

STRATHBUNGO NEWS



June 2003

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

Wed 11 June
at 7.30pm
Old Baptist Hall
Queens Drive

**Strathbungo's
1st-ever Conservation
Area Appraisal**

How have we done?

Guest Speaker: Ruth Smith
Heritage & Design Section of
Glasgow City Council

YOUR TURN!

Come along and have your
say on:

- traffic & parking
- local shops & services
- Queens Park
- Whatever else is on your agenda!

**Tea and coffee afterward.
See you there!**

June 21st - Summer Solstice
- also marks the opening of the

Hidden Gardens at the Tramway.

As the sun goes down on
the longest day you are invited to
light a lantern for peace and fill
this new, local space with light.

So make a whole day of it
in Strathbungo.

Bring your friends and your
family - your neighbours will
already be there!

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Bungo in the Back Lanes

Be there on June 21st . . .

Strathbungo's Garden Terraces

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News in Brief

A quick round up of the summer news

Beat, be-bop, burgers, beer and Beaujolais ...

Bungo in the Back Lanes is back!

It's all here and more! Your favourite Strathbungo extravaganza is set for 1-5 on Saturday, 21 June.

More stalls and more all-weather protection mean that the event will go on come hail, rain or shine.

Once again the lanes between Regent Park Square, Queen Square and Marywood Square will be crammed with activity - plants and books to buy, crafts and hand made greetings cards, games to play, bottles to win ... all to the accompaniment of live music from our resident bands and DJs.

Once again we have two beer gardens - one for the lager lovers and one for the real ale fans.

And back this year by popular demand - the children's garden at the back of Nithsdale Street (follow the signs!) Face painting, bouncy castle and games to play.

Want to join in?

Open your garden gate and bring out your wares? Home-baking, seedlings, hand made jewellery?

Or maybe you just want to clear out your attic, cellar or garage and turn clutter into cash? Make a healthy profit for yourself - or run a stall for your favourite charity!

This year's new features include health promotion events and the bicycle doctor - plus a chance to win signed footballs from your favourite teams.

You can also order Strathbungo's 2004 Calendar - a free standing pictorial record of a year in Strathbungo. Sure to be a best seller and top of everyone's Christmas present list!

But it's YOUR ideas that make this event the brightest and busiest event on the Strathbungo calendar.

Let us know what you'd like to do so we can advertise you! Phone Joanna on 423 7756



STRATHBUNGO ELECTIONS 2003:

Labour increases its majority by a massive 20% - to 19 votes!

In the absence of a community council, the Strathbungo Society stepped in to organise Election Eve Hustings on 30th April, just hours before voters went to the polls in local elections.

Malcolm Cuning held the seat for Labour, stretching his predecessor's majority by four whole votes. Ironically, in an effort to demonstrate that every vote counts, our publicity leaflets and posters had centred on how the last election was won by just 15 votes.

'Although the Society's boundaries are considerably smaller than the Ward's, we felt all the people of Strathbungo would enjoy a chance to see and question the candidates,' said Kevin Kane, Strathbungo Society Chairman. 'As an apolitical organisation, we reckoned it was up to us to stage the hustings this time.'

Over 80 folk came along to the hall at Queens Park Church and all of the candidates bar one* were represented. In a lively and entertaining 90-minute session, key issues raised were Victoria Hospital, the M74 extension, facilities/activities for young people,

Queens Park bandstand, state of the streets/litter and graffiti - and, of course, Calder Street baths, which all the candidates said they wished to see re-opening in some form.

Former Strathbungo resident Bob Stewart, standing in for the Lib-Dem candidate, commented that ours was the best attended hustings in the Govan constituency this election.

In the Scottish Parliamentary elections, Gordon Jackson (Labour) was re-elected for the Govan constituency by a majority of 1,235 over nearest rival SNP's Nicola Sturgeon.

*The Conservative candidate Esme Clark declined our invitation, saying "sorry, Strathbungo isn't one of the ones we have a huge interest in ... we don't fancy our chances there so I'll be busy all day helping out where we do have an interest. I do know you have a few issues there - something about a bandstand, isn't there?" Ah democracy ...

