



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter March 2012

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Editorial

Unfortunately, although there is an inevitability about this, the Newsletter contains a number of obituaries. Fortunately, an obituary for your Editor is not among them, although it could well have been.

As you know my Wife and I were holidaying in South Africa In December, when Mike and I produced our "Remote Newsletter." Our daughter Jill lives in a very nice house, on a hill with splendid views over Port Elizabeth. The garden is some 25 feet below the house and there is a stone staircase linking garden and patio, I was virtually on the top step, when, for some unknown reason, I fell backwards down the steps. Fortunately/unfortunately, there is a right-angle bend halfway down the stairs and I stopped, with a broken hip and a broken collar bone. All this occurred on Wednesday 28 December 2011, almost Hogmanay ! My first alcoholic drink of 2012 was on 18 January, when I was discharged from hospital. All in all, I have been extremely fortunate, there could have been much more serious consequences as a result of my fall.

Apart from Obituaries there is an interesting note from Sandy Howie. Because I read it first, I was able to react first but, I'm sure there are many more tales out there. Finally, there is an opportunity to join members of the Edinburgh Club at their Annual Dinner on the 20th of April and their Annual Outing to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre on the 16th of June, both excellent events which I can recommend to you. In view of the recent swingeing increase in postage, we would ask if any who are receiving the Newsletter by "snail mail" could possibly arrange an email address.

See you at the AGM on 23rd April.

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>- (0141 357 0137)</i> |
| <i>AGM Monday 23rd April 2012 -</i> | <i>Mercure Hotel - Ingram Street</i> | |
| <i>EOS Dinner 20 April 2012 -</i> | <i>Murrayfield Golf Club</i> | |
| <i>Saturday 16th June 2012 -</i> | <i>Pitlochry Festival Theatre - EOS Club Event</i> | |
| <i>Thursday 13th September 2012 -</i> | <i>Annual Golf Outing - Pollok Golf Club</i> | |

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Hugh Brown Sutherland Born January 22, 1920; Died December 20, 2011

Emeritus Professor Hugh Sutherland, who has died aged 91, was a distinguished civil engineer who became an internationally-renowned authority on soil mechanics.

Appointed a professor at Glasgow University in 1966, he was the first holder of the Cormack Chair of Civil Engineering and Dean of the Faculty at Gilmorehill. He held the post until his retirement in 1986.

During his career he developed an interest in geotechnical engineering and was in great demand as an expert in foundation engineering and soil mechanics. Indeed, he played a leading role in establishing Britain's first laboratory dedicated to the study of soil mechanics, an important sub-discipline of civil engineering which looks at the behaviour of soil in relation to constructions such as bridge foundations, pipelines and buildings.

Born in Glasgow, Hugh Brown Sutherland attended the city's *Allan Glen's School* from 1931 to 1936. Although more than qualified to go to university, the teenager chose instead to find a job. With the intention of becoming an actuary, he took up a junior post with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company in Glasgow.

However, he soon discovered that the job involved little more than delivering letters to banks and insurance offices around the city all day. After three months, he left.

He then applied to Glasgow Corporation to become an indentured apprentice with the Master of Works and City Engineers, the council department responsible for road and bridge construction. He was successful, becoming the first apprentice the department had taken on in six years. Gaining valuable work experience during the day, he studied civil engineering at night classes at the city's Royal Technical College.

On the outbreak of war, he immediately volunteered for military service. However, at the time the minimum age stood at 18, and he was too young to join. Instead, he was told to attend the University Joint Recruitment Board and was seconded to London to work for Oscar Faber and Partners, a well known firm of structural engineers, where he worked on the design and construction of munitions factories across the country.

Later in the war, he was employed as an assistant intelligence officer before being dispatched back to Scotland to deliver lectures in engineering to students and Army cadets at Glasgow University.

In 1946, still in his twenties, he began to develop his interest in soil mechanics. At the time the most advanced studies into the subject were being carried out at Harvard University. Hugh Sutherland applied for – and received – a scholarship which allowed him to go there as a research student. Among the studies in which he was involved while at Harvard was the Panama Canal Research Project, an examination of the potential effects of a nuclear explosion in the Central American waterway.

