



# Allan Glen's School Club

# Newsletter December 2010

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## Editorial

This Newsletter is ending the year on a quite sad note in that it details the deaths of four well-known Old Boys from widely different parts of the World : Ian Rae from Canada; Bryan Fleming and Bob Young from Scotland and Barrie Hastie from South Africa. I am particularly saddened by that of Barrie Hastie because, my Wife Joan and I visited him and his family just above Durban three years ago and I was in correspondence with him only four weeks ago (see correspondence.) All that aside, Barrie's death has set me thinking along a line which I will expand upon in the next Newsletter.

Apart from the above, I am delighted to be able to say yet again, that the Newsletter is by you all and about you all.

*Errata : Hugh Sutherland reviewed the draft of our interview with him in our last Newsletter and he pointed out a number of discrepancies,*

*I thought that I had made all the due corrections but Hugh had deleted an incorrect statement that I had made : "that he was involved in setting up the first soil laboratory in Britain." In fact it was the first such laboratory in Glasgow University. Also, the Principal of the University was Sir William Kerr Fraser not Sir William Fraser Kerr.*

*For these errors I make full apology.*

*Ed's Note I was obviously confusing Sir William's name with my own.*

Alan Fraser McLellan

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## Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 18th April 2011 - Annual General Meeting  
Ramada Hotel, Ingram Street, Glasgow

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## Interview with Gordon J Day



**Gordon with oars**

Mike McCreery, Ross Graham and I met with Gordon in his home at Bishopbriggs on Monday 22 November. Gordon attended **Allan Glen's** from 1944 until 1948. Initially, at school Gordon's sport was rugby and whilst playing one day he got a broken nose. Some two or three days later a friend of Gordon's who lived in Bishopbriggs said. "I've found a good new sport that we can both try." Gordon went with him to Glasgow Green to the Clyde Amateur Rowing Club in 1946 and he has been rowing competitively since that time for an incredible sixty-four years!!

When Gordon and his fellow **Allan Glen's** pupil Andrew Forrest joined Clyde Rowing Club they rowed together for about two years and then Andrew became a Marine Officer Cadet and went off to sea and Gordon never heard from him again, Andrew's school career does not appear on our records. There was another **Allan Glen's** rower, James Cockburn, who paired with Gordon in their first Scottish Championship in the 1940's. After Gordon had been rowing for some time, and when in fact the boat was crewed by entirely **Allan Glen's Boys**, he approached Mr McKimmie to see if they could row in **Allan Glen** colours. "Certainly not it is far too dangerous." replied Mr McKimmie. In consequence Gordon's Team raced under the flag of the Clyde Rowing Club. Mr McKimmie's reason was, that in a previous time, there had been a

very dangerous accident involving an **Allan Glen Team**. The Clubhouse is quite close to the weir and in order to berth the boat in a fast current, one must turn the boat early to face up-river of the clubhouse, and drift down and then power back up to the jetty. The master in charge on the bank should have given clear Instructions to ensure the crew had turned and was moving safely up river away from the Weir. On this particular occasion when the river was flowing extremely fast, the master's attention was distracted and he didn't give the boys the order to turn until it was too late. The boat was carried downstream and pinned against the Weir with the crew still stuck on board. Benny Parsonage of the Glasgow Humane Society was called out and had to use the full power of his boat to pull the 42' boat off the weir, it was extremely fortunate that nobody was hurt. Eventually, Mr McKimmie must have relented because in a later life Gordon found himself coaching some of the later **Allan Glen's Crews**.

In Gordon's earlier days the Clubhouse was still in the throes of the post-war blues. The Clyde Club had been closed during the War and the Clubrooms used as a billet for RAF Barrage Balloon Units. The Clubhouse had very few facilities such as: - gas mantles for lighting; a single gas fire for heating and a small single toilet and cold shower. Club boats were stored below the Clubrooms and were off-limits to the people operating the barrage balloons.

