



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter December 2011

In This Issue

- Annual Dinner Report - Page 2
Tribute Lecture Report - Pages 3 and 4
Pictures from Moore Hislop - Page 5
Correspondence - Pages 6 to 8
Genealogy - Page 9

Editorial

This is the first remote Newsletter that Mike and I have attempted. Mike in Glasgow and me and my family 6,246 miles away in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. And, thanks to yourselves, I think it is, by and large, a success.

I know I keep making mention of it but, it has become a simple matter for Mike and I to take your emails, check for typos and assemble the articles into ten pages. In point of fact, it has frequently become a problem to place all the information in one edition. For instance, the contribution by Moore Hislop in the last Newsletter had to be separated from his excellent photos which are included in the current edition.

Congratulations to all of you, wherever you are and from wherever you contribute. My Family and I are off to the IRB Sevens in Port Elizabeth over the 9th and 10th of December.

Compliments of the Season to You All.

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Second Friday of the month -</i> | <i>Monthly Lunch - (0141 772 3756)</i> |
| <i>Last Friday of the month -</i> | <i>Bishopbriggs Lunch - (0141 357 0137)</i> |
| <i>AGM Monday 23rd April 2012 -</i> | <i>Mercure Hotel - Ingram Street</i> |
| <i>EOS Dinner ?? April 2012 -</i> | <i>Venue to be decided</i> |
| <i>Saturday 16th June 2012 -</i> | <i>Pitlochry Festival Theatre - EOS Club Event</i> |
| <i>Thursday 13th September 2012 -</i> | <i>Annual Golf Outing - Pollok Golf Club</i> |

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Annual Dinner - Trades House 26 November 2011

On a fairly wet, blustery night our Annual Dinner was held in the Trades Hall, Glasgow on Saturday 26 November. 110 members and guests were expected but due to illness and a late surge there was a net reduction of one. All ten at the Top Table had arrived in good time for the 7pm start so there were 109 sitting down to dinner having been piped in by Murdo MacGregor.

President Ronnie Wright and Vice-president David Tanner were joined at the Top Table by our Guest of Honour and Old Boy, James Hannah (class of 1952, School Captain, Rugby Captain, Athlete, Metallurgist and Industrialist); the Raconteur and Rector of The High School of Glasgow, Colin Mair; Robert Lambie, son of the late Iain Lambie; representatives of the Incorporation of Wrights; The Glasgow High School Club; Kelvinside Academical Club; The Sports Club and the East of Scotland Club. The other 6 tables seated 69 members and 30 guests. The President welcomed all present, introduced the Top Table and invited the Rev. Alan Garrity to say Grace. Grooms, the caterers, under the direction of Margaret, then served an excellent meal in their customary efficient manner. After the meal, toasts were proposed to 'The Queen' and '**Allan Glen**'. The Guest of Honour recalled being nominated by J. B. Somerville, Headmaster, for a place on a sponsored 2 month tour of Canada, which involved 40 boys from the UK, 8 of whom were from Scotland. Thus he spent two months of the summer of 1958 in that country, ending up at a lunch hosted by the then Canadian Prime Minister the late John Diefenbaker. Jim spoke of his time as a metallurgist at various large and small businesses and of how hard it had been to make a choice when moving from one to the other. Titanium had played a major part throughout his career in Scotland, Canada and the USA. In particular he had also to learn the difficulties of coping with cash flow problems when he was involved at smaller enterprises.

After the interval, proceedings were restarted by Vice-President David Tanner as the Piper was no longer to be found. He introduced Colin Mair with a CV many would be proud of and invited him to respond on behalf of the guests. Colin drew attention to many similarities between the two High Schools and regretted that ours was no longer in existence. Serious matters were interspersed with humorous tales from the diverse fields of cricket and education. Before we knew it Colin was asking us to charge our glasses and drink the **Toast to 'Allan Glen's School Club'**.

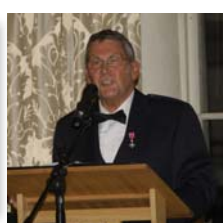
Immediate Past-President Gregor Egan rose and expressed thanks to all those who had participated in the organisation and running of the function, including the Dinner Convenor, John Bolton, Ross Graham who helped on the night, and Mike McCreery for printing the programmes. The President then declared the Dinner officially closed. As customary the members and guest were free to circulate and chat as we were slightly ahead of schedule.