While at Harvard he was invited to attend the 1947 Soils Conference in Ottawa, Canada. As a result of contacts he made there, he went on to work briefly as an advisor at Steep Rock Iron Mines in North West Ontario before returning to Scotland in 1948.

The following year, however, he was back in Canada, this time to assist in a study of vibration damage caused by trolley buses in Winnipeg. In an attempt to measure the vibrations, the young engineer took his equipment to the home of a woman who had complained to the local authority about damage to her property.

Thus, he was lying prone on the lady's carpet when her husband arrived home from work and asked bluntly: "What the hell are you doing on my floor?" To which Mr Sutherland replied: "Waiting for the next trolley bus."

His help in this project and, some years later, in a study of the Winnipeg Flood Diversion scheme, earned him the Freedom of the City.

Back at Glasgow University his academic career blossomed and in 1966 he became the first holder of the Cormack Chair and Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

On his retirement in 1986, he became a director of the University Trust and Emeritus Professor.

Throughout his career, Professor Sutherland received many prestigious awards but the one of which he was most proud was the OBE he received from the Queen in 2003 for services to education and engineering. He was a keen sportsman who played football at university (and played in the New England Soccer League when he was at Harvard). He was also a member of the West of Scotland Cricket Club and a past captain of Buchanan Castle Golf Club, Drymen.

Professor Sutherland, who died at home in Bearsden, is survived by his daughter Moira, who lives in Sydney, Australia, his son Hugh, who is in Singapore, two grandchildren and a great-grandson. His wife, Sheila, died two years ago.

Prof John Webster - an appreciation

John Webster had a long career associated with the development of the University of Strathclyde and the city of Glasgow. He was born in Dennistoun, Glasgow, and educated at the city's *Allan Glen's School*, and then at the Royal Technical College in Glasgow.

This led to a first degree in Engineering from the University of London and an Associateship of the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow. During this period of academic study, between 1940 and 1946, John Webster worked for the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company. He started as an apprentice then became a mechanical engineer building locomotives, which were vital to the war effort, so it was a reserved occupation.

He met Elizabeth McCormack on the Isle of Arran in 1948 and they were married in 1951. Many family holidays were to take place on Arran over the next 60 years.

Between 1946 and 1948 he worked as an engineer in the Kelvin Heating and Ventilation Company, and this led to an academic appointment as assistant lecturer and demonstrator in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, between 1948 and 1951. While working there, he was given responsibility for the mechanical testing of materials and components submitted by manufacturing companies, and asked to write reports advising on legal disputes. In 1951, he was promoted to lecturer level in Mechanical Engineering. In 1960 the Royal Technical College was renamed the Royal College of Science and Technology and became the University of Strathclyde. In 1967, with the extension of his department, he was promoted to senior lecturer.

Between 1967 and 1981 he was appointed a reader in engineering design and drawing, and subsequently became head of the Department of engineering design from 1981 to 1986. From 1982 to 1986, he was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and attained a personal professorship in 1982, followed by an Emeritus Professorship in 1988. Throughout this period, he provided extensive consultations to industry, in particular advising on the manufacture of metallic structures and functional items. His work as an expert witness at the Court of Session was outstanding.

Apart from work in the university, Professor Webster was secretary to the Scottish branch of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering from 1971 to 1981. He was also appointed advisor to the international office of the university in 1988 and served as an elder of St Paul's Church, Milngavie, from 1964. He was a member of the church choir and also Milngavie choir, which allowed him to participate in one of his great loves, music.

His other great interest was history, particularly British naval battles and he was widely read on this and many other areas of history. He shared this knowledge with his children and particularly so with his grandchildren, with whom he spent many hours discussing and sharing his balanced perspective of life.

Prof Webster was a generous supporter of his friends and family, and lived happily with his wife Elizabeth until her death on 5th January 2009. He is survived by two children, David and Louise, and five grandchildren.

Prof John Paul

Andrew Wilkie 01/06/1949 – 23/01/2011



It is with a sad heart that I commemorate the passing of Andrew Wilkie on 23 January 2011. Andy is sadly missed by Hilary, his partner and best friend of twenty-three years, his family and his many friends.