The boats had remained in the lower part of the Boathouse throughout the War and, apart from the older members of the Club who looked after the maintenance of the boats, nobody was allowed down there. Boats in those days were made completely of wood. The better boats were constructed with a thin veneer of wood skin and, when they were not in water throughout the war the wood shrank and cracked. Nowadays, boats are made from fibreglass reinforced with carbon fibre and are extremely strong and are also much lighter. Oars are now also very light and constructed from carbon fibre hollow shafts with fibre glass paddles.

The club that Gordon joined was founded in 1865, and still in existence and is the building nearest to the Weir Gordon is an Honorary Life Member of Clyde Rowing Club and has been President three times. He was President in the club's Centenary Year when the City of Glasgow gave the Club a Civic Reception.

Gordon introduced us to the different categories of racing boats. The eight man boat with a Cox; fours, either coxed or coxless; a quadruple scull, which is a coxless four using four pairs of the smaller sculling oars; a two man boat rigged either as a Pair (each man with a single oar) or rigged as a Double Scull (each man using two smaller oars) and finally, a single man boat where two smaller oars are used. A two man boat is only 12" wide at the water line, and 32' 0" Long. Coxless Fours and Pairs are steered by a Rudder attached by wires to the foot of one of the crew. The Glasgow University was the only club in the 1940's to have a "Racing Eight. There are many crews in the 8's now.

Obviously, in the crewing of all these boats, the terminology should read man or woman as women joined the Sport in the 1970's

After 1945 Rowers were still restricted to Males and were classified by ability and the number of races won and not age. The least experienced oarsmen were classified as **maiden oarsman** and only after you won some races were you moved up to the rank of **junior oarsman**, then as your winning ways were recognised, you were moved up to be a **senior oarsman**. Gordon and James Cockburn won the **Junior Championships** in the 1940's. Pre-war they used to row in the Clyde below the Weir and it was very difficult, where there were two or three bridges in immediate succession, and with the Bridge Arches not in a line.

On leaving school Gordon trained as a marine engineer with Weir Pumps in Cathcart, finishing up in the Research Department. Following his time in Weirs he was involved in his two year National Service 1953/55 serving with the RAF.

## Interview with Gordon J Day (contd)

Gordon served in a number of different camps, spending six months at RAF Henlow, where he joined Bedford Rowing Club. Gordon moved to RAF Abingdon where the Station had a small rowing club. Oarsmen were even flown in from Hong Kong to be part of the group assembled for Trials. Gordon was selected and he subsequently was posted to RAF Benson at Wallingford on the Thames where he spent six months as a semi-professional rower. However, even before his RAF Service Gordon had been Scottish Rowing Champion in Pairs, Sculls and Fours.

In 1958 he rowed for Scotland in an Eight at the 'British Empire Games' at Cardiff, that event is now titled 'Commonwealth Games'

Not surprisingly Gordon and the partners with whom he has rowed have an amazing number of successes. He and his partner, a Hutchie Boy, have competed successfully at regattas in Miami, Cologne, Vienna, Groningen, Bled, Budapest, Adelaide, Munich, Hazewinkel, Seville, Montreal and Racice. He won six Masters World Championships and seven second places in the years between 1988 and 2003. Gordon's Partner died suddenly so he joined Clydesdale Rowing Club in 2004 and has since then won another eleven Scottish Championships.

There are other successes, the list just goes on and on but it is difficult to conjure up opposition even from much younger crews in Scotland, as he and his partner are just too good.

Gordon has also been heavily involved with administration in his sport. He is a multilane Course Umpire; from 1965 to 1975 Gordon was Administrator of SARA Race Umpires; he has been a coach and selector in the 60's to 80's for the Scottish International Rowing Teams and was a selector for the British Team for the 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games; Gordon was Director of Scottish International Rowing for the four years of team preparation before being Selector of the Team for the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games when he was also Director of Rowing held at Strathclyde Park. Buckingham Palace asked Gordon to organise a Lunch for Prince Phillip when he visited that Regatta.

From 1978 to 1988 he was Vice-president of the Scottish Amateur Rowing Association.

