



# 150th Anniversary News

## October 2004

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### Editorial - Ian Dale

Welcome to the last planned *anniversary* issue of the Newsletter. It has been an incredibly exciting and interesting time to be involved with the Club and to help to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Included are some photographs from the various anniversary events. This edition has been prepared with the valuable and expert assistance of Mike McCreery and sincere thanks are extended to him. The majority of former pupils who are listed in our membership records have e-mail addresses so it is possible to advise them directly of this issue and for them to download it as a .PDF file from the website. This clearly has significant financial advantages to the Club since it is not necessary to print and post over 1,000 copies. Future issues will be produced by this means. We now want to make this newsletter a regular publication and would ask for contributions for inclusion in future issues.

### Your President

**John Macnair Macdonald** attended the school from 1942 to 1947; he is 74 years of age. He is a master coppersmith, brassfounder and metalworker. His scholastic achievements are of little consequence; however he not unexpectedly was awarded the prize in technical subjects in his final year. He enjoyed a considerable advantage over other boys as his father and grandfather had earned their living in this field since the eighteen sixties.

On leaving school he served an apprenticeship under his father, as did his father before him. In 1950 on the death of his father he inherited the family business and assumed the role of master. After 57 years he still retains an interest in the company. The company manufactures, to the latest quality assurance standards, components in a wide range of materials. Over the years it has produced pot stills, colandries, engine room pipework, supplied the nuclear, the oil and power industry, manufactured tracks for roller coasters, produced valves, tractor accessories etc., etc.

John celebrates his golden wedding at this time with his wife Isobel. They have two sons, Alasdair a chartered accountant and engineer and Iain, who once again served his apprenticeship under his father, together they manage the family business. Iain has three sons John, Richard and Alan. Shall history be repeated once again? Sadly both sons lost their wives in recent years, quite unexpectedly.

The President's interests include golf at Pollok and of course Ralston where he is senior past captain. He is member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Paisley and also the Incorporation of Masons in Glasgow, and like our founder a burghess and freeman of the city.



**President** - John Macdonald

**Secretary** - Ian Dale

e-mail [ian\\_dale@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian_dale@ntlworld.com)

**Treasurer** - George Smith

**Endowment Trust** - Dr Jack McGuinness

**Lunch Club** - Gordon Day

and - Norrie Kilpatrick

**Moneyspinner Draw** - Ian McLennan

**Dinner Convenor** - David Reid

#### Committee

J McGuinness	A Howie
I McLennan	G Smith
D Lindsay	N Kilpatrick
R Graham	D Reid
A McLaren	I Dale
D Shaw	R Leckie
G Day	H Wilson
D Miller	

**East of Scotland Club**  
Ian Hogarth

**Website** [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)

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# ALLAN GLEN'S ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

Jack McGuinness.

In 1995 the Honorary Secretary of Allan Glen's School Club was contacted by the secretary of the City of Glasgow Education Department informing him that while preparing to take over from Strathclyde Regional Council several sums of money had come to light which were remnants of Allan Glen's original endowment. Allan Glen had owned several properties in Glasgow and it is felt that they were probably the source. Apparently when the School closed in 1989 this money had remained in the hands of the Education Authority.

The question of what to do with these funds now arose and was the subject of discussion between our office bearers and the Education Department and during these discussions Glasgow Council was most cooperative and sympathetic. It was decided in the first instance to create the Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust. An appropriate deed was drawn up and the trust came into existence in 1998. The agreed composition was:- Club President, Club Secretary, two elected club members, the Director of Education, one member of his department as Council representative (currently Bill Brown as organising secretary), and a University representative (currently Professor Hendry) You will note that the Club has a working majority! There now followed many meetings to discuss the transfer of funds which ultimately required the approval of the Court of Session. We were very fortunate at this stage in the proceedings to have as our President, John Campbell who is a lawyer, and was able to provide a guiding hand at this most critical stage in the proceedings.

Approval was received and the new Trust had its first meeting in December 2001 at which it decided to award two scholarships, each of £1,000 per annum, to scholars of Glasgow schools who were about to start the study of engineering at a British university. It was felt that this use of the funds was very much in the spirit in which Allan Glen made his original bequest. The first two scholarships

were presented in the autumn of 2002 and a further two in Autumn 2003.