Andrew Wilkie was a remarkable man with a remarkable personality. I first met him when we enrolled in Form 1D (Form Master Mr Sam English?), **Allan Glen's School**, in 1961. We were firm friends from that time until his untimely death. Andy was a serious, studious and quiet pupil.

He went on to gain six "A" and "B" passes in the "Highers" in fifth year, and obtained a Higher German in sixth year! This was all achieved despite his early morning paper round at the Royal Infirmary. J. B. Sommerville was not impressed with his excuses for being late!

He was a keen member of the school's chess club. He was a member of the team (including Ian Jardine, John Glendinning, Craig Pritchett, Eddie Davis, Gordon Anderson, and Roy Batchelor) that lost to Dulwich College in the Semi-finals of the Sunday Times UK Schools Chess Tournament. John Glendinning and Craig Pritchett, of the above-named went on to achieve great things in the world of chess. Ian Carmichael recalls the chess master (no pun intended!) Mr Goldin treating the team to dinner at the Central Hotel after the semi-final. Ian also recalls he and Andy building a demonstration chess board for the chess club. It was four feet square and consisted of inlaid tiles (old lino!), and hardboard pieces held on with Velcro.

Andy also had a talent for music. He taught himself to read music and played the guitar. He played classical and jazz guitar as well as the popular songs of the day. He took lessons from Ronnie Moore of the One O'Clock Gang fame. He never lost his love of playing the guitar and continued taking occasional lessons throughout his life to improve his technique. He progressed to the University of Glasgow. Andy was not greatly interested in the academic challenges, but revelled in the "university of life" activities such as the Men's Union Board, debating and the Glasgow Students' Charities Appeal.

This resulted in him following a career in the 70's of managing bookings for pop bands such as the Small Faces, Barbara Dickson, Fleetwood Mac and the Humblebums, among many others. His work in the entertainment world led to his ultimate career in purchasing and managing hotels and pubs. His last establishment was the Scotsman Bar, in Bridgeton. He was an active and keen member of the **Allan Glen's RFC**. He played for many years at various levels. Towards the end of his playing career, he took immense pleasure in playing with the lower fifteens, supporting and encouraging the younger players. He regularly attended matches at the Bearyards and maintained his Rugby Club membership throughout his life. Like many of us when our playing days were over, golf became a lasting test of his patience! Andy was a member at Milngavie and latterly at Auchterarder. He competed at the Allan Glen's golf outing at Pollock and, to his great delight, won the trophy in 1992.

Andy had a prodigious memory which he constantly exercised. He would learn entire Shakespeare plays by heart. He was a renowned Burns speaker and was President of the Bridgeton Burns Club 2005-2006. Andy was well-known for his recitals of Burns poems including "Holy Willie's Prayer" and "The Twa Dugs" among many others. His personal favourite was Tam O'Shanter, and he was in great demand for this at Burns Suppers! At his funeral, the Rev William Shackleton OBE (author and Burns speaker) stated that Andy was the finest Burns raconteur he had the privilege to hear in his lifetime!

Andy was committed to the continued teaching of the works of Robert Burns in schools in the east of Glasgow. The Bridgeton Burns Club, through the voluntary work of the Directors and Past-presidents of the club, run an annual competition in the first week of December. Between 500 and 700 children and young adults take part in the competition with an age range from 5 years to 17 years old.

Several of the competition winners are invited to perform at the Annual Burns Supper and at the Annual Concert and Prize-giving in February. Hilary intends to endow a trophy in Andy's memory, to be awarded annually.

Andy leaves behind his much-loved partner of twenty-three years, Dr Hilary Rolton.

He and Hilary shared many passions, including walking and travel. They loved spending days in the Scottish Highlands, where Hilary with Andy's support, completed all 283 Munros. (The exact number is uncertain as someone keeps adding and/or removing peaks from the Munro list after you think you have done them all!) They also trekked in the Everest area of the Himalayas, reaching over 18,000 feet. They toured around the Orkney and Shetland Isles, and enjoyed travelling to other exotic locales such as Bergen in Norway, St Petersburg and Moscow, China and South Africa. As a young man, Andy had spent some time sailing around the Western Isles, reaching the furthest western outreach of St Kilda, where he obtained a St Kilda passport.