Ronnie presents Jim with his Quail



Ronnie presents the Golf Trophy To David McLaren



David Tanner



Colin Mair



Gregor Egan



The fifth Allan Glen Tribute Lecture

Herb Saravanamuttoo explains the role of Engineering in Jet Propulsion

151 senior school pupils accompanied by 8 teachers ignored the winter downpours to hear Herb Saravanamuttoo's lecture at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on Monday the 28th November. These lectures are now settling into a pattern and you will recall that it was Herb who dared to do the inaugural lecture for us when we were unsure of the type of audience and just how to pitch the material. He did a good job then but he was even better on this occasion.

Following on after the standard introduction which explains the background to the lectures, the legacy of **Allan Glen** and the role of the **Allan Glen Scholarship Trust**, Herb opened his lecture by highlighting the role of engineers as problem solvers. Then, using the example of Sir Frank Whittle he explained how the concept for his original engine was designed on sound scientific principles, And how all of the science subjects which the pupils have probably endured and thought to be of little value actually are vital to the design of the jet engine. The principle behind the workings of the gas turbine engine were covered including the extremes of temperature that the engine will operate in together with the different materials used throughout the engine. Finally, Herb addressed the hazards that an engine must be able to resist such as a bird strike. He described the tests that are used to ensure that the engine can perform in the event of a catastrophic failure, how it must contain the rotating components and not cause damage to the aircraft. This part of the lecture was illustrated by some real fan and compressor blades provided by Rolls-Royce. Of particular interest was a pair of "before and after fan blades", the "after" being damaged in a bird strike at Chicago when the aircraft ran into a Canada goose.

Comparisons were made with the four stroke internal combustion engine used in road vehicles. The superior efficiency per passenger mile of a jet aircraft, the vastly lower carbon pollution and the longer life of the jet engine (10 to 20 times that of a car) were used to highlight the quality of engineering being applied to jet engine design. Herb then addressed the question that if jet engines are so good then, why are they not used in cars. He talked about Rover's attempts in the late '50's and early '60's to produce a car with a jet engine and related how these prototype cars are now museum exhibits.

Finally, he explained how Rolls-Royce are involved not just in gas turbine engines for aircraft but are also leaders in the field for their use on ships and other industrial applications.

The lecture concluded with a question and answer session followed by the presentation of an Allan Glen's Quaich to Herb by Ronnie Wright, President of the Club and Chairman of the Trust.

After the formalities were over there followed a lively debate with groups of pupils seeking further information from Herb and it was 4.00pm before the lecture theatre was cleared.

Thanks are due to Rolls-Royce for providing the blades for the lecture, to John Bolton for liaising with Rolls-Royce on our behalf, to Mike McCreery for designing and printing the tickets and acting as official photographer and to the twelve Club members who turned up to look after registration and act as stewards.



Introduction from Gregor Egan



Herb Saravanamuttoo Lectures



Ronnie Wright Presents Quaich



Postscript to the Tribute Lecture

At the recent lecture I was talking to John MacDonald and Ross Ballantyne about Strathclyde University's Advanced Forming Research Centre at Inchinnan and the facilities that they have there. The site which is adjacent to the Rolls-Royce factory has been developed as a collaboration between the University of Strathclyde, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Government in conjunction with multi-national engineering companies. It is a world class facility which is at the leading edge of practical science in the chemistry and metallurgy of forming materials. Equipped with about £26 million of highly sophisticated machinery, it is manned by a team of experts in their field and carries out specific investigations for its sponsor companies.

The AFRC describes itself as a "dedicated high quality purpose built facility that reflects the state of the art in forming and forging".

John and Ross both expressed an interest in visiting this facility and I asked Professor MacGregor, Dean of Engineering at Strathclyde University if it would be possible to arrange a visit for Club members. He has provisionally said yes but has asked how many would be in the party and when would the visit be. I would imagine that some time in the spring would be the most suitable to allow anyone outwith the immediate Glasgow area to make the necessary travel arrangements.

For more information on the Advanced Forming Research Centre please log on to their web site at <http://www.afrc.org.uk>

Anyone interested in this visit should contact Gregor Egan

Note from Herb Saravanamuttoo

Gregor, I really appreciate all the work you put in to the lecture. It was as much your lecture as mine !

