



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter October 2010

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Editorial

This Newsletter for October 2010 follows a slightly altered format. There are a number of well-known former pupils who have been in the news recently and an article based in the distant past. If you know of anyone else who has hit the headlines of late, the Newsletter would be delighted to publish their exploits.

We are continuing the second in a series of interviews with a ken-speckled former pupil of Allan Glen's School Club in this issue, there is a third candidate in view for the next publication. If there are any other potential interviewees who you would like to hear of or about, please let us know.

The presentation of Allan Glen Endowment Scholarships to budding engineers at the City Chambers was continued on the 21st November 2010. We have supported twenty students through their University Studies since the inception of the scheme in 2002, at a total cost of almost £60,000.00 and, it is a reflection on the standard of the selection procedure, that all of our students to date have been successful in their Courses. The current award to each student is £1,500.00 per annum, paid in three equal instalments.

The third monthly "in town lunch" is being held at the new venue of the Ramada Hotel in Ingram Street. Our Annual General Meeting will also be held in the same location on the 18th of April 2011.

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

Second Friday of the month - Monthly Lunch - (0141 772 3756)
Last Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch - (01383 730438)

Saturday 27 November 2010 - Annual Dinner
Monday 29 November 2010 - Allan Glen Tribute Lecture
Monday 18th April 2011 - Annual General Meeting

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INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR HUGH B SUTHERLAND OBE, SM, FR Eng, FRSE, D Univ, FI Struc E.



Ross Graham, Mike McCreery and I visited with Hugh Sutherland in his home in Bearsden in early September to ask him about his lengthy career as an educationalist and civil engineer.

Hugh attended Allan Glen's School from 1931 to 1936. When he left school, although well-qualified to attend University, this was not one of the options he considered. In those days, school leavers sat both the Glasgow Corporation and the Civil Service Examinations. Hugh actually started out in the North British and Merchantile Insurance Company, with a view to becoming an actuary. In point of fact, the salary was so low, that he was cheaper than the postal service and he spent three months delivering letters round all the Banks and Insurance Companies in Central Glasgow. After three months of this "dogsbody" job, he decided he had had enough and he applied to Glasgow Corporation for a post as an indentured apprentice to the Master of Works and City Engineer who was responsible for the construction of roads and bridges and various other civil works. Hugh found it to be a well-rounded and all-inclusive training, he studied civil engineering on a part-time / night class basis, at the Royal Technical College. He played football for the College and was awarded a Blue.

The National Financial Situation was similar to that in present times. He was the first apprentice who the Department had started in six years and in the succeeding four years, they indentured only one apprentice each year.

When War was declared, Hugh volunteered for the Forces but was too young to be called up, he was asked to attend the University Joint Recruitment Board

on the 6th of November 1939 on the same day that he was Best Man at his Sister's Wedding. He was told to continue his studies and was later seconded to work with Dr Oscar Faber and Partners based in London, Hugh was engaged in the design and construction of Munition Factories and similar structures all over England. He was also an Assistant Intelligence Officer investigating the German Bombing Campaign. He was then sent to Glasgow University and he, who had never given a lecture in his life, was given the task of lecturing to Engineering and Artillery Officer Cadets in surveying and general engineering.

He developed an interest in soil mechanics and foundation engineering and was also instrumental in establishing the first laboratory in Britain to study these subjects. The World Centre to study soil mechanics was at Harvard University and Hugh was encouraged to apply for a Sir James Caird Scholarship to study there. The Selection Board was based at St Andrews University, the Principal of the University was Sir James Colquhoun Irvine, himself an extremely distinguished research chemist and also a former pupil of Allan Glen's School, the award was very generous, some £750 pa in 1946.

One of the projects whilst at Harvard was a study into the possible effect of a nuclear detonation in the vicinity of the Panama Canal. After some two years at Harvard, Hugh was invited to take up a staff position but he felt a moral obligation to return to the UK and in particular, to Glasgow.