In case you missed the count, here's how it turned out:

Malcolm Cuning (Labour) - 625 (24.92%)

William Ramsay (SNP) - 606 (24.16%)

Kenneth Martin (Independent Working Class Assn) - 479 (19.10%)

Rosalind Paterson (Scottish Socialist) - 409 (16.31%)

John MacPherson (Lib-Dem) - 223 (8.89%)

Esme Clark (Conservative) - 166 (6.62%).



Unfortunately, retiring Councillor Walter MacLellan got off on an extended holiday in Spain before we could take a valedictory photo. Tracked down by Strathbungo News (International), Walter said the most exciting work he's been involved in during his 18 years as a Councillor was the

move away from a road-based transport strategy to one in which public transport is being positively encouraged. On a local level, he cited Queens Park redevelopment and Strathbungo's back lanes pilot as evidence that active communities can spark off progress. As for his future, 'I'm going to take off six months to think about it. That's one of the things you don't get to do as a Councillor - you're always dealing with tomorrow's problems.' He and June will still live in Strathbungo, however, 'as long as I'm fit enough to do the garden.' Many thanks, Walter, and all the best in your retirement.



Malcolm Cuning, Strathbungo's new Councillor, first became interested in politics during the 70s in his student days at Aberdeen although this is his first foray into elected office. He feels a reconstituted community council will be a good thing for Strathbungo, provided it is genuinely representative, and is also following the Queens Park bandstand situation with interest (see page XX). He lives in Pollokshields.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Malcolm Cuning

c/o Glasgow City Council

City Chambers, George Square

Glasgow G12 1DU

Tel: 287 2000

Mobile: 07751 689 275

Email: Malcolm.cuning@councillors.Glasgow.gov.uk

Surgery (except during summer vacs)

1st Saturday - 10.00am at St Bride's Primary

11.15am at Annette Street Primary

3rd Tuesday - 6 - 7pm at St Bride's Primary

In an interesting twist, Pollokshields' new Councillor lives in Strathbungo. Bashir Ahmed and his family have lived in Moray Place since 1978, making them the longest-standing residents of the Grade-A listed terrace - No 10 was a dance studio before they moved in and restored it! Bashir came to Scotland from Pakistan in 1961 and was a successful restaurateur before he retired. He feels public service is a way of giving something back to a city that has always welcomed him. A founder member of Asian Scots for Independence, he won East Pollokshields for the SNP, pledging to 'help clean up the community - in every respect.'



And the band played on ...

The Council's proposal to redevelop the derelict bandstand at Queens Park into a performance venue with licensed premises continued to be controversial, as the newly-constituted Friends of Queens Park met in mid-May at the Glasshouses to discuss a range of issues that affect the amenities there.

'The meeting was an important and necessary first step in getting people involved in working up ideas of how the park can be improved. People want to see an overall development plan for the Park, one that improves it for everybody,' said Kevin Kane, who chaired the meeting.

After considerable discussion on the bandstand, it was agreed that FoQP would write to the Council to request that the existing proposal be put on ice and that Council officials join with an FoQP working group to develop ideas of how the bandstand area could be brought back into productive use.

Commenting afterward, newly-elected Strathbungo Councillor Malcolm Cunning said he has had more letters on the bandstand than anything else. 'You have to admire some of the people who are so concerned. If the best and easiest way is private involvement, then we must look at that, but we can also investigate other routes.'

The meeting also heard from Senior Park Ranger Paul Towning who said that a new Park Ranger service would be stationed at Queens Park. Working on a shift system from 6.30am to 10.30 pm, two Rangers will patrol the Park on foot, working in teams of two in

the evenings. This was welcomed by the meeting as a practical way to address the need for a more visible presence of park wardens to increase security.

Good news for Balvicar Play Area

Eddie Scanlon, Parks Development Officer, said the Council was committed to interim improvements in the play area before the schools break for the summer holidays. He noted that, in time and in consultation with FoQP, ideas would be developed to produce much higher quality play areas there.

If you want to get involved in developing these ideas, contact Dylan Paterson, Secretary of Friends of Queens Park, on 632 8379.