I was delighted to see such a turnout. Young people never ask questions in a large group, but I was delighted so many came to see me after. I had discussions with a group from The High School before the lecture, and with groups from Williamwood, Hutchie, St Ninian's (Giffnock), Paisley Grammar and several individuals after the lecture .There is no doubt that the blades were a major attraction . I was quite surprised how big the Trent 900 fan blade was; I have a PW fan blade from an early 747 which is about one third of the weight. The 535 blade hit by the Canada goose was a great hit, pun not intended !

I am glad to say I made my connection , which was quite tight , and had a very good trip home. It was a relief to beat the Wednesday strike situation.

It was a great privilege to do the *Allan Glen Tribute Lecture* and I greatly enjoyed the Dinner.

Best regards, Herb

Tribute to Wendy Downie

This was a tribute made by Ross Ballantine at the AGSC Lunch at Bishopbriggs on November 18th 2011.

Last week Craig Downie told me he wouldn't be able to attend this event as the family are scattering his wife, Wendy's, ashes at 1.15 today, so I thought it would be appropriate if we were to raise a glass at this time to the memory of a remarkable lady. As most of you will know, Craig and his family are dedicated sailors, and the plan is to sail to the north end of Bute to scatter some of Wendy's ashes at Wreck Bay, where the family spent many happy weekends when the girls were growing up, and then head down to Brodick Bay, where Wendy spent all of her family holidays to scatter the rest of the ashes.

As I'm sure you all know, Wendy resolutely fought cancer for three years, and over the time I've known her – right up to close to the end – you wouldn't have even guessed she was ill. I'm sure many of you will recall the elegant lady with the fetching head scarves at the ladies' lunches – and energetically organising the *Allan Glen* Tribute lectures for us. Over the piece she seemed to come out of frequent troughs with astonishing strength and resolve – even to the extent of sailing with the family during her final year.

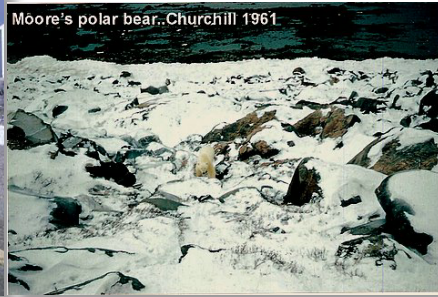
During her final days, Craig still kept Wendy at home rather than a hospice and set up essentially a hospital unit in the house complete with tilting bed, drip feeds and oxygen. To me, the story that most epitomises Wendy's strength and resolve is that she insisted on being taken from this environment to the Remembrance Day Service on 14 November last year. Craig told me at the time that she tugged his sleeve and insisted on being helped out of her wheelchair to stand for the Queen. She passed away only three days later on 17 November.

Gentlemen I ask you to stand with me and raise a glass to the memory of a remarkable lady and her indomitable spirit. To Wendy Downie.

