



# Allan Glen's School Club

# Newsletter October 2008

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## Editorial

Yet again in this issue, we have many reminiscences of teachers from different times and from different perspectives.

At the last lunch at The Business School we had, as a guest, a former Geography and Maths Teacher, David Lambie - "Wee Davie or Wee Baa." It had not been my intention to ask him to speak but, when I did, he didn't hesitate and gave an excellent talk on Allan Glen's School from a teacher's viewpoint.

In the previous Newsletter I mentioned that we would be holding a Special General Meeting in Strathclyde Business School to discuss the future of the Allan Glen's 1968 Trust. The Meeting was duly convened and was well-attended (about the same number who generally attend the Annual General Meeting.)

There was a good debate, particularly in respect of the possibility of an application for Charitable Status to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR,) we took an indicative vote of those present, which divided the Meeting precisely 50:50.

This has the happy result that, whatever your Committee decide, half of the Club will know we got it absolutely WRONG !! However, in the meantime, we have withdrawn the application to OSCR pending further enquiries.

Alan McLellan

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## Dates for your Diary

Canadian Group - Friday October 24 12:00 for 1.00 at the Epica  
Restaurant in the Royal York, Toronto - Contact Ken Clark

Second Friday of the month - Monthly Lunch - (0141 772 2756)  
Fourth Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch - (01383 730438)

Saturday 29 November 2008 - Annual Dinner - Trades Hall Glasgow  
6:15 for 7:00. Members will have now received the booking form by post.  
Please return your bookings to Ross Graham as soon as possible.

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**Lunch Club** - Gordon Day  
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and - George Smith  
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**Moneyspinner Draw** -  
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# Memories of Our School Teachers - Joe Miller

**RALPH COWAN:** Ralph was not only my favourite teacher, he was everyone's favourite teacher. I vividly remember that when he had occasion to belt Bill Montgomery and me, he told us how much he deeply regretted having to do so, and added that we were the first boys he had EVER had to belt! Well butterflies have landed harder than Ralph drew the belt, but Bill and I felt utterly humiliated in forcing him to use the Tawse for the first time.

Decades later I was assured by none other than Gordon Garrity that Ralph had told him the same tale!! How many more I wonder?

**MR MACDOUGALL**, (Technical subjects and Woodwork): I was caught in the act of firing a pellet, propelled by linked rubber bands, at the Prefect, Gordon Hunter, who was trying to control an unruly mob of pupils, pushing up the narrow stairs from the Lower to the Upper Playground. The pellet hit Gordon just to the right of his nose, and he was immediately overrun by a surge of small boys, but, my crime had not gone unseen. I was presented to him, by Mr MacDougall, and given a hundred lines: "I must not be barbaric". In retrospect very much less than I deserved, as I could have inflicted a serious injury, albeit unintentionally.

**MR SINCLAIR, aka "SINKY":** He was notorious for keeping everyone late for the next period if he was in the middle of a maths problem, but my happiest memory of him is of his attempts to button up an unfastened fly, with his left hand, whilst writing on the board with his right to the unfettered and raucous delight of every class member. We were indeed barbaric!

**MR LINDSAY**, (Science Stores). He took charge of the School Golf Team. There was a Golf Tournament on at Killermont with Eric Brown, Dai Rees and all the top British players of the day, and Bill suggested as the weather was fine, attendance there would be preferable to a day at Glens, so we "dogged it". We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves until turning around after applauding a putt, we found Mr Lindsay lining us up, all too closely, and we were well below par the next day in anticipation of "Whacko".

**JIMMY HINDS** (Chemistry) He devised a fiendish system whereby all his exam papers were divided into ten sections with ten marks each. Anyone scoring less than 5/10 in ANY section got one of the belt. Anyone failing all sections could end up with 10 of the belt and anyone with full marks in two sections and only 4/10 in the remainder could still get EIGHT of the belt although overall they had 52%. I remember one Chemistry period, where the late Stewart Montgomery somehow managed to accrue Twelve strokes. This was Arithmetical Sadism and no element of "PC" then!

**MR RUSSELL** ("Teenie"): We were given "Rob Roy" as a Home Reader. For some reason or other Stewart Montgomery had not managed to read it in time for the day of the Test, so we bandaged his right arm in a sling, in the best B.B. Ambulance Class manner, and he was obliged to write with his left hand. The result was a cross between Egyptian Hieroglyphs and the ravings of a drunken Chinese Sea Cook. "Teeni" consigned it to the bucket as if it was a particularly nasty turd. However when we rejoined his English Class a week later, Stewart was congratulated on his "amazing" recovery and invited to tackle the Test again. (He still hadn't read the book and the escapade ended in pain!

**MR HERD**, ("Butch"). I remember a boy being asked the date of the Battle of Bannockburn. "1314", he replied...easy stuff. "Yes!" snapped Butch, but I want day and month. I volunteered 24th June, only to be told that the Battle started with skirmishes on the 23rd, including the incident where "de Bohun" got his, and the more serious clash, in the Tor Wood, between Randolph and the English Vanguard. I remember him marking a section I'd cribbed straight from a History book, "When did J.S.Mackie become a pupil in my Class?"