For your diary

STRAWBERRY
SUNDAE &
FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, 15 June

1.30 - 4.30 pm

Pollokshields Heritage's annual fete at Pollokshields Burgh Hall & Maxwell Park

LIGHTING
THE PEACE

**Hidden Gardens
at the Tramway**

Saturday, 21 June

9.30-midnight

(after you've been to Bungo in the Back Lanes!)

With music by the Tibetan Singing Bowl Players &



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AWARDS'R'US

New heritage lottery funding opens up a great year of Strathbungo events and activities. In late May, the Strathbungo Society was told that we had won Awards for All funding to promote our unique heritage and preserve it for future generations - or words to that effect. We've been funded to the tune of £4,600, all of it tightly budgeted to a series of expenditures over the coming year.

We're got some worthy projects to get underway - after all, Strathbungo is one of the finest conservation areas in Europe - but if you think 'heritage' is stuffy, read on ...

On Hallowe'en night we will be leading torch-lit ghost walks through the cobbled lanes of Strathbungo where you are likely to run into a few of our legendary characters and hear first-hand about Strathbungo's past. It's for both adults and youngsters - spooky, but fun!

In the spring, we'll hit the architectural trail to explore our Greek Thomson legacy, but - now here's a twist - this time we're going to feature the early 20th century art deco terraces as well.

We're also going to be creating a virtual gallery of Strathbungo, past and present. We'll be asking for old photographs and memorabilia (which we will scan and return to you) - and we're going to create a 'snapshot' of Strathbungo today. It's an ambitious programme with lots of opportunities for local people to learn valuable skills such as digital photography and database administration.

More in the next issue, but for now - thank you, Awards for All!

STRATHBUNGO'S GARDEN TERRACES



Thorncliffe Gardens c. 1930 and nary a car in sight! Planning officers have expressed concerns about alterations to windows and rear elevations in the garden terraces.



In the March issue of Strathbungo News, we ran a short piece previewing our feature this time on the parts of Strathbungo that are not in the official Conservation Area.

We stated that these terraces are nevertheless valuable in their own right as period architecture, and very important to the Strathbungo Society and our community as a whole. That prompted Maxine Mendelson, one of the founder members of the original Strathbungo Conservation Society, to write to correct our mistake, based on her first-hand knowledge of events during the 1970s when these streets - Vennard,

Thorncliffe and Carswell Gardens, Titwood Road and the higher numbers of Moray Place - were declared part of the Conservation Area by Glasgow Council. We have subsequently learned that we were both right, as will be apparent later. But first, Miss Mendelson has given us permission to print her letter in full. It makes very interesting reading.

First the good news

I was a member of the Committee in 1974 and the Society was formed because of the threat of a motorway coming up Titwood Road and that part of Vennard Gardens would be demolished (the first block on the odd number side). The other side would be partially affected and those houses left and all the rest of Strathbungo would be right on the edge of the motorway.

The first house in Vennard was having difficulty in getting buyers as people had heard of the proposals and would not consider purchasing while the rumours continued.

And now for the bad news

According to Ruth Smith, the Council officer charged with drawing up Strathbungo's recent Conservation Area Appraisal, these red sandstone terraces had been part of the Conservation Area, but were removed in 1978!

Why, she was unable to say, but she has promised to investigate and should have more information in time for the Strathbungo AGM on 11th June, where she is scheduled as guest speaker.

As this matter has come to light so recently, we have not yet had time to do any investigating ourselves. Fortunately, with the AGM looming, we have an excellent opportunity

to ask whether anybody in the neighbourhood has further information on when and why this change came about. Was there consultation? Were homeowners even informed of the change in status?

What's more, we also want to know whether householders in the affected streets are for or against being included in the conservation area, should it be possible to petition the Council for reinstatement.

Living in a conservation area requires you to relinquish certain 'rights' as regards your individual tastes and proclivities, placing restrictions on materials and colours of windows, for example, and a whole lot more. Some

people take the 'home is my castle' view and don't want anyone interfering with their personal choices.

On the other hand, conservation status gives you protection against the castle next door being altered in such a way as to detract from the appearance and value of your property. How do you feel?

That was accepted as enough to show the area was planned, even if not completed, and the Council accepted that as sufficient to declare the area from the middle of Titwood Road to Carswell Gardens, Moray Place, Nithsdale Road and Pollokshaws Road all a Conservation Area and, as a result, the motorway plan was cancelled.