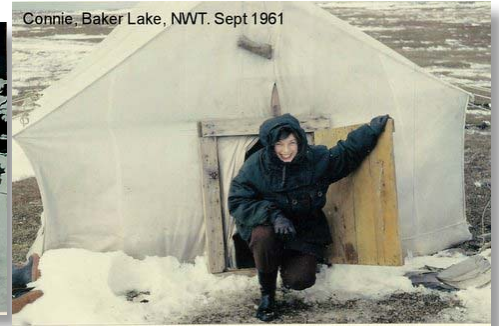
Moore Hislop's Arctic Pictures



Inuit family group, Baker Lake, NW Territories, Canada



Moore's polar bear, Churchill 1961



Connie, Baker Lake, NWT, Sept 1961



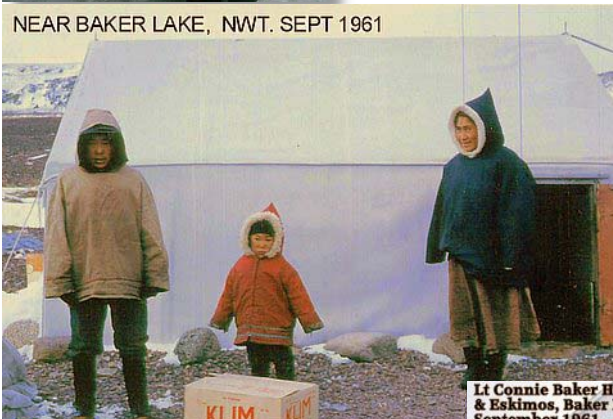
Digging out, Churchill, Canada



Polar Bear approaching



The Barrens (Tundra) Aerial photograph from the Otter



NEAR BAKER LAKE, NWT. SEPT 1961



The Otter, takeoff point from Churchill River, Sept 1961



Baker Lake, NW Territories, Canada, early September, 1961



Lt Connie Baker Hislop & Eskimos, Baker Lake September 1961



Rabies Injection, Moutie on right, Baker Lake, 1961



Correspondence from Old Boys

Dear Mike, The photo you received showing Barrie Hastie as School Captain I do recognise the following, the back row left to right W Hunter, do not know next two, however the next is David Mills.
Front row are Bill Dodds, Barrie Hastie, Thomas Adamson. Tom was one of the Knightswood Boys
I do believe the date is wrong for two reasons Barrie was School Captain 1942-43, also I left School in 43 and William Hunter and I were both picked to play in the 1st XV F.P.s from the start of the season. Sadly a number of years later William had a untimely death. David Mills played Rugby for the F.P.s. and pretty good too, big fellow super in the line out always got the Ball.
The Rugby School Team third from the left is Jim Strang who became Captain of the 1st XV FP for a number of Seasons, an excellent player and Captain
Kindest Regards David McLintock

Dear Mike,
Just finished reading this months newsletter. It is really wonderful to read about the sponsorship of the Engineering students has already been such a success. Did not know when I crunched into a Tunnocks caramel wafer it was by courtesy of an old boy. Did know about Bill Dunwoodie and Bill Hannah of course and George Ewart. I believe the two Bills were the statuesque shimmering icons at the school when I entered the Q.s. They seemed so old and mature to us in those days- not quite real. I share the opinions expressed about Jimmy Hinds- the relationship with him was always a very personal one-particularly after the latest minor loving physical assault. They dont make them like that any more.
Moore Hislops account of life in the Arctic makes me realise I have led a charmed existence. Nearest we got was a literary safari in the steps of one Robert W Service (dangerous Dan Magrew and all that!) to the Yukon and even for one afternoon to Alaska--but thats another story.
Anyway thank you once again. I write from Malaysia where I am doing another teaching stint at AIMST universityJ .
Judith is here to look after me and we are managing to avoid some baby sitting duties
Ian Rogers.

Hi Mike,..... Incidentally I have a close friend who lives on the main road through Newton Mearns named Kenneth Gray. Ken was a school tennis champion at **Allan Glen's** and was twice Scottish Junior Champion while in his teens. Just wondered whether you might have had any contact with him. One amusing story I like to tell about him is in regard to George Studzinski, who won the physics prize at **AG** and was medalist at U.of G.medical school. He is now a professor of pathology at a medical school in New Jersey. George, an intensively competitive individual, and fancying himself a good tennis player, told me that in the AG competition he was opposed by a younger fellow who, to George's surprise and chagrin beat him 6;1; 6:0. When I asked him the name of his opponent I was told it was Ken Gray. George was blissfully unaware of Ken's reputation as a tennis player.
Moore Hislop

Dear Alan, Thank you for the article in the Newsletter re Bill Dunwoodie. No apologies required about the delay-I am pleased to report that we are all fit and well. This picture is a long way from my six years in India and is a nice momento. Thank you.
Kind regards, George. (Ewart)

Dear Sir: Over the last couple of years I've seen a few of the issues of the **Allan Glen's School** Club Newsletter and have occasionally wondered if the names that seem vaguely familiar do indeed belong to some of my schoolboy chums of yesteryear (1953 – 1959) when I attended **Glen's**. I don't doubt that the ravages of time have been kinder to many of you than they have on me, but it still doesn't help me recognize any of you by the more recent photographs. However, page 5 of the June 2011 issue brought some delightful surprises. A whole battery of the bold boys were depicted in the "First Year Rugby Boys, May 1954", including yours truly in the middle row, third from the left. While others are scattered throughout that group, two of my then good friends were close by. One of them is over my left shoulder and the other to my right. Sadly, my memory does not permit me to be sure of any name, but I think that the young man behind me is Alistair Murray. Perhaps the same who submitted the photograph? The name of the other boy escapes me, but I do remember that he was a top notch cricketer. They are both shown in a couple of other photos, including "Another Group of Lads" in a later year. Cricket expertise of the one, confirmed with his 'colours'.

These photographs also included two memorable teachers, Jimmy Hinds (although there seems to be something missing from over his shoulder?) and Rae Smith.