**MR STEIN**, (Languages) He walked around, in a pin striped suit, looking every inch a Tailor's Dummy, and didn't belt too often, but I remember Arthur Kent got a "Hammering" merely for writing "Franken" on the Board, so either he was extremely vain, or he just didn't like Arthur Kent.

**ANDY ORR** (Science) Andy was a pleasant, easy-going sort, who left himself open to "ragging" and I can recollect his Experiment on Kinetic Friction being sabotaged. The Montgomerys and myself got into the Lab early, (definitely a first!) and we attached some chewing gum to the underside of the block of wood required for the Experiment.

When Andy came to pull the Spring Balance connected to the wood, it remained motionless. A series of stronger pulls produced no result; not a millimetre would it budge. The readings on the Spring Balance were nothing like any Andy had ever seen before, whilst conducting this Experiment. Eventually, losing patience, Andy gave it a good hard tug, and the block shot across the Bench and did not come to rest, till it buried itself, in Andy's "soft underbelly". Andy was silenced, and he was not amused. BUT, we were!

**HANK JOHNSTON**, (History). Hank was another Bully, who would belt the entire Class, for an imagined misdemeanour, whenever it came up his hump, so we, (the Montgomerys and me), decided to hide his belt, behind the tall cupboard, in the Classroom. By way of a miracle, he had no occasion to use it for over a week and we got tired of waiting for him to miss it. So we removed it; cut it into small pieces, and flogged the bits at 3d each. We scoffed the proceeds in the Canteen.

Unfortunately, Hank cottoned on to Stewart Montgomery being involved, and that led him to me. (Suspicious Beast!) It was a point of honour not to tell a direct Lie, so when I was confronted with the choice of SIX, (like Stewart), or an interview with J.B. leading to almost certain Expulsion, Confession was followed by Pain.

To this day, the participation of Bill Montgomery, in this prank, has "been locked in a Vault in the Vatican".

**FLEMING:** I was lucky enough never to have him as a Teacher, but it was Hate at first sight. I remain convinced that one of Magda Goeballs' children escaped from the Bunker, and, that that child was Fleming!

My lifelong friend, Jack McAllister, had occasion to visit my Mother and confide in her, that I was getting into "bad company", at school. (The Montgomerys), and looking at the above list, perhaps there is a case for that.

However, another character appears even more frequently, namely, yours truly, so perhaps it was the Montgomerys, in the innocence of their Youth, who were led astray? The answer might be found in the "Big Classroom in the Sky", but I think Bill and myself may be forced to join Stewart in warmer climes!

## Calcutta Cup on display at Bishopbriggs. Sunday 13th September

**Cup origins;** When the Calcutta football club disbanded in the 1870s the money, in the form of silver rupees, that remained after paying all debts was melted down to produce the cup which was to be awarded annually to the winners of a rugby match between Scotland and England. The Six Nations Championship is the current vehicle for this match.

This was a busy Sunday at the Bearyards with training sessions for the primary age children and a match against Uddingston for the under 14s team.



A young team of admirers



David Shaw and his Grandson

## Annual Golf Outing

On Thursday 11 September we had our most recent Annual Golf Outing round Pollok Golf Club. Yet again it was a most successful day, with fourteen people golfing and an additional two sitting down to an excellent high tea. The forecast for the day was not great, they got it largely correct, not as bad as the last Outing we had at Bothwell Castle some years ago, when players on the seventeenth and eighteenth holes had to run between shots and still finished up half-drowned. As I remember, there were people who disputed the final winner on that day.

The event was played as a Stableford Competition and the most impressive trophy and a bottle of *Allan Glen's Whisky* were won with great credit by Ian Smith, playing off 5 with 37 Stableford Points; the next three places were tied and the winners only separated by count-back. Brian McAllister was second; Colin McLellan was third and last years Winner George McGraw, came in fourth.

As an early date for your diaries next year, the Golf is *likely* to be played on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of September, again the day before our first monthly lunch of the 2009 Autumn Session. Make sure that you take note of the date now. Surely, with this advance warning we can ensure a bigger turnout next time.



Ian Smith- winner is congratulated by Alan McLellan



On the Course

B



Brian McAllister - runner up

## Memories of some teachers between 1947 and 1953.

My introduction to Glen's was when I came to take the Scholarship exam in May 1947. I had never been in a school building of this sort before, with galleries on two levels that made me think of descriptions I had read of prisons. Luck was with me, and I passed the exam. I even –God knows how – passed the “Mechanical Ability Test” the brainchild of “Psyche” mentioned in the last issue. I was the sole successful candidate from my Primary School that year, and only knew one boy in the entire school, who was two years ahead of me. I chose German as my language and duly entered Form 1b, the Latin and German pupils. Our teachers for German were **Gordon Milton** and “**Granny**” **Logan**, who also taught Maths.

