



STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Volume 1: No 4

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CHRISTMAS? EASTER?

What else comes but
once a year?

THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

and it needs your support.

MONDAY MAY 20
at 7.15pm in
Titwood Rd Day Centre

Guest speakers on local issues

The back lanes:

Sally White of Landwise will tell us what could be done to improve them.

Crime prevention:

is Neighbourhood Watch working? How can we make Strathbungo a safer place to live? The police report.

Our AGMs and public meetings are popular and well attended. Come along and meet your neighbours. New members always welcome. Tea and coffee to close the meeting from 9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

A RESIGNING MATTER!

After more than 18 months in office, the committee want to make way for some new blood and new ideas. At the AGM, all of the committee will tender their resignations though some will no doubt stand for re-election. If you would like to be part of the friendly, energetic team that acts in all our interests in Strathbungo, complete the nomination form which will be delivered to your house before the AGM, or simply turn up on the night with someone to propose you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING LANE-WISE IN STRATHBUNGO?

For a number of reasons, some natural and others *not*, the six cobbled lanes in the conservation area of Strathbungo are in an appalling state. Years of weather, wear and tear, interference from service providers and neglect from everyone else have taken their toll - and as if that weren't enough, the lanes are also 'orphans' as far as municipal maintenance is concerned. The local authority will adopt them only after we, the owners, bring them up to scratch.

The Strathbungo Society has been addressing this situation from several different angles. We have approached the various utility companies, though there has been scant interest from anyone there taking responsibility. We have also been investigating ways and means of putting the lanes right on a neighbourhood-wide basis.

To that end, Chairman Alex Connell and Planning Convenor Nigel MacDonald met recently with Sally White of Landwise to discuss whether her organisation might be interested in taking on the Strathbungo lanes as a project. Landwise, part of the Wise Group, provide training and work experience for unemployed people by carrying out backcourt renovations and environmental improvements.

The lanes in question are the four between Nithsdale Road and Vennard Gardens plus the two bisecting lanes behind Moray Place and Pollokshaws Road. All other lanes in Strathbungo are publicly owned and not subject to such tight restrictions. To achieve planning permission, the project would

involve relaying the sets, installing suitable drainage and lighting, all in keeping with the architectural heritage of the area - bearing in mind that surfaces also have to accommodate bigger and heavier vehicles nowadays. 'While Lane-wise works for the most part with public sector customers, there is some precedent for private projects and they foresee that they may be able to help although the timescale will be totally dependant on funding,' says Nigel. 'They may be able to search out and apply for grants on our behalf but as is always the case, an element of funding will have to come from residents.'

Sally White will make a presentation to the Strathbungo Society's AGM on 20th May, including examples of projects Landwise has carried out in other areas. 'Sally will answer questions from the floor and we also hope that people will visit some of the Landwise sites to see what we might achieve with our own property,' says Nigel.

Pins in the Bins . . . What Next?



ATTENTION Legless in Strathungo . . . people *do* chuck out the strangest things . . . but next time, phone BULK UPLIFT on 227 4484 (24 hours).

Meet PC Drew Pride . . .



As the new Community Police-man for Strathbungo, Drew is the name and face you need to know for any non-emergency police matters. He's based at the Craigie Street station (423 1113) and serves as the local contact anytime you need information or advice. Neighbourhood Watch calls should still go direct to the station switchboard or, depending on the level of urgency, to 999.

Strathbungo landmark now listed

The last remaining footbridge over the railway at Moray Place, which was recently C-listed by Historic Scotland, is a Victorian landmark of which we can all be proud. It is also a popular shortcut across the tracks and Railtrack has promised the Society that they will inspect the property and arrange any repairs required to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Our Vice Chairman John Devitt informs us that the bridge was originally part of the Strathbungo Station, which was opened in December 1877 by the Glasgow Barrhead and Kilmarnock Joint Railway Company. The line was a main route to the south and carried the famous *Starlight Special*, which ran daily at 7.55 pm from St Enoch to London Euston.