Following **Glen's** I proceeded through the craft apprenticeship route with G & J Weir Ltd., and Stow College of Engineering. At Weir's I met another **Glen's** Old Boy with whom I worked and played golf for a number of years. Although his name has departed my memory (Allan ?), a recollection of his extraordinarily flat golf swing has not. I don't think the club head ever got above his shoulders.

In 1967 my wife and I emigrated to Canada and we have lived in the Toronto area ever since. I developed my practical and theoretical knowledge of the pumping industry and am now celebrating my 20th year as an independent consultant and trainer in Industrial Pump Reliability. This has taken me to 34 countries around the world and resulted in the 2004 publication of my book, "The Practical Pumping Handbook", by Elsevier. As this was the culmination of a widely published series of magazine articles, I must acknowledge the influence of Jimmy Ross at **Glen's** who drilled us in essay writing for the last two years of **Glen's**.

My apologies for my poor memory, but I would convey my best wishes to any of the old gang who might remember me and in fact, to all **Glen's** Old Boys, everywhere.

Sincerely,

Ross MacKay

Hi Ross,

Delighted to hear from you. I too was a "Coronation" / 1953 Boy. I think you are talking about R J McD Dingwall, Ronnie Dingwall / "Dingy" I was a good friend of his and Alastair Murray / "Tubby" Murray, although looking at him I don't think he really deserved the nickname. In fact I was Best Man at their Weddings, I am still in regular contact with Alastair who lives in Huntly but have lost all trace of Dingy.
Regards, Alan (editor@allanglens)

Correspondence from Old Boys Contd.)

Seeing Moore Hislop's story of work in remote regions brought to mind an experience from my dim & distant past when I was working as the Contracts Manager for a building company in Brisbane in the early 70s.

The firm specialised in the manufacture and erection of prefabricated buildings in remote areas throughout Northern Australia. This involved me in a fair bit of travel (Mr Robert McAusland, Engineering master at **Glens**, always said I could go far if I put my mind to it... I don't think this is quite what he meant though)

One project we were contracted to build was the site offices, laboratories and facilities for a huge bauxite mine opening at Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula. The Gove Peninsula is on the North West top corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The only access is by sea or a twice weekly air service from either Cairns or Darwin. There was a dry season 4 wheel drive track through Arnhem Land that links up eventually with the road to Darwin. We were lucky that the RAAF had built an airbase there in WW2 (abandoned) so air travel was not a problem after the runway was upgraded. I wouldn't have fancied the barge trip from Darwin.

I had to visit this site very few weeks which involved a flight from Brisbane to Darwin then a flight to Gove, stay 2 nights then fly back the same way or on to Cairns. The flight to Cairns was a typical "out-back" flight it meandered all over the country & landed at every lamp post.

On this particular trip I was driven back from the town to the airport for my flight to Darwin by our foreman. When we got to the airport we found the gates closed and a group of people, including the Tans Australia Airlines (TAA) manager hanging around looking over to the terminal building. We joined them. The terminal building was then an open shed with a central longitudinal wall and having an office/store at each end, rather like an "I". Rubbing



himself against one of the corners and comfortably within the shade was a ginormous scrub bull. None of the Airport staff or indeed any of the passengers were game to go and try to move him! The plane an F27 Fokker Friendship arrived did a circuit to check runway while the captain was on the radio to the TAA manager. He said there was no bloody way he was landing with the bull there and if they didn't move it quick smart he was flying on to Darwin. Still no one was game to try. The plane departed to Darwin & the bull continued scratching himself.

We all hung around awaiting developments and a solution from TAA. After about an hour or so two stockmen (cowboys) turned up in a ute (utility= pick-up) to the applause of the gathered throng and chased the bull out through the break in the fence. They appeared rather embarrassed by the cheers they got.

TAA informed us we could take next day's flight to Cairns or wait a few days for the Darwin flight (he said he didn't like our chances of us all getting on the Darwin flight). I opted for the Cairns flight and hoped for a night in Cairns, a lovely town, but TAA got me a connection home to Brisbane the same day. George Coghill

**The North Queensland equivalent
Of a 3-piece business suit.**

Hello Alan,

Perhaps being an itinerant between Edinburgh and Beaconsfield (S Bucks) I am almost always behind a) In reading my e-mail and b) even more so in replying, which is my preamble and excuse for my late response to the excellent October edition of the Magazine.

