

# Snowdon Snippets

News from  
Campbell Snowdon House

Campbell Snowdon House • Quarrier's Village • Bridge of Weir • Renfrewshire PA11 3SX

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## 'All together now...'

**We are delighted to say that our happy association with St. Columba's School continues to thrive.**

During August and September Campbell Snowdon House and St. Columba's Junior School Hall were 'Alive with the sound of music', created by musicians aged from four to forty plus. Daniela Hathaway, the singing teacher at St Columba's was the driving force behind this exciting enterprise: discovering 'Create 18 – A Year of Young People 2018', Daniela applied for, and obtained, funding which enabled her to enrol performers from the school and Campbell Snowdon with a view to producing an 'Intergenerational Concert' at St. Columba's on Sunday, September 16th. There was much to-ing and fro-ing between Campbell Snowdon and St. Columba's with workshops and rehearsals taking place at both. All this activity was aimed at fulfilling the aspiration of 'Create 18' to explore the

role music can play in encouraging communication between people of all ages. Young (very young), junior and senior pupils and Campbell Snowdon residents worked together at learning the words and music for a concert based on the themes 'Air, Fire and Water'. 'Loch Lomond', suitably watery and 'This Little (Candle) Light of Mine' were favourites, as was Douglas's solo. The orchestral pieces were enlivened by appropriate actions – 'Music and Movement' provided by the oldest and youngest performers who had enjoyed rehearsing together.

Throughout the workshops, rehearsals and final performance a good time was had by all ages, thus proving the shared joy of making music really can unite young and old to their mutual benefit.

*P.S. A bonus: Donations at the concert swelled the coffers of the trishaw fund.*





# Jim Cowie

by Janet Reid, *Freelance Writer*

**At age 95 Jim Cowie may not be the oldest resident of Campbell Snowdon, but he is certainly the oldest one to be learning French: 5 years ago when his grand-daughter married a Frenchman, he wanted to be able to talk to his new French relations at the wedding! His door is always open, so there's a cheery *bonjour* to all the staff as they pass by, or a *comment allez-vous?* And if it's not French he's speaking, he'll greet them with a snatch of song – *the Laird of Cockpen, Ae Fond Kiss, I belong to Glasgow...***

And Glasgow is indeed where he belongs. He was born and brought up in Denniston. At school, he says, he wasn't a super enthusiastic pupil, and was more likely to get the strap than any prizes. He left them to his big brother Alan, who became a dentist. However teeth were to be his career too. When his school days ended and war started, he became a dental technician in the RAF. His first posting was to Inverness. When he got there his eyes lit up, he says, because the town was full of young ATS girls who liked dancing, just like him. And thus he met his future wife. But, he remembers, a lot of pen-scraping followed. Jim was posted to India and his letters to Helen had to replace his vibrant personality.

However there was plenty to write home about: the amazing long train journey from the coast up through Pune to the middle of India, miles and miles through a country unimaginably full of strange, exotic and colourful contrasts to Scotland. Then, once at the camp, there were the birds (not girls!). The cookhouse was a couple of hundred yards from the dining hut, he explains, and as you hurried with your plate from the one to the other, a hawk-like bird would swoop down, its wings streaking past your cheek, and swipe your food. But only once – thereafter you covered your food with your hat.

Jim's RAF job was making false teeth – wallies – for the servicemen, a very important role because the slightest dental problem could cause agony in an unpressurised aircraft flying at 20,000 feet.

After he was demobbed at the end of the war Jim returned to Scotland and to Helen. There was, he says, no hanky panky or jiggery pokery and they were married in Kirkcaldy before setting up house together in Govan. Here, in a shop next to Fairfields shipbuilders, he joined his brother's dental practice in the laboratory as dental technician. He spent the next few decades making wallies – though never any for himself or his family – they all knew the importance of tooth brushing



and none of them had any dentures. The wallies in the early years were made of porcelain from the United States, until acrylic became a cheaper and equally good substitute. His customers, he says, always hoped they'd come away looking like Sophia Loren with their new teeth! When his brother retired he continued for a while as dental technician for another dentist until he retired too.