Their exploration of the many islands of the Orkneys and Shetlands complemented his sailings in the Western Isles and visiting Muckle Flugga completed his far-reaching trips to the furthest westerly and northerly points of the Scottish islands.

Andy touched the lives of all who knew him with his acerbic wit, ready laugh and prodigious memory of songs old and new. He is sadly missed by his nearest and dearest.

John I M Conely MBE February 2012

Classic Memories of Classmates

The 3rd edition of the Club's C D on pupils has been completed. There are over 12,500 pupils listed which is probably about half of all of those who attended the School in its 120 year history. However reading the lists causes the type of excitement normally associated with browsing through a telephone directory. – Not exactly a riveting read!

Yet when we meet at the Annual Dinner or gather at the monthly lunches, the air is filled with fascinating stories about classmates and incidents that you could not possibly invent. These are the tales from the School and its pupils that we should not allow to be forgotten – we need to preserve the best stories for future generations. When I think of Hugh Sutherland I smile when remembering hearing of his exploits on a floor in a flat in Winnipeg. This memory of Hugh returned when I read his obituary in the Glasgow Herald (29th December 2011).

The Year List for 1931 – (Hugh's 1st year) now has this anecdote which will surely cause some mirth for future readers.

How about some action then !

All of us have favourite stories of past classmates. Please send me some (Up to 100 words each) and I will incorporate them in the relevant Year List. " Do you remember ... What's his name? " is the start of many of our conversations. Let us record and share the fascinating answers.

Please send your contributions to editor@allanglens.com

- Sandy Howie sandy@ahsolutions.co.uk

Sandy Howie's request for tales from a previous life.

Eds Note : I had an advantage over all of you in that I had a preview of Sandy's Letter.

We were in third year, so it must have been about 1956. The gym class was over and we were dressing. Whitlow, not the most popular boy in the class, found that all the fly buttons (remember them) had been cut off his shorts. Off he went and reported it to Bowman Lindsay. Class reassembled in the gym in various stages of dress.

Bowman : "I want whoever did this to step forward."

Class : No response.

Bowman : " Well, that's a simple situation, I'll just have to belt the whole class. "

Alastair Murray – Thinks – " This is not a good idea. " He confesses to the crime. Three of the best from Bowman.

As we proceeded back to the Dressing Room and continued changing, I noticed that Whittaker's fly was staying shut. When I asked him how he achieved this. He said, "Oh, that's easy, Willie power !"

Alan McLellan 3C – 1953

Charles Rennie Mackintosh 1868 - 1928

The following article is an excerpt from an article by John Macdonald and researched by his sister, Ishbel, herself a student in Glasgow School of Art. There is insufficient space to print the entire article in the Newsletter, however, it will shortly be placed on the **Allan Glen** website in full.

Charlie McIntosh, the spelling on his birth certificate, was the son of William a police clerk and Marjory Morris a fisherman's daughter from Fife. Charlie's grandfather, a Paisley distiller, moved to Ireland in pursuit of his profession, where his father was born. In a family of eleven children he came fourth in line he was not of a robust nature, he was born with weak foot and as an infant was affected by rheumatic fever. Life however produces compensations and the lack of ability in athletic achievements perhaps opened the door to his exceptional talent in his chosen field.

Dr. Hans Asperger an Austrian in a paper wrote. It seems that for success in science or art, a dash of autism is essential. For success, the necessary ingredient may be the ability to turn away from the everyday world, from the simply practical, an ability to rethink a subject with originality so as to create in new, untrodden ways, with all the abilities canalised into one speciality. Asperger noted that these individuals tended to think in pictures with the retention of a subject visual rather than verbal which may lead to an inventive and creative way of thinking. Vincent Van Gough and Michelangelo are said to have manifest this condition. It would be fair to say that Charlie was never seen without a pencil, drawing was a way of life recording all that caught his eye. In 1877 he enrolled in that establishment most suited to his outstanding talents, **Allan Glen's School**. While most schools were established by academics giving emphasis to academia, a school established by a Wright for the sons of journeymen quite naturally placed emphasis on scientific and technical subjects encouraging creative thinking. At this time the average leaving age was fourteen, Charlie was given the opportunity of having two extra years at the school which allowed him to develop his talents in woodwork, metalwork and technical drawing, in addition he enrolled at Art School for evening classes.