The engineering course at most universities lasts four years and so we can anticipate an eventual demand of at least £8,000 on the Trusts resources and, as they stand just now, this will use up all of the anticipated income. As a result of this conclusion the Allan Glen's School Club Committee, in spring of 2003, created a small working party to look into the question of fund raising. This group consisted of Jack McGuinness, Donald Lindsay, Sandy Howie and the Honorary Secretary, George Eastop. The group met monthly during the Summer and decided on an initial appeal to all former pupils for whom we had a contact address. Thereafter we would approach selected large engineering companies in the Central Belt and in this we received great help from Chairman of CBI (Scotland), Mr. Jack Perry and his staff who provided us with a list of likely firms.

Towards the end of 2003 we initiated the first phase. About a thousand letters were sent out and just over seventy replies have been received. The amount that has been raised is:- Cash Donations:- £4,360 Standing Orders:- £1,317 per year.

Recently we have contacted eleven companies and so far have had only two replies, both acknowledgements! We are very grateful to those who have supported us but are naturally rather disappointed that so far we have had so few responses.

I had, in September 2003, the privilege of attending a small reception in the City Chambers at which the two scholarships for the year were presented. It was quite moving to be there seeing these two keen young people, one of them a girl, with their proud parents, receive their awards. One felt that Allan Glen was still helping young people to achieve their ambitions, the way he helped so many of us.

## 2004 Scholarships Presentation



Left to right, John Macdonald, Barry Mullen (St Andrew's Secondary School), Love Mishra (Hillhead High School), and Bailie Margaret McCafferty (depute convenor, Education).

The gathering in the City Chambers, on September 23rd, included the parents of the boys, the Headmaster of St Andrew's School and the Associate Dean of Caledonian university, Dr David Gordon.

Our committee were also represented by Jack McGuinness, Ian Dale and George Smith, and as previously noted our President John Macdonald.

## PAST PRESIDENT'S REMARKS - John Kelly

My second year in office as your President has seen the Club celebrate a remarkable 150th Anniversary Year of the founding of Allan Glen's School. The highlights of 2003 being the Civic Reception held in the magnificent surroundings of Glasgow City Chambers, a gala invitation rugby match when Allan Glen's took on and beat the Glasgow Thistles and a splendid annual dinner in the historic surroundings of Trades Hall which attracted some 220 Old Boys and their guests. On your behalf I give a heart-felt thanks to the School Club Committee who all pulled together and made these events possible. Our anniversary year was rounded off by the publication of the new history of the school written by Professor Jim Murray. I urge everyone to secure a copy of this fascinating account of the school and club. This is a lasting tribute to Allan Glen and we are profoundly grateful to Jim for the years of unstinting hard work which went into producing this book. It is time to look forward to a bright future for the Club:

\* The Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust is now well established and has placed the name of Allan Glen once more at the forefront of education in Glasgow. A sincere thank you to all the Old Boys who have contributed so generously to the Trust.

\* The Club membership is rising and our club is thriving but we need to attract more of, shall we say, the 50 somethings!

\* A very active Club committee is working on your behalf. Many of you will have received a copy of Sandy Howie's excellent Directory of Members. This is but one example of what the committee does on your behalf.

\* A thriving monthly lunch club which is unique among Glasgow schools.

\* Above all the Club exists for the benefit of the Old Boys of Allan Glen's School and it is to that end that we need to direct our efforts.

This year witnesses one great change for the Club. After some 35 years as the Honorary Secretary, George Eastop has decided to retire. The Club owes an immense debt of gratitude to George who has in many respects been "Mr Allan Glen's" for these decades. Ian Dale now takes up the reins and we wish him well.

My abiding memory of two years as your President is the remarkable esprit de corps of the Allan Glen's Old Boys. Considering that our outstanding school closed some 30 years ago we maintain without doubt Glasgow's best and most active "Old Boys' Club", dedicated to the ideals of Allan Glen and the interests of the Old Boys. Long may it continue.

Best wishes to you all.

**John Kelly**



John Kelly addresses the 2003 Anniversary Dinner



Prof Dargie  
"Guest of  
Honour"



Iain Lambie - oldest former  
pupil present - left school in  
1926 - proposing "Toast to  
the Club";



Action at Bishopbriggs 2003

# RALPH COWAN

The fact that Ralph reached his hundredth birthday on the 10th of January is outstanding in itself, but any discussion with him, on any topic, shows that age has not affected his mental faculties in any way. His memories, opinions and advice ensure that the conversation will be lively and clearly expressed.

He and his wife, Nita, came to Uplawmoor in 1957, when 'Dunira' was built in Tannoch Road and its garden studio erected later. This was a time of great contentment for them. Their limited edition of 'Sunlight & Shadow' in 1978 showed Nita's skill in 'Haiku' each page carrying Ralph's abstract illustrations.

