



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter June 2011

In This Issue

- The New Committee - Page 2
Allan Glen's Grave - Page 3
Making Waves - Page 3
News Items - Page 4
Pictures from members - Pages 5 and 6
Members letters - Page 7 - 9

Editorial

I am pleased to say that there is a recurring theme to this Newsletter and, that is, the articles are largely : from you; by you and about you. This is what we have been trying to achieve for some time.

The photographs are somewhat different in usual content and age group and I would be interested to know how many in the older group can be identified.

As I said in the last Newsletter the application to the Court of Session for a successor Trust to the 1968 Trust is imminent and papers will be lodged with our QC early in July. We are simultaneously making an application to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for Charitable Status for the new Trust.

The East of Scotland Dinner held in Murrayfield Golf Club on the 15th of April was again a great success and their trip to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre this weekend, Saturday 26th June is a sell-out. Please make a note in your diary of the forthcoming events appended below, particularly the Golf Outing to Pollok Golf Club

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Second Friday of the month -</i> | <i>Monthly Lunch</i> | <i>- (0141 772 3756)</i> |
| <i>Last Friday of the month -</i> | <i>Bishopbriggs Lunch</i> | <i>- (01383 730438)</i> |
| <i>Saturday 25th June -</i> | <i>Pitlochry Festival Theatre - EOS Club Event</i> | |
| <i>Thursday 8th September -</i> | <i>Annual Golf Outing - Pollok Golf Club</i> | |
| <i>Saturday 26 November -</i> | <i>Annual Dinner - Trades House</i> | |

President - Ronnie Wright
134 Boghead Road
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow G66 4EN

Vice President - David Tanner
'Kirklea', 1 Craigmuir Road
High Blantyre Glasgow G72 9UA
davieltanner@o2.co.uk

Secretary - Dr Ian Dale
112 Speirs Road Bearsden
G61 2NU tel 0141 563 8055
secretary@allanglens.com

Treasurer - Mike McCreery
1 Duart Drive, Newton Mearns
Glasgow G77 5DS
treasurer@allanglens.com

Editor
Alan McLellan
3 First Avenue Netherlee
Glasgow G44 3UA
editor@allanglens.com

Lunch Club - Gordon Day
34 Lomond Drive Bishopbriggs
G64 3BZ tel 0141 772 3756
and - George Smith
Newhouse Farm Barrhead
Glasgow G78 2SE

Moneyspinner Draw -
Ian McLennan 3B Lennox Court
22 Stockiemuir Avenue G61 3JN

Dinner Convenor - John Bolton
37 Fenwick Road Kilmaurs KA3 2TE
01563 538259

Memberships - Mike McCreery
1 Duart Drive Glasgow G77 5DS
0141 639 3340
membership@allanglens.com

Allan Glen Tribute Lecture
Gregor Egan
15 Lowndes Street Barrhead
Glasgow G78 2QX

East of Scotland Club
Ian Hogarth 9 Blinkbonny Road
Edinburgh EH4 3HY
0131 332 1503

Website - Callan Dick
www.allanglens.com
webmaster@allanglens.com

Committee
A McLaren R Leckie
HR Graham J Kelly C Downie
B McAllister T Bell I Valentine

© 2011 Allan Glen's School Club

2011 Committee



Ronnie Wright - President



David Tanner
Vice President



Gregor Egan
Immediate Past President



Dr Ian Dale
Secretary



Mike McCreery
Treasurer and Memberships



Ross Graham
Accounts Audit



Alan McLellan
Newsletter Editor



Gordon Day
Lunch Convenor



Ian McLennan
Moneyspinner Draw



Lt Col John Kelly
Education Trust



John Bolton
Annual Dinner



Allan McLaren
Property



George Smith
Recruitment



Ian Valentine
Education Trust



Bob Leckie
Sports Club



Callan Dick
Wembaster



Brian McAllister
Golf



Tom Bell
Sales



Craig Downie

The Grave Diggers

It is 3 years since we visited **Allan Glen's** grave in the Southern Necropolis.

Our first problem was to locate it and it took us 20 minutes of fruitless digging into the massive, soaking wet ivy growth on the wall where we thought it was mounted. We eventually found the stone – as it happens one of the very few stones visible on that long central dividing wall of the cemetery.

Ross Graham, Jack McAllister and Mike McCreery – the grave diggers – set about trimming the encroaching ivy with loppers, shears and secateurs leaving a large pile of cuttings for the maintenance squad to clear away.