Those were the last few years when Honours graduates were required to undertake two years in Primary teaching before moving to Senior Secondary to teach their specialities, a fact not known to the pupils. I visited my old school quite early in the first term and thought nothing of my Primary 7 teacher's interest in **Mr. Milton**. A few weeks later I realised what the purpose of the grilling had been, when the Languages department was augmented by a **Mr. Kelso**. He was replaced the following year by **Benny Linda**. My memories of language learning at Glen's are happy ones: Messrs. Milton, “**Fuzzy**” **Robertson** and Benny Linda were gifted teachers who could instil a love a language that lasted far beyond leaving school. Gordon Milton had a great flair for imparting the culture of the country whose language was being studied. His end-of-term outbursts of song, with him providing a violin accompaniment, were always great fun, but stuck in the memory. The other “treat” was his “Gedankenlesen” (Thought-reading) sessions, a sort of German version of “Twenty Questions” and the much later “What's my line?”. His advice as we were leaving school was, if you don't get the opportunity to speak the language buy the odd book, magazine or newspaper and read it thoroughly. I can vouch for the efficacy of this policy! I have worked quite a bit in Germany, and my Glen's training has never let me down. My wife is Bavarian, and, when we first met, she found it hard to believe that my German study had been entirely at school. Thank you, gentlemen!

Memories of Maths are less happy. The rather forbidding aspect of **Dr. Hood**, and his unwillingness to suffer fools, i.e. those not mathematically gifted, gladly did much to make Maths an ordeal for me. His own immense knowledge of his subject must have been inspiring for the mathematically talented, but something of a put-off for such as I. The two periods a week spent with “Granny” Logan were less frightening but not a great source of inspiration. Year 2 was, for two terms, a great improvement. **Miss Smith**, who we also had for Physics was our Maths teacher, and, these two terms were, for me, the age of enlightenment. Alas, it did not last: during the Easter holidays, if I remember correctly, she married **Mr. Sommerville, Alex. McKimmie's** future successor. Poor at Maths as I was, I did not become another Einstein!

Among the various teachers of whom I have quite vivid memories was “**Butch**” **Herd**, the History master. Something of a character, he was an incredible scholar and linguist with a deep love for his subject. A proto- Scot Nat, he made sure that Scottish history was not played down. Unlike Dr. Hood, he could communicate his knowledge and enthusiasm to the bulk of his pupils, occasionally when doing the Napoleonic Wars, aided by his knack for drawing ambidextrous “real time” blackboard diagrams of battles.

Another character was “**Big Bill**” **Ewing**, English teacher and a useful violinist in the School Orchestra, he had some memorable quotes that linger on in the memory. Selling tickets for the School Sports: “Tickets 3 pence for boys (embracing girls), or teaching us how to use a “dash” correctly: “Mary in the nude ran into the wood” for which we were enjoined to “Dash after Mary”.

**Gussie Hodge** was our Form 2 Form Master: a wonderful specimen of gifted eccentric whose thoughts on the Attlee government tended to replace R.I. Characters such as “Sir Stiffy Craps” and “Urine Bevan” replaced the figures of Old and New Testaments in Gussie's 20 minutes daily. Gussie's outbreaks of High Tory-ism would have made Gerald Warner fulminations in “Scotland on Sunday” seem rather rose!

**Willie “Grunter” Hunter, Head of Art**, was another character: a good teacher with a sharp eye and ready, dry wit. It was he who happily entered me for the Art Gallery Schools Competition. A day was spent at the Gallery painting a given stuffed beast. As I had done quite well the previous year in the Drawing section I felt quite confident. Some weeks later the end product reached the school, a psychedelic representation of a hyena. That was when my colour-blindness was first discovered. Mr. Hunter was an Orpheus Choir member, with a fine bass voice and the gift of perfect pitch, which made him a stalwart of the School Choir, especially in unaccompanied singing.

In Technical, **Angus Paris**, poor man, was my woodwork teacher. By his reckoning, my efforts over three years had required more wood than Columbus's ships. He was a competent violinist, and a luthier of some distinction. His father-in-law was Briggs, the violin maker in Renfrew Street, near where the RASAMD now stands.

Finally, a little about the man who shaped my career, TCF “**Tony**” **Miller**. Tony was a fine, versatile musician who put an enormous amount into his work with his pupils for Lower and Higher Grade Music. He could get some surprisingly good results in class singing: his ability to belt an offender with his right hand whilst accompanying the uninterrupted singing of the class with his left may have helped him achieve this. In music appreciation he was often successful in getting through to those who thought they were not interested. His rather wide ranging choice of works for these sessions was a contributory factor. I was picked for the junior Choir early in Form 1, and managed to hold on to a place in it as a second alto until two years later. By the time I elected to take Higher Music, my voice and settled fairly well and I joined the Tenors of the Senior Choir. I had also, by this time, played violin for two years or so in the School Orchestra and had got to know Tony quite well, and reckoned I could learn a lot from him.

I was right! He gave me a grounding in rudiments, harmony, counterpoint, aural training and sight-singing that, literally, gave me a two year advantage when I entered the RSAMD. He aroused an interest in music history that, thirty years later, was to become an important part of my academic work at Napier. I was fortunate enough to be able to keep music in my timetable in Sixth Form as prep. for the RSAMD. Tony gave me a very free hand with the orchestra, allowing me to arrange for it and to hear the end results, (the pieces played at the School Centenary Show in the Citizens' Theatre). It was this great opportunity that led to my doing my first professional arrangements a mere couple of years later.