The station was noted for its two extra long platforms which ran from the booking office in Nithsdale Road to just after Queen Square. The booking office itself – now Susie's – was situated over the railway and with the footbridge, is the only

evidence that remains of the once-bustling station that closed on 28 May 1962.

The bridge was built in 1876 at the Abbey Engineering works in Paisley by Hanna, Donald and Watson, a company whose contracts extended to South America, India and Australia. Closer to home, the Hanna, Donald and Watson nameplate can be seen on the Albert, Kelvin and Suspension bridges in Glasgow, Edinburgh's Waverley Bridge and the Forth bridge in Stirling.



BRANCH LINE



If Moray Place seems a bit wider these days it's because Railtrack have responded to the Strathbungo Society's request to cut back the foliage growing through the rails from *their* side.

UP A TREE?

Like all living things, trees need a bit of looking after from time to time. Thanks to Glasgow City Council, we're enclosing a leaflet that gives you straightforward, authoritative advice on what you should do to keep your trees in tiptop condition - and what you mustn't do without planning permission. That does not mean you can't control their size or shape or remove diseased or dangerous ones. What's more, with the best care in the world, all trees have a natural lifespan and with parts of our neighbourhood well over 100 years old, some of the older specimens are beginning to reach the end of the line.

But remember, if you live in a conservation area, so do your trees. If in doubt, phone the Glasgow Department of Parks and Recreation, Horticulture Section, on 227 5069.

MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE WORLD!

Ever wanted to put your name on the map? Here's your chance!

The back lanes have always been a kind of no man's land, referred to as "the lane between Marywood Square and Vennard Gardens", or "the lane at the back of Pollokshaws Road." Now, as a first step in improving the condition of the back lanes the Society is offering residents the opportunity to suggest names for them.

Careful research by the Society's local history group has unearthed the old names associated with the area, which used to be a clachan style settlement (a number of small houses grouped together for mutual protection) called Marchtown, before the site was cleared to build the present day Strathbungo. The first census records of 1851 describe the cottages and smallholdings as "lands" and most were clearly called after their tenants. So, amongst the names common in the area were Campbell's Land, Neilson's Land, Watter's Land, Storey's Land, Young's Land, Boyd's

Land, Graham's Land and McLelland's Land.

Should we revert to tradition and call the back lanes "Lands," naming them after the people who lived here before us? Should we retain the street names, e.g. Marywood Square Lane, or adopt other historical names? Do we put residents' names into a hat and draw them out, inviting the lucky winners to have a lane named after them? *Let's have your suggestions - on a postcard to, please, to Secretary Liz Brown at 24 Moray Place. The local history group will reveal all at the AGM*



Do you remember . . . ?

. . . the queue for fresh rolls and bagels that used to form every Sunday morning outside Frixos' deli? The shop has long since evolved into a popular local pub and taverna, but for over 20 years now Frixos and Peggy Georgiades have been familiar faces in Strathbungo. They live in Moray Place and are paid-up members of the Strathbungo Society - are you?

King to Queen Square???

IT'S YOUR MOVE

If nobody's ever mistaken you for a grand master but you enjoy the odd game then you're the kind of Chess player we're looking for! The Strathbungo Society is looking to start a rather laid-back chess club which would meet on Tuesday evenings in snug of the Fotheringay Bar. If you are interested phone Brian on 423 8484

OR ANY OTHER KIND OF CLUB? BACKGAMMON? BRIDGE?

Watch this space - better still, use it to advertise for kindred spirits!

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

Glasgow Cleansing Dept

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

DO YOU KNOW . . . ?