His first venture took place when, in 1925, in his early 20s, he rented a workplace in Glasgow's West Princes Street; his working capital - £24. This was a boom time in estate house building and the little business thrived in the supply of leaded windows for several major contractors. For the British Empire Exhibition in 1938, a commission awarded to design a 46 ft high window depicting St Andrew for the Scottish South Pavilion brought the name Cowan to prominence in artistic circles and more work poured in until the war intervened.

Cunard's Queen Elizabeth was launched in 1938. Few would know that when fire destroyed her in Hong Kong harbour in 1972, the huge glass panels representing the four seasons at the Tourist Lounge entrance were Ralph's work. His determination to play a part in the liner's interior decoration is a story in itself, but space does not permit its telling here.

The war found Ralph in the R.A.F., a Radio Operator posted to radar stations at Peterhead and Islay. using his skills by creating images for use in training sessions to young men under his charge.

Returning to civvy street, teaching was his choice and he applied for a place in the Glasgow School of Art. By then holding a Diploma in Art & Design, he went to Jordanhill. From 1949, 23 years passed as Art teacher at Allan Glen's School, the happiest in his life, retiring at 68 when it was discovered that he was three years over the limit! In 1985, fundraising was needed to re-roof the church. £25 per member was suggested. Ralph held an exhibition in the Mure Hall and gave over £600, although he is not a member - he and Nita attended Quaker meetings while living in Glasgow. His wife, sadly, died in 1983. The Centenary Memorial glasswork was created by Ralph. A similar piece is in the Royal Faculty of Advocates building in Glasgow.

This article bears but a fraction of his activities the last exhibition was in the Royal Academy of Music in 2000.

A toast, adapted from the old Scots one, was proposed at his birthday gathering: "Here's tae him. Wha's like him!"

## Ralph's 100th Birthday Lunch

Members of the committee enjoyed Ralph's company at a lunch to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was in good spirits and talked with enthusiasm about his many years at the school and remembered many of the pupils and teachers. We were pleased to present him a bottle of the Anniversary whisky and a tie.

On 10 September 2001 Ralph had this poem published in the Herald:

### As Time Goes By

I phone the Health Service.  
Identity established,  
She says .... "Your date of birth please."  
I say, "Oh!  
You won't tell anyone will you?"  
Sincerity in her voice  
She says, "No."  
I tell her ... an interval of laughter,  
And I say, "I have been in this world a long time."  
"You have indeed"  
"Don't write me off.  
Recently I did work, a sculpture for an  
August Body to commemorate their having been granted  
A Royal Charter.  
It was a bi-centenary.  
I am not as old as that!"



## Latest Update on Ralph.

Unfortunately we have to report that Ralph fell in his home and broke his hip. He is currently recovering in hospital from the operation and Mike McCreery and Gordon Garrity visited him in hospital in late August. He talked to us for an hour, so he seems well on the way to recovery.

Ralph is interested to know where all the books that he used to look after in the school library have gone. It seems that some very prominent Old Boys donated books to the library, that he feels should have been preserved. If anyone knows anything of what happened to the books, please contact Ian Dale.

## PETER B BELL

Many former pupils will remember Peter Bell, who taught science for a number of years in the 1950s and 1960s and who died on 23 March at the age of 70.

Certainly as a professional chemist I will never forget the chemical symbol for lead (Pb) – nor indeed for silver (Ag).

He was a jet pilot with the RAF, a competitor, administrator and historian of cycle speedway and an avid collector of science fiction literature.

In his will he put aside money for a meal for friends and relatives, although it was stressed that the food and wine should be good but not extravagant! It was a pleasure to be invited to attend along with past president John Campbell.

Ian Dale



**Website [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)**

**The Club is now on the worldwide web due to the excellent work of Callan Dick.**

**Please visit [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com) where you will find up to date information about the Club, order forms for memorabilia and to join the Club and also an online forum for exchanging news and views.**

**It has already received almost 800 hits.**

## SALE OF THE CENTURY (AND A HALF)

Last year we increased the range of Allan Glen's items to cope with the interest in the School on its 150th Anniversary.

Many members appeared at events sporting our ties, polo-shirts and jerseys. Now, with the celebrations behind us, it is time to consider the items we should stock and it is likely that shirts and jerseys, which require a range of sizes, cannot be stocked.

We will of course continue to offer ties and other items listed below:

WHISKY  
CUFFLINKS  
CLUB TIE  
150TH ANNIVERSARY TIE  
BOW TIE  
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BOOK  
PC-ROM 100th ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE  
HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL AND CLUB

In addition there are a very few sweaters, shirts and fleeces available.