When I was about to leave school, Tony felt that I needed a better violin for my studies, a sound piece of advice. Typical of the man was the fact that he did not merely offer good advice, but suited the action to the word by generously giving me the violin that had belonged to his only son, who was killed in action in WW2. That instrument is still in regular use and has been played professionally in many orchestras over the past 55 years. Sadly, I lost touch with Tony when I left Glasgow and have often wondered what happened to him in his retirement. If anyone knows I would be grateful for any information.

- Fred Fraying-Kelly

## YET MORE STAFF REMINISCENCES - from Ian Cumming

Encouraged and pleasantly surprised by the favourable reaction to my article in the July '08 issue, I have been emboldened, at the risk of boring our younger members, to recall some more staff members from that far-off and now legendary epoch of the 1940's. In my previous article, I probably covered most of the more egregious and outrageous characters, but there remain some others who are worthy of remembrance.

**Gordon Milton** for example. He came as a rude awakening to the Higher French group in 4A; we who had been accustomed to the relatively relaxed regime of Jimmy Logie and Miss Bosomworth. He was a real martinet, although a fine teacher. Any defaulting in home exercises was immediately and ruthlessly punished, much to our horror! He took us over the subsequent three years right up to University Bursary level in the language. We could read Racine and Molière by the time he had finished with us and use the subjunctive mood with ease, although we couldn't actually speak to a Frenchman! Language teaching was much more theoretical than practical in those days. By the time we were in fifth year, we learned how to distract him from the subject in hand by asking skilfully placed questions about his brother's experiences during the war. Gordon's brother won the North African campaign single-handedly, with perhaps a little help from General Montgomery, and we could spin the reminiscences out over a two-period lesson by judicious prompting. One boy, Ian Scarlett, was particularly adept at this (hello, Ian, are you reading this?), and kept up a running feud with Milton over several years. Both Ian and Milton had rather large nasal protuberances (sorry, Ian), and I still remember then locked nose-to-nose in confrontation:

Milton (in expansive mood), - "At Mont St. Michel, the tide runs out over 20 miles!"

Scarlett - "But, Sir, in that case the English Channel would be completely dry and you could walk to France".

Milton - "Shut up Scarlett, I've forgotten more than you'll ever know!"

Then there was **Wee Jimmy Hinds**. He really was Wee and could not be distinguished from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year boys without his white lab-coat. A nice wee guy, but at a disadvantage when wielding the Lochgelly

Also in Chemistry, there was **Andy Orr**. A bachelor in his 30's when we knew him with a real passion for the education of adolescent boys (if you follow my meaning). He led several school trips to Switzerland and introduced us in his Chemistry class to the wonders of the newly-introduced LP High Fidelity records, although stereo had yet to be invented. I remember the astonishment with which we heard a recording of "Carmen" in his lab one afternoon when we should have been studying valency or Le Chatelier's Principle. Such purity of sound and no trace of the background "hiss" which plagued the old "78's" with which we were familiar. He was a true "educator" in the original sense - a leader-out of youth, but I fear he would not have lasted long in to-day's milieu.

**"Doc" Gregory** - "The Pope". Another martinet, but a real scientist He taught physics and was reputed amongst us to have worked with Soddy or Rutherford in his youth and helped isolate one of the more recondite Lanthanides or Actinides in the Glory Days of Nuclear Physics in the 20's and 30's. It later transpired that he did not aspire to the "Dr. at all, but a good teacher for all that.

And **Dr. Hood** in Mathematics. A real Doctor this time who had been shell-shocked in the First War. A severe and magisterial teacher, slow and robotic in his movements, but deadly with the tawse. His only outstanding characteristic was an ability to draw a perfect circle on the blackboard, standing at arm's length.

"Repeat that pro -pos - ition, boy" Whack, Whack! I was adept at mimicking him, but not in his presence of course!

**"Biff" Ewan (or Ewing)** came to us after the war from the Army Education Corps and proceeded to "cram" us for the Highers and the Bursary. He carried over the techniques he had learned in the Forces into higher education. It was a revelation to us to be addressed for the first time in class as "gentlemen" and treated to some extent as adults, and on the whole we reacted favourably. He was a large, bluff hearty man, and like Gordon Milton could be sidetracked by careful prompting to digress from the subject in hand into his war-time experiences although in this case these were his own and not his brother's. He covered three or four of the commoner Shakespeare plays, Hamlet, Macbeth, Caesar, and Lear, and a selection of the trusty sonnets and epics, priming us with answers to all the likely exam questions, and making us memorise soliloquies and salient snatches of poetry. Maybe not in the best literary tradition, but most of us got our Higher English, and some the University bursary.

During my time at the School, many of the exclusively male staff of the pre-war years (with the exception of the two redoubtable ladies in the "Q" classes whose names I have sadly forgotten) were off fighting the Hun. As a result, a number of ladies joined the "faculty" as the Americans would say, and this was unprecedented in the history of Glen's. I have already mentioned Miss **Bosomworth** in a previous article, but there were a number of other stalwart, and may I say courageous, ladies who ventured into the lions' den. There was **Margaret Herbison** who was with us for some of the War years. She never taught me English, but I got the impression of an eminently sensible and competent young lady. Later, she was elected to Parliament in the first election after the war, and might even have entered the Cabinet in those momentous post-war years.