Whilst still at Harvard, he was invited to undertake some studies in New Zealand for some three or four months, possibly returning to Britain via New Zealand by boat. He pointed out that this boat journey would be an extremely lengthy affair of some four or five weeks and that he could travel by plane much more expeditiously in some thirty-three hours. His suggestion was rejected down on the grounds that only Civil Servants above a certain level were permitted to fly in New Zealand. In turn, Hugh then rejected the idea of a project in New Zealand and in fact went to North West Ontario to an iron ore mine in Canada.

Hugh subsequently went to Winnipeg to study complaints about vibration damage being caused by trolley buses. He was authorised to have some trolley buses loaded up, travelling under his command. There was a Mrs Hay, who had been a real thorn in the flesh of the local authority. He went to her house with his seismic equipment.

Apparently, the human body is most sensitive to vibrations in the prone position so, Hugh got down on his hunkers to see how great the effect was. There was a knock at the door and there was Mrs Hay's Husband.

"What the Hell are you doing here lying on my floor," he asked? "Well believe it or not, I'm just waiting for the next trolley bus," replied the bold Hugh. In fact, the investigation showed that the structural damage was due to the soil conditions in Winnipeg rather than the trolley buses.

Hugh Sutherland (Contd)

Some years later he was involved in the Winnipeg Floodway Diversion, they were having appalling flooding in the area. As a result of his work there Hugh was made a Freeman of the City of Winnipeg.

On his return to Glasgow University, Hugh progressed to a Readership to a personal Professorship and to be the first holder of the Cormack Chair of Civil Engineering and Dean of the Faculty. On his retrial, he became a Director of the University Trust

Hugh had maintained his interest in sporting activities, played football with the University and was also a member of the team that won the New England (USA) Soccer League. He was a member of the West of Scotland Cricket Club and is a Past Captain of Buchanan Golf Club. He is particularly pleased that the University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate and that the University Athletics Club awarded him an Honorary Blue, a unique distinction.

As regards Allan Glen's School Club, Hugh was Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner in 1970, President of the Old Boy's Club in 75/76 and President of the Rugby Club in 1977 – 1980.

Recently, at Hugh's Ninetieth Birthday Celebrations, Sir William Fraser Kerr, Principal and subsequently Chancellor of Glasgow University produced the following poem.

Development Office Guidance

If you want to know the name of thingamy, who achieved a First and died,
Or the Welshman who failed everything, no matter how he tried,
Or the chaps who went to Canada - they numbered quite a few,
Don't bother with archives, just have a word with Hugh.

If someone has mislaid the list of those who, twice a week
Played football for the Yoonie, dinnae fash yersel to seek
The details of the goalies, backs and all the other crew,
They're stored up in the memory of – yes you've guessed it – Hugh.

If you think you've lost your contact in Hong Kong or Manchukuo
Who might have been in Harvard maybe sixty years ago
But who no one's ever heard of since went to Timbuctoo,
You're bound to find inevitably,
Undoubtedly and certainly and not at all surprisingly,
He was a pal of Hugh.

Hugh's Wife Shiela died two years ago but he still lives in the house that they built in 1953. His Family are tremendously supportive, his daughter Moira and family live in Sydney and his son is in Singapore but they are in constant touch and visit him regularly. Hugh maintains an interest in the Probus Club and in former students. In fact, he recently addressed the 1960 Graduates at their 50th Reunion in the University.

Alan McLellan - Editor

Old Boys in The News

Meeting with Ian M Rae



Gregor Egan, Ronnie Wright and I met with Ian Rae in Moffat on the 21st of September. He was a contemporary of Gregor and Ronnie's at School, having joined on the 25th of August 1952 in 1B and leaving some four years later in 4B. He presently lives in Toronto and was on holiday in England meeting with his Wife's Family.

When he left school Ian worked as a draughtsman with Fleming Brothers. He moved to Canada in 1961 and returned to Scotland in 1962 where he worked with Fram Precast Concrete working as a Design Engineer. He met and married his wife in 1963 and returned to Canada where he worked for a number of Companies, finishing up as Manager of Engineering with Suntract (Canada) before, in 1973, setting up his own Company, Ian Rae & Sons, for the design of the structural steel for some major projects in North America, presently employing sixty-four people.

