



STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Volume 1: No 3

Autumn 1995

CHRISTMAS CEILIDH SET FOR SATURDAY, 23 DEC

Some 400 people took part in Strathbungo's Gala Day in June, starting with coffee and stalls in the morning and running right through to midnight when around 150 folk were still on their feet for Auld Lang Syne.

'This was our first attempt to get the community together for a purely social occasion and we were delighted with the results,' says Strathbungo Society Chairman Alex Connell. 'The ceilidh was the perfect format for bringing all age groups together so we've decided to do it again.'

Strathbungo's Festive Fling will be held on Saturday, 23rd December, once

again at the Pollokshields Burgh Halls, 70 Glencairn Drive. 'Since it's unlikely we'll have a clear balmy night for strolling home like we did last summer, we'll alert local taxi companies to expect calls around midnight.'

Congratulations, incidentally, to Pollokshields Heritage whose number came up with a £400,000 grant from the National Lottery back in the summer. Our party will be one of the last events to be held there before restoration work gets underway in early 1996.

Tickets are limited and will be sold first come first served so don't risk disappointment!

HAVE A FESTIVE FLING!

THE STRATHBUNGO CHRISTMAS CEILIDH
Saturday, 23rd December - 8 pm - midnight

POLLOKSHIELDS BURGH HALLS
Licensed Bar • Festive Snacks

Featuring the John Carmichael Ceilidh Band

Tickets £5 from Kay Caldwell on 423 5746
or Sharon Schweps on 424 1896



Thanks . . .

to the following businesses and individuals whose donations helped make our Summer Gala a success:

Athena Greek Taverna
Glasgow Audio
Glasgow Hilton
Irvines of Pollokshields
Kate Crafts
Panda House
Paradiso Ristorante
Safeway Crossmyloof
Mike Watson MP

We welcome any contributions and/or raffle prizes for our Christmas Ceilidh - simply phone 424 1896.

WILL YE NO COME BACK AGAIN?



Anne Hamilton reports some successes and some disappointments for

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

First cut in Queen Square on 16th November ...

At the time of writing the contractors working on the renewal of sewers in Marywood Square were packing up and clearing out. Meanwhile, the first of the JCBs appeared in Queen Square, where residents can expect renewal works to continue from mid-November for 10 - 12 weeks.

The good news is that because the work has been carried out under the New Road and Street Works Act, contractors have had to carry out permanent re-instatement of the road surface according to stringent specifications. Before this Act was passed, temporary re-instatement was the normal procedure, followed by a return visit, six weeks later, re-excavation and re-surfacing. According to Strathclyde Region, the contractors will not be back.

However, the same legislation has been partly responsible for the lengthy delays over the renewal programme in Marywood Square since it requires all relevant works to be carried out during excavation and requires notice to be given to all public utilities and to the Roads Department so that work can be co-ordinated and repeated excavations prevented.

Scottish Gas will therefore be on site alongside the Sewerage Department in Queen Square where there is a large gas pipe in the centre of the street as well as smaller ones alongside the footpaths. The Sewerage Department have said, however, that there will be no requirement to dig up the footpaths.

The patience of Queen Square residents will no doubt be tested by minor disruptions to phones, electricity and gas supplies as was the case in Marywood Square – Clerk of Works Danny Dillon says with the proliferation of services due to so many conversions in the block, it is hard to know where to

dig. But there is some consolation in knowing that once the job is finished, the street surface will be restored to a good condition and we should be free of bother for some time.

At least there was light relief in the autumn when a car being pursued by the police at 2 a.m. turned into Marywood Square and disappeared down the sewer excavation. The police followed, quite literally, and made the arrest on the scene – or, rather, slightly below it!

The face is familiar...

As our postman, he probably knows more folk by name than anybody else in Strathbungo but do you know his? Meet Les Peyto, who lives in Vennard Gardens and is a paid-up member of the Strathbungo Society. Each issue we'll be putting a name to another well-kent face in our community. So start saying 'hello' to your neighbours.

The Car Crime Survey which the Neighbourhood Watch attempted to carry out yielded too little information to be of use – since no-one filled out the form and handed it back except for residents of Carswell Gardens. Well done them! Unfortunately this response alone did not provide enough information to make it worthwhile doing anything further.

Meanwhile the rate of car crime continues to grow but without the information requested it is impossible to make headway. The latest spate has involved the stealing of new Road Tax discs. If you have a new Tax disc, cover the front with sellotape. This will not stop it being stolen but it will prevent it from being re-used. Some petrol stations also sell tamper-proof tax disc holders which make it clear to potential thieves that the disc is protected by adhesive.

