

STRATHBUNGO



News

October 1999

SCOOBY SCOOBY DOOOOOO!

5-year-old Sam Packham's already in the Hallowe'en spirit, trying on costumes for Strathbungo's Bogles & Bungos party on Sunday, 31st October. Dad Neil will be compering for the kids' event. Sam, who lives in Thorncliffe Gardens, was last seen in the Strathbungo News wearing a different costume –and identified by a different name. Sorry about that!



YELLOW DOTS & WHITE DASHES is the Council speaking in code?

The yellow dots which appeared mysteriously on wheely bins this autumn indicate that collection will take place a day later than normal in the week following a public holiday, says Land Services Assistant Area Manager Willie Alcorn. This does not affect recycling bins, which are uplifted on Wednesdays regardless.

The Council is also considering painting white lines at the entrance to lanes as a means of keeping access open for cleansing vehicles, according to Councilor Walter MacLellan. If residents fail to heed the voluntary warnings, the next step is likely to be formal yellow lines, which could lead to fines for violation. Time for commonsense.

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Good news for ghosties & goblins and things that go Bungo in the night . . .

The Strathbungo Society is staging two special events to brighten up the winter – a fancy dress extravaganza on Hallowe'en, followed by the second annual 'Bungo at the Bells' on Hogmanay.

'Bogles in the Bungo' is a two-tier celebration of Hallowe'en, starting with a kids' party at 4 pm and followed by a disco for adults from 8 pm onwards. Both take place at Sammy Dow's in Nithsdale Road.

'We've never done an event especially for kids so we're going all-out to make it lots of fun,' says events convenor Kay Caldwell. The management at Sammy Dow's have offered us their function room at the back the main bar and we're going to deck it out in suitably creepy style. We'll kick off the party with a fancy dress parade, giving prizes for the best costumes, masks and lanterns – and do make sure your child has a poem or joke too.

'Then we've got star turns from some of our more celebrated residents, plus traditional pursuits such as dookin' for apples and nibbling at treacle scones. Everybody gets a dip in the witch's cauldron before setting out at about 6 pm to do their own guising.'

We naturally expect parents to look after the younger children and must set an upper age limit of primary school age. Entrance by ticket only – £1 a head for kids and parents. Get yours from Ann Downie on 423 4973.

The evening bash will be somewhat less structured but just as much fun. Wear a costume and plan on a great time with a special Hallowe'en disco and themed cocktails. Ann has tickets for this one too.

BUNGO AT THE BELLS



Our second Bungo at the Bells will have to be very special indeed to mark the Millennium – don't just sit indoors and wonder whether your TV's going to succumb to the Y2K bug. Join your friends and neighbours for refreshments, music and dancing in the streets. Much more about this in the next issue!

Live the Good Life in Strathbungo!

Here's a Millennium thought. Instead of harping on about how modern life is on a one-way track to social isolation, food scares and breakdown of services, do something positive. The compact nature of our little island off Pollokshaws Road makes Strathbungo ideal for organising small schemes to beat the system!

LETS HELP EACH OTHER!

Ever fancied sanded floors but lacked the cash to get it done? Need your washing machine fixed, but can't face the call-out charge? Or maybe piano lessons for the children or treatment from a chiropractor that you really want but can't afford.

Now you can have any of these - for free! - thanks to a new scheme that's had outstanding success in Australia and Canada and is sweeping the UK. Strathbungo could be next.

Local Exchange Trading Systems - or LETS schemes - allow you to exchange the skills you've got for the skills you haven't. You sign up to a LETS scheme by listing the things you can do for your neighbours - anything from babysitting to word processing, grass cutting to curtain making, car maintenance to painting. Professional skills count - solicitors, architects, physiotherapists can join - but you're also welcome if you can do nothing more than go shopping for people or walk their dogs!

Each LETS scheme has its own currency, variously called green

dollars, green pounds, strouds, buttons - or how about Bungos. Members get a cheque book and a catalogue of skills available in the neighbourhood from which to 'shop'. A coordinator keeps track of the transactions using a simple computer programme: if you do something for a neighbour your account goes into credit by so many units. If you 'purchase' a service from someone else, your account is debited.

With 600+ households in Strathbungo there must be a range of skills out there waiting to be exchanged. Events co-ordinator Kay Caldwell will arrange a local meeting with umbrella group LETSlink Scotland for people interested in finding out more - phone 423 3354 for details of how this popular barter scheme can help improve your quality of life.