A letter was supplied to the homeowners concerned that no road was being built and the house was sold. The conservation status was what we wanted and what we got.

Maxine Mendelson

We would appreciate any information or comments prior to the AGM – send them to Strathbungo News, 38 Queen Square, G41 2AZ, or email news@strathbungo.co.uk. But most important, make sure you come along to the Old Baptist Hall in Queens Drive on 11th June and have your say!

LIVING IN STRATHBUNGO, ART DECO-STYLE

JUST LIE BACK AND THINK OF QUEEN MARY!

As Cunnard's magnificent Queen Mary went steaming down the Clyde on her maiden voyage, young families in Strathbungo's newly-built garden terraces must have felt they too were riding the crest of a wave.

Unlike those stodgy old Victorian relics up the road, these red sandstone houses were built for modern people and modern times. They were designed on a smaller scale, with more manageable proportions and clean, uncluttered lines. Small but elegant - *bijou's* the word!

Many of Strathbungo's garden terraces still have original period features such as built-in display cupboards, three panel doors, and hardwood sash and case windows with excellent stained glass panels. If you're lucky

enough to have them, they are well worth preserving for the value they add to your property as well as their intrinsic beauty and quality.*

Not surprisingly, some present-day owners of Strathbungo's early 20th century terraces have found inspiration in Art Deco style - after all, that's what they were made for.

Art Deco is an eclectic design style that was developed during the period between the two World Wars. It was a fresh, youthful and dramatic style, quite happy to throw back the curtains and let the light shine in. Simple, streamlined forms were deliberately mixed with rich colours, geometric elements and interesting materials to produce bold and intriguing interiors.

If you would like to try your hand at it, here are some starting points:

- Vibrant colour is one of the defining elements, often using highly contrasting colours to highlight the space - lilac, various reds and ultramarine.
- Common accent colours are passionate shades such as orange, lime, pink and yellow.
- Black and metallic shades may be used to intensify the room's theatrical appearance.
- Colour can be added in hand painted stencilled borders, murals or *trompe l'oeil* designs.
- Accessories such as painted pottery are characteristic. So are exotic touches such as large palm trees or oriental decorative screens.
- Accessories and soft furnishings may feature leaf swags as well as flowered motifs.
- Glass, rich woods, metals and laminates are employed to set off striking colour combinations.
- Furniture is geometric in form and emphasises clean lines.

For advice on repairing period features, contact Scottish Conservation Bureau on 0131 668 8668 for the names of specialist restorers in this area.

NEWS in Brief NEWS in Brief

SUMMER IN THE BUNGO I

Langside College is running a series of activities and courses this summer.

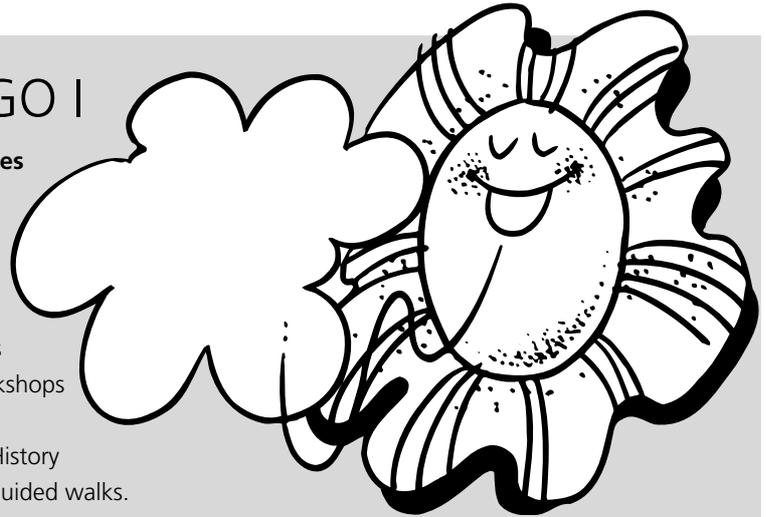
Lifestyle Learning summer school classes will be held over two weeks, 28 July – 1 August and 4-8 August.