**Rita Smith**, another war-time lady in the Mathematics department. A confirmed spinster in our eyes, although she was probably in her early thirties. A lovely gentle lady who later married **John B. Somerville**. Sadly, she died young.

**Mrs. Holland** in Physics, probably in her mid-twenties, when her husband was reported missing in the Far East while she was at the School. During a physics class, and I can remember the lesson to this day - she was demonstrating thermal expansion with the "Ball and Ring" experiment (much ribald sniggering among the class), - she was called out by the Heidie to be told that her husband was safe. She returned to the lab and continued the experiment, which says much for young womanhood of that time.

And then, there was that gorgeous young lady, again whose name I have forgotten, who was assistant to "Grunter" Hunter and **Tony the Wide Boy in Art**. She was exotic in appearance, and even "Bohemian" in her dress with fashionably short skirts This was before the mid-calf "New Look" came in. She would perch herself on a high stool, legs crossed, before a class of lustful 15-year-olds and lecture us on the History of Art. Never were so many pencils and rubbers dropped on the floor!

I could go on and on, but I am reluctant to try your patience any longer. It is hard to believe that all these characters and events that I have recalled exist now only in my mind and date from six decades in the past. How many memories are locked away in the hard drive of my mind, instantly accessible while my short-term working memory has become so corrupted that I have difficulty remembering what I did this time last week!

*Iain Cumming.*

## Note from David J. Hunter

A few other who come to mind are:

“**Paddy**” **Inglis** – English

“**Jimmy**” **McLean** – Physics

? **Fogo** – gym teacher

**Dan Currie** – Geography, also part time disc jockey in Lochranza during summer holidays. I believe he went on bigger things!

On **John B. Somerville**, I was on intimate terms with his personal Lochgelly on several occasions, all due to a missing cap on the walk up from Central station. J.B. who lived in Cardross, would arrive at Queen Street station on the Helensburgh train, then creep up behind us innocent young souls and scream “My office – NOW! “ I swear he must have hidden up a close in wait. Almost fifty years on I still hate to wear a cap or hat.

## Note from John Pearce

Knowing Ian Cumming from way back - we were both graduates from Hillington Primary School- I really appreciated his staff reminiscences.

Ian was a very bright pupil (blushes from Ian), but even he fell foul of staff brutality. Brutality is quite a strong description of teachers anti-pupil attitude, but it certainly applied when I was sentenced to four years “hard” at Castle D’if.

I well remember all of the warder cast as described by J.W.C., although I can add a few of my own. The Dangleberry referred to may have been **Mr Sutherland** .! (known to me as Dangles), a very fair character. He was I think an ex RAF type - he was later killed in a car accident. A **Mr Henderson** was a fairly mild character who taught French. There were very few camp guards with humanitarian attitudes, but one or two spring to mind.

**Mr James (Jimmy) Ross** who taught English, was a more pleasant member of the Establishment as were messrs **Cowan, Brookes and Hunter** of the Art Department.

I must have been one of “the few” to have been belted by our benign (?) headmaster. I was falsely accused of smoking and gambling in the tenement closes adjacent to the school. There was also a veiled mutter of “school office fire”. Considering that I was a choir boy and a member of The Boy Scouts, I felt somewhat aggrieved at the charges. I When my parole time came up, I flipped two fingers to Allan’s Glen’s School, ran down Montrose Street (stopping at Mrs Cherries shop) and bolted for FREEDOM.

Apart from a wonderful Two Years of National Service with the Per Ardua ad Astra mob, I spent most of my life providing Teaching Aids to Education - funny old life. Membership of Allan Glen’s School Club, and the Newsletter of course has awakened many memories.

Did anybody ever use the unsanitary outside toilets for “number twos ?” I have cause to blame those conditions on later life “constipational problemos” Onwards and upwards!

John Pearce 1949/53 – the lost years.

## Note from Donald Fraser

I was at Allan Glen’s QC to 5B 1949-1956

I remember:

### Mr Ralph.

Maths & Physics. Teaching Physics he would set a question and while you tried to work it out he would be smashing his belt down on the end of the lab bench. I still have panic attacks.

Tombstone Campbell.

Maths. Addressing me and my like - “Dizzy dumpling” and “You will end up on the Parish.”

### ’Butch’ Herd.

History. I was the sole pass in Higher History in 1956 in the ‘Highers’. He was both a Scottish Nationalist and a Classics scholar. Left me with an abiding fascination for history that earned me a PhD in later (Australian) life. Told me in 1956 that there was no point in my going on to study history at university as “you have neither Latin nor Greek!”

### Mr Stein.

French. Always immaculate in three piece suit. A cruel belter.

### Mr Abercrombie.

Book Binding. Took us for morning bible study. I remember we were reciting 1 Corinthians chapter 13, which is about love, round the class. You had to know the next verse or you got belted!

## Note from Gregor Egan

Very interesting newsletter. Especially the memories of the teachers skilled at “inter-ballistic missiles” with whatever was in their hands at the time.