Here's Gary Beacham with a dalek - er uh, composter.

30 FREE compost bins!

The Strathbungo Society has free compost bins for the first 30 local residents who sign up for a new Council pilot scheme. Worth about £40 each, bins are supplied on a first come first served basis. All you have to do is use them and monitor results.

'The Council processes over 250,000 tonnes of domestic refuse a year, much of which could be recycled. That would take a huge load off our resources thus improve services. More and more people use central bottle banks or the green box scheme for kerbside collection, which is already operating very successfully in parts of Strathbungo. Composting is the next step,' says Land Services Recycling Officer Gary Beacham, based at the Council's material recycling facility at Polmadie.

You can compost all sorts of organic matter from tattie peels and tea bags to grass cuttings. Bins come with full instructions and don't think you can't fill one. Believe it or not, a family of four produces about 200 kilos of organic kitchen waste a year. In return, you get excellent compost absolutely free.

Come on Strathbungo! Don't miss this tremendous offer from the Council - phone 423 0050.

GET THEE TO A WORMERY!

Wiggly Wigglers 'Can o' Worms' is an innovative 4-tiered eco system in which kitchen waste is turned into high quality compost & liquid feed. Complete with starter colony of 1000 worms, it's the ultimate green machine (though not for the faint-hearted). Phone 0800 216990 for details.

Take up Urban Farming

Strathbungo is lucky to have two allotments in easy walking distance, each with its own character. The ground is owned by the city, but run by members:

Queens Park Allotments, 55 plots, dates back to 1915. Members pay £6 for the mis-sive fee and £3 for the association, plus deposit for keys to the gate and tool store. Secretary, Robin Bower, 339 Langside Road G42 8XT.

New Victoria Gardens, 59 plots in Pollokshields, is over 100 years old and is comparatively formal with a hall, communal gardens and annual show. Members pay £10 to join plus £15 a year. Secretary Fiona Morrison, NVG Glenapp St, G41 2NQ.

Both have a waiting list though there's a fair bit of turnover. Now's the time to apply since rents are up early in the new year. You might also consider partnership with a neighbour if you think it's too much on your own.

What are the advantages?

- a great hobby
- with fresh air & exercise – an hour at the plot is just the thing after a day in an office
- in a truly egalitarian society – you may be a hotshot professional but that doesn't cut much ice with carrot fly.
- it's great for kids – tell them to stop moaning & dig in, make things grow, EAT them!
- a cheap, abundant source of fresh food and flowers
- no worries about GM crops
- no fears about pesticides or chemical fertilisers.
- pricey exotic veg just love Scotland – grow pak choi, mizuna, lolla rossa, petit pan squash, blueberries, asparagus, rocket, mange tout, tomatillos ..
- plus old favourites like tatties, neeps, cabbage, leeks, strawberries & raspas – the way they used to taste before supermarkets.

The disadvantages? Well, there aren't any, aside from boring your friends with chat about pH levels and mare's tail. Of course, if they are also helping you get through bags-full of free organic fruit & veg, who's complaining?

P A R K L I F E

If Queens Park didn't exist, Strathbungo Chairman Kevin Kane would have invented it. Like many parents he's often found there, pursuing small children and musing on the past and future of our own dear green place. Here's his report.

Were it not for Queens Park it is unlikely that Strathbungo would exist. Opened in 1862, it's a useful reminder of Victorian civic planning and far-sightedness.

City Fathers commissioned the celebrated designer Sir Joseph Paxton to masterplan the 143 acre park, then outwith the boundaries of Glasgow. Corporation Master of Works John Carrick laid down detailed specs for the width of Queens Drive, the scale of tenements and even the siting of five churches and their spires! Named after Mary Queen of Scots, not Victoria, the park brought amenity and recreation to 19th century families while promoting city development on a grand scale

Today, it's still a valuable community resource, to ourselves and many other neighbourhoods that depend on it for the closest thing they have to nature and open space. Recently the Council has made significant and welcome investment – notably, restoring the 1905 Botanical Gardens, developing all-weather tennis courts, creating a mini-piazza at the Balvicar St entrance and pruning wildly overgrown rhododendrons. However, they must build on this investment, repairing various gates and installing better signs to let people know what's on offer. Did you know that Queens Park also has bowling, pitch'n'putt golf, five-a-side football and one of the best views of Glasgow from atop Camp Hill?