Where is it?



Found at last



Ross, Jack and Mike after clearing the site

Making Waves



Making Waves – Charles Aitchison

Charles is one of our oldest living old boys – he started Allan Glen's in 1934 – has recently published a fascinating book entitled 'Making Waves – a Mariner's Tale 1939-1947'.

The book covers his Merchant Navy life in a very detailed, factual style that makes you not want to put it down just wondering what will come next. His memory for detail is quite amazing and all the minute details just come out of the pages like machine gun fire.

After his seafaring days Charles moved into work with the Customs and Excise.

Charles recently brought some copies to a monthly lunch for a mini - signing. The ISBN number of the book is 978-1-85794-327-6 – highly recommended.

Herb Saravanamuttoo

Forty-five new Fellows inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering



H. I. H. Saravanamuttoo

Dr. Herbert Saravanamuttoo brings to the Academy over 55 years of engineering in the field of gas turbine engines, beginning in 1955 with Orenda in Malton on the Iroquois engines for the Avro CF- 105 Arrow, later moving to the UK to work on the Olympus engine for the Concorde SST. Dr. Saravanamuttoo is a superb teacher and mentor to young engineers. He is the primary author of Gas Turbine Theory, which for decades has been the seminal text in the field of gas turbine engines. His teaching and writing have influenced the development of more efficient turbines for aircraft, ships as well as for pipeline compression applications around the world in a career which has combined industrial relevance, scholarly excellence and service to our profession at the highest levels of achievement. PEO, CASI, ASME

Ed's Note. We are delighted to see that Herb , who gave the first Allan Glen's Lecture and was guest of honour at the 2009 Annual Dinner, has been honoured with this most prestigious award.

'61 Reunion

The idea of a reunion came from Ronnie Keenan following the unexpected death of our friend Cameron Stewart in London. A group of half a dozen of us meet regularly in Glasgow. With the help of Sandy Howie, who has done an excellent job in assembling records, Bill Copeland obtained a list of names and associated information about our contemporaries. We then shared the task of tracking down/contacting them and Ronnie believes that up to 40 classmates will attend the reunion on Fair Friday (15th July) at Bishopbriggs.

Eminent old boys from our year include:

Bill Hill – Digital reading expert, formerly of Microsoft and inventor of the Verdana font. B. A.

(Brian) Robertson – Composer and performer (and clarinet in the school orchestra).

Duncan MacLennan C.B.E. – Professor and Head of School of Geography and Geosciences at St. Andrews University.

Roy Gullane – Composer and performer and member of The Tannahill Weavers.

We have had a firm commitment from an old boy in Canada who lives 400 miles from the nearest airport to come to the event.

A [Facebook](https://facebook.com/pages/AGS-61/17487073922647) page has been set up as an information board. (facebook.com/pages/AGS-61/17487073922647)

Contact Ronnie Keenan ronniekeenan@hotmail.com or Bill Copeland billcopeland@btinternet.com

53 Group at Bishopbriggs

At the May lunch at Bishopbriggs, we were astounded to realise that we had 11 of the 22 attendees were from the 1953 "Coronation" year. Two had come all the way from Australia!

In the picture they are :-

Back row: Mike McCreery, Tom Wallace, Ross Graham.

Front Row: Alan McLellan, Keith Meara, Bill Montgomerie, Joe Miller, Jack McAllister, Tom Bell, Bill Rowland, Woodrow Paterson (the last 2 from Australia).



The 11 Suspects from 1953



Bill Rowland



Woodrow Paterson

Some Pics from Alastair Murray

Many of the other school photographs show formal poses of rugby/cricket teams. These photos are unusual in that they are more relaxed and show the Aquarium Society on a day trip to Millport and snaps taken outside A A Rae Smith's Engineering Classroom, next to the Dining Hall.



AA Rae Smith and boys



Another group of lads



Jimmy Hinds - Aquarium Society 1954



Teeny Russell with 1st Year Rugby boys May 1954



June 1954



Millport June 1954

Pics from the late Barrie Hastie

These photos are from the late 30's and early 40's, therefore there are probably not many people who can identify those in the photos. The School Council Photo from 1944 shows Barrie Hastie, School Captain, Rugby Captain and Cricket Captain in the middle of the front row. The card is signed on the back by : D Bell; W P Hunter; W D A Mills; W S Dodds; Thomas Adamson and John Malcolm but we have no way of knowing who's who.

