



# Allan Glen's School

# Club Newsletter December 2007

## In This Issue

Letters to the Editor - Pages 2- 4

The Allan Glen's Lecture - Page 5

2007 Annual Dinner - Pages 6 & 7

Obituaries - Page 9

Sandy Howie's Page (almost)- Page 8

## Editorial

The Winter Solstice is once again upon us. Thanks to the excellent work undertaken by Ross Graham and Gregor Egan we have had two first class undertakings in our Annual Dinner and our First Young Persons Lecture over the last weekend in November.



Jim Patrick addresses the Dinner

The amount of preparatory work undertaken to ensure the success of these events is immense and we are hugely indebted to Ross and Gregor and all their helpers.

It is hoped that we shall run these events, again in close tandem next year. Indeed, a date for your diaries, as the night of the Dinner is already inked in for Saturday, 29 November 2008. The date for the Young Persons Lecture is still to be finalised but it will hopefully tie in closely with the Dinner.



Herb Saravanamuttoo

choice at University and:

Secondly: to encourage these self-same students to apply to Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust to assist them in their studies. and Finally: to encourage Corporate awareness of the Allan Glen's Endowment Trust and encourage their financial support.

## Dates for your Diary

### East of Scotland Club AGM

Friday 14th December - Murrayfield Golf Club 7:00 for 7:30

**Golf At Barassie** (see Letter to Editor p.3) ?? June 2008

**Annual Golf Outing** -Thursday 11th September 2008

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### Committee

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## Letters to the editor (1/3)

Dear Mr McLellan,

Spurred on by the pictures of the “Glen’s” dinghy in the September 07 Club Newsletter - and your request for more information about the Sailing Club - I have set down some of the history I have gathered.

Much of the detail came from copies of the School magazine from 1953 -64 kindly researched for me by Mr Sandy Howie and from conversations with Mr David McLintock who also supplied the enclosed print of Bulletin photographs (*featured in the September newsletter Ed*).

A draft of my piece has been seen by Sandy and David and their comments incorporated within it. I have pleasure now in submitting it for your editorial consideration. I hope you agree that it is a story that needs an ending.

With kind regards, William Scott.

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In those post-war days of the 1950’s the dinghy section of the Clyde Cruising Club at Bardowie had the eye of several Glen’s Old Boys. No surprise, therefore, when in 1952, under the leadership of George Sommerfield, the Glen’s Sailing Club was founded.

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### THE STORY OF GLEN’S SAILING CLUB - OR IS IT?

Some recall it as the story of a yacht built in a class room and under Mr Sommerfield’s leadership. It was, and with the help of well known yachting enthusiasts such as John D. Thom, son of the famous J. Herbert Thom, Victor Dare and Archie Scott along with many others.

The work was done during the winter evenings of 1953. The 15ft sailing dinghy, dressed in the school colours - topside dark blue, waterline light blue, underbody red - was planned to be launched on 16th May but bad weather postponed the ceremony. It did however take place later in the month with Miss McKimmie, the headmaster’s daughter, naming the yacht “Glen’s”.

In the first season “Glen’s” was moored at Rhu and some excellent sailing was enjoyed. It was proving to be a comfortable, seaworthy craft. The following season it was moved to a mooring at Cardwell Bay, Greenock, to offer easier access and the opportunity for the schoolboys to join Club members for some training in helmsmanship.

In 1956 it was decided to moor the boat off Helensburgh Pier to join in local regattas. The following year a severe storm hit the mooring and “Glen’s” was the only craft to remain afloat - tribute to her designer, naval architect Archie Scott. Next year it was back to Rhu.

In 1961 plans were afoot for the purchase of a larger keel boat and sufficient funds were raised. However, the arrival of the new boat brought disappointment.

It arrived late, it was damaged in transit so badly it could not be repaired in time for the season. Hope was that the new “Swallow” class keel boat would be popular with families while the original “Glen’s” continued in service.

In 1962 it was not possible to get “Glen’s” into the water. Much more work was required upon her. The long and short of it was complete renewal of the decking and replacing of all covering boards and king planks. When finished it was too late to launch but at least the Club now had a completely sound boat for the 1963 season at Rhu. Did “Glen’s” sail in 1964 and continue to sail? Reports in School Magazine seem to have faded.