Contracts include: The Race Car Driver's Suite in Indiana; A missile launch centre at an undisclosed location in California (I'm not sure that even Ian knows the location); The Indiana Convention Centre, which had a clear span of 286 feet with columns on the end walls only and his most recent contract is for the design of the steelwork for the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, dedicated to the preservation of Muslim arts and culture. The building was designed by Pritzker Prize Winner Fumihiko Maki.

Ian's son Scott, a Microsoft engineer, an alumni of the Glasgow University Law School with a BA from York University, is currently running the Company.

Alan McLellan - Editor

The Famous Piper – Murdo MacGregor



Our very own Murdo is pictured leading the Cortège at the funeral of Alex Torrance, the Rangers Fan who broke the crossbar at Wembley on the 4th of June 1977, the year that Scotland beat England 2-1 to win the International Championship.

The broken crossbar and turf from the pitch was brought back to Scotland paralleling a more famous return of the Stone of Destiny to Arbroath Abbey some twenty-seven years earlier.

The Gordon Bennett Cup 2010

The Gordon Bennett Cup, the oldest (gas) hot air balloon race in the World was launched on 27 September for the first time in the UK. Unlike a normal hot air balloon race, the balloons are filled with hydrogen and 20 took off from a site in Bristol.

The gas balloons are controlled by a primitive system - by releasing gas to go down and throwing out sand from sand bags to go up. The pilots stand in small wicker baskets equipped with flight instruments, radios, food and warm clothing.

The Flight Control Centre is set up at Cameron Balloons Ltd. in Bristol and the team, including Air Traffic Control and weather experts are keeping a watchful eye on all the competitors as they fly across Europe. Don Cameron, who gave the Allan

Glen's Tribute Lecture to aspiring engineering students last year, stated, "Behind the scene we have a busy flight control team assisting with all the balloons' air traffic requirements."



Donald Cameron, pictured on left of photo with the D of E and David Hempleman-Adams

E-mail from Moore Hislop

Always interesting to hear of others' experiences. Ken Guiney, I believe, was a year mate of mine.(1946-'52). Sorry to hear of the passing of Gordon McCallum who was a regular attendee at our bi-annual meetings in Toronto. Until quite recently, I had no idea that he was faced with a terminal illness and still do not know of its nature. Herb Saravanamuttoo is also a frequent attendee. I can identify with his sentiments regarding the value of the education at Allan Glen's for at our meetings not a few from otherwise constricted backgrounds, attribute their success in life to the opportunity afforded them through Glen's bursaries and the instruction provided at the school.

Moore Hislop

Allan Glen Boys in the news – from the “Distant Past.”

In 1937, each pupil in the Engineering Class at School was given the task of making a wooden model of a half-section of a piston of a steam engine. The movement of the piston and valves were achieved by turning a handle which demonstrated the workings of the steam engine. The model made by John Addie was judged to be the best, closely followed by that of Andrew Smith. Each model was put on display at the Palace of Engineering at the Empire Exhibition from May to September 1938.

Both models were returned to their creators after the Exhibition and both are still in good working order. Below are photographs of John Addie and Andrew Smith taken in July 2010. John obviously had a talent for precision engineering as he went on to a career in tool making, working for Scottish Tool Manufacturers. Andrew worked on the Family Farm after leaving School and eventually moved to a farm in Fife.



Andrew Smith



John Addie

Alastair Kellock in the news



Alastair Kellock played from mini-rugby level at **Bishopbriggs** up to 1st XV aged 17. He was advised that if he wished to pursue a career at a higher level he would require to join a senior team and so he went to Stirling County and Edinburgh Gunners before he joined Glasgow Warriors.