I read with interest of the Golf competition and would love to be fit enough to play in it but osteoarthritis and jiggered-up knees rule it out. I did just manage to scrape into the School Golf Team – cf School magazine circa 1952- when there were two Scottish Boy Internationalists – Johnny Stuart and Robin Bremner in the team.

I so enjoyed the article by Moore Hislop and there are so many of my medical year in North America that for the last twenty-five years of our Fiftieth Anniversary we alternated between Dunkeld and Nova Scotia, Whistler, Vancouver and Victoria.

Many of the chaps were in the Prairie Provinces where they appeared to suffer some seven months of Winter.

I was also delighted to read the missive from Ronnie Moodie who was in my Year at **AG's** and whom I last met as a fifth-year medical student in Toronto where my brother Jack emigrated to. As I recall him he was a real live-wire at school and it was wonderful to meet up with another **AG** FP more than 3000 miles away! Changing the subject slightly I wonder if the Committee would consider a Bursary in Medicine at the University in addition to the engineering ones. We have had many distinguished alumni in Medicine in addition to the enormous number of distinguished engineers!

With Best wishes,
Yours aye,
Maurice Wallace

Editor's note. Under the terms of the AGSCEST offers of assistance can only be made for students to pursue a course in an engineering degree approved by the Engineering Council. Unfortunately the Council do not consider 'Engineering of the Body' to be a valid subject.

Correspondence from Old Boys Contd.)

Turret Road and Allan Glens School.

Turret Road, Knightswood, Glasgow , W3 is a small road and within about 150 yards of it there is a strong connection with **AGS**.

In 1945, four boys, born and bred in Turret Road went to **Glens** although one started that year in QA. They were Harvey Smith, the late George Blackley, Ronald Wiseman and Alistair Thomson.

The four boys between them produced three prefects, two rugby captains and three rugby caps, one cricket captain and one joint winner of the Henry Dyer prize.

At a later date another **Glens** boy, Eric Downey came to live in Turret Road adding another prefect and rugby cap to the list. This does not include house captains and miscellaneous odds and ends.

Checking with Harvey and Eric three other names came up. They were a lot older than those already mentioned.

One was Alex Hamilton, one whose surname was Brodie who we believe became a doctor and the other was Kirk. I didn't remember them and then the old grey cells kicked in regarding Kirk. My memory of him was at Clobberhill school at the "bottom" of the road. It was the night of the Clydebank Blitz and we were obliged to leave our air raid shelter because of a nearby bomb that went off and one of those mines that gently floated down from the sky. Fortunately it didn't go off otherwise the original four might not have gone to **AGS** [I believe this is an euphemism]. Anyway Kirk was at the school organising transport for us when there was a gap in the raid. I believe he was a rover scout.

Note - David Harvey [1934] was on duty that night in another part of Knightswood , and he has a remarkable story to tell.

As the years pass we are preparing to sail into the sunset and we should do rather well at sailing, one of the original '45s captained the QE2!

I am not sure whether anyone followed in our footsteps

Alistair Thomson 1 Albion terrace Saltburn by the sea Cleveland TS12 1JW.

The group of **A.G.** Old Boys who live in and around Toronto met for our fall lunch November 4. Again we had a good turnout of 9 whose attendance dates at the School spread forward from the war years and included Murray McKinnon who was A.G. Consul in the fifties and led a very active group. We missed stalwarts due to health and other commitments. Hopefully they can join us in the spring. Attendees came from Sudbury and Ottawa which for those who do not know Canada well is the equivalent of travelling from Manchester to Glasgow for lunch! The effort is appreciated guys.

As usual the group was very convivial. The group has always been easy from the very first gathering which reflects the spirit and camaradie which we absorbed during our school years. All have had good careers and some have been recognized professionally which speaks to our good education, work ethic and leadership skills. What a pity the political ideologues destroyed something they did not understand.

We meet spring and fall and are happy to arrange an extra lunch for any Old Boy passing through Toronto

Ken Clark

Gordon Horne

Dear Mr Dale

I regret having to inform you that my husband, Gordon Horne, passed away recently. The arrival of his Membership card has made me realise I hadn't told you. Gordon loved his time at **AG's** and was the Secretary of the London branch of the Old Boys' Club for a number of years in the 1960s before his work took him to the Midlands. He became a member of the Birmingham based club that existed in those days and rejoined in London in the late 70's before it and the school's demise. As a typical **AG** scholar who had come from a working class home in Springburn by way of a scholarship, the loss of the school he'd known and loved made him very angry and sad.

