

STRATHBUNGO

NEWS

Autumn 2004



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New Year **BUNGO** Coffee Break

Saturday 22 Jan
12 noon – 3pm

Church of Scotland,
170 Queens Drive

With lots of our energies engaged persuading Network Rail to respect and care for our local environment, we're drawing breath and planning a New Year Coffee Break to chase away the January blues.

Start your year with the 2005 Bungo Calendar and pick up some hand-made, locally designed Cards (for those you missed off your Christmas list!) Browse the Book & CD Stall and have a Tea, Coffee or Juice with some delicious Home Baking.

Put the date in your diary, come along, help us raise funds for future Events & Newsletters and celebrate our active & involved local community.

Contact Joanna on **423 7756** to volunteer to help with set up or clean up, book a stall and donate books & CD's (good condition) or home baking.



Campaigners at the City Chambers, 16th Sept

Off the Rails?

Our campaign to prevent the felling of all trees on the railway embankment has so far failed to derail the plans. But residents have won a stay of execution by preventing Network Rail from reaching the trees directly from Moray Place. Cars parked on the railway side of the road have caused a major problem for the contractors and Network Rail has said it will need to apply for a road closure. City Councillors have advised that this process will take at least six weeks and that the Council will not speed up the process!

A well orchestrated campaign extended over the past two months has attracted widespread support. Protests on the railway embankment generated sympathetic press and television coverage, and nightly meetings at the railway bridge allowed residents and politicians to develop plans to oppose Network Rail's indiscriminate felling strategy. Recent actions included a protest outside the City Chambers which attracted coverage in the Evening Times and a deputation to Network Rail's Glasgow headquarters.

A postcard write-in campaign, leafleting locally and on the train services to Central Station, and several meetings with local councillors, MSPs and the MP have built up a head of steam. The campaign is now extending its sights beyond the immediate threat to trees in

Strathbungo and is raising the issue of Network Rail's general lack of accountability with the Freedom of Information Commission for Scotland.

Network Rail proposes to fell the majority of the trees on both sides of the railway on grounds of safety. It refers to - but provides no evidence of - ten safety incidents on the stretch in the past year. So far, Network Rail has refused to give details of its felling plans, or to take on board the results of a tree management strategy commissioned by the Strathbungo Society.

Recent investigations have shown that some residents may have rights of ownership over the land on which the trees are growing. They are exploring the potential of exploiting that ownership. . . watch this space!

more overleaf

REPLANTING PLANS - HAVE YOUR SAY!

Work has already begun drafting a Replanting Plan for the railway embankments. Here below is a summary of the draft. (You can obtain the full text of the Plan by adding your e-mail address to Andrew Downie's list - details on Page 1)

The draft Replanting Plan comprises three distinct bands of vegetation:

BAND 1 - Wildflowers & Grasses.

Network Rail require a 5m clear felled strip adjacent to the track, to reduce leaf fall and improve sighting along the tracks for drivers and rail workers. This band will comprise wildflowers and grasses and will require to be cut annually (after seeds have set) to prevent scrub and trees from re-establishing. (The Moray Place bank is much more steep and narrower than the Darnley Rd side. Here we will be arguing for three bands of equal width i.e. less than 5m, in order to protect this bank from the danger of land slide.)

BAND 2 - Scrub Band.

This acts as a barrier, discourages trespass, traps leaves and litter and will also serve as a wildlife haven. Amongst species we are proposing are Gorse, Juniper, Holly, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Guelder Rose. This Band would require management every three years, to prevent encroachment into Band 1.

BAND 3 - Tree Band.

Rather than clear felling, lopping, feathering and pollarding could be used on existing healthy, mature specimens, to immediately reduce their size and leaf fall. Dead, dangerous or non-native species e.g. sycamore could be selected for felling in the first instance. An agreed, phased removal of such trees might involve two trees per block of overlooking houses, per year. Both embankments will require implanting in the gaps with half, heavy standards plus younger (and cheaper) trees. Young trees especially would need to be mulched and weeded in the early years. Species suggested include - Oak, Scots Pine, Rowan and Beech.

So what do you think? Are there other suitable native species that we might include? (Remember, these cannot include Lime, Sycamore, Ash, Poplars (except Aspen) and Horse Chestnut - Network Rail's 'problematic leaf fall' species.)