Better news on the housebreaking front. Alarms are being reported to the police and at least two perpetrators have been arrested recently on Pollokshaws Road. Thanks are due to those people who were vigilant and who reported the attempted burglaries.

Young boys have been seen climbing lamp-posts to remove the Neighbourhood Watch signs, and others have been seen throwing and breaking glass bottles on the railway line in front of trains. One NW member has taken photographs of them which will be passed to the police. (If you photograph someone who's at it, use the flash and they will know they have been caught on film. But be careful!) This evidence can, under certain circumstances, be used in court.

We have a much more noticeable police presence in the area now, but please keep up your efforts. It is you, the local residents, who will make the difference and your vigilance is starting to work. Well done, and keep it up!

TALKING RUBBISH

Strathbungo News put your questions to the real experts from Glasgow Cleansing Department – Andy Carberry, Supervisor of Pollokshields Depot, and Bobby Dickson, Bulk Supervisor for Southwest Glasgow.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Q: Why don't you take all the rubbish away on Friday mornings?

Andy Carberry: We're here to provide a vital service and we do everything we can within our budget constraints to accommodate residents. But the fact is, we are bound to remove only routine household refuse and, technically speaking, only if it is properly presented in black plastic bags and readily accessible from the lane. People don't always realise that the boys do more than required – for example, emptying loose bins or uplifting non-standard bags or boxes.

Q: What's 'routine' household refuse?

AC: It's easier to say what's not – for example, cast-off furniture, carpet, major appliances, anything that's too big or too heavy to go in bags. And then there's rubble left behind by major building projects and garden refuse.

Q: So what do we do with that?

Bobby Dickson: Phone us on 227 4484 and ask for bulk refuse collection. We promise to collect within ten working days and normally we're quicker.

AC: Or you can take most things yourself to the collection station at Polmodie. So long as you have your own transport, that gets rid of it immediately seven days a week.

Q: Do you charge for bulk uplift?

BD: Our service is free for most items, even very big pieces such as beds or wardrobes. But we do charge for certain special items based on the time it takes to collect them. The fee is £39 plus VAT per hour, with a minimum charge of 15 minutes – roughly £11. You will be invoiced from central office. Never hand over money on collection.

Q: What items are chargeable?

BD: As a rule, we draw a line between the debris of everyday life and major building or landscaping work. So that means we charge for removing huts, garages, greenhouses, bricks, plaster – anything left behind by a contractor. We can probably tell you over the phone if there's a charge but we might also send someone out to estimate how much time's involved – without obligation.

Q: Any limits on what you collect?

BD: We have to remove CFC gas from fridges before they can be crushed so we only collect them on Thursdays when we can send around a special van. Most glass doors won't go safely in the hopper either so they also need special handling. Tree branches must be cut in lengths of 4ft or less and tied in bundles to comply with Health & Safety guidelines. It's mostly just commonsense thinking to protect our staff and the environment.

AC: Same goes with household rubbish. We ask people to wrap up broken glass or mirrors in newspaper or put it in a cardboard box and then mark it 'glass-handle with care' – it's only fair to the boys.

Q: Why do our lanes look so tatty?

AC: On Fridays our people are instructed to pick up any spillages they cause – say, if a bag splits when they lift it – but they are set targets and they simply don't have time to pick up loose refuse scattered by pets, foxes or the wind. Some of this is caused by what we call *scranners*, those guys who go round slitting bags and looking for scrap. But the biggest problem is created by residents who don't tie up bags securely or who put bags out long before collection time. 90% of the people in Strathbungo cooperate. It's that tiny fraction who spoil it for everybody else.

Q: Can you sweep the lanes?

AC: Yes and no. In practical terms, we can't actually sweep lanes that are cobbled or where the surface is uneven, broken or gravelled – but we can *de-litter* them and we have recently begun sending teams round once a week to do just that. Manpower is tight but we are genuinely trying to improve standards, not just maintain them. And of course things would improve even more if everybody helped us by picking up litter in their own patch.

Q: Why is it Cleansing comes out and takes away one item but leaves another lying right beside it?

BD: When a resident phones, we take note of items to be collected and arrange uplift. Meanwhile, the resident decides to throw out something else – say, a washing machine. When we arrive, we can't take the washing machine because it's not on the list. It

might be logical to assume it's for uplift but we've had too many claims against us in the past to chance it. All the resident has to do is phone up and add new items to the list. It's even trickier when refuse is lying further along the lane. Unless we have had a specific call, we can't remove anything, frustrating though it is.