**Benny Linda** I remember was particularly skilled with a duster.

Speaking of projectiles, it reminds me of the occasion when **Hodgson** in the woodwork shop turned white in an instant. The practice of fitting a large sanding disc into the jaws of the lathe would not be allowed today but in the 50’s it was OK. In spite of repeated warnings to start the lathe up slowly through each of the four gears and never to put it directly into top gear from stop the inevitable happened. The initial kick from the motor as it went into top speed caused the sanding wheel to unscrew from the boss in the chuck and it shot across the room and embedded itself in the blackboard. Fortunately it missed everyone in the room.

Hodgins warnings always came with a bit of humour. On the lathe he would frequently caution against leaning in on the chisel otherwise “there would be a wee heid doon there (pointing to the floor) singing “I ain’t got nobody”. Happy days.

Another of his favourite statements was “Son, I could make a better joint than that wi’ a knife and fork!”

## HOME SWEET HOME

As photographs of Allan Glen's School Club events prove only too vividly, we are all getting on a bit. They bring back old memories and I have done my share of re-kindling the past – meeting and becoming a friend of my 1940s football idol, the Rangers goalkeeper Bobby Brown, and driving a Glasgow tram at the National Tram Museum at Crich to name but two.

Schooldays are, of course, a source of many memories but it is over fifty years since I was a pupil at Glens from 1949 until 1955 before going on to University. Many of the staff I remember will be familiar to OBs – Messrs Gregory, Hinds, Linda, Fleming, Sinclair, Campbell (Geography), Arnold, Somerville (English), Boyd, Inglis, Ewing, Lambie, Orr, Ralph, Somerfield, Aikman, Hill, Monteith – to name a few, not all recalled with the same degree of affection!

Thoughts of former homes also come to the fore. I had lived all of my early life in a flat in the Broomhill district of Glasgow except for a brief sojourn with my grandmother at Knightswood at the beginning of the war. My parents later moved to Bearsden then, three months later and with my degree scroll clutched in my sticky hand, I left home for Coventry to begin my working life with the General Electric Company. I moved around England with various companies and have been settled in King's Lynn, Norfolk since 1977.

In recent times, I have envisaged visiting my old home and, in the summer of 2007, I decided it was time to turn wishes into action and wrote to the occupants of my parents' former flat. There was no reply. I thought it would help if I could find the name of the occupants so that I could phone and explain my quest. To my intense frustration, I learned that although I could walk into Partick library and look up the electoral roll, the information was only available via a personal visit. Did someone say the law is an ass?

I related my story to Mike McCreery when he visited me in Norfolk and he thought there was probably an AGS Club member living near Partick library who would look up the information for me – an unplanned benefit of membership! Generous help from an OB was offered but meanwhile, an old friend who still lived in Broomhill and knew of my desire, told me that he had seen a "To let" board at the flat and he gave me the agent's phone number.

A call to the company explaining my wish was well received. New tenants were about to move in and the agent offered to speak to them on my behalf. As a result, I was invited to visit the flat last summer.

The red, sandstone block that included my old home was built in 1901 and my grandparents had been the first tenants in one flat at the opposite end of the building to my parent's top floor flat which had a superb view over open land to the district of Hyndland.

On reaching the close, my first surprise was to find the concrete stairs covered in some kind of plastic material in a design that looked straight out of the Laura Ashley catalogue! Ugh! However, I eagerly climbed the 72 steps to my old home where my wife and I were given a friendly welcome to the flat, 49 years after I last lived there.

Big shocks awaited me! Walking through the door, I found myself in a much reduced hall before being ushered into what had been the bedroom but was now the communal lounge. I learned that the flat was now home to three separate tenants who shared the lounge, bathroom and a kitchen that had been created by taking some of the hall and a part of our old living room. The remainder of the living room had become a bedroom and the big front room, which previously was only ever used on high days and holidays, had been divided into two bedrooms. My wife, an English rose, was fascinated by the fact that my "room" was, in effect, a cupboard off the front room although that was now part of the new hall. Each room had once had its own fireplace but they had been removed and central heating installed.

The two tenants we met were recent graduates of the dental school but were not Glaswegians so they were keen to hear what the flat had been like in my day. I sketched out the layout as I remembered it and recommended a visit to the Tenement House Museum in Buccleuch Street. They would see a similar flat in its original configuration with the bathroom/toilet and living room/kitchen to the right of the front door and the bedroom and front room on the left.

My visit took me back in time and re-awakened fond memories in a visit that will never be repeated

I relayed my story to another AGS old boy who told me of a similar visit he and his wife had made to his old home in another part of the city. Like me, he had some surprises when he saw "improvements" in his old home – but, as I did, he accepted that time moves on.

Neither of us regrets our visits but maybe nostalgia isn't what it used to be? Now if only the old school building with its draughty classrooms remained .....

Ron Miller JP

## Professor James Murray BSc. ARTC, CEng., FIEE, FIMechE, FIMgt. 1930 - 2008



Jimmy Murray died on 10 October from a massive heart attack while on holiday in Switzerland with his son, Alastair and daughter-in-law Christine.