Adult classes range from complementary therapies (Alexander Technique, meditation) to creative workshops (drawing & painting, crafts, drama) to a chance to improve your mind - for example, Glasgow Local History and Architecture will feature illustrated talks and guided walks.

Fees vary between £30 and £60, depending on subject, and concessions apply. The College is also running workshops for children in crafts, drama and computing during the same weeks as the adult classes.

Their Kids Summer Club for 5-16 year olds includes sports and games and away days, and will be operating all summer.

Details at www.langside.ac.uk/summerschool.htm or ring 272 3636.



SUMMER IN THE BUNGO II

Glasgow City Council has introduced two special cards for children that entitle them to special offers, events and competitions.

GLASGOW KIDZ (for 5-11 year olds) and



GLASGOW YOUNG SCOT (for 12-17s)



Let youngsters take advantage of some 250 discounts and special offers from shops and businesses across the city - but the best part is free swimming, plus 10% off all other pay-as-you-go activities at Glasgow Sports Centres and Pools. There's also special websites for both age groups and a 24-hour legal advice line for the older kids. Cards are free for anyone living or attending school within the Glasgow City Council boundary.

Download an application form for either card at www.kidzcard.org.uk/yskidzapp.pdf.

THEN LET'S BUNGO BACK TO SCHOOL . . .

Following on the success of our first-ever Bungo coffee morning in March, plans are afoot for another just after the summer holidays. Many thanks to all who helped with the spring event - especially those who contributed a dazzling array of baked goods. We cleared over £300 which has enabled us to publish this issue and we were also delighted with the turnout from all sections of the community.

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NEWS in Brief NEWS in Brief

Back on the Rails

It appears that the Council is at last on the case as regards the on-going saga of the damaged railings in Moray Place, most prominently at the junctions of Regent Park Square and Queens Square.

These railings are the responsibility of Railtrack and local resident Chris Jay has waged a long and arduous campaign to get them repaired. Lately, we're told, the Council's conservation officers have joined in and we wish them luck. In the past 18 months, the Strathbungo Society has written numerous letters to Railtrack

regarding refurbishment of the Grade-B listed footbridge (ever mindful that their method of dealing with the bridge that formerly crossed the tracks from near Vennard Gardens was to demolish it!).

To date we've had no reply and, when contacted by phone, Railtrack couldn't even trace the letters.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Strathbungo needs all the Friends we can get!

Enclosed in this issue is a leaflet asking you to join our new Friends of Strathbungo group. The idea is simple - we are looking for a way to produce a dependable source of income so that we can produce our newsletter and regular events without relying on grants, etc. You can become a member of Friends whether or not you live in Strathbungo and join as either an individual or an organisation. All the details are in the leaflet, along with a standing order mandate. Do join us! (If you've misplaced the leaflet or want more copies, get in touch.)

And thanks to those who have already signed up following our announcement in the March Strathbungo News - it is truly gratifying to have your support.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S



UPDATE ON LANES PILOT

The Strathbungo Society has appointed a consulting civil and structural engineer for the back lanes renovation pilot, which is proposed for the lane behind Moray Place between Queen and Marywood Squares. The engineer is working up drawings and specifications to go out to competitive tender and also to accompany our request to the Council for subsequent adoption of the refurbished lane, according to Stephen Lamb from the Environmental Sub-group. The target is to have a tender returned in advance of the AGM on 11 June. Meanwhile, we are consulting with the owners and once we have firm figures, we hope to have their go ahead for work to proceed.'

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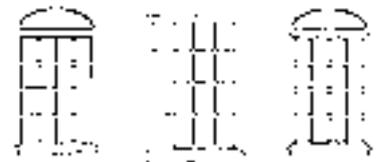
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Deadline for next issue : 20 August

TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words - send them to 38 Queen Square or email letters@strathbungo.org.uk .

HAIR TODAY ...

To the Editor:

I first opened a salon in Nithsdale Road when, in partnership, I bought the business at No. 14, 'Changez'. Hair Garden has been trading since 1985 and the slow but steady decline in trade seems likely to finish us all off. Although a simple change in the disastrous road policy would go a long way to help all local business in Pollokshaws Road, what is the point of the 10 minute parking restriction? Another car can take the space so it does not free the road up. And with the best of intentions, we all can take more than ten minutes for a couple of small errands - errands we will not be running on that street again, once caught by the omnipresent attendants. As for us who need a little longer, hopeless!

