



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter June 2012

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Editorial

Many thanks for all your letters and good wishes for a speedy recovery following my recent fall in South Africa at the back end of last year. I am gradually returning to a fair degree of mobility but far too slowly for my liking. The older you are, the longer it takes !!

Those who are interested will note that the Golf Outing is to be played at Pollok on WEDNESDAY 12 September and not on the Thursday as is normal, because the course is booked for a major Shotgun event on the Thursday. Of course if you are coming from some distance and can arrange a stopover, you will be very welcome to the Monthly Lunch at the Mercure (renamed from the Ramada.)

The last item (Page 8) in the Newsletter is a poster, produced by Sir Kenneth Calman with information on the early life and schooling of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Sir Kenneth Calman (1954 - 1959) will be presenting it to the National Trust for Scotland and the CRM Society at Hill House in Helensburgh, hopefully before the next edition of the Newsletter in September and we will be able to produce some photographs of the event.

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>Wednesday 12th September 2012 -</i> | <i>Annual Golf Outing</i> | <i>- Pollok Golf Club</i> |

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

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2012 Committee



David Tanner
Vice President



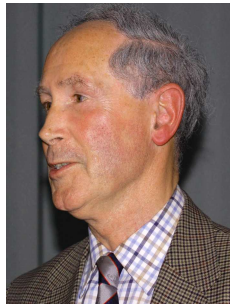
Gregor Egan
Immediate Past President



Dr Ian Dale
Secretary



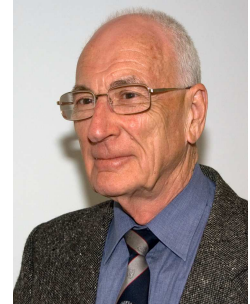
Mike McCreery
Treasurer and Memberships



Ross Graham
Accounts Audit



Alan McLellan
Newsletter Editor



Gordon Day
Lunch Convenor



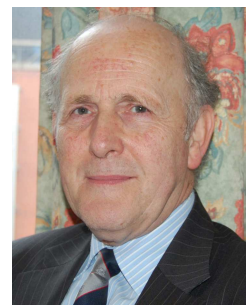
John Cochrane
Moneyspinner Draw



Lt Col John Kelly
Education Trust



John Bolton
Annual Dinner



Allan McLaren
Property



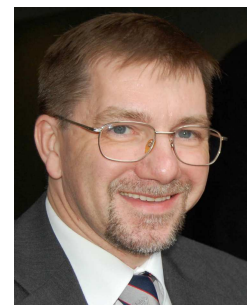
George Smith
Recruitment



Ian Valentine
Education Trust



Bob Leckie
Sports Club



Callan Dick
Webmaster



Ian McLennan



Tom Bell
Sales



Craig Downie

Visit to the AFRC

At 2.00pm on Thursday afternoon of the 12th April, I met ten Club members at the Advanced Forming Research Centre at Inchinnan where Dr Colin Harrison, Research Fellow gave us a PowerPoint presentation about the activities of the centre and its future objectives. This was followed by a tour of the facility conducted by another Research Fellow, Mr Prashant Jadhav who explained the manufacturing capability and metrology facilities at Inchinnan.

For those members who are unfamiliar with the role and work of the AFRC I think the following information from their own website gives a succinct description: -

The Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC) is a partnership of the University of Strathclyde's department of Design, Manufacture and Engineering Management (DMEM), the Mechanical Engineering department and global industrial manufacturing companies.

Building on the University of Strathclyde's 25 years experience in this field, the AFRC will further Research & Development activities related to the following processes and techniques:

- *Metal forming processes, e.g. forging, pressing, super plastic forming etc;*
- *Primary techniques, e.g. plastic deformation and flow;*
- *Supporting technologies, e.g. heat treatment;*
- *Supply chain issues, e.g. materials quality and purity;*
- *Processes, e.g. die manufacture and lubricants;*
- *Design of tooling, e.g. modelling.*

One club member, Murdo Kennedy (1952) who had travelled up from Cheshire to take part in the visit was particularly interested in passing on some of his own information on co-extrusions of copper on aluminium and had a separate meeting with Dr Rosochowska at the end of the visit. (A copy of his e-mail regarding his discussions is attached below.)

A lively exchange of information took place towards the end of the meeting and Murdo MacGregor introduced Prashant to some specialist Glasgow engineering technical terminology regarding surface finishes such as "rough as a badger's a**e" and "smooth as a babies b****m".

All in all it was an extremely interesting visit and we are indebted to Professor Scott MacGregor for making the arrangements and to Drs' Harrison, Jadhav and Rosochowska for their careful attention and consideration.

Gregor Egan



E-mail from Murdo Kennedy: -

Hi Gregor

I really enjoyed our visit to AFRC on 12 April and was received very kindly by Dr Rosochowska.