Gordon has been an unsung hero of Scottish Rowing for many years and all members of **Allan Glen's School Club** should be raising their 'caps' to him.

## The 1962's Lunch



On Friday 10 September, nineteen Old Boys who all started at **Glen's** in August 1962 held a highly successful reunion lunch in the Western Club in Glasgow. It was deemed such a success that we agreed we should repeat the event in the summer of 2012, which will be our "Golden Anniversary". From the photographs you will see that we had a great time with stories retold with laughter bursting sides. Bishop Gregor Duncan lead us in the Grace, Alan Chalmers thanked everyone for coming and John Kelly wrapped up the lunch in his own

inimitable way. For some, the camaraderie did not stop there but instead carried on late into the night, retiring to the Rogano where we were joined by a group of Fettesians' who were holding a similar get-together.

It was agreed at the lunch that we should repeat the event in 2012 which will be the Golden Anniversary of our entering **Allan Glen's** so if you know of any guy who started in 1962, it could be a younger brother for example, please ask him to e-mail Ian Meikle on [i.meikle@tesco.net](mailto:i.meikle@tesco.net) and he'll make sure that an invitation is issued.



For the record, the lunch was attended by Ian Blondin, Ricky Brown, Alan Chalmers, Gregor Duncan, Jake Harris, Leslie Irvine, John Kelly, Lachlan MacKenzie, Donald Maclean, Ian Meikle, Alex Mitchell, John Mooney, Doug Nicolson, Peter Reilly, Alan Roberts, Bob Stevenson, Wilson Whiteford, Jim Williamson and Donald Wilson. John Teape had been planning to attend and would have been our most distant traveller, as he lives in Argentina, but because of a very close family bereavement was unable to be with us. Bob Stevenson, who now lives in Connecticut, therefore holds the longest distance travelled award.

# Annual Dinner 27 November 2010

Despite the early snow and bitter cold, our Annual Dinner was held in the Trades Hall Glasgow on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 18:15 for 19:00. We were expecting 125 members and guests, but due to the weather and illness we had 7 cancellations, 1 no show and 2 who had to leave the reception before the dinner. We therefore had 115 sitting down to dinner, piped in by Murdo MacGregor.

Our President, Gregor Egan and Vice President, Ronnie Wright were joined at the top table by our Guest of Honour and Old Boy, Bill Aitken MSP, the Raconteur and Old Boy, Bill Copeland, Robert Lambie, son of the late Ian Lambie, representatives of The Hutchesonians, The Incorporation of Wrights, The Glasgow High School Club, The Glasgow Academical Club and The **Allan Glen's Sports Club**. Representatives of the **Allan Glen's East of Scotland Club** and Kelvinside Academical Club were expected, but cancelled due to weather, and at the other 7 tables we had 89 members with 26 guests.



All were welcomed by Gregor Egan and The Rev. Alan Garrity was invited to say Grace. Grooms, the caterers, under the direction of Nancy Braid then served an excellent meal in an effortless and efficient manner. After the meal, toasts were proposed to "The Queen" and "**Allan Glen**" and then Bill Aitken MSP spoke in fine style about his time in politics, reminiscing on the school and the changes imposed on Glasgow education in the 1960s.

After the interval, Gregor Egan spoke of the generous donation to our trust from the estate of the late Ian Lambie and, in the presence of his son, Robert, proposed a toast to Ian's memory. Ronnie Wright then toasted "Our Guests" and invited Bill Copeland to reply. Bill provided a very funny speech mentioning some of those present, drawing on life in general

in the West of Scotland, Bothwell in particular, his time at school and his time as a lawyer when, like Easy Jet, he lost most of his cases!

Our former President, Alan McLellan, was then invited to propose a Vote of Thanks and the dinner ended at about 22:40. I am sure all those attending will wish to know that David Bickerton, who felt unwell just before the meal, was escorted home by Jack McGuinness and is feeling fine again.