He made such a favourable impression on his arrival at Glasgow Warriors when he joined the club in 2005 that he was immediately appointed captain. Having played for Scotland in under-19 and under-21 international rugby he made his first Six Nations Championship appearance in 2006. In

2009 Kellock took over the Scotland captaincy from injured Chris Cusiter to lead Scotland to glory against Australia at Murrayfield, and for both victories on Scotland's two Test tours of Argentina in 2010. He made the history books in the process by captaining the first Scottish side to win a test series in the Southern hemisphere. Glenfiddich are promoting him in their Spirit of Scotland Awards 2010. To vote for Alastair go to www.glenfiddich.co.uk, then enter News and Events / Spirit of Scotland Awards and vote for Alastair Kellock - code 1018.

The link is <http://www.glenfiddich.co.uk/news-events/glenfiddich-spirit-of-scotland-awards/sport.html>

Sir Kenneth Calman

Sir Kenneth Calman (AGS 1954-1960) has been recently appointed Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland.

Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014

The handover of the Games to Glasgow took place in Delhi in October. Bob Winter officiated and Lord Smith of Kelvin was also present (both members of **Allan Glen's School Club**).

WANTED - Bursary lists - Sandy Howie

There is little written about scholarships and bursaries at Allan Glen's School and when people speak about the advantage of bursaries it is often to acknowledge the benefit gained by the individual in providing excellent schooling. However the School also benefited greatly from the annual intake of very bright boys— boys who had already proved their ability by heading competitive exams.

These bright boys from all over Glasgow and the surrounding district entered the school having won scholarships and over the years, the School benefitted from their presence in many ways.

At the end of the two year scholarships there was an opportunity to sit a School Bursary Examination and those who passed, were again given assistance to complete their schooling at **Allan Glen's School**.

There was a third examination each year which selected one senior pupil to gain a three year bursary to assist him when studying at University or Technical College. There have been some interesting winners of this bursary over the years with, for example, Andrew McCance winning the 1906 examination.

Today's students have access to good schooling and yet for some **Allan Glen's** influence is still around to assist them to make the transition to university life. Our Educational Trust Bursaries which have been in place since our 150th anniversary in some ways takes over the task which was set up by the University Bursary Examination all those years ago.

This article has been prompted by the arrival of a copy of the 1949 bursary list from Bill Murray, one of our members in Australia and joins the copies of the lists of bursary winners which the Club has for the years 1887 until 1911.

An early indication on the existence of Scholarships is to be found in School Magazines with boys encouraged by adverts to apply for a Bursary or Scholarship. It is unlikely there was a need to advertise in later years as local schools were eager to submit their brightest boys ensuring a steady stream of candidates.

If we look at what was happening in 1887 we find from the Bursary committee minutes...

"There were 174 applicants for the 30 free Scholarships.

97 were admitted to the examination" as being eligible "

42 Allan Glen's scholars applied for the 18 School bursaries

4 scholars applied for the University or Technical College bursary.

In each of the three competitions there were fifteen hours of written work.

In earlier years, access to scholarships was not available to any boy whose family could afford to pay for that boy's education. The minute of the Bursary committee explains this in the language of the day.

"Parents and guardians were asked to appear and satisfy the committee that their circumstances were such as to require aid in sending their children to, or retaining them at Allan Glen's School."

In the bursary examination of 1887 three successful boys were struck off the list of those offered scholarships on the grounds that..."Their parents' circumstances not being considered such as to require aid". Perhaps this practice continued in later years.

The bursary lists for 1940, 1944 and for 1949 have been passed to the Club by Members but there is no information around about the existence of bursaries after this time – there must be other lists still in circulation for the 1950s and later – assuming that Bursaries were held.

Many Members responded when asked to send copies of School magazines.

So out there do any of you bright scholars, who helped maintain the high level of excellence in Allan Glen's School, still have a Bursary list folded away in the back of a drawer?

Please consider sending a copy to the Club and help towards the completion of the bursary and scholarship story and

What is Next?

With the exception of some bursary lists which Members may still have, it is unlikely that we will find much more new information about the School and its pupils.

However, we do have plenty of material about the School that could be made more readily available for the benefit of Members. We have over 70 School magazines which have been copied and are available on two computer discs. So far these magazines have only been used to add to our lists of pupils but they contain a great deal of information which could still be of interest.