Q: Can I ask you to collect refuse from somebody else's property?

BD: No, but you can phone in and enquire whether we have received a request from that address. If we haven't, then you might wish to take it up with your neighbour on a friendly basis. Sometimes people just assume things will be collected automatically.

Q: And what about persistent or flagrant offenders?

BD: Report them to Environmental Health. No one has a right to downgrade the quality of the area or risk the health of its residents.

Q: Any 'tips' for the holiday?

AC: With two statutory holidays coming only a week apart service is bound to be disrupted but we will try to keep to a schedule of no more than a couple of days late. Residents should take special care to secure their bin bags and it helps to flatten and tie up boxes rather than leaving them to blow around. And don't worry - we'll be round afterwards for the trees.

BD: By the way, there's also a bottle bank at the entrance to Queen's Park for post-Ne'erday deposits.

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

Glasgow Cleansing Department:

POLLOKSHIELDS DEPOT
429 4532 (24 hours)

BULK REFUSE
227 4484 (24 hours)

Glasgow Environmental Health Department

227 4397 (during office hours)
558 2233 (otherwise)

Strathclyde Police
CRAIGIE STREET
423 1113

Taxi firms who don't give a hoot!



That's the kind we like! In response to complaints from residents about the number of taxis which sound their horns when they arrive to pick up a fare - especially in the small hours of the morning - we contacted a number of taxi firms and asked them if their drivers would ring the appropriate doorbell rather than sounding their horns.

Only two taxi firms replied with constructive advice - Croft and Q Cars. Both suggested that when you phone to request a taxi, you should ask them to ring you back when the taxi is on its way. They will be perfectly willing to do that, and this will allow you to be waiting, for the shortest time necessary, where you can see the taxi arriving and the taxi driver can avoid

disturbing the rest of the street. In return for their courtesy, we are happy to publicise their phone numbers

CROFT RADIO CARS
633 2222, 644 3514, 331 2769
Q CARS
440 1188, 440 1199

BACK STREET BLUES

The sub-committee which is researching the options for resurfacing and improving the back lanes continues its hard work. Currently investigating ways of involving employment and training agencies in the restoration of the back lanes, the group has also begun costing the exercise. They hope eventually to be able to put together a package which would attract public and private sector funding for the venture and minimise the contribution which might have to be raised locally by residents. Watch this space.

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

is published quarterly by
THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

Edited

Kay Caldwell & Sharon Schweps

Design

Liz MacDonald

Photographs

Luciano Lanni & Karl Schweps

We welcome your comments
and suggestions –
please send letters to

S Schweps at 38 Queen Square

Self-help for kids

In response to a letter from two young people complaining about the lack of facilities for children and young teenagers in Strathbungo, members of the committee have looked the availability of premises for youth clubs and tried to find out about any existing youth clubs - but have drawn a blank thus far.

What we can do is offer to put people who are interested in providing some kind of amenity for children - of whatever age group - in touch with one another in order to see what they could organise amongst themselves. One suggestion was a play scheme for younger children during school holidays which could involve small groups meeting in each other's houses.

If you are interested in helping to organise some kind of play scheme or entertainment for the under-14s, please get in touch with Anne Hamilton on 423 7319 or Nigel MacDonald on 424 1764.

IN THE WINTER ISSUE

Planning tips:

Renewing your windows - what you can and cannot do

Caring for tall trees
advice from the Parks Dept

WHERE HAS ALL THE WATER GONE?

News that the Boating Club in Queen's Park had been offered alternative accommodation in Maxwell Park has sparked off rumours that the pond in Queen's Park is to be drained.

We can reveal that there is almost no truth in the rumours. The Client Inspectors Office of the Parks Department have indeed offered the Boating Club the chance to move, but the Parks Department has no plans to drain the pond. It seems that nature is doing that by herself! Natural drainage from the pond has meant that the pond is no longer deep enough for the model boat enthusiasts and that is why the alternative of Maxwell Park has been offered. However, the Queens Park pond will not be filled in. Baffled Parks Department officials have no idea where the water is going.

EVEN MORE WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

New light has been thrown on the meaning of the name Strathbungo by the discovery of very early street plans showing the location of original sewers. It seems that the River Bungo used to flow diagonally across the area, passing under what is now the road bridge over the railway where Suzie's Shop stands. Strathbungo therefore means "The Valley of the Bungo". Sounds plausible to us. [Ed: but what, pray, is a Bungo?]

A rose by another name ...

Of course that's all too much for the lads at Glasgow Cleansing ... Strathbungo's known to them as The Morays.