As an aside to all that, photographed to the left of the Rugby Team is J J Ross, who I thought was a pupil at *Glen's*, played for the FP Rugby Team, taught at the School, then went to become Headmaster ? at Toward School before returning in the early 50's to the School. *(I have checked with Sandy Howie, the fount of all knowledge and he cannot confirm him as a pupil but has a record of a J Ross on the School Council in 1920.)*

Is there any substantial information out there about a man who was probably, man and boy an *Allan Glen's Boy*, and who educated and influenced so many boys in our School ?



School Council 1944



1st XV 1944



QA/QC 1936

Correspondence from Old Boys

Dear Alan,

Before I disappear on holiday tomorrow I wish to congratulate you on the March 2011 edition of the Newsletter. It just so happens that almost every item in that issue had a relevance for me, in particular your article on transport.

You mention the Glasgow Hiring Company in Petershill Road which was near my home and primary school. I also remember the many companies frequenting the Glasgow docks when I joined HM Customs and Excise in the sixties. Although the writing was on the wall for traditional cargo shipping in the Port of Glasgow (and elsewhere) with the advent of containerisation I continued to cross paths with those haulage companies when I moved to warehousing and distillery duties. (Ouch! That's as bad as any McLellan pun.)

As an exciseman and later as an investigation officer I came into contact with the American companies you mention such as Caterpillar, IBM, Compaq, Burroughs, etc. Coincidentally, after many years stationed down south, I returned home and bought a house built on the former Caterpillar Tractors site in Uddingston. This bears out your comments about the "social villages" that make up Greater Glasgow. (I still get a nosebleed when I cross the river to the soo'-side.)

Your fine tribute to Barrie Hastie mentioned his connection with the Boys' Brigade. In my early Glen's years I use to caddy for an old chap called Alec Lambert, the first exciseman I ever met. He must have been at least in his thirties. He lived in Petershill Road one block away from Glasgow Hiring's premises. In later years Alec became the Captain of the 1st Bearsden B.B.Co. and would more than likely have come into contact with Barrie.

John MacDonald's memories of Bishopbriggs were also most interesting. Despite living in the 'Briggs for many a year I was unaware of the wartime bombings and the pre-railway name of Bishop's Brigg. Like John I was "not a rugby person" and will always regret not persevering with the rules. Incidentally, my son and daughter were educated at Bishopbriggs High School and were school captains in their time.

Finally, the Ralph Erskine article from the archives was a great story in the mould of Eric Liddell. Give us more of that, please! Keep up the good work, Alan.

Yours,
David Tanner

PS I've just read this over and must apologise for the ramblings but I wanted to give you some positive feedback before going off on holiday.

Dear Alan

I was told about Robin McSkimming's funeral but could not go. It was 69 - 75 (similar to Callan Dick's period) when I attended Glen's.

I did have Robin as a geography teacher, in my second year I think. After second year I think you could drop one of history or geography. Nothing to do with his teaching! - but I dropped geography, so I don't remember much about his teaching. A friend of mine did Geography to 6th Year Studies level, with Robin I'm fairly certain - David Liston. I expect he would have some memories of Robin from the teaching side of things, if you want his email address.

My abiding memories of Robin (Some teachers make an impression on you) were on two occasions when he took some boys (One of the times was in the Summer of '75, outside of school term, just after my 6th year) on a day-trip to Arran to do the Glen Sannox - Glen Rosa ridge walk, taking in the peaks from the north of the island back to Brodick. On one of these occasions we were running for the last ferry to the mainland and only just boarded it in time. I think he got to the pier first and persuaded the ship to hang on for the last of us.

I think he also, on occasion, helped Mr Strang (the chemistry teacher) with the expedition parts of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, the bronze and silver sections of which I enjoyed. A training "walk" over Largs Moor on a very wet day particularly sticks in my memory. The ground was very, very boggy but the day was character-forming!

He and Mr Strang introduced me to hill-walking - something for which I am very grateful.

David Watson

Correspondence from Old Boys

Dear Gregor,

(Mr Egan sounds too formal.) I thank you for the newsletters and school history sent on by my sister Sheila (Thomson). (I enclose a cheque for £15.00).

I had long decided that everything of Allan Glen's had gone – the result of the Glasgow Council's vandalism. I was therefore very surprised when Sheila told me that she had met the Allan Glen's President at the High School Annual Dinner.