Perhaps some of our Members would be interested in making up a file on Teachers, detailing their time at the School and allowing others to remember the vital influence some teachers had on our early life. From the recent correspondence in our newsletter it would seem there is plenty of interest in reading about the specific teachers each of us remember from our own time at Glens.

The other source of untapped information concerns school events, articles by pupils, buildings and a host of other topics.

This winter it is hoped we can compile a list of School-associated information from the magazines and our two School histories. A start to this work has been made with around thirty categories being identified.

These include :

School buildings	Old Boys' Clubs
Headmasters	War issues
Rugby	Visits etc.
Rowing	Aeronautical articles

In the last few years there has been a major increase in the number of questions about the School and pupils. It is now easier to satisfy the pupil issues but we are less able to give answers on other School queries. Recently there were questions relating to the School performance in football and much time was needed to extract the answers from our oldest magazines.

Copies of all of our magazines have been printed and bound into twelve volumes. It is proposed to circulate these volumes round the Members who attend the monthly lunches. Hopefully this will allow the sharp-eyed to find and record the location of interesting items and from this we can lead others to where they can find those aspects of School life in which they have an interest.

Contact Sandy Howie 15 Stewart Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6HN E-Mail sandy@ahsolutions.co.uk

Endowment Scholarship Trust Presentation

On Thursday 21 November 2010, Lauren McVey of St. Roch's Secondary High School and Glenn Hamilton of Bannerman High School were presented with their first cheques by President Gregor Egan.



Correspondence From our sponsored Students

Zoe Henretty

..."I'm getting on great thanks, I'm really enjoying my course, and without the help of the scholarship funding I would have found my first year to be far more stressful. It allowed me to fully focus on my studies, which I think is reflected in the fact that I passed all of my exams on first sitting. With the first award I was able to buy the required books for all my courses which really helped when it came to studying as it meant I didn't have to loan older editions from the library. It also enabled me to buy a 10 week student bus pass, which although seemed expensive up front, saved me money in the long term.

In my second semester I had a lot of important site visits that I had to attend, and the second instalment from from Allan Glens took a huge weight off my mind when it came to paying for all the necessary safety equipment.

Had it not been for the Allan Glens scholarship, none of this would have been possible. The money has helped in more ways than I could possibly highlight in a single email, and I can't express my gratitude enough. If the chance should arise, I would appreciate it if you could pass on my gratitude at the next club lunch. "

Frazer Brownlee

..."Yeah everything is good. Passed all my classes last year. First semester starts on Tuesday. Looking forward to it. The scholarship has helped me greatly. Without it I would really have struggled buying books and materials for my classes. For this semester, I am thinking of buying a laptop which will be great as my current laptop is starting to break. For the summer, I was working in a summer camp near San Francisco as a camp counsellor. It was an amazing experience and a real adventure. I made a lot of new friends and I am planning to go back next summer."

Tharan Siva

..."I am a mechanical engineering student at Strathclyde University, I am currently going into second year. I have been receiving the **Allan Glen's Scholarship** for a year now and it has been of great benefit to me. First of all big thanks to all the people at the Allan Glen Scholarship programme for their motivation for me to do well in my studies.

The Scholarship helped me out with the University expenses such as books, stationery, travel expenses etc... and it also adds to my motivation to do well. ...

Yeah, I did well in my exams. I got my 120 credits and also got transferred to MEng stream.

The best of mechanical engineering is the practical labs and design labs, overall the whole course is a really interesting course. "

KERR, James M.D. -

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that our family announces the passing of Dr. James W. Kerr on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at the age of 67.

Jim will be missed by Eleonor, his best friend and wife for 42 years. He was a proud father of his three children, Carolyn (Bob), Fiona (Brad) and Eleonor (Jason) and a proud grandfather of his seven grandchildren.

“Jimmy” Kerr was born in Glasgow, Scotland and Graduated from the University of Glasgow with his M.B., CH.B in 1967. His post graduate work was at the Southern General in Glasgow, followed by the University of Toronto Galley course for Surgical Intern at Toronto Western Hospital.