1. After which monarch was Queen's Park named?
2. Which battle is commemorated near the Queen's Park, and when was it fought?
3. What were the Christian names of the Hutcheson brothers who founded the school?
4. What is the predominant colour and type of building material used in Grantly Gardens?
5. Who is Cuthbertson Street names after?
6. On which Saint's day was the Victoria Infirmary opened in 1890?
7. When did Crosshill lose its Provost?
8. Give the name of a local area associated with Walter Scott's novels.
9. Who was the minister of Strathbungo parish church when the existing building in Pollokshaws Road was erected in 1886?
10. What is the name of the block of flats erected at 996 Pollokshaws Road in 1906?
11. To which family does the carved animal on the Victoria Infirmary belong?
12. Where is the local Deil's Kirkyard?
13. What date appears on the facade of Langside Public School?
14. In what year did Alexander "Greek" Thomson die, and where?
15. What was the original name of Marywood Square?
16. Which famous architect lived in Regent Park Square in 1896?
17. "Greek" Thomson's chief assistant prior to 1871 has given his name to a street in Shawlands. Who was he?
18. What was the name of the railway which ran parallel to Moray Place in 1886?

£10 book token for the first correct entry drawn out of the hat at the AGM. Bring them with you!

Following an appeal by the owners of the former carpet showroom at 862 Pollokshaws Road, the Scottish Office has refused their planning application for a fast food shop, according to Shawlands Community Council's Sam Wilson, who has represented the objections of many Strathbungo residents over the past two years. That should end plans to open a takeaway shop there, says Sam, although it's hoped the owners will now develop the derelict site along less contentious lines.



OH NO YOU CAN'T!

One's home may be one's castle, but in Scotland even the Queen would need planning permission before she could start selling fish suppers at Balmoral. Much as we bemoan the planning wallahs when we fall foul of them, they protect all of us against 'improvements' which might detract from the value and amenities of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Strathbungo was very much in need of such protection when its first properties were 'listed' back in 1970. The relative value of the houses today, over a quarter of a century later, is almost certainly due to the restrictions placed upon owners then.

As regards planning issues, we are really talking about three levels of commitment in Strathbungo:

1. **The Strathbungo Conservation Area** is 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, whose character it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. It extends roughly from Nithsdale Street to Marywood

Square, taking in the adjacent blocks of Pollokshaws Road and Moray Place. Planning is tight throughout.

2. Within that area, certain **listed buildings** are subject to even stricter controls. This includes the 'A' listed 'Greek' Thomson block of 1-10 Moray Place, which Historic Scotland considers to be of international importance. The 'B' list, which indicates architecture of regional importance, covers the rest of Moray Place, all of the tenements, Regent Park Square and the even numbers of Queen Square. Not to forget the telephone kiosk outside the New Anand and seven lamp standards in Marywood Square!

3. Just **outside the formal conservation boundaries**, property from Vennard Gardens through Carswell Gardens is nevertheless considered highly important to the character of the overall area and subject to various constraints. Owners must ensure that alterations are 'appropriate'.

So which alterations require planning permission? In general, permission must be granted *before* you undertake any work on extensions, roof alterations, replacement windows, stone cleaning, exterior painting, fencing, walls, satellite dishes and trees. If in doubt, ask - otherwise you

risk reinstatement at your own expense and/or a fine.

Strictly speaking, you are allowed to maintain your property in its current state - however, if your property was altered prior to the establishment of the conservation area, you would be strongly encouraged (or occasionally compelled) to carry out repairs to appropriate standards. 'We hope that people will uphold the spirit as well as the letter of conservation guidelines and try and get Strathbungo back to what it should be, rather than compounding errors of the past through loopholes,' says Jim Dunsmuir of the City of Glasgow Council's Planning & Development Department.

But remember, aside from protecting the architectural heritage of Strathbungo - a subject that interests many but not all of us - the need for planning permission and/or Listed Building consent protects your investment from being devalued by what the folk next door might decide to do. It's not a matter of good taste v. bad taste. It's enlightened self interest. You can get advice on any matters to do with conservation or planning from the City of Glasgow Council, Dept of Planning and Development at 231 George Street, Glasgow G1 1RX (telephone 287 5701).

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We welcome your comments
and suggestions -
please send letters to

S Schweps at 38 Queen Square