Bill Aitken and Gregor Egan



David Reid receives a Quaich



Guest of Honour Bill Aitken MSP



John Bolton receives a Quaich for this year's Tribute Lecture



Ronnie Wright

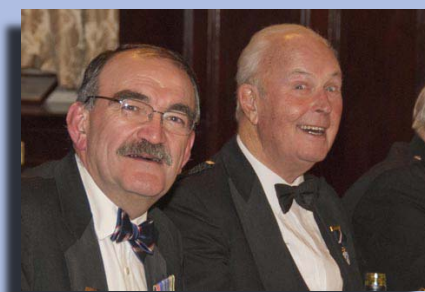
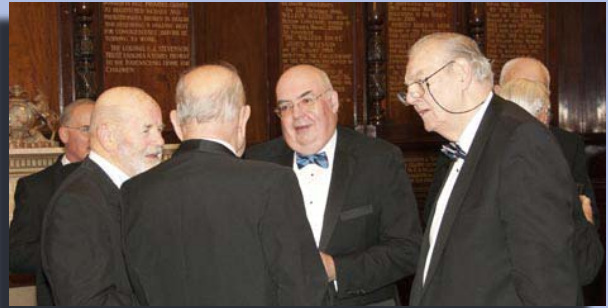
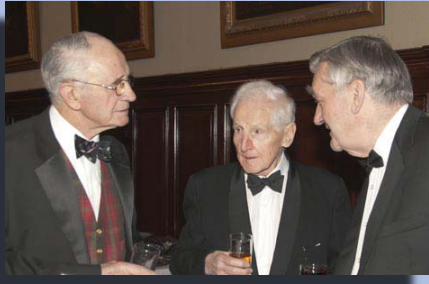


Alan McLellan



Bill Copeland

## Some of the Guests



# The fourth Allan Glen Tribute Lecture

## John Bolton explains the role of Engineering in Flight Test

Just over fifty intrepid senior school pupils braved the snowy weather conditions to hear John Bolton's lecture at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> November. It was well worth the effort because it was a unique opportunity to hear first hand about the high tech world of engineers who are responsible for maintaining flight safety and aircraft performance.



The proceedings were started off by Jack McGuinness who gave an interesting insight into the Glasgow that **Allan Glen** would have experienced and which we believe prompted him to instruct the trustees of his legacy to found our school. He also made reference to several notable former pupils and their achievements.

John started his lecture by explaining how he first became interested in flying when he joined the **Allan Glen's Air Training Corps** and that while studying engineering at university he had joined the University Air Squadron. After gaining his degree he had applied for a job at Filton where he would have worked on stress calculations on wing structures. He was offered the position but explained that, in those pre-computer days, this would have tied him to a less than exciting routine in an office with a slide rule. Instead, he opted to join the Royal Air Force. He

presented a sequence of slides showing the vast array of different aircraft that he had flown. On returning to civilian life he joined BAE where he became Chief Test Pilot and subsequently with Airbus where he was Deputy Chief Test Pilot. His slides included embedded videos of aircraft being tested under a wide variety of conditions and it was particularly interesting to see the new Airbus 380 being put through its paces.

The lecture concluded with a lively question and answer session and on break-up of the lecture a particularly long queue of pupils waited to speak to John on a one to one basis. About a dozen Club members turned up to help with registration and assist with help and advice which was very much appreciated by the school pupils and by the organiser. Gregor Egan

**Editorial comment: It is interesting to reflect that the Allan Glen's Air Training Corps was such an influence in so many pupils' lives and was just another thing that was lost to the education of future citizens of Glasgow.**

## Correspondence from Old Boys

Email from Ken Clark re the Funeral of Ian Rae.

I represented the **Allan Glen's School Club** at the funeral. I had a brief time with Scott and a young lady who was not introduced to me (likely a daughter-in-law). Scott told me his father often spoke of the school and that the family were happy that Ian got to meet with you, Lefty and Sandy.

I did record the best wishes of the **A.G. School Club** in the book of condolences.

The service was well delivered by a pastor who, although he did not know the family, did a good job, I think he helped the family by his handling of the service.

