

# Strathbungo News

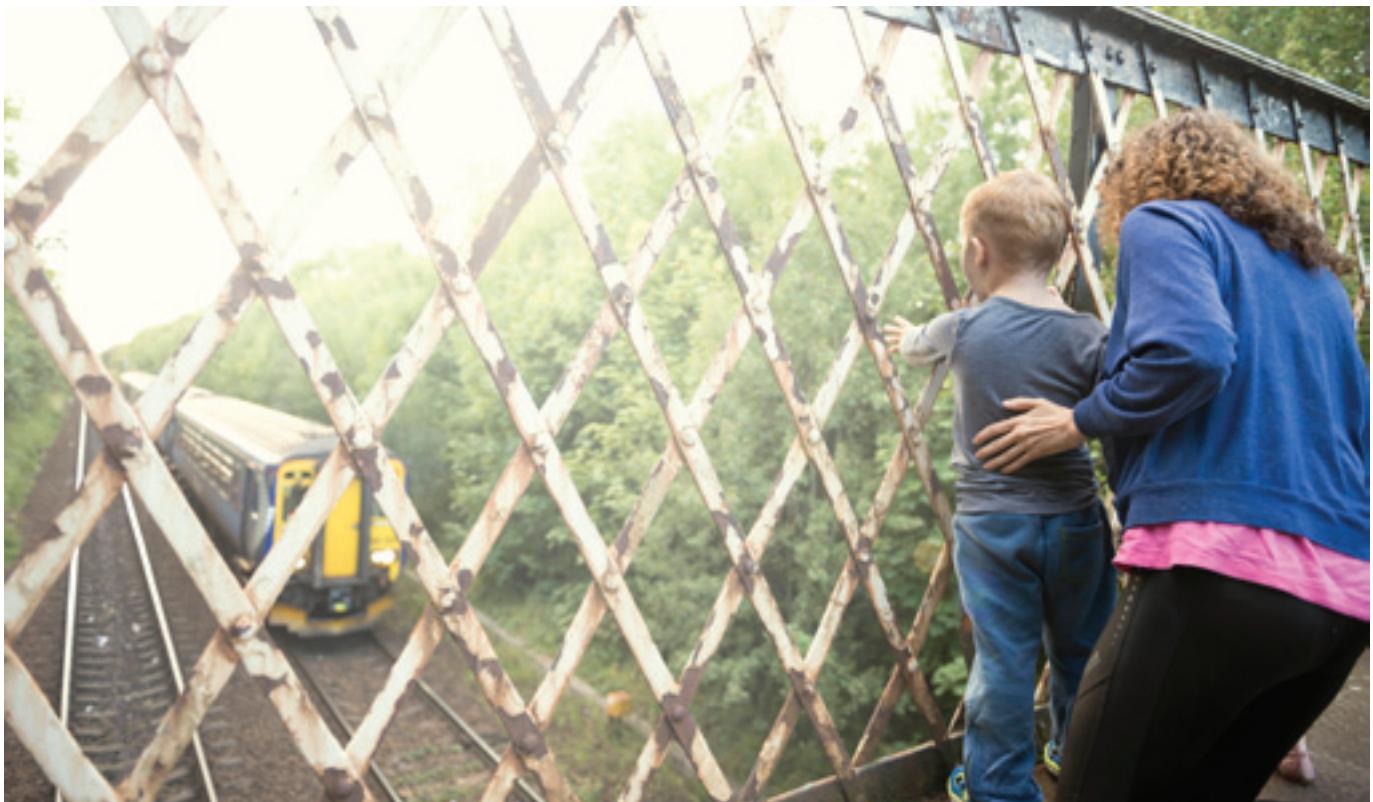
The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter  
Autumn 2015

## GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBOURS?

*Generations of Bungo children have grown up waving to train-drivers from the safety of our railway bridge. For over 150 years, since the first houses were built in Strathbungo, residents have watched seasons change through the vegetation that shelters wildlife and suppresses noise and pollution. Our 'green corridor' is a huge amenity and we must stay vigilant, lest we lose it.*

Words by Andrew Downie | Photography by Luigi Di Pasquale



This past spring Network Rail surprised residents of Moray Place by announcing their imminent plan to replace the existing fencing along Moray Place with a new high security weldmesh fence, 1.8m high. Not wishing to feel interred in a high security prison, we protested.