Please contact Dr Ian Dale to order any of these items.

To contact the Club please visit [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)

## ALLAN GLEN'S GOLFING SOCIETY

The society held their annual outing at Pollok Golf Club on Thursday 2 September. A fine day with the course in excellent condition proved a perfect setting for the occasion. Sufficient members produced some quality golf with Roy Logan tying with Tony Bickerton for the J.G. Kerr Trophy. Roy was declared the winner on count back.

John Macdonald carried out the presentation of the trophy and some excellent prizes.

Brian McAllister is to be congratulated for his organisation of the event and for the reservation of the course for this year's competition to be held on Thursday 8th September 2005.

Dr J G Kerr, headmaster, presented our trophy to the society in 1926 for the best scratch scores played for in the spring and autumn events.

R G J Kirk was our first winner to be followed by Jimmy Lindsay, Jack McLean (Walker Cup player), Allan Marshall, Jim Hastings, John Stuart and numerous others.

In 1991 under Bob Allison's convenorship the event was played over one round, as a handicap competition which proved most popular. Old boys with a club handicap will be most welcome. Brian McAllister will be pleased to hear from new members and he or his secretary may be contacted at 0141 332 0392.

The golfers' table was well supported at the 150th Anniversary dinner, including a number who represented Allan Glen's over the years at the Queen Elizabeth Coronation foursomes at Barnton -an event regularly entered by our teams over almost fifty years.

## ANNUAL DINNER - 2004

**Please note the date in your diary now -  
Saturday 20th November 2004.**

The venue is as before -

**Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow.**

Members who supported the 2003 Anniversary Event enjoyed an excellent evening of conviviality and a renewing of old friendships. For your convenor it was a fascinating occasion of reminiscences and recognitions - in some cases after a 50 year gap!. Please spread the word to the unfortunates who missed the 2003 Dinner and let us aim to repeat its success.

David Reid

## Money Spinner Draw

The draw was started a good number of years ago with the objective of providing an interest at the Club lunches but mainly to fund maintenance and/or improvements to Bishopbriggs which at that time was the only way that the name of Allan Glen would be kept in the public's eye.

In the future, however, with the Bursary Trust Fund up and running the committee felt that it would be fitting for this fund to share some of the MSD money. Therefore they are arranging for this to be carried out in future years.

Ian McLennan

## Life Membership?

**"IBECAME A LIFE MEMBER ON LEAVING SCHOOL.... WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME TO SUBSCRIBE ?"**

Most of us paid 2,3,4,5 or even 7 guineas when we left Allan Glen's School and became life members of the Old Boys Club.

This form of funding did not weather the inflation years and for the survival of the Club, it became necessary to ask members for £5.00 p.a.

This is still the amount we pay and which just meets the administration costs of keeping in touch with the 450 ex-pupils who subscribe each year. It is likely that this annual fee will increase - but at present it is the bargain of 2004.

There are a further 500 "life members" - reading this article -who have been kept in touch with the Club during the last 18 months. The cost of this has been met as one of the 150th year projects - projects which now regrettably end with this final newsletter. A "recruitment" leaflet is enclosed for non subscribers and it is hoped that some, when reading about the Club will make contact with the Secretary.

If you already subscribe then please use the leaflet to encourage an ex-pupil friend to join us.

New members now receive a Membership Directory with their details alongside information on other classmates who joined the Secondary School in their year.

This Directory was another of the 150th year projects, with copies being given to all Subscribing Members. These Members are now able at any time to purchase a current version from the Honorary Secretary for £4.00 including p.&p.

# THE HISTORY OF ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL AND ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL CLUB 1853 - 2003

**AUTHOR - PROFESSOR JAMES MURRAY**

This update of the history of the School and Club has now been printed, and is available for sale. Jimmy Murray has made an excellent job of the story of Allan Glen's; every former pupil of the School will find items of interest, and many will discover memorable facts he had long forgotten, plus others he had never known.

The Herald Diary has featured the new history of the School and Club – there has been much interest, including requests for details from two large bookshops in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

**THE PRICE PER COPY IS £15, OR £17 IF IT IS TO BE POSTED**

Please complete the form below and return it, along with the necessary cheque or money order payable to Allan Glen's School Club (History Fund), to :-

**George Eastop, 1 Victoria Place, Stirling, FK8 2QX**

Copies will also be available for sale at the lunch club meetings on presentation of cheque or cash.

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Please supply ..... copies of "The History of Allan Glen's School and School Club 1853 - 2003, to me.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

My cheque for £..... is enclosed.

SIGNED.....