Correspondence from Old Boys

Hi Mike:

I am a partial contemporary (47-52) of your recent Annual Dinner Guest of Honour James Hannah - but certainly not as exalted. I do share something else with him (as per his dinner speech) however, since I too had lunch with then Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in 1958. Well, not exactly, but at least in the same place as he was - the Canadian Parliamentary Dining Room. This was thanks to my brother David (AG 45-49), who was then Private Secretary to the Canadian Minister of Health & Welfare (and at least 10 years younger than any others at his level). Those AG Grads. do make their mark! I spent the rest of an idyllic summer on a survey crew in a Southern Alberta National Park before entering Engineering at the University of Toronto.

I have been in Canada since 1957, and now live in the Greater Toronto Area, I am also an enthusiastic member of the "convivial" lunch group (current potential about 25) touted by Ken Clark in his piece in the December newsletter. He does a great job of organizing us, and three others mentioned in the same newsletter are also members - Herb Saravannamuttoo, Ross Mackay, and Ron Moodie.

Best wishes from Canada to all there, and we would love to see anyone visiting, as Ken said.

James Dunsmuir, P.Eng.

Dear Mike

Thanks once again for a most interesting Newsletter!

I noted the suggestion made by a medic about support for medical students and the editor's brief but equally apposite response! Henry

Professor Henry J Dargie

henry.dargie@glasgow.ac.uk

Updates from our Sponsored Students

Hi Mike,

I am having a great time at university, and am finding my course extremely enjoyable, I have also recently joined the University of Glasgow's Formula Student Racing team. (www.ugracing.co.uk)

Formula Student is the biggest student engineering competition in the world and attracts significant interest from the engineering community as well as being televised every year. One of our aims this year is to build a larger group of partners to join us at the competition. We have been working hard to complete the new design early this year and are currently beginning to procure parts for assembly.

We are currently in the process of sourcing sponsors and since I know how influential the Allan Glen's school has been in regards to engineering I thought I would email you to find out if there were any companies you could suggest we contact that may be interested in offering sponsorship.

Regards, Rebecca Findlay Aeronautical Engineering University of Glasgow

Just a quick update on how I have been getting on. I started my second semester at the beginning of the month after the January Exams. I feel that they went well and so far I have passed all of my classes from last semester. I don't know if you saw on the news but a building caught on fire on the Stathclyde campus. This was the building where most of my lectures and labs are held. So the past couple of weeks has been a bit more chaotic than normal but we have a temporary timetable just now for my second semester classes, hopefully we don't miss out on anything. The building also contained our exam papers from the other classes that we were waiting to get our results from.

I'm hoping that they weren't affected by the fire. I just have to wait and see once they can re-enter the building.

Also, I received the second installment of my bursary today. I will give you another update at the end of this semester to let you know how I'm getting on.

Regards, Frazer Brownlee

MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE

A Meeting was held in the City Chambers on the 23rd of March between Members of the **Allan Glen's School Club Committee** and representatives of the City of Glasgow College. The Meeting was chaired by Bob Winter, the Lord Provost (Pupil at **Allan Glen's** 1949–1953.

Your Club was represented by Ronnie Wright, the President; Dave Tanner, the Vice-president; Mike McCreery, the Treasurer and Past-presidents Gregor Egan; Alan McLellan and John Kelly. The representatives from the Glasgow College were : Roy Gardner (Commercial Director) and Derek McCaskill (Sponsorship and Alumni Officer.)