When he was the London secretary he had great stories of the illustrious member, Sir John Weir, who had been the Queen's physician. When the article about the London Gavel appeared last year I wanted Gordon to write about Sir John and his beloved joke book and Gordon's other memories from those days of the London Club but he was already frail from the conditions that brought about his death and he just never felt able to. He used to get visits in his London office from men claiming to be "Old Boys" down on their luck and looking for "handouts" until he gave one of them some money and told him that "the well had run dry" and to pass the word on. The visits stopped!

He died in June aged 87.

I'm sorry he never got round to recording his reminiscences as I feel that's an area of AG School Club history that has slipped away.

He always enjoyed reading your magazine online as indeed I did and I recall travelling up to attend the 150th Anniversary event in the City Chambers in 2003.

I wish the Club every success in the future

Best regards Maureen Horne

Photo of Young Allan Glen's Player with Scottish Team - Page 8 in October 2011 newsletter

It is Fraser Phillips who is 11 years old and part of the Primary 7 squad. Fraser has been part of the mini section since he was 5 years old. Allan Glens youth policy is respected in community and rugby circles as a strong community initiative with links to local schools ensuring boys and girls enjoy the spirit of rugby in a safe environment at Allan Glens at Bearyards Bishopbriggs.

Editor's Note Ross Graham & I have enjoyed watching the Allan Glen Minis taking part in the half-time entertainment at Glasgow warriors Matches.

"Wha d'ye ken ye are?" - John McGee

"Wha d'ye ken ye are?" John McGee, ASGRA member, agreed to give a talk entitled "Wha d'ye ken ye are?" to the **Allan Glen's School Club** lunch in the Hotel Mercure, Ingram Street, Glasgow on 11 November 2011.

The object of the talk was to engender an interest in a fairly, shall we say, 'adult' audience on the benefits of delving into family history and to outline the profile of ASGRA as the main professional genealogical association in Scotland.

John introduced the talk by outlining his birth in Corkerhill Railway Village, Glasgow and that he had gained a bursary to attend **Allan Glen's School** from 1968 until 1973; underlining that history under Mr Johnston, and mathematics, under Izzy Moss, were his two favourite subjects.

Mathematics took him down the accounting route and he spent 34 years in the railway industry, 26 years as a Management Accountant. However, John related to the club that he never forgot his love of history and he began to latterly concentrate on genealogical research, working to become a member of ASGRA after he retired from the railway in 2007.

John related that he got hooked on family history through his Granny McCue (although she was known as nothing else but by her maiden name of Annie Collie - a very Scottish tradition).

Well really, he told the Glen's boys, it was through her obstinacy at refusing to say why her grandfather had two different names - George Caie and George Clark! There was now a problem to be solved and John was hooked.

John went on to tell the members that family history research is now easier than ever, although it takes time, patience, effort and a fair bit of cash - and that that is where an ASGRA member can help out. He outlined that there has been a huge surge in family history research in the past few years, once possibly seen as the domain of the rich and famous.

Programmes such as Who Do Yo Think You Are? and Heir Hunters have brought genealogy into the living rooms of ordinary folk and they are increasingly keen to know their own roots. There has also been a growth in local family history societies bringing a greater awareness and wider interest in genealogy. Access to archives has also become much easier in recent years and he cited the Mitchell Glasgow City Archive, the National Records for Scotland, GROS and the National Archives, Kew as being very accessible to the public and professional researcher alike.

However, the key change in recent years has been the internet, which has exploded the whole field of genealogy wide open. John explained that the internet provided a vast mixture of Free to View and Pay to View genealogical records. He gave examples of Free to View databases such as FamilySearch, Rootsweb, FreeGen, FreeBMD, AncestryLibrary and the CWGC Debt of Honour. Examples of Pay to View databases are ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk and ScotlandsPeople Centre Edinburgh, Glasgow Family History Centre, National Archives Documents Online and Findmypast.co.uk among many listed.

John asked the members, given this broad wealth of data, "So, where do you start?" He outlined that someone interested in having their family history done was to start with what they had themselves; look out the old Births, Marriages and Deaths, the school records, National Registration Cards and NHS Cards, old photos and all those love letters tucked away in the attic! Speak to all the old surviving relatives and get what they know and remember.

Look out the old military records and old medals from their National Service, and any from WW1 and WW2. John joked that a few members probably still had their old Boer War Campaign medals!