This is a story that needs an ending. What became of the our school dinghy? What happened to the bigger boat?

Can someone please finish the story of “Glen’s”?

## Letters to the editor (2/3)

### **Email from Colin Silver - Retired Vet in Aberdeenshire**

I enjoyed the recent journal and was interested in the article regarding the **School Sailing Club**. You may recall that Jim Stuart and I were both keen on sailing and joined the FP Sailing Club. We spent some time initially with FP Members repairing and rebuilding the dinghy shown in the picture. (*September Newsletter -Ed.*)

The boat was then in the basement of the old Technical College - now Strathclyde University. The FP Club soon after, decided to purchase a larger vessel, and Jim and I bought the school boat for our own use. We kept it on a mooring at Rhu and had several years happy use of it.

Unfortunately, one evening, at the end of the season, just after its insurance had expired, we went down to Rhu intending to remove it from the water for the winter, to find that in a severe storm the previous night the boat had been torn from its moorings and wrecked. We salvaged what we could but by then we were both at University and could not afford either the time or the money to repair it. She lay at Jim's home for about 6 years and he did a little work on it but eventually the remains were scrapped.

Sadly Jim died about 8 to 10 years ago of bowel cancer, I attended his funeral in London. He had remained involved in sailing and his wife arranged for a wreath in the shape of a sailing Dinghy.

Regards, **Colin**

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We received the following letter from **Dr Kenneth Anderson** recently.

"If there was interest, I could offer some **golf at Barassie next year** when I am Club Captain. I could for instance procure some non-FP club old boys maybe to play against some members eg something like **Allan Glen's v Alien Glen's** I suppose. Sometime in June would be fun. Let me know what you think."

**Ken**

Those who are interested should write in to our Golf Convenor, Brian McAllister. He will also circulate those who attend the Annual Outing at Pollok.

Please contact Brian at:- McAllisters, 11 Woodside Cres., Glasgow G3 7UL.

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Dear Editor,

I was intrigued and very sorry to see that **Tom Taylor** had died. He was a magnificent School Captain and Rugby player. I had the pleasure of being in the team with him in 1943-44 and 1944-45.

You might want to issue a corrigendum since the obituary has the dates wrong. He left school in 1945 at the end of his 6th year.

I don't know when he started since I came to Glen's only for my 5th and 6th years having previously been at Aberdeen Grammar. I would guess his starting year might be 1939 but this is uncertain due to the number of kids who were evacuated at that time.

Regards to all,

**John P Paul**

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Dear Editor,

Having read Matt Bradshaw's article in the May edition of the Newsletter re. **Balbithan House**, many more memories were re-awakened. From Year 1, I was able to attend all of the working camps as what we thought was our token gesture to the 'War Effort'. 'Tattie Howking' at Ballinluig; bracken cutting at Loch Arklet; forestry somewhere up North, ending up helping with the harvest in our final Years. Full marks to Matt as I had tried once or twice when in the Inverurie area to find out about Balbithan House. At this 'Camp' I was given two salutary lessons which I never forgot, even after all these years - (1) about the English language and (2) volunteering. One of the Staff members was 'Davie' Strachan (English Dept.) who approached us one evening looking for 'volunteers' for a 'nice' job. My friend and I, Jimmy Gray, being public spirited young adults, volunteered. You have probably guessed it - the 'nice' job was to empty the dry latrines. On objecting slightly, 'Davie' Strachan suggested that we looked up the Dictionary meaning of 'nice' - which we did - 'nice' - 'dainty' or 'fastidious' - no comment. As for volunteering!! Our English teacher at that time was 'Maggie' Herbison, one of the lady teachers on the Secondary Staff during the War. A superb teacher who later became the Labour M.P. For Lanarkshire. However, we missed out on 'nice' but never forgot the Dictionary meaning. One other young lady who made a great impression on young first year pupils was 'Cathie' Heaverman (Latin) who had the room off the hall next to Augustas Dingwall Hodge ('Gussie'), Head of the Department. Enough of the rambling - just to end, other staff members at Balbithan House whom I recall were 'Jimmy' Logie (French) and 'Louie' McKay (English). Happy days recalled thanks to Norrie Kilpatrick and Matt Bradshaw.