James Murray was brought up in the Tollcross district of Glasgow. In 1942 he won a scholarship to Allan Glen's School and attended the school until 1948. This was very much in line with the Allan Glen ethos as Jimmy's parents ran a newsagents shop in London Road opposite Belvidere Hospital. In addition to a fine academic career he was also Vice-Captain of the School and Captain of Greyfriars, and was capped at both rugby and cricket. On leaving school he studied mechanical engineering at the Royal Technical College, graduating BSc (Hons) from Glasgow University in 1952. During his student days he played rugby for the F.Ps. On graduating he became employed by Ferranti Ltd; and played rugby for Lismore and refereed until age 50 with George Heriot's.

Jim married Emmy in 1955 and in 1960 changed career to become lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Heriot Watt College, later moving to Napier College as head of the Production Engineering department. Under his leadership his department gained prestige for its work in automation and robotics.

During his time at Napier he was for seven years Dean of the Business School before becoming Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

When the College became a University he was made Professor, and he was Vice-Principal for a time before retiring in 1995, having won great respect in the academic world for his work in the development of Production Engineering as an academic discipline, and in his

role in the development of Napier from College to University. In retirement he was a trustee of the National Museums of Scotland; and a member of the Rotary Club of Edinburgh.

Jim was very proud of the fact that he was born in Auchenshuggle in sight of the tram depot. This was possibly why he had a lifelong interest in locomotives and tramways, and was a popular speaker on both subjects.

He was a member of Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club since its inauguration in 1953, and its President in 1972-4. He was President of the Allan Glen's School Club in 1998-2000.

Sadly his wife died in 2001; he is survived by his son Alastair, daughter Christine and four grandchildren.

## Ladies Lunch

On Friday 10 October, we held our second **Ladies Lunch at The Strathclyde Business School**. It was very well-attended, forty-nine sat down to an excellent lunch, they can accommodate fifty, so we ran it to the limit.

The general consensus\* was, that it was an entirely successful event, so our thanks to the examples set by the Bishopbriggs Ladies Lunches and, "from the mists of time," by our Edinburgh Club.

Mike McCreery gave a very interesting insight into **The Scottish Cinema Organ Trust (SCOT)** and the work that has been undertaken to re-site the only working Cinema Wurlitzer Organ in Scotland from Clydebank to The Pollokshaws Burgh Halls in Pollokshaws Road.

Appended are the dates, times and entry cost of proposed concerts in the immediate future.

## SCOT Concert Dates at Pollokshaws Burgh Hall

**The official Inauguration of the Wulitzer Organ - Grand Opening Concert**

Simon Gledhill, David Gray and Guest Star Saturday 8 November 7:30 PM.

Sunday 14 December 2008 at 2:45 PM - Duncan Sinclair's Christmas Special

25 January Phil Kelsall (from the Tower Ballroom Blackpool)

More details at [www.scottishcinemaorgantrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcinemaorgantrust.org.uk) or e-mail/ phone Mike McCreery

Entry cost is £6 for a concert of about 2 hours. Monthly concerts are normally on Sundays at 2:45PM

## Allan Glen's Old Bikers Club

Due to the great 'popularity' of motorcycling within our membership, and our concerns with energy conservation a new section is to be established within the Club.

The two founding members are Ian Cumming and Mike McCreery - seen pictured here with their machines (old bikes).

We would like to hear if there are any other bike-riding members in the Club who would like to join this very elite group. Contact either Ian Cumming or Mike McCreery - details in the directory list. Pictures of bikes and bikers especially welcome.



Minutes of the Allan Glen's School Club Special  
General Meeting held in Chesters, University of  
Strathclyde on 25 September 2008

Present: President A. McLellan and 25 members; in attendance Morag Campbell, partner in McClure Naismith, solicitors

Apologies: Apologies were received from 127 members

President's  
Remarks:

Welcome to this Special General Meeting to propose the motion previously advised to you by email on 27 August 2008 and also posted on the same date. This somewhat lengthy process was started by our Late-President John Campbell, was vigorously supported by him and has been continued by Presidents Kelly, Macdonald and myself, hopefully, we are reaching the end of the road.

The Allan Glen's School Club Trust incorporated in 1968 is the Trust which controls the Playing Fields at Bishopbriggs known as The Bearyards and the lease of the ground to the Allan Glen's Sports Club. It is clear with the declining numbers of former pupils of our School that this Trust will inevitably fail and to this end it was determined to make application to the Court of Session for *cy pres* variation of the Trust Deeds. In layman terms a *cy pres scheme* is one where the original conditions have become impossible to follow, the new scheme follows the original scheme as closely as possible.

In tandem with the above application it was decided to pursue the sale of a part of the Bearyards, subject to planning and other consents and, in order to minimise Capital Gains on any such sale of land it was determined that we should seek charitable status for this new trust through the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR.). The plot of land extends to approximately one acre along the side of Kirkintilloch Road. This plot should not encroach upon the first XV pitch.

The 1968 Trust distributes monies from time to time to the School Club to enable the School Club to subsidise activities undertaken by the Club on behalf of you the Membership: The Annual Dinner; The Monthly Lunches; The Annual Golf Outing and any other events your Committee feel to be appropriate.