Still, other much-needed work appears to be on the Council's back burner – in particular, the pond: is it draining away? Note the flooding, the fenced off path, the mishmash of metal and wooded benches and the derelict (or missing) Victorian lamp standards. Contrast this with its sister park in the West End (Victoria Park) where visitors can even hire a rowing boat. Now, that's park life!

So what can you do? The Strathbungo Society needs volunteers to lobby for redeveloping the children's play area and sourcing new equipment. Any ideas?

What would make the park better for you? More focus on tree and shrub planting? Special bins so people can safely dispose of dog dirt? What about dog-exclusion zones? Fancy a softball diamond or a basketball hoop? Send us your ideas, no matter how

far-fetched, and we'll invite the Council to respond in the December issue. Meanwhile, if you've not explored Queens Park lately, treat yourself to a day in country. It's right on your doorstep.

DON'T BE A FEARTIE!



BOGLES IN THE BUNGO

HALLOWE'EN
Sunday 31st October
at Sammy Dow's,
Nithsdale Road

CHILDREN'S PARTY

4-6 pm

- Fancy Dress Parade
- Dookin' for Apples
- Treacle Scones
- Scary Stories
- Spooky Refreshments
- Witches Dip with Prizes for All!



FANCY DRESS DISCO

8pm onwards

Boogie the night away with the Bogles & Bungos of your nightmares! Devilishly good disco plus creepy cocktails and raffle.

Admission by ticket only

£1 for kids & keepers

£2 for the disco

From Ann Downie

423 4973

SUSIE'S

Meet Mr & Mrs Deo of Susie's Shop at the corner of Nithsdale Road and Darnley Street. 'Susie' was actually the wife of the previous owner, but the name was so much a part of Strathbungo life that the Deos decided to keep it when they took over the shop 15 years ago. They also found an 1888 Callander & Oban Line timetable in the storeroom, a relic from the building's former life as a railway station. The shop is open daily from 7am to 9 pm (Sundays 8am to 7pm).



ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS OUTLINED

After a well deserved summer break, the Strathbungo Society's Environment Group are resuming work on several projects:

- back lanes demonstration scheme
- landscape and tree enhancement with a view towards developing a strategy for Strathbungo in the year 2000
- improvements to children's play area in Queens Park

Watch this space for a more detailed report in December, says convenor Trevor Lee.

ROUTE ACTION REVIEW

The long awaited Route Action report has just been released, according to Cllr Walter MacLellan who says it recognises many of the concerns raised in the Strathbungo area. In general, the report finds more people travelling on buses and an overall reduction in accidents since the plan was implemented. He will be studying the report in detail and discussing recommendations with interested parties as the autumn progresses. Watch this space.

Your number's up!

In response to complaints from people whose wheely bins go walkabout on Wednesday mornings, householders have been to mark the lids of their bins clearly with their house number and street initials. They should also make sure their house number is on the gate, according to Jim Reilly from Land Services Pollokshields Depot.

Sink or Swim

Further to our 'use it or lose it' article in the August newsletter, we've been informed that a 'ladies only' club meets every Wednesday afternoon at Calder Street Baths. A teacher is on hand to give lessons so you're never too old to learn to swim (so long as you're female!).

Further details on 423 2660 or 639 3177.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Don't leave it to everyone else!



Stevie & Staff would like to welcome customers – old & new – to the newly-refurbished Taverna

Still serving an excellent range of cask ales & foreign beers

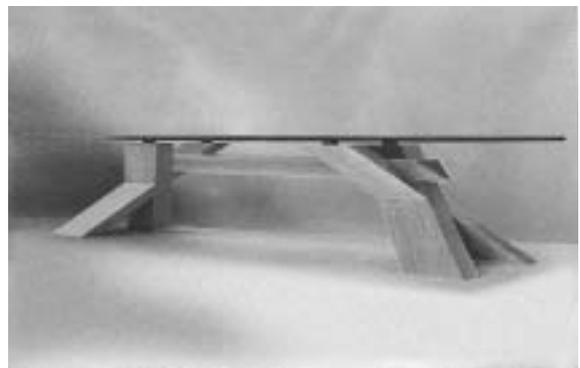
Exciting new menu also available

Plus, Christmas menu too!