I left the school in 1943-44 when I went up to Glasgow University. Despite having engineering, chemistry, physics and maths in my highs, I took an honours degree course in history. Down to the influence of a splendid history master (was his name Strachan?). On Graduating, I joined ICI in Birmingham in chemical sales. Very soon I moved to Personnel and stayed in that function until I retired in 1985. I spent some 2/3 years after that as a consultant. All my career, my colleagues in senior management were chemists and engineers of various kinds. So in a way I returned to my early roots.

When I was in Birmingham I was a member of the Club there from 1949 to 1957, when I moved to London. As my career developed I moved to Slough, to Cheshire and back to Slough and finally to Head Office in London where I spent my remaining 14 years with the great company. I was responsible for directors and senior management compensation and administration.

Soon I became responsible for coordinating these matters with our major companies in Europe, Canada, USA and Australia. I also acted as a consultant to our many overseas companies amongst them India, Pakistan, South Africa and China in Hong Kong. I spent 4+ months overseas (I can't count the number of hours which I spent sitting in a Boeing 747!) each year.

Alas it is all gone now! Some bad Main Board strategic decisions

During my retirement, I spent some 15 years as a part-time consultant.

Each year, I spend 2/3 weeks in Glasgow in the spring. I plan to do the same in 2011. That may include the 18th of April. I would like to invite myself to your AGM. (I did join the FP Club in 1944.) If I could be given the time and place, I shall try to be there. I notice in the 2010 newsletter a request for house badges. I have medals – Greyfriars house captain and School Prefect. I shall bring them both. They have been in a drawer in my desk all these years.

Excuse my writing – I suffer from acute arthritis- I hope that you can read it easily.

Regards,

David Mills

Ed.s Note. David, we have just realised that you are in the school council photo of 1944 (page 6) so perhaps you can identify those in the pictures. - Hope to hear from you.

Correspondence from Old Boys

Reports on the recent New Zealand earthquakes from Alastair Nicol

It is 30.2°C inside at the moment. (3 Jan 2011) Too hot to do anything outside and even watching tennis on TV is too much of an effort so I'll try writing a New Year's letter. Thanks to all of you who sent a timely Christmas one.

As with most Cantabrians, the highpoint of 2010 was the violent shaking we had early in the morning of the 4 Sept. Jenny and I stayed in bed hanging-on. We reckon we would have been knocked off our feet had we stepped out of bed. Given the rocking and rolling, creaking and sound of falling objects and broken glass it was easy to think there would be little of the house left standing. But we have all learned that buildings can move a lot without a huge amount of damage, thanks to the stringent building codes which for once we were pleased to have. At daylight (there was no power for 3 days) we were amazed to find how little damage there was. No major structural damage, cracks in some ceilings and walls and lot of broken glass. The photos show the worst of our damage.



The bookcase had been fastened to the wall but the screws are a bit longer this time. Most of my nice crystal whisky glasses fell out and broke but amazingly the water jug stayed put – perhaps there is a message for me in that observation!

Most things are now back in place and we have been assessed by remote control by EQC and received a cheque, so now all is left to do is to find a plaster, a painter and a glazier.

The fact that the subsoil around here is round stones that apparently roll like ball-bearings made the damage much less than on areas further away (we were only about 10 km from the epicentre) compared to those on the wetter sands which showed all the 'liquefaction' (a term most of us had never come across).

Sally and Johnny's house had only superficial damage like us although they were glad that they had replaced the heavy tile roof with a new tin one. Fiona rents the upstairs of a old wooden house in Merivale but again there was no major damage although the chimney came down in a recent aftershock. Fiona had done a bit of Civil Defence training with ECan and decided to go into work straight after the quake. She spent a very exciting 12 hours straight manning (or is it personning) the emergency phones and computers in the ECan bunker in the basement of their building. I think her day job of resource consent monitoring was a bit dull after that.

This second e-mail follows the after shock in Canterbury on 13 June 2011

Just another rumble. Shook things a bit out here and a few cracks in the ceiling are a bit bigger. Just as well we haven't yet had them fixed from the Sept one which was by far our worst. Jenny was driving over one of the overbridges in town for the 5.5 this pm and thought something had happened to the steering. We are getting somewhat immune to the smaller ones eg anything less than 5 but it would be appreciated if they would go away. Only person benefiting is our son-in-law Johnny who is a plumber.

One of the big disappointments is the cancellation of all Christchurch's games for the RWC and the local Crusaders are playing all their home game in the Super 15 'away'

Thanks for your concern.