There was an interment following the memorial service then a reception at the family home. I did not carry on to these events

Email from Sandy Howie to Alister Munro

The bursary lists have arrived – for the first time I have the follow up names of those successful in the bursary exams. To date, the article in the Club Newsletter has produced four bursary lists for the exams from the 1940s. Many thanks for the trouble taken in sending the information – hopefully the Snail mail from the UK will produce the two CDs and give you some interesting reading .

The 1944 list now includes some of the information you kindly sent with your emails and fills-in some gaps in the story for those who entered the school in that year. If I can be of any assistance to your Glen's pals in Canada please let me know.

Thanks again, Sandy

**Ed's Note. This item is a follow on to the e-mails from Alistair Morton on page 7**

## Correspondence from Old Boys

### Email from Prof Alistair Munro, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for the October issue of the Newsletter which, as always, I found thoroughly enjoyable. You had asked if any of us had information on Scholarship and Bursary results so I searched my files and to my great surprise found the original letters informing me that I had been successful in the Scholarship exam in 1944 and in the Bursary exam three years later. I have copied these and am sending them to you by snail-mail - I hope they prove of interest.

Incidentally, in the area of "It's a small world" I showed the Newsletter to a friend here in Halifax who originally came from Glasgow and whose husband is a graduate in engineering of Glasgow University. She wrote back that "Of course we remember Hugh Sutherland so well and have pictures taken in our living room (in Halifax) when they visited on a fund-raising romp quite a few years ago."

Also, in the 1944 list there were two names that were of particular interest to me - one was Herbert Saravanamuttoo (and his brother Carleton). The other was Norman Howie who was in my class and who died tragically in 1946 or thereabouts. His father instituted a competitive prize in his name and I won the first of these. Of course there are plenty of other names that bring back memories.

Keep up the good work! Sincerely, Alistair Munro

**Ed's Note : I replied to Alistair pointing out that, in fact the person who was seeking Bursary Information was, Sandy Howie, the brother of Norman Howie mentioned in his first email**

Hello Alan,

Thanks for replying and, yes, that is a coincidence over Norman and Sandy Howie - I had no idea that Norman had a brother at the school. He was such a nice lad and we were all upset at the time by his death. Please pass on my best wishes to Sandy.

Our friends here in Halifax are Kris and Leila Gashus - Kris is a Norwegian who came to Glasgow University around 1950 to study engineering and he subsequently had a junior faculty appointment at Glasgow. He came to Nova Scotia and until a few years ago was Professor of Electrical Engineering at Dalhousie University. Leila grew up in West End Glasgow and has been a prominent downtown businesswoman here in Halifax.

Talking about a further coincidence, my wife, Mary and I went on an organized trip to Italy this spring and met a lady who was also from Halifax but who originated in Glasgow. We discovered that in 1941 she and I lived two streets away from each other in Dalmarnock and were both affected by a lethal German landmine that destroyed the block of flats between us. Of course we became immediate soulmates!

Everyone has a number of stories like this and I often think there is a book to be made out of collecting them.

Yours aye, Alistair

### "Snail mail" from Hugh Sutherland :

Dear Alan,

I thank you for your letter of 2 November, along with correspondence from Nova Scotia. I remember well my Wife and I staying with the Gashus Family in Halifax which I visited a number of times. Small World !!

**Ed's Note : The following correspondence is from Barrie Hastie and his Son Campbell. Sadly, Barrie died on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November just as we were putting this Newsletter together. We will include a full obituary to Barrie in the next Newsletter.**

Dear Alan

After receiving your email last week I asked father to pen a few more notes to add to the reply. Unfortunately he passed away midday on Sunday 28th in Port Shepstone about 120 kms south of Durban before he could do so. Emilia, Barrie and I were on our Annual Golfing Society "The Mugs" year-end away. The Mugs was started by a group of predominantly Scotsmen some 32 years ago and father has been deeply involved for the last 20 years and latterly in the form of Treasurer. He had indicated his intention to retire from the committee at the end of the year due to his deteriorating speech and consequent communication problem. At prize giving he was presented with some beautiful gifts and memorabilia and everyone, especially Barrie, was very emotional. I don't know if it was all too much for him but a few hours later in the early hours of the next morning, Emilia and I had to rush him into hospital where he died with a massive heart attack in our presence. He will be sorely missed.