Roy Gardner and Bob Winter outlined the reasons for the meeting, in that, the College is being redeveloped. Currently it employs 1,200 staff and caters for 40,000 students in eleven buildings on the Campus. More particularly, in June 2013 the bulldozers will move in and the existing **Allan Glen's Building** at the top of **Allan Glen's Place**, will be no more. It was felt that this should not mean the erasure of the name and of the legacy of **Allan Glen** and that some memorabilia of the school and of the man should be retained in the new replacement Building. Photographs of various memorabilia, which are on the website and you can all view, were passed over and also the possibility of incorporating The School Honours Board in a prominent site in the new building. Incidentally, this is not on the website but it tabulates School Captains, Duxes and Sports Champions over many years.

There was an agreement that the College Representatives would keep in Touch with the Club and inform us of any future commemorative ceremonies, including an invitation to join the College at a Ceremony at the start of the demolition of the building. Obviously, this will be a major media event and will give an opportunity for the promotion of **Allan Glen**.

They will also revert to us on the acquisition and display of any memorabilia.





Allan Glen's School Club

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19 March 2012
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Dear Member,

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Club will be held in the Mercure Hotel, 201, Ingram Street, Glasgow on **Monday 23 April at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**. A buffet meal will be provided following the meeting.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Apologies | - I. Dale |
| 2. Notification of deaths | - I. Dale |
| 3. President's Remarks | - R. Wright |
| 4. Minutes of 89th AGM, held on 18 April 2011 | - I. Dale |
| 5. Honorary Secretary's Report | - I. Dale |
| 6. Treasurer's Report | - H. R. Graham |
| 7. Money Spinner Draw | - I. McLennan |
| 8. Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust | - R. Wright |
| 9. Young Persons' Lecture | - R. Wright |
| 10. Allan Glen's School Club Trust | - A. F. McLellan |
| 11. Report from the East of Scotland Club | - I. Hogarth |
| 12. Report from the Golf Section | - B McAllister |
| 13. Report from the Sports Club | - R. Leckie |
| 14. Report on the Newsletter | - A. McLellan |
| 15. Website | - C. Dick |
| 16. Report on the Annual Dinner | - J. Bolton |
| 17. Report on the Lunch Club | - G. Day |
| 18. Alumni of the Year | - I. Dale |
| 19. Nomination and Election of Committee Members | |
| 20. Nomination and Election of Trustees of the Endowment Scholarship Trust | |
| 21. Any Other Competent Business. | |

Yours sincerely

Ian Dale
Honorary Secretary

The President and I hope you will be able to join us for the 59th Annual Dinner of the EoS Club and our visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre. Wives and guests are most welcome at both events.

The details of the events are as follows:

ANNUAL DINNER: Friday 20th April 2012 at 7.00 for 7.30p.m. in the Murrayfield Golf Club, Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh.

The menu will be three courses, with a choice of main course. Price £28 per person, thanks to the Parent Club's generous sponsorship. The price includes table wines or soft drinks. The dress will be informal. Please notify me by Saturday 15 April giving your full name and those of your guests.

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE: Saturday 16th June 2012.

We meet in the theatre car park at 11.45a.m. in time for lunch at noon.

The play is a musical "Little Shop of Horrors" an adaption of Howard Ashman's book, music by Alan Menken. The price for the lunch and musical is £37 per person. Due to the popularity of this musical, I may not be able to accept a late booking.

The notification date for the Theatre is Saturday 19th May.

I am very sorry that refunds for cancellations for the Dinner later than Monday 15th April or the Theatre later than Saturday 19th May cannot be made unless a substitute for the Dinner is found or in the case of the Theatre the tickets are resold.

Please return to S. Ian Hogarth, 9 Blinkbonny Road, Edinburgh EH4 3HY.

ANNUAL DINNER

Please reserve meplaces at the EoS Annual Dinner on 20th April 2012.

Name:

Telephone No:

Guest Names:

A cheque for £is enclosed.

If you wish to stay overnight after the Dinner the President will be pleased to provide the names and addresses of nearby B.and B' s.

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE:

Please reserve meplaces for the visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 16th June 2012.

Name:

Guest Names:

A cheque for £ is enclosed.

Please make cheques payable to ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL CLUB.