The Taverna, 778 Pollokshaws Road



Serious Furniture



Low table in oak and glass, part of a range of hand crafted pieces available for viewing locally.

Phone 0141-424 1414.



The Strathbungo Society is working with Strathclyde Police to provide feedback from local residents in an effort to revitalise our Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

During October, NW Convenor Sheena Salvatore and her team of street coordinators distributed information to all households in the Society's patch, including handbooks, crime prevention leaflets, window stickers and a questionnaire which should be returned by the end of the month. Police are looking for at least 40% of residents to sign up, according to Sgt Sandy Proctor, Crime Prevention Officer, who addressed the September committee meeting.

Says Sheena: 'If we've missed anybody, ring me on 423 2660. As a benefit of membership, we can arrange for a Police expert to carry out a free security check at your home. We also hope to hold special events in the new year – for example, a 'woman's hour' seminar on personal safety.'

Watch for details in the *Strathbungo News*.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TEAM

Convenor Sheena Salvatore – 423 2660

Street Coordinators:

Theresa Mooney, Arthur Quinn, Stewart Milne, Christine Stark, William Boland, Stella Watson, Chris Jay, Fiona Paton, Laura Davie, Antoinette Morcam.

We asked PC Charles (*Chick*) Masterson, Community Constable based at Craigie Street Station, about Neighbourhood Watch:

What's the difference between 'watchful' and just plain nosy?

I'm not asking people to be curtain twitchers, and I certainly don't want anybody out patrolling the streets. That's our job. Neighbourhood Watch is a simple thing. It's just neighbours looking out for one another- improving your own local community and boosting everyone's spirit. All we ask is for you to be aware of what's going on around you and let us know if you see something suspicious.

What do you mean, 'suspicious'?

Well, if you see somebody trying car doors, that's suspicious. But it could be some lad just standing around, looking up and down the street, acting nervous – not doing anything wrong himself, but maybe doing a lookout while someone else breaks in. As a rule, if you see something that just doesn't feel right, we want to know.

But what if I'm wrong?

That's not a problem. We'd much sooner hear, even if it turns out to be nothing. We call these 'fagi's – false alarm good intentions – and there's no harm done. When we're investigating a break-in, you'd be surprised how often neighbours tell us they saw a dodgy looking character hanging about but didn't report it for fear of wasting our time.

So what do I do?



Meet Constable Masterson, Strathbungo's Community Cop

First, be observant – take time to note their description, then phone Craigie Street or, after 5pm, the Gorbals Station. If you see a crime in progress – say, someone breaking a windscreen – go straight to the emergency service on 999.

Why should I get involved?

Because if you leave it for somebody else to phone, they might not. It's not asking much to be a good neighbour - you don't even have to give your name.

So Neighbourhood Watch actually works?

If the scheme is set up and run properly, it sends a message to those scallywags – it says 'we're on to you so go away' and that's what they tend to do.

And just how mean are the streets of Strathbungo?

Strathbungo is not a high crime area at all – it's very quiet, especially considering it's right in the city. For sure incidents happen from time to time, and we take them very seriously, but it's important to keep it in perspective. Sometimes one lady has her handbag snatched, the rumour factory gets going and next thing you know

people think it's a crime wave. Neighbourhood Watch gives a true picture of what is happening in an area. There's no reason for anyone to be afraid – Strathbungo's a great place to live and we intend to keep it that way.

No short cuts please

Residents of 1 – 10 Moray Place report growing use of the back lane as a 'rat run' for vehicles accessing the Nithsdale roundabout though the Roads Department reply that most of the rats are Strathbungo residents! Come on, admit it - we've all done it, but the steady stream of cars, vans and delivery lorries is getting folks down. Strathbungo lanes are only for access to garages and refuse collection and they're in bad enough shape without having to cope with thru-traffic. Anybody else having this problem?



**BULK UPLIFT
287 9700**

**Pollokshields
Depot
429 4532**

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

If you see something suspicious,

423 1113 (daytime)

532 5300 (after 5pm)

To report a crime in progress, **999**

TALKBACK

Community & communications have a lot more in common than just a few letters - let's make this page a forum for Strathbungo news & views. We'll print letters of up to 200 words and, if need be, get answers from relevant officials. Write to Talkback, Strathbungo News, 38 Queen Square.

In at the Deep End?

To the Editor:

I really liked the new Newsletter design and format. The articles are really useful in giving an idea of what's going on, in and around Strathbungo.