We will be writing to Network Rail in the next few weeks, seeking a meeting to discuss this Plan. We will then consult with both wildlife and landscaping experts to help us draw up a more detailed Plan and present this for residents' approval at a forthcoming public meeting.

Have your say by contacting the Editor or e-mailing the website. Contact details are on page 2.

COMMENT

Our Campaign to save railway embankment trees is not about refusing to allow any trees to be cut. We are aware that leaf fall can cause trains to skid or over-run platforms & signals and that lime, sycamore, ash, poplar and horse chestnut are regarded as 'problematic' in terms of the leaf fall they produce. We are also aware that dead, diseased or elderly trees can be in danger of falling on to the line.

The Campaign initially built up steam due to Network Rail misinformation. Requests that NR reveal specific plans to local residents, Scottish Natural Heritage, GCC Tree Officer and others, were met with the 'operational matters' stonewall favoured by big business in protecting its interests. Investigations of what had happened elsewhere revealed not a single tree remaining at Burnside and other sites throughout the UK.

Problems experienced by these communities include :-

- **Increased possibility of landslip**
- **Increased safety risk to local children**
- **Decreased sense of security to householders due to removal of natural barrier**
- **Destruction of amenity, ecological & environmental value**
- **Increased litter and noise pollution**

(See fellow campaigners Network Wail's clear-felling horror stories on www.networkwail.co.uk.)

Our Campaign is set within a context of NR having inherited powers, which eclipse, Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Area Status and the powers of the Local Authority. They admit that "vegetation & tree management was neglected preceding

privatisation" and that previous rail operators should not have allowed matters "to get to this stage". We argue that actions, which exceed what is necessary to maintain safety, will create a whole new set of problems with which we will be forced to live.

Yet Network Rail's Environment Policy talks about

"Partnership working that will establish clear channels of communication with stakeholders to implement and refine our environmental policy."

"Stewardship for protected heritage features and habitats under our care."

"Identifying shared responsibilities, concerns & opportunities so we can develop solutions to the environmental problems we face."

The current situation presents an opportunity for Network Rail to engage with a well-informed, active local community, prepared to put time and energy into developing a compromise solution. We are asking Network Rail to work with us to agree the phased removal of problematic trees and their replacement with herbs, shrubs and trees of suitable size and ecological value. Is this really asking too much ?

Kevin Kane, Chairman, Strathbungo Society

A COMMUNITY IS NOT ABOUT BRICKS AND MORTAR

– it's the people who make a community

Here are some photographic memories of the Get Off Yer Artz Festival and Bungo in the Back Lanes Events held earlier this year.

Both Events were very well supported and a lively time was had by all. Special "Thanks" are due to musicians Jazz & Co (at both events), Colin Davies & Owen Caldwell, Macapella, Kelly's Ceilidh, the Mourne Mountain Ramblers, Swing Guitars, Ceol Na Eireann, Frank O'Hagan & John McDonald, Howlin' Jack McLean & Friends; To Robin Cairns & the Bungo Film Group; To Andrew Greig for leading the Architectural Walk and Sharon Schweps for the accompanying Leaflet; To Lynne Healy, Stephen Mann & driver Joe, (Culture & Leisure Services) for 'Real on the Road' Cyberbus; To Joe Graham for lanes clean up prior to the 'BackLanes', Bill Kennedy for strim & spray, Joe Egan for floral displays (Land Services); St. Bride's Primary School; To everyone who donated prizes for the Tombola, Raffle and other stalls including Bumble, Hairgarden, Floral Haven, The Fotheringay, Sammy Dow's, The Titwood Bar, The Taverna, Heraghty's, Kelly's and the Allison Arms, La Tea Doh, Ikafe, Barber Biker, Cameron's, Shimla Pinks, Pizza Hut, The Star Fish Bar, Paris Balsillie, Safeway Garage, members of the committee and various Strathbungo Neighbours 'you know who you are'.. To everyone who attended or helped with set up & clean up at the both Events



Read Strathbungo News online at www.strathbungo.co.uk



FARMERS' MARKET FORTNIGHTLY

Ostrich, venison, Scottish salmon, mussels & herring; free-range eggs, gourmet ready meals, pies, flans & breads; fresh-picked, in-season vegetables and fuschias for the garden - just some of the produce on sale at recent 'trial run' Farmers' Markets held in Queen's Park on two Saturdays in September. And there are now high hopes that the Farmer's Market will become a regular event.