John wound up by saying, "If all else fails, then you can think of using an ASGRA professional genealogist - like ME! And if anybody asks - I still have not solved the riddle of George Caie and George Clark!"

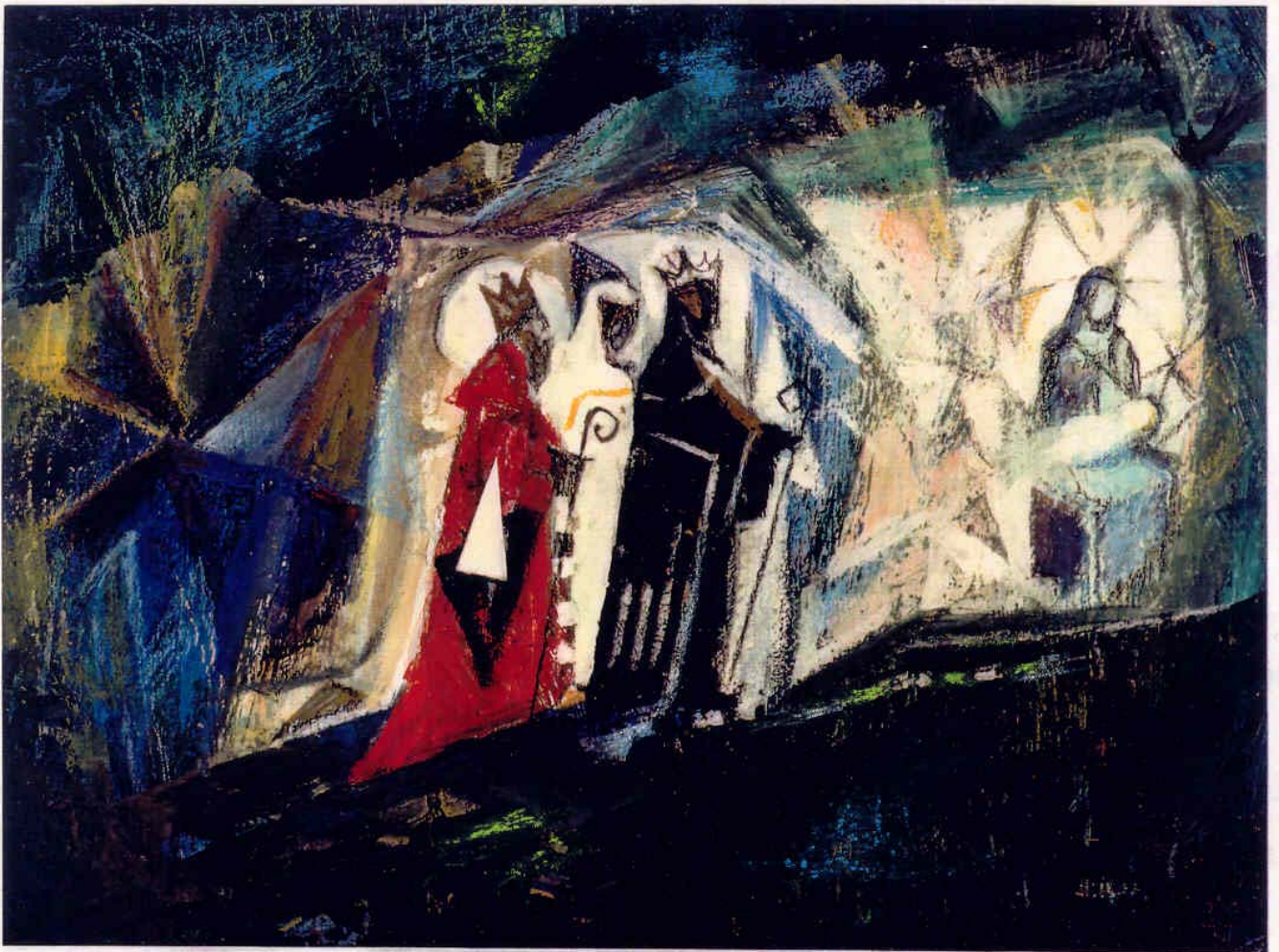
Sincerely, John McGee Wheech Scottish Ancestry Services www.asgra.co.uk
<http://wheechmcgeenes.webs.com>

Christmas Puzzle - What is this?



See page 10 for the solution

Season's Greetings From Allan Glen's School Club



Puzzle answer. A wartime mould for lipsticks

Card Design by the late Ralph Cowan 1991
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