

STRATHBUNGO NEWS



Autumn 2008

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NITHSDALE ROAD UPGRADE

Since August's AGM the Strathbungo Society has had several meetings with the Council to move forward the issues residents voted on. Residents who share access to the lane between Nithsdale Road and Regent Park Square can soon expect a pre-consultation letter about improving the surface of the lanes where they meet Nithsdale Road and placing bollards on these lanes to prevent rat running. If the consultation is positive, the council will begin the formal process of instigating a traffic regulation order so that work can begin.

Scott Mackay, Chair of the Society, has also met with our councillor David Meikle, concerned residents and Tom Ross of the Council's Parks Department to discuss improvements to the communal spaces on Nithsdale Rd.

The Society has requested that the Council repair and maintain the triangular planter outside Sammy Dow's, removing the dead trees and replanting.

The Strathbungo Society has also agreed

to purchase four tiered planters, similar to those pictured, two of which will be placed on the large paved areas at either end of the cul-de-sac.

The Council will maintain these on our behalf and take them in over winter. We are awaiting confirmation from Glasgow City Council that these proposals will be taken forward in the near future. In addition, the Council's roads department have already agreed to put keep clear

markings at the entrances and exits to lanes in order to maintain appropriate access.

As part of their landscaping improvements, the Council have also agreed to remove some of the defunct street furniture, for example unused sign posts, which blight this area. It's hoped that by next year, Nithsdale Road will look a lot tidier and make a fitting gateway through which to enter the conservation area.



The Warm Front

As the nights draw in and we prepare for another Glasgow winter, it's hard to avoid the current focus on energy efficiency in homes. However, if you live in a Victorian property in a conservation area, it can be frustrating to hear yet another politician urging you to install double glazing or cavity wall insulation. So what improvements can we all make to our homes to reduce our bills?

In terms of physical measures to improve energy efficiency, stone tenements and townhouses are difficult to improve since their construction does not allow for the more obvious insulation measures such as cavity wall insulation. However, the following measures are likely to be possible in almost every home in Strathbungo and some will pay dividends before the winter is out. The table opposite illustrates how much the measures cost and how long it will be before the savings in your bills outstrip the cost.

KEEPING OUT THE COLD

About one sixth of all heat in a home escapes through gaps around windows and doors. Double glazing is not a cost-effective way to reduce fuel costs when the capital costs of installing the windows is taken into account; far better to look at draught-proofing measures you can do yourself. So long as the windows can be cleaned and maintained easily, consider fitting simple seals to cut down on draughts.

Door-bottom brushes can make a big difference to draughts and don't forget the benefits of simple home-made draught excluders which can be made quickly and for free using waste materials available in most homes. It might not look pretty but an old stocking filled with crushed newspaper will reduce draughts under doors.

It's also worth considering installing beading to seal gaps under skirting boards and, if you have exposed floorboards, filling any gaps with mastic or papier mache.

Remember hidden draughts as well.

Fireplaces are designed to let heat escape and the draught in! For a few pounds you can purchase a chimney balloon which stops draughts efficiently and invisibly.

Never draughtproof a room which contains gas appliances or suffers from condensation.

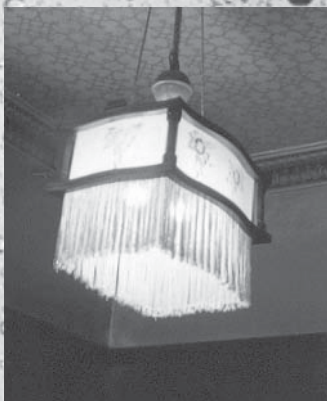


TRAPPING IN WARMTH

OK, so you've finally got rid of that annoying draught but are there other ways to stop valuable warmth escaping? When a property requires renovation, including replastering of the inside of external walls, this is the ideal opportunity for fitting wall insulation. Dry lining – replacing existing plasterwork, battens and laths and using plasterboard with thermal backing and a foil facing - can significantly improve energy efficiency. Careful sizing of replacement battens and plasterwork can retain the inner wall surface in line with retained decorative plasterwork and timber facings. It's a big, messy job only worth doing if you're already redecorating but it can reap rewards over time.

OUT WITH THE OLD...