The Market runs from 10 - 2pm, is situated at the Victoria Rd entrance and dates from now till Christmas are 16th Oct / 6th & 20th Nov / 4th & 18th Dec. Each Market also makes available a free stall for the use of a registered charity.

Said Graham Wallace in Glasgow City Council's Markets Dept. "If the outcome of feedback from these trials is positive, then we intend to pursue the introduction of a twice a month Market in Queen's Park. The survival of such ventures depends on support and I would of course be interested in hearing peoples' views on the Markets they've attended."

So if you want to able to pick up your ostrich steaks or free-range eggs while taking a Saturday morning stroll in the park, let Graham know. Tell him what you liked, what you'd like to see more of and whether you think the Farmer's Market should become a regular feature by contacting him on Graham.Wallace@drs.glasgow.gov or on Tel 0141 287 2500.

SMALL ADS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP WITH YOUR GARDEN OR HOME?

Have you got an item for sale?

Do you want to ask a question?

Do you want to start a Group?

Are you looking to make contact with a long lost relative from these parts?

Then for £10 you can place your Ad here and also have it posted on the Strathbungo Society Website for 30 days (50 words approx.)

**Ring 422 1743
and leave your message plus contact details with the answering service.**

MATURE FREELANCERS, LIVING OR WORKING IN THE BUNGO AREA?

Working on the edge of the public and corporate sectors in Scotland?

Like minded individuals seek informal relationships for monthly Monday morning meetings, with a view to possible long-term networking and support.

Must like coffee shops, vibrant debate and sharing experiences. GSOH essential.

**Contact Jerry Hassan (0141 423 3114)
or Joanna Bleau (0141 649 1517)**

Strathbungo Calendar 2005 – Call for Photographs

This is a call for any favourite photos you may have taken in or around Strathbungo, this year or in years gone by. People (including little ones), architecture, wild and domestic animals, our wonderful trees and Bungo Events all featured last year. But go on, surprise us - let the artist in you draw our attention to something new! Or if you're a young person, building up a portfolio for art college entry, get your first photos published here! All submitted photos will be published on the website with the best ones considered for the Calendar. All photographers will be credited. **Contact Laura Jones on 433 9238 or at strathbungocalendars@yahoo.co.uk to arrange for the submission of your photographs.**

And yes, it's also the time of year to place your order for the 2005 issue and avoid disappointment. Calendars sold out completely within weeks last year. The freestanding Calendar in it's slim, plastic case is ideal for your desk or next to the phone or as a nice Stocking Filler or small Gift for friends or family who may have moved away. So, to be sure of having a future piece of Strathbungo memorabilia, reserve your Calendars NOW by filling in the Order Form below.

2005 CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Quantity _____ Calendars @ £3.00 (single) £ _____ [multiples] £2.50 (each) £ _____

Name _____

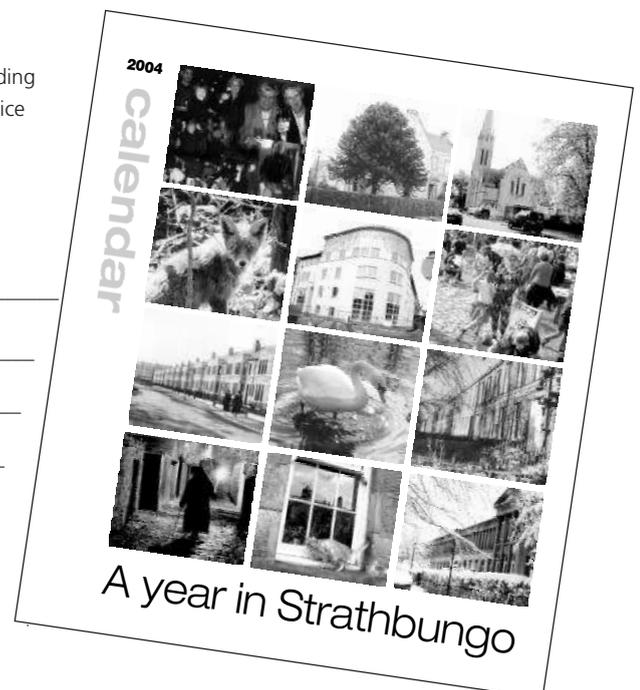
Address _____

Post code _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Send no money now. You will be contacted before Christmas to pay for your order when Calendars will be delivered.