Plans were put on hold until autumn (about now...). At a site meeting on 31 July, Network Rail were adamant that the existing vegetation barrier was insufficient to protect local children from themselves. This and other risk factors meant a security fence, and this point was non-negotiable. Supported by our new MP Alison Thewliss and Cllr David Meikle, we discussed the lack of evidence of trespass or other serious incident on this stretch of track but to no avail.

The height was dropped to 1.4m, though. Small details, such as what it looks like, where it will be and how much vegetation will be lost, remain missing.

Network Rail did insist the fence must go on their boundary, but they don't appear to know where that is. We believe the bow-topped fence is not their boundary, but on our land. Consequently, we did our own research and presented 1859 & 1875 maps showing where the railway wall and fence stood originally, several feet back, along the line of the wall at 1-6 Moray Place, and the post & wire fencing at the Gardens end. We also proposed a more appropriate style of fencing, and await their response. It won't be the last we hear of it.

# WORK STARTS IN QUEENS PARK FOR SHIELDHALL TUNNEL



*Our Victorian sewers are reaching their sell-by date, apparently, as Scottish Water have begun a £100m tunnelling project which may cause considerable local disruption for the next 18 months. They promise it will all be worth it.*

For us, the project first involves mine consolidation work in Queens Park and Titwood Road. They will then bore a 4.5m (15ft) tunnel at depths of between 10m to 30m. This will stretch from Craigton, through Bellahouston and Pollok Parks, running beneath Titwood Road, and so to Queens Park, where the tunnel machine will be retrieved from a large shaft in April 2017.

## ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

A big area of Queens Park by the tennis courts was closed on 15 September and will remain so for the duration of the project. Tennis is still on, but dog walkers will need to take the high road through that part of the park.

According to Geoff Aitkenhead of Scottish Water, the Shieldhall tunnel will resolve large-scale water quality problems in the River Clyde and its tributaries, and provide aesthetic screening to overflows into watercourses such as tributaries of the Clyde and White Cart Water. It will also reduce the risk of flooding. More at: [www.ice.org.uk/  
eventarchive/shieldhall-strategic-tunnel](http://www.ice.org.uk/eventarchive/shieldhall-strategic-tunnel)

## AFTER 20 YEARS...

*In summer 1994, the sole remaining officer of the moribund Starthbungo Conservation Society called a public meeting, expecting to dissolve the association. Thirty or so people, mostly newcomers, came along, formed a steering committee and the rest is, well, history:*



### 1995

- A new name, new constitution and our first campaign – back lane improvements.
- 126 members turned out for our first AGM.
- Strathbungo Gala Day & Ceilidh is our maiden event.

### 1998

- A new word coined for our first big-scale event: Bungo in the Park
- £450k back lanes project falls at last hurdle after handful refuse to sign up
- Bungo at the Bells, our first Hogmanay street party.

# MEET ALAN DOBSON

*Our new Brighter Bungo Coordinator*



Thanks to all the volunteers who turned out on 27 September for our quarterly clean-up. Don't worry if you missed it - there's a high viz vest waiting for you at the next Brighter Bungo on Sunday, 10 January.

Meet up at 11am in the lane by Susie's – all equipment provided.

# WEANS IN THE LANES

*Everybody remembers playing outdoors when they were children – everybody, that is, except today's stranger-danger generation. Weans in the Lanes is an attempt by local parents to give Bungo kids a taste of that fun and freedom.*

The first outing was set for 10am-noon on Sunday, 4 October, with the hope of making it a monthly event if all goes well.

