

# Strathbungo News

The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter  
Autumn 2017

## SUNSHINE ON STRATHBUNGO

*2017 may not have produced the best summer weather, but the sun shone down on Strathbungo when it mattered, for our two big summer events: Bungo in the Back Lanes and the Regent Park Square Street Party. Both events drew crowds looking to enjoy the good weather and experience some of the community spirit that Strathbungo has become so famous for.*



On Sunday 4 June, residents of Regent Park Square came together to organise the street's first ever street party. The event was part of Glasgow City Council's Street Play initiative, designed to encourage children to be able to play safely on their streets.

Highlights of the day included interactive art in the form of a human-scale spirograph, sports day races and a water balloon challenge; but the real success of the event was the opportunity it provided to catch up with local friends and meet new neighbours. It was great to see so many kids playing safely on the street.

The day ended with a Bungo BBQ, where food and drinks were brought and shared. The last revellers were spotted huddled

around the embers of the remaining barbecues late into the night!

Bungo in the Back Lanes, as ever, pulled crowds from across Glasgow and beyond, and encouraged more residents than ever before to set up stalls and open up their back gardens. From mouth-watering home baking and lemonade stalls to fabulous live jazz and crafts; from bric-a-brac and dj sets to art exhibitions in sheds, traditional music sessions and funky retro clothes and furniture... there really was something for everyone!

Thanks you to all who were involved in the organisation and running of both events, neither of which would have been able to take place without their generous help and support.

# NEALE THOMSON AND THE CROSSMYLOOF LOAF

Words by Rachel Smillie

*Following the success of their Doors Open Day Tours, Manager of the Glad Cafe, Rachel Smillie, introduces us to Neale Thomson, a lesser-known philanthropist of the Southside, and his Crossmyloof Loaf.*



Neale Thomson

When the Glad Cafe moved into our premises at 1006A Pollokshaws Road five years ago I was interested in finding out a bit more about the history of our exact location. I came across a Langside Heritage Trail, which mentioned Camphill House, and its owner Neale Thomson (1807-1857). It talked of how Thomson had set up the Crossmyloof Bakery to provide good quality bread for his workers at his cotton works in Gorbals. Some of the original bakery buildings still exist in the lane behind the Glad Cafe, and we felt that it was only right to pay tribute to our local history by recreating Crossmyloof Bread and calling it the Crossmyloaf! Over the years we have been able to sell this loaf in the cafe with the help, at different times, of Bakery47, Kember and Jones, and shortly to be resurrected with the help of the Baikhous.

I was intrigued by Neale Thomson, and after a little more research, discovered that not only had he created the highly successful Crossmyloof Bread retailing at 1d in outlets around the city, but he had also improved conditions for bakers by reducing their daily hours from 20 to 12, giving them a day off a week, allowing them to marry and building them Greek Thomson designed cottages in Baker Street. The cottages were sadly demolished in the 1960s. Thomson was on a mission to benefit his workers by more than simply employing them. He

started a school in Skirving Street and ran a Savings Bank for employees, even doubling their money after the first year of saving.

We felt it was a shame that so few people living on the southside knew about this great philanthropist, and I started wondering about setting up a Doors Open walking tour. But I knew that my skills as a researcher were limited, and it was then that I enlisted the willing help of award winning architect Ann Nisbet, who conveniently lives in Camphillgate Building. Ann set to it, spending time in the Mitchell Library, and reading through copious documents including archival documents from Westminster in which Neale Thomson was mentioned. She put together an excellent walking tour for Doors Open Day 2016 and 2017, which ended up with a short talk on sourdough bread making in the Glad Cafe, and an opportunity to buy our version of the Crossmyloaf. Needless to say it was through Ann's expert knowledge and delivery that we won a Doors Open Certificate of Excellence for the tour in 2016.

We didn't want to stop with this, and we are delighted to say that the Heritage Lottery Fund have now awarded us a grant which will enable us to create resources to publicise our local hero. These will include the development of the heritage trail as well as a range of digital and physical outputs including signage, maps, a school pack and a mobile phone app. We will also have the opportunity to train up a small number of volunteers to conduct our guided tours, and we look to further promote the work of Neale Thomson in an exciting annual event. Watch this space!



Camphill House

# THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

## *Victorian Painted Wall Decoration in Glasgow's Southside*



Some 13 years ago, Charlotte and Andrew Greg took on the restoration of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's own house at 1 Moray Place. As well as the predictable updating of kitchens and bathrooms, they have spent much time trying to bring back some of the original character of the house as it was in Thomson's time. 'Knowing of his elaborate decorative schemes in Holmwood House, we were keen to see what, if anything, remained of the original 1860's decoration at Moray Place', explains Andrew. 'Fortunately, we found that Thomson's original paint and simple decorative friezes had survived

almost intact under 150 years of later wallpaper and water damage in the hallway, staircase and landing.'

With the help of students from the Fine Art Conservation course at the University of Northumbria, they have been painstakingly

cleaning and restoring it (1). In the dining room the more elaborate decoration had unfortunately been painted over and only a small fragment has been uncovered to give an idea of the room's original colour scheme.

Andrew and Charlotte's work has encouraged friends and neighbours to alert them when their redecorating activities have revealed similar schemes, which illustrate how widespread the practice of painted friezes was in Glasgow homes of the period.



At No. 2 Moray Place, for example, the stripping of wallpaper in the rear ground floor room uncovered a similar stencilled Greek key dado frieze along the borders of an attractive olive green colour scheme (2). From 1862, No. 2 was lived in by Thomson's friend and one of the developers of Moray Place, the builder John McIntyre, so Thomson may have been involved in the design of this too, Andrew explains.