Meantime he and Helen brought up their 3 children in Renfrew and he remembers many a happy holiday with them – paddle steamer days doon the watter in the Jeanie Deans and the Waverley, caravan holidays in Northern Ireland (one of these at the start of the Troubles, when there was fear and drama – unwittingly they parked their car in the Falls Road and there were policemen with guns warning them away), and all over Scotland.

The children all grew up and married and had children of their own. His middle child, Eleanor, settled in Houston, and by happy chance was able to alert Jim and Helen to some plots which were round the corner from her in Houston and which were about to come on the market. They bought one, and built a perfect retirement bungalow there – ideal as a base for their many car trips around the country – to Inverness for old times' sake, to Largs for ice creams at Nardinis, to Luss for coffees with the beautiful view of Loch Lomond and the Ben, and to Kilmarnock, for another forgotten reason.

But though he's forgotten that, he's still not forgetting his songs and his French and how he went to Dinard in France on a school trip over 80 years ago. And so it's *Au Revoir!* as I say goodbye to a most delightful resident.

# Jim's Jottings...



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24th November 2018

Dear Members of Staff at Campbell Snowdon House,

I was delighted to be told recently by our Care Home Manager, Jim Melville, that once again we have been awarded the highest grades by the Care Inspectorate following their recent unannounced inspection. On behalf of myself, Members of my Board, Residents and family members I would like to thank each and every one of you most sincerely for all the hard work that you have undertaken to help attain this fantastic achievement.

We have had an interesting year with both the change of Care Home Manager and Board members and notwithstanding that, the level of care and commitment to our residents has been excellent.

Following a recent board meeting we have decided to invite the local press in to Campbell Snowdon House in the next few weeks so that this success can be recorded and reported on to the wider community and my Board members and I look forward to seeing as many of you at this time so that we can pass on our thanks in person.

I look forward to meeting with you but in the meantime my heartfelt thanks to you all for all that you do to make this home so special. In addition, I am pleased to let you know that every member of staff will receive a £50 gift voucher this year.

With best wishes

Mike Schirwing  
Chairman

## Our Executive Committee Trustees

Plus Caroline Clark (not pictured)



Mike Schirwing



Sheena McFarlane



Neil Hunter



John Mulholland



Jacqui Morris



Angela Spence

## All Sixes

Our recent inspection by the Care Inspectorate resulted in our retaining our excellent grades 6s in all areas inspected:

*How well do we support people's wellbeing?* 6 - Excellent

*How well is our care and support planned?* 6 - Excellent



## Congratulations

to Susan who celebrated her marriage to Jacqueline on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at the Lynnhurst Hotel, Johnstone.



# Merry Christmas

Music and Memories  
from the staff and residents

**'Oh Come All  
Ye Faithful'**

I always enjoy singing  
that one – Douglas

**'Still the  
Night'**

It may be a bit  
churchy for some,  
but it's the song I like –  
Margaret

**'White Christmas'**

It's nice and mellow, not too jazzy – Jim

**'Little Donkey'**

Reminds me of  
nativity plays in school – Andrea

**'Oh Christmas  
Tree'**

Just because I like it –  
Betty

**'Do they  
know it's  
Christmas?'**

Band-Aid – Gets me  
in the Christmas  
spirit – Debbie

**'Hark the Herald  
Angels Sing'**

I remember my mother  
coming to watch me sing a  
part in this song in the  
church – Isabella

**'Merry Christmas  
Everyone'**

I was daft on Shakin  
Stevens when I was  
younger – Janet

**'Merry  
Christmas  
Everybody'**

Slade – Such a  
good tune – Liz

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from all at Campbell Snowdon*



Your Editor, Barbara Walton, would welcome any suggestions and contributions for future issues -  
email: [bandtw@sky.com](mailto:bandtw@sky.com)

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