Under Charitable Status Regulations the new Trust would no longer be able to fund such events and so there is an application being made to the Court of Session to make an amount of money available to set up a fund within the Allan Glen's School Club in order to continue this support.

I shall not try to explain in detail the four objects being placed before you this evening that is better elucidated by Morag Campbell, Partner in our lawyers, M/s McClure Naismith.

Four objects of  
the Trust:

Ms Campbell advised that the late President, J. Campbell had discussed with her the various legal options which should be investigated once there was an insufficient number of former pupils to form a committee and Trustees for the 1968 Trust. It was to that end that counsel's opinion was sought and obtained on the various changes which would be required to fulfil the original objects of the Allan Glen's endowment.

Morag Campbell commented on the four objects of the Trust.

For the purposes of the objects set out below:

"Charitable Purposes" means purposes which are exclusively charitable within the meaning and for the purposes of sections 505 and 506 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and any amendment, extension or re-enactment thereof or subordinate legislation made under such provisions; and

"Charity Test" means the test whether purposes are charitable purposes prescribed by s 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and any amendment, extension or re-enactment thereof or subordinate legislation made under such provisions.

The proposed objects and purposes of the Trust are:

The Trustees shall hold and apply the Trust Estate as they in their absolute discretion shall think fit for the following objects and purposes, that is to say:-

1. in perpetuating the memory of Allan Glen through the dissemination, propagation and carrying into effect of his ideas and ideals as these related to the provision of wide-ranging secondary and tertiary education with a scientific and technological bias in such manner as is of public utility as the Trustees may see fit. The Trustees shall, so long as Allan Glen's School Club's members who are fully paid up number above 50, at reasonable intervals consult and give due consideration to any views expressed by the Committee or, if so advised, resolution of the members of Allan Glen's School Club as to the general manner of application of the Trust Estate pursuant hereto and shall be entitled, but not bound, so to consult in respect of any particular application.

2. to promote and advance the scholastic, social and material welfare of young people in full time education and in particular, but without prejudice to that generality, to do that by providing or affording financial and other support to those engaged in or in the provision of education with an emphasis on science and technology and/or with a view to the eventual attainment of engineering, scientific or cognate qualifications for such young people.
3. for the advancement of the education of young people and in particular, but without prejudice to that generality, for such advancement by the promotion of social, cultural and sporting activities for the benefit of young people under the age of 22.
4. to pay and make over any part or all of the Trust Estate to the trustees of trusts or the officers of organisations having purposes cognate to those set forth at (1), (2) and/or (3) above and in particular to the Scholarship Trustees of the Scholarship Trust to be administered for the purposes of the Scholarship Trust under the Scholarship Trust Deed; provided always that the purposes of any such trust and/or organisation and/or the Scholarship Trust shall at the time of so paying or making over be exclusively Charitable Purposes and exclusively purposes which satisfy the Charity Test. Which objects and purposes shall receive effect only in such manner and to such extent as is consistent with the Trust administered under the Scheme being administered for Charitable Purposes and satisfying and continuing to satisfy the Charity Test.

Counsel was reasonably confident that the Court of Session would agree to the proposed new Trust as an appropriate change to the original trust deeds. There might be slightly more difficulty with regard to the Charity Commissioners but this was not considered to be insurmountable.

In order to continue the current support of the Club by the Trust it was proposed that the sum of £150,000 after tax would be invested to provide for the continuing support of the School Club. When the School Club was wound up any remaining sum would be transferred to the new charitable trust.

The proposal before the membership is to set up two new Trusts – one charitable and the other to continue support of the School Club as long as necessary.

Discussions:

Considerable discussions then ensued regarding the proposed changes, the provisions of the new Trusts, charitable status and the life expectancy of the School Club.

N. Kilpatrick asked what the possible life expectancy of the School Club was – estimated to be 35 – 40 years.

D. Lindsay raised the question of the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) relating to the sale of the property and whether it would be possible to separate the £150,000 from the rest of the sale price. One possibility was not to continue with the proposed charitable Trust and simply to accept that CGT would have to be paid on the whole sum realised. This would have the effect of the trustees no longer having to abide by the current onerous charity regulations.

D. Shaw asked about the implications for the Sports Club. The President advised that the committee of the Sports Club were aware of the discussions which were taking place. There was the possibility of sums of money being made available to improve and extend the facilities at the Bearyards. In due course a new lease would require to be signed between the Trustees and the Sports Club.

J. Kelly requested that an unofficial indication be made of the members present as to the whether or not charitable status should be sought, based on the current limited information – members were split 50/50.

The President then proposed a vote on the following motion:

The four objects of the trust as previously circulated with the additional provision that the School Club Committee and the Trustees would take advice on the issue of charitable status and would be given authority to decide accordingly.

The motion was then presented to the members and it was agreed unanimously.

N. Kilpatrick proposed a vote of thanks to Ms Campbell and the members of the committee.

The President thanked the members and advised that the members would be kept informed as to the progress of the various submissions.

***Following the meeting, it was decided to withdraw the application to OSCR for Charitable Status pro tem, pending further clarification.***