**Return form to: The Strathbungo Society C/O Laura Jones (Secretary)
Flat 2/2, 736 Pollokshaws Road, Strathbungo, Glasgow G41**



TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words – send them to Ann Carolan, 43 Regent Park Square G41 or email letters@strathbungo.co.uk

Network Rail Neglect

To the Editor

Is it not the case that Network Rail has been neglecting its responsibilities with regard to the trees? When was the last time it did any maintenance, pruning or the like? Network Rail has neglected regular maintenance and now faces a hefty bill in catching up. It is actually responsible for causing the 'safety issue' by not maintaining and allowing the trees to pose a threat to safety. Large pay outs have been made over the years to 'fat cats' within Network Rail, for reducing costs. I wonder if one of those costs was cutting back on the maintaining of trees? I think it should be charged with causing the safety issue by the Council and any other governing body, for not properly managing the vegetation, retaining it and caring for it sympathetically for the communities they affect. I wish you every success.

Janice Martin

Yes, Network Rail admits bank maintenance has been neglected over many years. Our Campaign argues that work which exceeds what is necessary safety-wise, will create series of problems in our community. Ed

STRATHBUNGO News

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Edited by
Ann Carolan

Send letters & short articles
of general interest to:

**Ann Carolan, 43 Regent
Park Square G41**

or email
news@strathbungo.co.uk

Network Rail Dirty Tricks

To the Editor

I undertook to write a letter to all members of Network Rail's Board - about 60 people from memory - protesting about the felling of trees in this area. I was working from a sheet of labels each pre-addressed to a member of Network Rail. In almost every case the address given was c/o Members Liaison Executive, Network Rail, 40 Melton Street, London NW1 2EE. I dispatched the letters in three batches as I compiled them. A few days later I then received a large envelope from Network Rail, which included one of my batches of letters, all unopened. It contained a handwritten message "None of these people are known at this address"

Chris Jay, Strathbungo

A shocking example of Network Rail's disregard for public accountability, Chris. The people you wrote to are listed on the NR website as our public representatives. Ed

Tree Massacre at Burnside

To the Editor

Very proud of your stance and swift action. The stretch of rail line at Burnside has no houses for a considerable distance. I saw no notice of intent to demolish all trees, so changing the appearance of the area and noise factor of railway. There was no sign of selective action against the trees.

It is a disgrace that such vandalism should go unpunished.

O.M. McKinnon, Burnside

Unless communities protest vigorously Network Rail will raze to the ground all vegetation, as has happened up and down the country. Our fight is not over yet. Thank you for your kind words. Ed

To the Editor

I have visited the site where Network Rail is currently working. I was deeply saddened to see the trail of destruction left by the ongoing work. And would like to add my support to your Campaign.

Please keep me informed of future events and I will get along and add my voice to your protest. Good Luck

Dr Janette McAlpine

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Glasgow South.

'Travis' Protest

To the Editor

It's outrageous! But keep fighting - we're behind you all the way!

Fran Healy, Lead Singer, Travis



Will you be up for it?

We're starting to plan for our Annual Hogmanay Street Party where we ring in the new year together.

Offers of help, suggestions for venue, music, and callers for Scottish Country Dancing welcome.

**Contact Ann Carolan,
43 Regent Pk Square.**

There's always something great on tap at



SAMMY DELLS

JAM SESSIONS

featuring

INDEPENDENCE

Thursdays from 8.30pm

Coming soon!!!

University of Strathclyde BIG BAND

Listed
in CAMRA
Good Beer
Guide 2004
& 2005

Bungo Film Group - 3rd Mondays, 7.30pm

Acoustic Nights - 1st Sundays

Southside Writers - 1st Mondays, 7.30pm

Quiz Night - Tuesdays, 8.45pm

Women Writers Group - Tuesday, 1pm

Weightwatchers - Weds (5.30) & Thurs (10am)

The Hearth Pagan Group - 2nd Mondays, 8pm

Big Matches on Big Screen TV! (Setanta & Sky)

**Great pub meals daily from 12 noon - Tea &
Cafetiere served - Private lunches catered for**

69 Nithsdale Road, Phone/fax: 0141 423 0107