There is certainly no specific interest or suitable extrusion equipment currently at AFRC and it may be that this co-extrusion work may be of more interest for in a teaching environment. Perhaps you may wish to follow this up with your Strathclyde contacts.

Meeting with Lord Provost & Deacon Convenor Elect.

Through the good offices of John Kelly, Deacon Convenor Elect of the Trades House (**Allan Glen's School 1962-1967**) we were able to arrange a meeting on Tuesday 1 May, with the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Bob Winter (**Allan Glen's School 1949-1954.**) Also present were, our President Ronnie Wright and the Editor of the Newsletter, (photo-graph taken by Mike McCreery).

The fact that the First & Third Citizens of our splendid City attended the same school is a unique distinction. (The Second Citizen is Lord Dean of Guild of the Merchant's House of Glasgow.)

The Lord Provost attended Dunard Street Primary School before **Allan Glen's School** and had received a delegation of pupils from his first School that very day.

Lord Provost Winter has the unique distinction of being the longest serving holder of that office since its inception in the 1450's.



Ralph Cowan - Update

News from Diane, Ralph Cowan's daughter is that all Ralph's paintings are now preserved in the Nitshill store of Glasgow Galleries and Museums.

It seems that public access to this facility is possible and I hope that by the next Newsletter, I will be able to provide details of how this can be done. There is also a possibility of being able to view these images on line at some time in the future as they took over 400 pictures of his work.

The Museum's people have also been working on audio and video recordings that were made of Ralph, but, as yet we do not know how these will be accessed.

Mike McCreery

George Kerr 15/10/1948 -24/3/2012



It is with deep regret and sadness that I have to convey the sudden death of George Kerr, or “Wee Geordie” as he was known to his friends.

George, born in Glasgow, went to Allan Glen’s in August 1961. I got to know George in S3 when put into the same History class and this started a long and lasting friendship. Hard working, he loved school and had one absence in six years, a record ?

In 5th and 6th years George became involved in producing the school magazine under Alastair “Paddy” Inglis. Keen to go to University he went to Glasgow in 1967 to study History - his favourite subject. George gained his Honours Degree in History and graduated in 1971.

After graduating he decided to take a sabbatical year as a porter at the Tyndrum Hotel to “recharge his batteries” before he took on a “real job”. George always had a laid-back approach to life ! In 1972 George went to Jordanhill College to train as a History teacher.

After graduation in 1973 to his retiral in 2007 he taught in a variety of secondary schools. George started in John Street and ended in King’s Park with most of his career in Lochend and Garthamlock (where he worked under his former teacher Nicol “Dan” Currie.) Enthusiastic and hard working he became renowned for his lesson preparation and delivery to ensure his beloved History was exciting and interesting.

At University George had become more confident and gregarious by building on school friends especially Ronnie Keenan, Glen Miller, Ian Stewart, Bill Copeland and Jim Dick- a friendship that would become a constant in our lives. Teaching expanded George’s circle of friends. This is not surprising as he brought humour, encyclopaedic knowledge and a happy-go-lucky and optimistic frame of mind to any social event. With his friends George shared his loves – holidays at home and abroad, theatre, film, music and food, especially curries. A monthly curry and pint or two with the aforementioned became the norm throughout George’s life. His “interests’ list” had no end, except for new technology. Two years ago Glen Miller gave George a computer and set it up for him. We never received a single e-mail!

But there was another side to George – a quiet but competitive streak. He tackled the most difficult prize-winning crosswords and a variety of quizzes (some of them at Bishopbriggs lunches). Talented as he was George never boasted far less told of his successes. This quiet, unassuming side of George can be summed up by a letter from the BBC. He had, unknowingly to friends, taken part in a live national radio music quiz. He reached the semi- final and was beaten by one question on pop music. The BBC judge informed George in a letter that he had never come across anyone who could match his knowledge of classical music.

Even in his last few weeks in hospital George lived his double life. To nurse or visitor he was always stoical, jocular and optimistic. Privately, he entered a competition in the Spectator but, this time, never found out he had won £20. George was indeed “ a Man you don’t meet every day”.

George remained single throughout his life but will be missed by his cousin, Carrie, and his wider family and friends. It goes without saying that for Ronnie, Glen, Ian, Bill and myself curry nights will not be the same.

Jim Dick

Correspondence from Old Boys

Hi Alan

I was pleased to read John Conely's warm appreciation of Andy Wilkie (1949-2011) in your March newsletter. It brought back many fond memories. Andy was indeed multi-talented and very warm-hearted. John rightly pointed (among many other things) to Andy's chess talent; and, in doing so, he also touched on the important role played by maths teacher, Jack Goldin, in the early-mid 1960s, in helping the school develop into the largest and strongest school club in Scotland and one that was comparable to the best anywhere in the UK at the time.