*'It's very informal,' says organiser Alison Hunter, 'except there are stewards at the lane entrances to prevent "escapees". Children are still the responsibility of their parents, same as going to the park. All we're providing is a safe play space.'*

*'There are schemes throughout the UK where streets are closed off for kids to play, but we have this amazing resource in our lanes so we can do it ourselves. We hope everybody will get into the spirit. If someone wants to move their car during the session, we'll get them out safely.'*

Alison was delighted to recruit coordinators for every lane between Nithsdale Road and Thorncleff Gardens for the initial Sunday, but the long-term future depends on having enough volunteers to keep it going.

Get updates and join in at: [www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com)



## 2000

- LETs barter scheme trades in 'bungos'.
- Launch of Bungo in the Back Lanes, our first midsummer festival.
- Area-wide environmental survey.

## 2003

- Friends of Strathbungo scheme introduced.
- Ghost Walk takes Halloween revellers on a tour round Strathbungo's historic haunts.

## 2004

- Strathbungo website goes live.
- Strathbungo Post Office goes out of business.
- Society campaigns to save our 'green corridor' from Network Rail.

## 2009

- Now a registered charity, Society launches Brighter Bungo with quarterly clean-up teams.
- Bungo Blog opens up new community forum.

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE NEW STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

*A brief overview by Nick Kempe*

As a registered charity we must comply with Scottish Charity Regulator requirements. This safeguards our members and makes it easier to apply for grants. However, since our constitution was last updated, much has changed in the charities world and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations model, on which ours was based, has expanded – particularly regarding ethical standards for committee members. Meanwhile it's become harder to get people involved, thus risking our committee and annual meeting being inquorate.

To put things right, the acting committee will propose constitutional changes to make it easier to participate and make the Society's work more transparent.

## WHAT'S CHANGED?

The most significant proposals concern membership: first, to make the membership fee optional at the discretion of the committee, and second, to relax the residency requirement. Thus, we propose that anyone who agrees with the objectives of the Society is eligible for membership – automatically for residents and subject to Committee approval for non-residents.

Why? First, the £3 fee was set years ago but rarely collected, an administrative anomaly. Second, in recent years at least five office bearers moved away during their terms: this would let them stay in post until the next AGM. Also, people with common interests in neighbouring areas could join, such as those living on the opposite side of Pollokshaws Road!

We also want to formalise the Friends of Strathbungo by including the scheme in our constitution and encouraging members to become Friends, paying what they can afford.

Other proposals are either minor or comply with the latest SCVO model constitution:

- adopt the model format and content where applicable
- introduce new sections eg on conduct of members and personal interests (unfortunately making it longer)
- clarify that office bearers act as trustees and formalise the post of vice-chair, making four office bearers in all
- lower the membership age to 16 as per Referendum voters
- reduce the maximum size of the Committee from 25 to 15 plus office bearers, and the quorum for AGMs to 15.

The objectives of the Society, catchment area and powers of the Committee are unchanged.

The revised constitution was developed by a working group and agreed at the committee meeting on 15 September. If you want to suggest improvements or propose other changes, submit them by Sunday, 18 October to allow consideration at the committee meeting on 20 October, and to be advertised before the AGM. We welcome comments and questions at: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)

Read the full document at: [www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com) and vote at the AGM on 27 October.



## 2011

- First Children's Art Competition runs alongside Spring Fling.
- Society passes on £25k grant to Queens Park Arena project.
- Bungo Fest – a day of micro-performance to our bars & bistros.

## 2015

- Society now organises a year-round calendar of community events and services.
- Strathbungo's reputation as a desirable neighbourhood continues to grow.

## ...WHICH WAY NOW?

Does the Society have a future? 20 years on, it's still a valid question: where are the people who will take the Society forward? Who is willing to spend some time and energy building a safe, prosperous and fun community for their families? We want to meet you, hear your ideas and get excited – with you – about the future of Strathbungo.

## STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

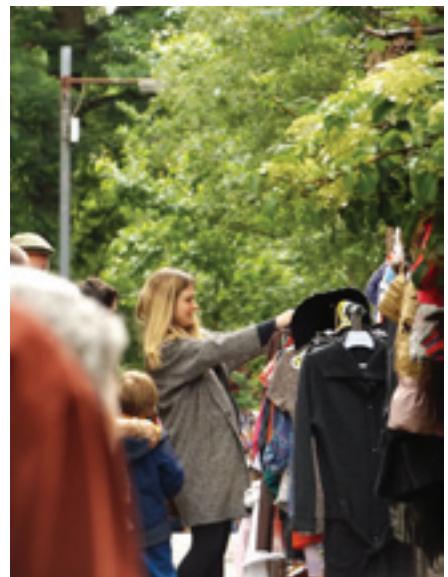
27 October 2015 at (Time)  
Queens Park Church Hall  
170 Queens Drive



## SUMMER IN THE BUNGO

*Weather-wise it was a non-starter, but that didn't stop Bungo-folk getting out and enjoying themselves throughout the summer of 2015.*

Bungo in the Back Lanes, now in its 16th year, covered all the lanes for the first time and brought out record numbers – including our very own MSP, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who starred in countless selfies.



Colin Wilson opened his gate for Bungo in the Back Lanes and got such rave reviews on his landscaping he's now set up his own business. Check out The Bungo Gardener on Facebook.



It's the bakkie roll moment for our set-up crew.



Have you ever hired a bike at Queens Park? Where did you go? Tell us your story at [www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com)



# THIS MAN KNOWS WHERE YOU LIVE!

*Les Peyto not only lives in Strathbungo, he's been delivering the mail to his neighbours for over 25 years.*



summer romances, they married and have been living happily ever after in Strathbungo since 1988.

The postie's day starts at 6.45am, and Les spends the first few hours at the sorting office in Victoria Road, getting his letters in the right order before setting out on his rounds. He has no idea how many miles he walks every day, let along how many per year. The best part of the job is being outdoors

Les has been with Royal Mail his whole working life, starting in 1971 as a telegram delivery boy in Watford. *Becoming a postman seemed the natural progression,* he says. He also progressed from England to Glasgow when he fell in love with a Scottish girl on holiday. Unlike most

and meeting people. The worst: overgrown hedges and small letterboxes.

Strathbungo has changed a lot over the years, he says, with fewer bedsits and more townhouses. *People move in as couples, then have a family and move away – sometimes just to a bigger house in another street.*

The job has changed too – just one delivery a day, for example. With the internet, there are fewer letters in the mailbag but more packages. *It used to be about the quality of the service, now it's just £sd—the old-time postman is a dying breed.*

But thankfully not in Strathbungo: Les could retire anytime but has no plans for the foreseeable future. And when he does?

*I think I'll just go around trimming hedges – and maybe give people larger letter boxes.*

## THEN ... AND NOW 704 Pollokshaws Road

A&J Morrice, shown here in 1935, was a confectioners, next-door to a tobacconist cum newsagents of the same name. The sweeties shop is now C & C Barbers, and Morice's single storey extension on the right is long gone: it's now the open space at the corner of Nithsdale Road. Who owns that gap site? What would make it look better? More useful?



### SAVE THE DATE

**27 OCT** Strathbungo AGM

**1 NOV** Weans in the Lanes

**20 NOV** Strathbungo Society Committee monthly meeting at Macmillans – all welcome

**31 DEC** Bungo at the Bells

**10 JAN** Brighter Bungo Clean-up

Times and places on Facebook:  
The Strathbungo Society

### STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Published quarterly by  
The Strathbungo Society  
Registered Charity No. SC038276  
[www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk)  
[www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com)

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Many thanks to Luigi Di Pasquale, Andrew Downie, Alison & Sorley Hunter, Nick Kempe, John Richardson and all others who contributed.

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