My two younger brothers Roger and Guy are flying out to SA with their wives to say their goodbyes to father at 1400hrs on Monday in Durban. Father was very proud of his old school, his tenure as President of the Old Boys Club and eagerly awaited each issue of the Newsletter. I attended several of the Annual Dinners at the old St Enochs Hotel as a guest and taxi driver.

Kind Regards Emilia and Campbell

**Ed's Note – I sent an email to Barrie Hastie and his family after the Currie Cup Final on 30 October this year, The Sharks beat Western Province 30 - 10. The Hastie Family live in a beautiful B & B establishment near Durban, South Africa. Website [www.campbells.co.za](http://www.campbells.co.za)**

**I have included the reply from Barrie's Son Campbell Hastie as he attended Bearsden Academy in the 70's ?? and, who know ? The Newsletter may get into other strange camps.**

" I thoroughly enjoyed the cup final and thankfully the Sharks won. Campbell and Emilia were at the game and I watched the game at home on the TV. Thank you for the October Newsletter - from memory Andrew Smith and John Addie were in my class of 1942 – 43 and both had younger brothers. I also made a half section model. I remember Andrew's Father had a farm next to Cowglen Golf Club and I visited the farm many times. I also remember John Addie because he always wanted to be best in the class !!

Best and Kindest Regards Barrie

Yes Emilia and I went to the match and whaaaaaaat a match. We went to Durban Country Club for lunch and a few drinks before hand. The weather was excellent for the game but the drizzle set in almost straight after which put a bit of a dampener on the after game celebrations. What a wonderful venue the stadium is with a 55,000 crowd and the festivities and braais (Ed's Note BBQ's) afterwards and late into the night. The Currie Cup is the oldest rugby competition in the world \* and the second oldest golf competition (the S A Open) is to be held at Durban Country Club in a couple of weeks time. Indecently, I'm playing there on Sunday – Hope I win the bets !! We'll be watching the Springboks v Ireland on Saturday along with the other internationals. When the Scottish game comes along it will be the usual attire at the local pub – kilt and Springbok jersey !

All the Very Very Best and keep in touch

Barrie, Campbell and Emilia

**\* Ed's note : Don't know if it predates the Glasow v Edinburgh Inter-district 1872 ?**

# BILL YOUNG – ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL 1919–1924

Bill Young was born on the twenty-fourth of June 1908 in Carmyle. His parents were Andrew and Margaret Young. Bill had a sister Meg. He attended *Allan Glen's School*, did well there and he was Captain of the Rugby Team. Rugby continued to be an interest of his long after he left school.

After completing his schooling, he obtained an apprenticeship with Baptie, Shaw and Morton who were Civil Engineers. He became fully qualified and he got a full time job with them. Bill was involved with the main water pipeline for Ayr. During the war Bill was a bomb disposal officer, he became a Lieutenant Commander in the R.N.V.R.

Bill's father Andrew had a Coal Merchant's Business. Bill eventually bought the business from his father and took over the running of it.

On the fourteenth of September 1959 he married Morag McMillan Cook Miller. The happy couple stayed in Cambuslang. He had a keen interest in sailing. He had two yachts – the *SeaBoard* and the *Typhaine*. Bill enjoyed taking his nephew Craig and his niece Cherry on his boat.

In 1968 Bill retired from the Coal Business. He and his wife decided to go to Barrhill to stay. He designed and built his own bungalow called *Duisk Lodge* where he remained for the rest of his life.

His house had a bit of ground attached to it. He had it landscaped and he liked looking after it and with the help of his little tractor he used to collect the logs for his fire right up until two years ago when he had to give up. It was a major problem for Bill when his beloved wife Morag passed away on the second of May 1999. They had enjoyed a very close and happy marriage for forty years.