Further to the feature on Calder Street Baths. Yes, let's all use them, but they haven't seen any new investment since the mid-1970's and that's 25 years ago! It may have been an improvement then, but times move on. Councillor MacLellan says funding is in place until April 2000: wow! that's 7 months! Let's face it, that's not quite a ringing endorsement, especially as I hear that Pollokshaws Baths are facing the axe. What Calder Street Baths need, and the wider Govanhill/Crosshill/Strathbungo/Pollokshields community deserves, is investment. The Baths require a substantial refurbishment to install foot baths on entry to the pool (no outdoor shoes any more), tolerable toilets and more up-to-date showers and changing facilities. What has the Council got to say to that?

Melanie Smith

Regent Park Square

We asked Councillor MacLellan for his comments:

'There's no easy answer. Calder Street is not convertible into a state of the art swimming pool, but the question remains: is there is a place for a traditional style facility in our leisure provision? Calder Street has its own special qualities - for instance, several separate pools, which gives privacy and safety to special groups, such as mothers & babies, disabled people etc. We welcome the interest - the more letters like this, the better. Keep it up and I'll make sure all views are passed on in the debate that will no doubt be arising.'

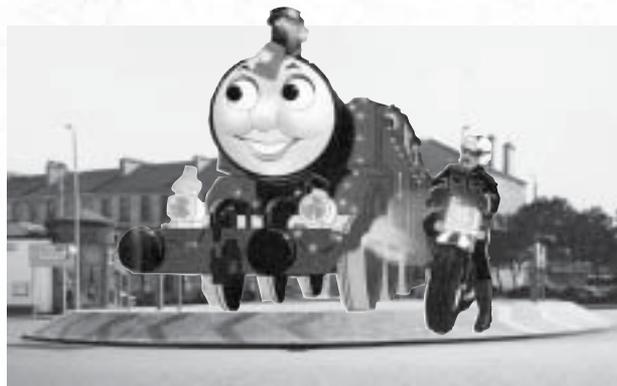
I think I can ...

To the Editor:

I've an idea for the unloved Nithsdale Road Roundabout. What about a Victorian railway locomotive on its end, pointing heavenward? If Strathbungo really is one of Scotland's earliest railway suburbs, why not mark that with a massive, Glasgow-built locomotive as the centrepiece of this piece of legoland Road Dept design c. 1998? That would really put the place on the map. It could become a tourist attraction, celebrating the area's close ties to the railway. I wonder, could Railtrack plc become a founding sponsor?

Name and address supplied

We'll pass it along. Meanwhile, here's our artist's impression of what it might look like. Any other suggestions? - ED.



Makeover and Move Over

To the Editor:

Am I the only person in Strathbungo who feels that Nithsdale Road is in sore need of a makeover? It might boast a handsome tenement design by 'Greek' Thomson, but the street itself looks tatty. Now that the street is open to the roundabout, can the Council not be persuaded to join up the improvement made at either end of the road, by creating an attractive roadscape scheme, or at the very least new road and pavement surfaces? Nithsdale Road is such a wide and majestic street that cars could perhaps park up the middle of the

street, leaving the kerbside safer for kids and others.

Any serious improvement would make such a difference to the place and perhaps attract custom to fill the empty shop units in the street. It might even spur the existing traders to upgrade their frontages. Now that would make a difference.

Fiona MacKinnon

Moray Place

What would encourage you to do more local shopping? A quality greengrocer? A fishmonger? What sort of traders would you like to see moving in? - ED

Eastward Ho!

To the Editor:

As from Monday, 1 November, there will be a split in the original southwest area [of the Council's Land Services Department] and Strathbungo will now come under the East area of the city. If any problems arise, the contact will be Mr Alan Sinclair and no longer myself. For bulk uplifts, the number remains the same - 287 9700. I trust you will have the same rapport with Alan as we have done in the past.

W Alcorn.

GCC Land Services, Assistant Area Manager, West

Dear Willie,

This gives us a chance to thank you officially for all the help you've given the Strathbungo Society over the past few years - from public occasions such as your lively performance at our AGM in June to your many behind-the-scenes efforts to facilitate refuse collection in 'the Morays'. You're a good sport, Willie, and we'll miss you, though thank goodness we'll still have Jim Reilly at the Pollokshields Depot to keep us straight! -ED

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