

I would like to welcome you all here this afternoon to the new Glengyle Distillery. My remarks will be short, so if you can't hear me at the back, you will not miss very much.

Most of you on looking around will recognise each other. That is because every one that received an invitation to this event has either at some time worked in a part of the J & A Mitchell group of companies or in some closely associated supporting business or else is a representative from a firm that has actually been involved in the construction of this new distillery. So if you don't recognise someone go and ask them who they are and why they are here.

This underlines a point that I want to make very clear. This rebirth of an old Campbeltown distillery is a Campbeltown project and a Campbeltown project only. It owes nothing to any outsiders. There has been no help from any Scottish Development Agency; there has been no Inward Investment Initiative. We have received neither a Lottery Grant nor European Community assistance. I am proud of this and every Campbeltown person here should be so too.

I will digress slightly and ask you if you realise how many Parliamentary representatives we vote for. We elect a member directly to the Scottish Parliament; at the same time we vote for what is called a List member. We vote in a member to the Westminster Parliament and finally there is the European Parliament: four Parliamentary representatives in all. Of these only one showed sufficient interest to write to me and wish our project success.

Dr. Winifred M. Ewing, thank you.

The lady I have just thanked is more usually known to you as Winnie Ewing and has had more parliamentary experience than probably any one else ever, having been a member of all the three different parliaments that I have just mentioned. You will remember that she formally declared that the Scottish Parliament was reconvened and I am so very pleased that she has agreed to come here to declare the revived Glengyle Distillery open.

I hope that all the individuals and firms that have been involved in the construction of Glengyle Distillery will accept the fact that they have been invited here shows my appreciation and will excuse me for not mentioning them individually. I will however specifically mention Frank McHardy, the Company's General Manager. Frank has been central in the design of the distillery layout, the specification and sourcing of the equipment and coordination of the work progress. Without Frank's skill and commitment we would have had to wait several more years before this ceremony could take place.

For about two hours following the opening ceremony there will be an opportunity to tour the Distillery in small groups. Whilst you are waiting for your group to be formed could you return here, where tea and shortbread will be served. Please do take time to stay and see round the Distillery so that you can go and tell your friends that it is actually there and that it is not a Distillery of Mass Construction.

Now please go out down the road to the right and in at the next gate. Go straight on in and gather a few yards back from the large door facing you, where Dr. Ewing will declare Glengyle Distillery and the Frank McHardy Production Building open.