Bill liked driving. He even changed his car as recently as 2007. He also liked dogs and he found his Labrador Jason to be a very good companion for him.

During his lifetime, Bill had a number of interests. In his younger days he used to shoot and fish, he had an interest in boxing and he used to encourage his nephew Craig to spar with him when Craig was a boy. When he first came to Barrhill he enjoyed going curling at Portpatrick.

During his life Bill had a number of good friends. An old school friend, Johnny Anderson remained friends with Bill for the rest of his life and Bill appreciated the fact that Johnny's daughter Fiona kept in contact with him after her father's death.

***Ed's Note Johnny was also known to many as Menzies Anderson and was a President of Allan Glen's Old Boys Club 1950–1951.***

Bill enjoyed the time he spent with his nephew Craig and his niece Cherry. He was delighted when he became a great uncle to Megan, Lucy, Emma and Louise and he saw them all as often as he could, he had a celebration in June 2008 when he reached one hundred years of age. He particularly appreciated the fact that representatives

from his old school – *Allan Glen's* – were there at the celebration.

For most of his life Bill kept in remarkably good health. He got his cataracts removed in the 1990s which resulted in him being able to read the Herald without glasses! He was slightly deaf but was never really in any pain – until the last month of his life. So obviously smoking his pipe every day did not seem to have a negative effect on him !

Unfortunately Bill had a bad fall on the thirteenth of October. He was luckily found by his home help Carol, a lady whose work he really appreciated. Bill had to go into Ayr Hospital, it was while he was there, that he passed away on Saturday the thirteenth of November.

Bill Young was a very 'genial, self contained person.' He had great self discipline and determination, he never complained about things, he also had a good sense of humour. He admitted himself that he had had an extremely fortunate and good life. We can all take some comfort from all that he achieved in his life.

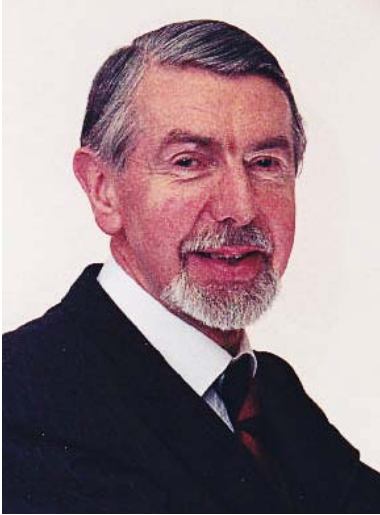
## From Ian Rodger

Just finished reading the whole October newsletter -- it really is very, very, very good..

So sorry to hear that Dr James Kerr is no more. It was a great shock. We were great friends at school and in Med School sharing many escapades and holidaying with him and Bruce Paterson another 1961 **AGS** leaver. It is no surprise that he has left a lasting memorial in the Hospital at Niagara and beyond.

# THOMAS BRYAN FLEMING 1932 – 2010

## A tribute by Iain Cumming



I have been asked by Alan McLellan to write a reminiscence of my oldest friend, Bryan Fleming who died on the second of September after unsuccessful heart surgery.

Bryan was born just one month before me in 1932 and we were close friends from the age of six or thereabouts right up until his death. He was baptised Thomas Bryan Fleming after his father, Tom Fleming, but when the family began to call him "Wee Tom", his mother promptly decreed that he should thereafter be called "Bryan", which was a family surname.

Bryan and I first met when our mothers presented us for enrolment at Hillington Primary School in 1937 at the age of five, and within a year we had become firm friends. Throughout our primary school careers at Hillington, we grew to share an interest in matters technical and scientific, which I suppose must have predisposed our parents to consider a future career at **Allan Glen's**.