If you have appliances which need replacing, look out for the most energy-efficient models. Substantial savings can be made, particularly if you're replacing very old items with new ones. Look for appliances A-rated or above. If you need to replace your boiler, condensing boilers work more efficiently than conventional boilers by capturing the heat that's normally lost from the flue. Fuel bills can be cut by approximately one third by replacing a 15-year-old boiler with a new condensing model. It's also worth considering installing radiators with thermostatic valves so the heat can be completely controlled.



SEEING THE LIGHT

Lighting accounts for between 10% and 15% of electricity used in the home. Energy-efficient lighting, in the form of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), uses one fifth of the electricity used by traditional incandescent lightbulbs. There are new types of energy-efficient bulbs being developed all the time, including types that operate with dimmer switches. Also consider replacing halogen lightbulbs in kitchens with LED bulbs or new-generation halogens.

SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE

Make the most of natural daylight and turn appliances and lightbulbs off when they're not needed. Draw curtains or close shutters before it gets completely dark and wear extra layers to keep warm!

Typical costs and saving by energy-efficiency measures – figures from The Energy Saving Trust

Measure	Typical Cost	Costs Recovered in
Replace ordinary lightbulb with CFL (20W) in light used 3 hours a day	£8 – £10	Under 6 months
Hot water tank insulation (jacket 80mm thick)	£5 – £10 DIY	Up to a year
Insulating hot water pipes	£10+	2 years
Loft insulation 250mm*	£170 DIY £225 – £250 contractor	2 years 2-3 years
Draughtproofing	£40 – £60 DIY £85 – £110 contractor	3-4 years 6-11 years
Floor insulation – filling gaps between skirting board and floor	£25 DIY	3-5 years
Floor insulation under floor	£100 DIY	4-7 years
Fit a room thermostat	£110 – £140	4-7 years
Replace fridge freezer with Energy-efficient model	£180 – £300	4-7 years
Solid wall insulation 50mm	£900	5-6 years
Fit thermostatic radiator	£75 – £100	5-10 years

There are grants available for energy-efficiency measures. Call **0800 512012** to find out more.

OCTOBER

@ BUSY BEES CRAFT STUDIO

- October Week Craft Club
- Spooky Halloween Crafts
- Paint your own Decorations
- Facepainting
- Halloween Craft Party



EVERY SUNDAY join us for activities at JAM Kilmarnock Rd, Shawlands 11am - 1pm

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Tel: 0141 422 1112 Fax: 0141 424 3327

E-mail: enquiries@southside-ha.co.uk

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Strathbungo Society committee meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, with breaks in December and July. The meetings are held at **Grianach** on Nithsdale Road, starting at 7.45pm. All are welcome to attend. The remaining meetings this year will take place on Mondays 20th October and 17th November.

STRATHBUNGO

News

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BUNGO AT THE BELLS

This year's Bungo at the Bells will be held outside 53 Queen Square/18 Moray Place. The Society is planning to provide mulled wine and merriment, but what can you bring to the party? If you'd like to help out, by providing music, black bun or anything else, please contact Laura Moodie on 433 9238 or e-mail info@strathbungo.co.uk

On The Beat

A new Community Policing Department for Pollokshields and Southside Central Wards is now up and running under the leadership of Inspector Gerry Rafferty. In September a third sergeant and nine additional experienced constables (including two former Community Police officers) joined the Community Police Department as well as a further six probationary constables. The ward now has 27 constables and will be working towards a target of 33 constables by the end of next year. These officers' first priority will be front line, uniformed patrols responding to incidents. Chief Constable House, who has been on patrol on several occasions, has made it his top priority to increase visible policing. That means we should see more constables walking or cycling their beat. Currently, in response to public demand, the Police are focusing on youth disorder and anti-social behaviour in the community. The operation is led by two community constables who are supported with additional patrols as and when needed. They are keen for residents to report any such crime taking place, particularly in the back lanes. You can call **0141 532 5300** to report any incidents. The police are often on the scene within minutes and it's hoped this kind of active policing will discourage people from loitering in the lanes.

The local police liaise closely with our local community council (Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council) and if you have any particular issues or are keen to make suggestions to the Police, you can speak to local officers if you go along to the community council meetings which take place on the first Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm at Shawlands Academy on Moss-side Road, Shawlands.

SOUTHSIDE SPEAKERS

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