**Eddie Jeffrey**

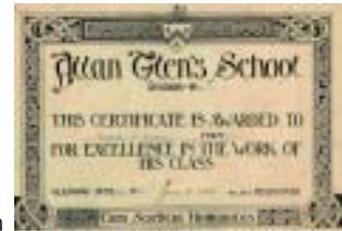
## Letters to the editor (3/3)

Dear Editor,

Some months ago I agreed with you to send in some pictures of memorabilia I have of my father who was, as I am now, a former pupil of Allan Glen's. He was **Charles James Russell of Balgray Tower, Springburn, Glasgow**; born 21 November 1911. He is pictured and named in the ice hockey pictures and in the AGS schoolboys picture is centre standing in blazer and white sports sweater. I cannot be sure what year-group is pictured but I do know he completed school with Highers and it may be a mixed-years group that is shown. The Certificate is of a form 4E when he would have been sixteen years old. I intend to visit Iain Lambie with print-outs and he may recognise some of those pictured. My tardiness in getting these attachments to you is regretted.

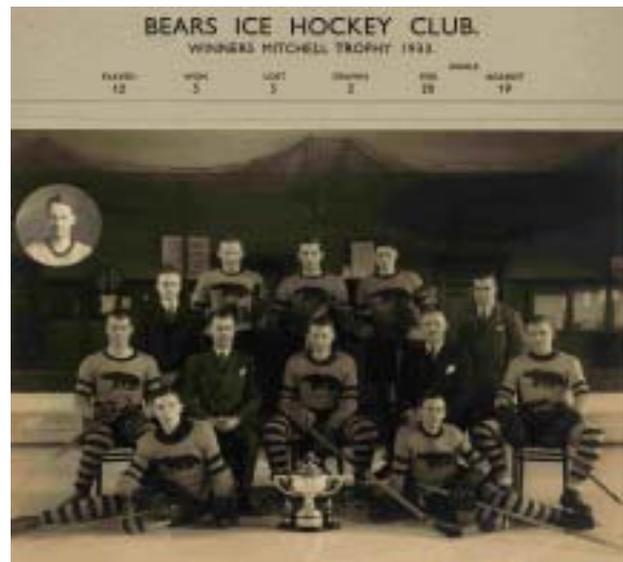
The ice hockey pictures are not of AGS but may be of contemporary interest. When I played as a Peewee (boy/junior) at the same Crossmyloof Ice Rink, the Mohawks trainer was a mature Jim Kenny a Canadian and a former player seen pictured with my father in the 1935 Mohawks picture taken 2 years before I was born on 3 June 1937.

My father, who joined the family business (heating, lighting and ventilating engineers, and plumbers and slaters) on leaving school, went on to qualify as an engineer. He was called up during the war and commissioned in the Royal Engineers. He stayed on in the Army after the war, leaving in 1952 as a major but was tragically drowned in 1953.



I am pretty sure I have some old "mouse eaten" AGS magazines of my own: hopefully still packed away safely somewhere (still to be found). I am also still looking for a group photograph of our 981(Allan Glens) Squadron ATC in which I am pictured. It is very small but may be capable of scanning and some enlargement. If I do find these things I will let you know.

Yours aye, Fraser (Col C J F Russell)



Harry Diamond, father of **Michael Diamond** (1971-76) wrote to tell us that Michael, who studied Law at Glasgow went off to Israel and has written a book entitled '**SubSurface**'. You can download or purchase it at [www.lulu.com/content/812273](http://www.lulu.com/content/812273) It is described as :-

"Middle Eastern Political Thriller. 2011 - As Israel and the Palestinians prepare for a final peace agreement, a young university researcher finds commercial quantities of oil under the soon-to-be-surrendered West Bank town of Jenin."

**Letter from Past President I Barrie Hastie,**

59 Jan Smuts Avenue, Winston park, Gillits 3610 KwaZulu-Natal, Rep of South Africa

Dear Alan,

Many thanks to you for your recent telephone call and the copy of the September Newsletter.

My wife and I left London when I retired in 1990 and came out to South Africa to join our son, Campbell. I often wondered what had happened to AGOBC, on reading the Newsletter I was updated.