Jim started a family practice in 1971 in Niagara Falls, with Dr. A. Nestler and later, partner Dr. Dan Dargavel. He served the Greater Niagara General Hospital Department of Family Practice from 1971. He served as Chair of the Advisory Committee at GNGH and was head of Family Practice-Niagara Health System from 2000 to 2008.

Dr. Kerr had a wing at Nimigon Retirement Home (The Kerr Wing) dedicated to him in 2001 for his service as Physician in Residence. He served as physician for the Ontario Jockey Club and volunteered with Heart Niagara and the Niagara Falls Badminton and Tennis Club where he also served on the board of Directors.

Among his other services to the community, he volunteered on the Niagara Marathon Medical Services team for the 1980 and 1984 US Olympic Trials and the 1985 Toronto World Games. He was a member of Niagara Golf and Country Club, a racehorse owner and an avid horseracing fan.

Jim will be missed by his many friends, his patients and his colleagues.

“The social, friendly, honest man,

Whate'er he be,

“Tis he fulfills great nature's plan,

And none but he!”

-Robbie Burns Second Epistle to J. Lapraik, st. 15 (1786)



“It was the last day, of the last week, of the last year, at School - 1959.

What would normally be a Double Maths period, with Charlie Thomson, had been transformed into Rest and Recreation.

Ian Munro had brought in some '45s' and Johnny Cash was giving “Big River”, big licks.... repeatedly.

I was peacefully hidden behind a ‘Rover’ comic enjoying the scene, when Charlie spoiled it all, by confiscating my ‘Rover’.

He pointed out that it might be reasonable reading material for a 1st or 2nd year pupil, but by 6th year, I should have moved on to something much more mature.

This has troubled my conscience for over 50 years, but I can now reveal that I had moved on to something more mature.

Safely in my pocket, (slipped there as I moved out to his desk), was a copy of ‘Health and Efficiency’, only a picturebook but interesting pictures!

Well Charlie, you can keep my ‘Rover’, but I’m not convinced you are ready for ‘H. and E.’ just yet....maybe next year?”

Joe Miller

Allan Glen's 2010 Golf Match

The annual golf outing was held at Pollok Golf Club on 9th September, attended by 15 old boys. In the evening 5 more joined for high tea and presentation of prizes.

The winner this year, after many years of trying, was Jake Harris. He will be presented with the John G Kerr trophy at the annual dinner.

The winner from the previous year, Mervyn Tonks, returned from South Africa to defend his title, but this year could only make joint second place



Winner- Jake Harris with Gregor Egan



Runners up Mervyn Tonks and Alan Roberts



Pitlochry Festival Theatre – 2010



The East of Scotland Festival Theatre Visit this year was on Sat 26 June, there were 31 attendees.

The musical next year will be "A little night music" by Stephen Sondheim, probably on 25 June. The date will be confirmed in the next Newsletter.

----- Stop Press -----

Change of Guest of Honour for the Dinner and change of Speaker for the Allan Glen Tribute Lecture.

We have just been informed that, due to unforeseen circumstances, David Gaskell is unable to take on these duties.

We have been fortunate that **Bill Aitken** is able to speak as Guest of Honour at this year's dinner. Bill Aitken was born in Glasgow and educated at **Allan Glen's School** (1959-1965). He worked in the Financial Services/Insurance Industry for 34 years (1965-1999).

Following involvement in youth politics he was elected a Glasgow City Councillor in 1976 subsequently becoming the Convener of the Licensing Committee and Vice Convener of the Personnel Committee. He served as Leader of the Opposition for two terms prior to becoming MSP for Glasgow in 1999. He was also a District Court Judge (1985-2000), and is also a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (1993 - present).

Since his election to the Scottish Parliament, he has been Conservative Party Spokesman on Housing and Justice prior to becoming Chief Whip in 2003. He is currently Scottish Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Justice and also the Convener of the Parliament's Justice Committee.

He is a supporter of Partick Thistle Football Club. His interests include sports, reading and foreign travel. He is a trustee of the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund.

We are also delighted to report that John Bolton will present the Allan Glen Tribute Lecture entitled "Engineering in Flight Test". John is a retired Test Pilot.