevant to the course, with most building upon what was learned the previous year. As with the last year we were required to choose elective classes to complement the main course. While interesting they lacked challenge and did not exploit the knowledge we had already learned previously. I am glad to report that I managed to gain the marks required to pass every subject and passed the year with distinction."
- "I have spent the last year as the Vice President of the Glasgow University Engineering Society and have been elected into the role of President for the coming year. We made special efforts this year to include all disciplines of engineering at the university by hosting many industry and recruitment talks."
- "Well, my time in Barcelona was amazing, I got to embrace the culture and got the chance to live, first hand, what it would be like abroad for a sustained period of time. As this is one of my sole intentions after graduating (i.e to work abroad), this year has been most helpful for CV building."
- "I feel that having the scholarship there to help me both financially and academically has been very beneficial to my success so far in University, and I appreciate the trustees and the trust for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this excellent fund. I am grateful for everything gained from it, and would like to keep in touch for the duration of University, and possibly further."
- "While I found 2nd year to be a lot more challenging, particularly programming, it was still interesting and I passed all modules without having to re-sit any exams."
- "I completed my 4th year at Virginia Polytechnic and state university in the USA. As I was studying abroad I was on a pass-fail program and I am pleased to say I passed all classes I was enrolled in at Virginia Tech. I also participated in an individual project based of fault location using data captured by phasor monitoring units which caused me to develop an interest in power system protection."
- "During my third year I managed to achieve distinction and was placed on the Dean's List, with all my exam marks being above the 70% threshold."
- "I cannot express my thanks enough to the trustees for the assistance the scholarship brings. I feel very lucky to have this opportunity to undertake a Masters degree in engineering as there are many people in the world who have big ambitions but have financial constraints holding them back. I now see everything coming together for the future and there is no doubt that I will remain in contact with the Trust after my University Life."
- "I struggled because of personal and family problems I went through (I hope to keep to them to myself for the moment) and they interfered with my studies resulting me in doing re-sits but I got through them and I am more focused this time around and plan to perform better this year. . . . I want to thank you again as it's an honour to receive this award. It has really helped with funding my university life."
- "This year I was also a student mentor. This role allowed me to aid 2nd year ACCE students in anything they might be having trouble with, be it classwork, classmates, course issues or other matters."

As a former Glasgow heidie, I am rather proud to be able point out:

- All of these young people are the products of ordinary Glasgow schools.
- In their applications to the Trust, each of them fulfilled "the need criterion" – their family circumstances were such that they had been receiving Education Maintenance Allowance, or free school meals or both.
- During my time with the Trust, not a single Allan Glen's Scholar has dropped out of University.

Money well spent, I think.