I was interested in the section about School Magazines, etc. I thought the book "**In Remembrance 1939 to 1945**" would be of interest, I shall post it to you. My mother was asked by Mr McKimmie to present copies of the book to representatives of the School. She also told me that the invitation to present the book came from the Teachers because she was the mother of three sons who served in World War II, my brother Campbell is in the book (p40.) I enclose my cheque for £50.00 for my Lifetime Membership and my updated database record.

I take this opportunity to wish you, your Wife and Family and also all my friends in Allan Glen's School Club a Good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely, Barrie

## Glen's boy comes home; To inspire young people in Glasgow to consider a career in ENGINEERING

On Monday afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> November the Club promoted a lecture "The Gas Turbine in Flight" in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. This was the inaugural lecture of the **Annual Young Persons Lecture**, also known as the Allan Glen's Lecture. The purpose of the lecture was twofold: firstly to introduce school age young people to engineering, and secondly to make them aware that financial assistance may be available to them while attending University from **The Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust**.

Over 80 young people from 14 schools in Glasgow attended the lecture. Representatives were available from the Club, the Trust, and Glasgow University to talk to the young people. Organisations and companies that employ graduates and help with their training were also represented. These included Weir Group, Rolls Royce and Tunnocks and demonstrated the far reaching influence of the engineer in today's world. The support of Army recruitment for the lecture may, at first, seem odd but it only served to stress the fact that we live in a technical world where there is hardly any human activity that is not influenced in some way by engineering.



After the welcome by Dr Jack McGuinness, Jack went on to explain the background to Allan Glen's legacy and to stress the role of engineering in the clinician's daily routine. He particularly emphasized the work of Professor John Paul (a former pupil of Allan Glen's) on prosthetic limbs and the work of Professor Ian Donald in the development of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool.

The keynote speaker was introduced by Gregor Egan. In his introduction, reference was made to several notable former pupils (including our speaker) and their achievements. The point was made that they all had started out with a specific interest in their subject. They worked at it; became enthusiastic about it and ultimately dedicated all their energies to extending the boundaries of knowledge in their chosen field.

Professor Emeritus Herb Saravanamuttoo, world authority on the technology of the gas turbine engine then addressed the audience. Herb grew up in Glasgow, attended Allan Glen's School and Glasgow University and is an enthusiastic supporter of the aims of the Trust. Now domiciled in Canada, he gave his services free and travelled to Glasgow from Ottawa at his own expense. Herb addressed the subject of engineering from several viewpoints. On the contribution of the gas turbine engine to flight he made the point that without it, air travel, with piston engines, could not have "taken off" as it did. Now, thanks to the jet engine, almost everyone has experienced intercontinental travel. He covered the role of the engineer as a problem solver, often finding solutions to problems created by politicians. The contribution of Rolls Royce to the technology and design of gas turbines was acknowledged and, without actually saying it, implied that GE, their major competitor, threw money at problems where RR applied engineering skill. A lively question and answer session followed his lecture where future possibilities and probabilities were aired and Herb stated unequivocally how he saw the future.

The lecture concluded with the presentation of an Allan Glen's Quach to Herb by Alan McLellan, President of the Club and Chairman of the Trust.

*Gregor Egan - Fund Raising Convenor*



## AGSC DINNER 2007

The wild squalls of wind and rain had relented as we gathered for the start of our annual function held at the Trades Hall, Glasgow, on Saturday 24 November 2007. Once again thank you for your splendid support. A total of 148 had reserved places or been invited as a guest. The company comprised a Top Table of 16, 91 members and 41 guests. Among the guests were former pupils from 14 other schools.

Our President, Alan McLellan, welcomed everyone, introduced the Top Table and delivered his opening remarks. Prior to Grace, Colonel John Kelly gave a detailed tribute to a former pupil who had brought honour, not just to his school, not just to his city, but to his country as well. This year, having marked the 90th Anniversary of Company Sergeant Major John Skinner DCM winning the Victoria Cross during the Great War.