Andy, I and very many others, owe Jack Goldin (who died in 1996) a huge debt of gratitude for his support and inspiration. I am sure that Andy (and all of us) would have liked to have expressed this more than we probably managed to do when we were very much younger. Reading this part of John's eulogy has finally jogged me to record my own belated public thanks to Ian Dale and Mike McCreery of the AGS Club for helping me track down Jack Goldin's surviving son and daughter a few years ago (via an obscure international family website).

I had wanted to acknowledge Jack's place in the school's and in my own chess development in a recent book of mine: "Chess for Rookies" (Everyman Chess) and to present him or his descendants with a signed copy. Jack's son (living in Glasgow) and his daughter (now in Australia) now both have a signed copy of my book, which contains an appropriate sentence or two in the book's "Acknowledgements". Without the AGS Club's help, I might never have tracked them down. Thanks again.

Craig Pritchett (Dunbar)

Dr James Caldwell Smith - 30 April 2012

Dear Mike and Alan,

I regret to have to inform you that Jimmy Smith died on 22 April and that his funeral took place to-day. Alistair Brown and I were both present, although there may well have been other Glen's former pupils in attendance who I did not know/recognise. Thank you.

Kind regards, George Ewart.

The other email. We have old friends in Pretoria, and in the light of your eventful visit, we will opt for a "local" holiday. I have lived quite a colourful life, and have quite a few un-boring recollections.

Like the late Prof H.B. Sutherland, I joined a Glasgow company (Robt McTears) and spent more than a few weeks pounding Glasgow pavements delivering letters to Insurance companies.

I eventually aspired to a very junior auction sales clerk. National Service in the RAF released me for two years of excitement and travel overseas.

When I returned to "civvy street" and auction sales clerking, I thought that there were wider horizons to explore -

If you wish me to add some amusement to AG Newsletters, I will oblige.

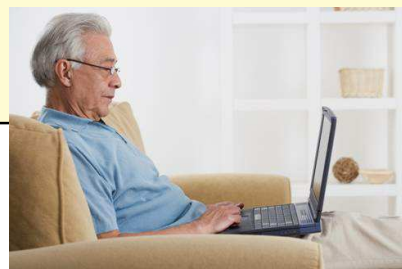
I would presume that your blood pressure has been checked along with blood tests etc, and I wish you a full recovery. I would also suggest that your alcohol intake should be increased by factor (?)

You will now have my email address of - john.pearce70@talktalk.co.uk

Regards

John Pearce - bit of a renegade.

A BLOKE SAT IN HIS ARMCHAIR & SHOUTS TO HIS WIFE "WHEN I DIE I'M GOING TO LEAVE EVERYTHING TO YOU LOVE!"



SHE SHOUTS BACK "YOU ALREADY DO YOU LAZY BASTARD !! "

Annual Golf Outing 2012

The annual golf outing will be held at Pollok on **Wednesday 12th September 2012, teeing off at 2.00pm. The cost is £40 per player, inclusive of high tea. If you do not want to play but wish to attend the high tea and prize-giving the cost is £15.**

If you are intending to be there please e-mail to----- brian@fizin.com.

April Lunch at the Corinthian

In April, the Mercure had us double booked and arranged, at our normal cost to host the dinner in the very grand surroundings in the Corinthian - just a few doors away from the Mercure.

It was a nice change, but enquiries showed that this not an affordable venue for us on a regular basis.

A very succesful Ladies lunch was held in the Mercure on Friday 11th May 2012



The Mystery Medal

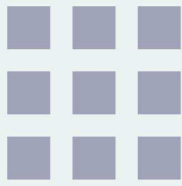


This Sports medal was recent ly sent to me by John Davidson (1956-1961).

As yet no one has been able to identify what it was for - in the middle of the First World War and in France!

Anyone got a clue?

Mike McCreery



AN ARCHITECT'S SCHOOLING

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH first went to school in 1875 at Reid's Public School but in 1877, at the age of nine, he transferred to Allan Glen's School. The school's founder, Allan Glen, had been a wright in Glasgow and made money through property. On his death in 1850, he left over £20,000 to establish a school to give a practical, technical and business education to 40-50 boys, the sons of tradesmen and business people.

This emphasis on scientific and technical subjects suited the young Mackintosh perfectly. Although formal schooling usually ended at the age of fourteen, Charles was allowed to stay on for another two years, which enabled him to learn woodwork, metalwork and technical drawing. He also enrolled for evening classes at the Glasgow School of Art.

Mackintosh's formal education ended in 1884 when he became an articled apprentice with architect John Huthcheson at 107 St Vincent Street, Glasgow.



Allan Glen's School: Reproduced with the permission of Glasgow Caledonian University Research Collection, The Heatherbank Social Work Collection (HMSWPL6484)