Surely, we could have a pay-and-display like Victoria Road. Ten pence is nothing, or would that defeat the ends of those in the Council who advertised the so-called 'Victoria Road Shopping Area', first seen on road signs at Allison Street.

This area needs diversity to keep it alive and the shopkeepers need all the help they can get to keep going. All very well talking about a desirable area to live in, but with no local amenities to support the claim, all you have are empty shells which become targets for vandalism. Bear this in mind next time you are asked about the need for bus lanes or empty cycle lanes or other restrictions.

Kenny MacMillan,
HairGarden

THE WAY IT WAS ...

To the Editor:

I shall be glad to let you have as much information as I can remember about the area and the original Strathbungo Society Conservation Area. I have lived here since the mid-1950s and before that lived in Pollokshaws Road, just round the corner from the late-1940s. The funny thing is that my late father lived in Princes Square (as Marywood Square was called) around the 1920s before Vennard was even built.

Maxine Mendelson
Vennard Gardens

But for Miss Mendelson and other activists who were involved in the original Strathbungo Conservation Society in the 1970s, we would now be living under a motorway - or more likely our leafy terraced island beside the Park wouldn't exist at all. Forget about Swampy, we owe a lot to those people who got down to the Mitchell Library and dug into the old records that saved the day. It's such an interesting and important story, we've reprinted her letter in full elsewhere in this edition. However, we've also learned that that was not the end of the battle to protect our garden terraces - see page XX. - Ed.

Gael TALK

To the Editor:

The accepted meaning of Strathbungo is 'St Mungo's Strath', but this is not a feasible one. A strath is a valley through which water runs. The Gaelic word for 'foot' or 'bottom' is 'bun' (same in American slang! - Ed) and for 'hollow' is 'gu'. Strath-bun-gu, therefore, reads 'the marshy foot of the hollow' or 'the hollow in the foot of the valley'. There seems no reason whatever for dragging in the Saint. Strathbungo is now a populous district and lies in a valley between the Camphill and the 'heights' of Pollokshields.

Robert Watson

Cartvale Road, Langside

So now you know. Robert will be teaching a short course on local Glasgow history and architecture 4-8 August at Langside College (see page XX) and again in the autumn. - Ed.

GETTING WIRED INTO NTL

To the Editor:

First, can I say that it is extremely nice to live in a community where people actually care about their environment. I bought my flat in Nithsdale Street about a year and a half ago and generally am very happy with the area. I love the fact that residents feel strongly enough about their area to actually want to do something about it.

Anyway, I was heartened by the article on NTL and the possibilities of cable actually making it to Strathbungo. I've

held off installing a telephone line as I don't see the point in this day and age if you can't also have internet access or access to cable TV. I live in a listed building so obviously satellite dishes are not an option.

Please save me from high mobile phone bills and having to watch only five TV channels! If NTL were to install cable in the area, I imagine that the uptake would be huge, bearing in mind that most of the area is listed, with NTL cable being the only real alternative to existing 'services' - surely they have to take this into consideration from a business point of view?

Yvonne Morrison

TO THE EDITOR

I rang NTL a year or two ago to see if there were plans to introduce the service in the area. The man I spoke to advised me that NTL had been trying to get into the area, but that the problem lies with the Council. He said that the Council would not allow them to put the 'box' outside the closes or houses. The man at NTL lived in this area and said that the cable actually ran along his street only a few feet from his door, but NTL were not able to connect him. This it seems was because it is a conservation area. A bit ironic when this means that so many people just go ahead and install satellite dishes.

I know of three satellite dishes being removed in March Street after complaints to the Council though it took over a year for one of them to be taken down.

What may be a good idea, taking the two issues into consideration, would be to lodge a multiple complaint with the Council to each satellite dish that is in place in the area while at the same time asking them to allow the installation of NTL. At least that way people would be more willing to take down dishes if they had an alternative.

Rona MacDonald

This pros and cons of cable coming into Strathbungo certainly seemed to strike a chord - thanks to all who wrote. We're continuing to pursue this with NTL and hope to have more to report by our August issue. - Ed.