Grooms, the caterers, then swung into action and served up a most enjoyable meal in their usual efficient and cheerful manner. Following the Toasts to the Queen and Allan Glen the President introduced our Guest of Honour, Commodore Jim Patrick, RN, who recalled his early days at school and university, initially embarking on a career in teaching before joining Her Majesty's Forces. Memories of enjoyable days in various rugby teams preceded his eloquent delivery on the topic of what binds members of the Forces together, in particular 'doing it for your mates'.

After the interval Iain Lambie, AE, our oldest member, proposed the Toast to the School and the Club. The Vice-president, Gregor Egan, then gave expanded details of our Top Table guests and proposed the Toast to all the guests present. Sheriff Bill Dunlop replied on behalf of the guests with a series of humorous tales from the Courts and fictional matrimonial mishaps.

The formal proceedings were closed by Immediate Past-president John Macdonald thanking all those who had contributed to the organisation and delivery of the occasion, and in particular to the Chairman, President Alan McLellan. By finishing just three minutes over schedule this left half an hour or so for circulating and chatting to old friends.

*Ross Graham - Dinner Convenor*



# AGSC DINNER 2007



## The 1941 School Magazine - Sandy Howie

There has been a good response to the request for Magazines in the September newsletter with one member offering me a 1941 magazine, and with it a story that I had not heard before:

The 1941 magazine was printed but pupils were not allowed to retain their copies as these were either issued and withdrawn or possibly not even issued.

It may be that the headmaster had taken umbrage at some verses written in the Chaucer style.

The verses described some of the features of the staff and may have been thought inappropriate, although they seem fairly mild when read today.

No doubt the Editorial staff were reprimanded and it is possible that the two "poets" were made aware of the Headmaster's displeasure. The two "poets", progressed to have distinguished careers in law and medicine so I do not imagine the incident could have had a lasting effect.

It would be interesting if either of them were now to give us their version of the incident which must have been quite an issue at the time.

It is also worth noting that magazines were not produced for a further two years although this must surely be due to wartime difficulties.

*The Club is currently copying all the School Magazines and it is hoped that it will be possible to have them available via our website. I, for one, look forward to reading the 1941 Magazine which seemed to have caused so much hassle 66 years ago. - Ed*

## Allan Glen's Reunited - Sandy Howie

The Club is about to create a register of Ex-pupils which in time should be helpful to all of us who wish to find out about old school friends. There was a fire at Allan Glen's School in which many pupil records were lost. The School Club records are fairly sparse but form the basis of this Register. The experience gained from our website suggests that there are many Ex-pupils who could contribute names of Schoolmates and perhaps join the Club ranks.

On the "home" page of [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com) (our website), this new information will be found in the "Keep in touch" tab.

To allow people to focus their interest on those with whom they shared their schooldays, ex-pupils will be listed in Form 1 year order.

To progress this activity we require to find volunteers to act as custodians of their "own year" and serve as gathering points for information on their fellow schoolmates. Please let me know if you would like to do this. These volunteers would try to contact known classmates, seeking their memories of friends and hopefully contact information (e-mail, address, telephone etc). By asking Ex-Pupils for names and by revisiting School Magazines, it should be possible to increase the Club Members' register and involve more of our ex-schoolmates. It is also hoped that interested Non-Members will be encouraged to join the Club to allow them to find out more about classmates.

Note:- Club member's information will not be circulated outwith the Club members.

## From a 1931 School Magazine

### **GEORGE SQUARE. (A FAIRYTALE).**

Once upon a time the Town Councillors of Glasgow had a quarrel out in a field, There was no rain then and no houses. Now the fairies were awfully angry because of the noise. So the Fairy Queen sent the rain. The councillors were soaked through and they all caught colds, so they built a hut. They called it The Municipal Hut and they quarrelled over the name. The rain got worse and worse so they made the hut bigger, and called it The Municipal House Then they made it still bigger because it still rained, and they called it the Municipal Building.

One councillor suggested appeasing the fairies so they made a big stone square and filled it w1th some old statues. They called it George Square after the King of the Fairies, whose name wasn't Oberon, but George.

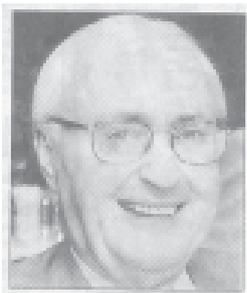
The fairies were pleased and said that the rain would only come six days a week now. So, to celebrate this, the councillors built another building and called the two The Municipal Buildings. They made a street between the two buildings and called it John Street, after the Prince of the Fairies.