In the Qualifying Exam at the end of our primary education, Bryan and I were second and third, in that order, in our class (of 60!) and neither family being particularly well-off, it was suggested that we try for the **Glen's Bursary Examination**. It was thus that we travelled together in 1944, on the No.15 bus from Hillington to Glasgow, possibly for the first time

unaccompanied, to the forbidding portals on Cathedral Street. To my own amazement, I passed, as did Bryan although the latter was a foregone conclusion, and thus began our career together at The School.

Bryan opted for the Latin stream under Gussie Hodge in 1B, while I chose French with Jimmy Logie in 1A. In those days, the "A" and "B" classes were exclusively Bursary Entrants, and the designation in no way reflected on ability or performance, only on the choice of language studied.

During the course of our **Glen's** career, our friendship deepened through our mutual interest in engineering and scientific topics, joining the Scientific Society, and the Radio Club, with that marvellous teacher, Ken Topping. It must be confessed that we were not greatly attracted to the sporting life of the school, and when we could, we bunked off (or "Plunked" as the saying was) on Wednesday afternoons while our contemporaries were revelling in the athleticism of the Playing Fields, the River or the Golf Course. On a visit to the Bishopbriggs Lunch, last year, Bryan's wife Ann, who had been extremely athletic and sporty, was somewhat non-plussed over Bryan's difficulty at finding the Sports Club only to discover that that was only his 3rd visit!!

Bryan left at the end of his fifth year in 1949 to take up an apprenticeship in Accountancy, while I stayed on for a sixth to scrape a pass in Higher Maths which I needed for University and which I had failed in 5th.

After completing his apprenticeship with the firm of Consulting Accountants, Chrystal McIntyre, and gaining his CA, he went off for his two years' National Service in the Royal Air Force, ending up as a Pay Accountant at Changi Headquarters, Singapore, leading a life of some luxury interspersed with brief forays into the jungle in pursuit of the CT's ("Communist Terrorists") who were a thorn in the side of Empire in those days. They were given the advice 'If it's green and moves, shoot it'. He and I corresponded regularly during this period of separation.

During this spell abroad, Bryan became aware of the Spiritual aspects of life and developed a faith which never left him throughout the remainder of his career. He also took up the sport of Fencing to which he introduced me on his return home and which we both enjoyed (without any great competitive success, I may say) for the next 20 years or so.

The other sporting interest which we shared throughout our lives was climbing and mountaineering in which Bryan excelled and rose to be President of that august body, The Scottish Mountaineering Club. He made notable contributions to the committee work of that organization, particularly in the Publications Committee and the allied Scottish Mountaineering Trust. He and I spent many happy holidays and weekends in the hills together.

Bryan was an eminently Clubbable man; he was a member and active participant in a host of clubs and organizations ranging from the Literary to the Professional, to the Outdoors. I could list over a dozen, but three will serve to exemplify the breadth of his interests – The John Buchan Society, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, and the Game Conservancy Trust.

In his professional life, he held a number of appointments, beginning on his return from Singapore as an accountant with the carpet manufacturers BMK in Kilmarnock. He then transferred as Company Secretary to a light engineering firm in Ardrossan, owned by the owner of BMK, Gavin Morton, a position he held for a number of years. Following its collapse, he worked briefly with the financial side of the Glasgow Garden Festival organisation until this was wound up. (He actually left in July having been offered a job on the morning of his wedding! His words to his bride as she joined him at the front of the Church were not 'You look gorgeous', but 'I've been offered a job'). His final appointment was initially as Accountant to a firm of garment manufacturers in Kilbirnie, followed by his taking over as Managing Director after a management buyout with two of his colleagues

He retired from this only in 2005 at the age of 73 after having guided the firm successfully through many crises and difficulties.

Bryan married twice; his first wife, Christine, died tragically young as did his brother Ian, who also attended **Allan Glen's**. He had 2 children Hilary and Peter. His second wife, Ann, whom he married in 1988, brought him great contentment and happiness through her support and their shared faith and interests during their life together.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her in her sad loss.

# Season's Greetings from Allan Glen's School Club



Card Designed by the late Ralph Cowan 1990 and  
kind permission from his daughter Diana