In John Street they built a combined vacuum cleaner and hydraulic press and squeezed all the money out of the townspeople's pockets.

Then the councillors elected a Lord Provost to be a referee during their fights which were held daily in The Municipal Buildings, and they all lived happily ever after. . R. H. (IV.A.)

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## J Mitchell Hutcheson



Executive officer of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association; Born May 25, 1931; Died September 18, 2007.

Mitchell Hutcheson, who has died aged 76, was a Glaswegian who is perhaps best known for his time as executive officer of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. Hutcheson had a view on almost every subject and such views were always expressed with passion and, more importantly, great humour. He was a unionist and a royalist, proud of his Scottish heritage but most significantly a proud! Glaswegian. He was involved in many societies in Glasgow but arguably made most impact at the pipe band association (RSPBA) where he was employed in the 1990s.

It was in this post that he had responsibility for the organisation of various pipe band competitions, including the World Pipe Band Championships and to many the most important responsibility was announcing the results of "The Worlds".

He was educated at **Allan Glen's School** and as a boy joined the 108th Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade and following service as a boy, then lieutenant, he was appointed captain. Over the years Mitchell influenced many young men and many ex-members speak fondly of their time in the 108th when Mitchell was captain.

In his professional life, Mitchell worked with the malting company Hugh Baird and Sons progressing through the company before retiring as a director. Throughout his life Mitchell was member of various societies and organisations in Glasgow and he often took office within each organisation.

In recent years he spent a lot of time with many of the incorporated trades of the Trades House of Glasgow and served on the Master Court of the Incorporation of Masons of Glasgow. He was appointed Deacon in 2002.

Hutcheson who was also passionate about the life and history of the City of Glasgow and of Scotland. He is past president of Partick Bums Club and the St. Andrews Society of Glasgow, and recently was appointed as clerk of the Govan weavers.

Those who met him enjoyed spending time in his company and would always leave having learned something new or having heard an interesting story. Mitchell was a regular attendee at our Monthly Lunches, and he will be missed in his wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He is survived by his nephew, Allan.

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## Dr. Tom McAllister



Extracts from a Tribute to Dr. Tom McAllister by Dorothy Grace Elder

He was a polymath, a man of letters and culture as well as a superb doctor and scientist. He had a sparkling wit and was a brilliant man. Tom went to **Allan Glen's School** and then, at Glasgow University, was an outstanding student, winning a gold medal in medicine. He later became a Harvard Fellow and eventually consultant microbiologist at the Queen Mother's and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow, where he gained world recognition for his work. But he had many private interests - including a love of studying Burns

As a doctor, Tom's whole philosophy was: "to give every adult and child the same standard of care I would give if they were my own family."

Professor Arneil added: "Tom was a patient's bacteriologist; totally related to the patients and their needs and he was always so caring". That is so true. Beneath Tom McAllister's

cynicism and sophistication, was a man with a heart the size of Ailsa Craig.

He published over 160 medical papers and, as Professor Forrester Cockburn, told me: "Tom's work was international in the control of infection. His papers and lectures were in international journals, his work of international benefit, and he was also an excellent lecturer to the students"

He was a crusader against dirty hospitals long before Hospital Related Infections became headline news - he attacked bean-counting managers and miserly hospital boards cutting back on cleaning - and they couldn't stand him for exposing them.

Above all, Tom was a man of tremendous courage. He DEFIED disability, even when things got pretty bad. That was largely due to the amazing care of his wife Catherine. Tom wrote "The body may suffer the ravages of disease, accident or time itself, but the mind can be kept active and capable in spite of severe disability" and, my goodness, no mind was more active or more dynamic than Tom's. When he first became ill at 24, some did not expect him to survive at all.

But Tom's triumph and joy are perhaps best expressed by Burns:

As bees flee hame wi' lades o treasure,  
The minutes wing'd their way wi pleasure  
Kings may be blest but Tam was glorious  
O'er a the ills o life victorious!

# Season's Greetings from Allan Glen's School Club



Card Designed by the late Ralph Cowan 1977 and reproduced with kind permission from his daughter Diana