In Kenmure Street, a large tenement of the early 1880s contains a similar dado scheme (3) but with motifs more typical of this later period: a softened, commercial version of the stylised plant forms promoted by design reformers like Christopher Dresser and the Audley brothers.

Friezes in Ibrox of a decade later, the 1890s, illustrate, in the cornice frieze at least, a return to more traditional neoclassical floral swags (4), at a time when more advanced decorators would have been exploring art nouveau.

If you think you may have found original Victorian painted wall decoration in your home, Andrew would be delighted to hear from you. Contact him via [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)



# MEET THE NEIGHBOURS: RANJIT

*Ranjit's Kitchen seems to go from strength to strength... with great reviews from Joanna Blythman and Ron Mckenna, being voted one of the best vegetarian restaurants in Scotland, not to mention being voted best Glasgow restaurant on Trip Advisor for many months over the summer, it seems they can do no wrong. But who is the woman behind this acclaimed food? We meet Ranjit Kaur and find out where and when it all began.*



Ranjit grew up in the village of Jandiala in the Jalandhar district of the Panjab in North West India. She worked alongside her brothers and sisters on the family farm: helping to plant seeds, grow vegetables and fruit, milk cows and buffalo and, with these fresh ingredients, she learnt to make Panjabi food.

Ranjit's love for cooking came at an early age and she learnt all of the basics from her mum and elders. When she married and moved to the UK in the 1980s, Ranjit brought her passion for cooking and food with her. 'For me', explains Ranjit, 'it was a way to remember the warm sweet smells and tastes of the Panjab, as I acclimatised to a new way of life here in the UK. Ranjit's Kitchen signifies a journey from the Panjab to Glasgow and is a collection of memories, tastes, ideas and flavours that have developed over many decades,' she adds.

Ranjit's Kitchen is a family run business with Ranjit's children helping to turn their mother's lifelong dream of running a restaurant into a reality. 'She loves cooking and feeding people... we genuinely have to drag her away from the kitchen for some rest and recovery time,' laughs Gurjit, one of her sons.

If you haven't already, you can sample Ranjit's food at 607 Pollokshaws Road.

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# BUNGO BOX OF DELIGHTS

*The striking phone box on the Nithsdale Road roundabout is apparently one of only two remaining traditional red phone boxes on a public site in Glasgow and has Grade II listed status from Historic Scotland.*



Under BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme, phone boxes can be adopted by community groups: the phone is removed and thereafter it can be put to community use, making it once again an asset that local people can enjoy. The scheme has been successful in transforming 4000 little-used kiosks across the UK: from book libraries to defibrillator stations; from miniature art galleries, showcasing the work of local artists, to pop-up shops.

Following some initial conversations with BT and Glasgow City Council, there is potential for the local community to adopt the Nithsdale Road phonebox. It would be great to get some ideas and plans developed before further discussions

take place with the council. This scheme seems like a fantastic opportunity to preserve the heritage of our iconic red kiosk whilst giving it an exciting new lease of life.

If you have any ideas for the future of the Bungo Phone Box or would like to support future plans, please email [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

*A round up of all things Strathbungo: this quarter's bite-sized Bungo business!*



## BUNGO BEANIES

Southsider Jennifer Clapp launched design company 'Lake and Loch' in June and, since then, the savvy designer's beanie hats have been flying off the shelves. Branded with Glasgow place names, including Strathbungo, Shawlands, Pollokshields and Southside, the hats are available online from the Lake and Loch website, at Stephen O'Neil's in Shawlands and Sunshine No 1 in Mount Florida. 'I have lived all across the city', says Clapp, 'and love how unique and proud each area is.' We look forward to seeing the bold Lake and Loch range develop in the coming months.

## FRIDAY ART CLUB

Local, Chris Macfarlane, has recently established the Friday Art Club – an informal art class for those looking for expert tuition in a structured, yet relaxed and friendly environment. Classes have proved so popular that a second class may soon be added. Students can look forward to a rolling program of drawing and painting, alongside some more contemporary techniques. Friday Art Club runs every Friday from 11am-2.30pm at Queens Park Baptist Church. For more information, contact [fridayartclub@outlook.com](mailto:fridayartclub@outlook.com)



## BUNGO BLENDS

Southside Roasters, at 742 Pollokshaws Road, opened back in March and has been a welcome addition to the burgeoning cafe scene in Strathbungo. With a Scandinavian meets New York industrial interior, this trendy coffee shop serves speciality coffee using their own beans. They have recently added two locally-inspired coffee blends: the Bungo Roast ('a good body with hints of red berries, spice and dark chocolate') and the Marchtown Blend ('a light to medium roast with a good body, full of life'). Beans can be ground in store and taken away.



## WINDOW WORKSHOPS

Specialists in sash window repair and restoration, Glasgow Traditional Windows are looking to offer a course for local residents on sash window upkeep and maintenance. The course will teach participants how to prolong the life of their traditional sash windows by using a few simple techniques, keeping costly repair jobs to a minimum. Cost and availability will be dependent on demand. Contact Mark Heavenor at [info@gtwindows.com](mailto:info@gtwindows.com) for more information.



## WEE BEER SHOP

After two successful pop-up events, attracting beer-lovers from across the city, the Wee Beer Shop is currently being fitted out to open as an off-licence later this month. Offering beer made by independent breweries from across Scotland, the UK and beyond, the Wee Beer Shop will uniquely also offer a draft and wine takeaway service, filling reusable bottles. Manager Niall Kennedy adds 'We look forward to welcoming all Strathbungo residents to the shop!' Find the Wee Beer Shop at 623 Pollokshaws Road.

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed artist Rabiya Choudhry's striking slogan based posters in Strathbungo and surrounding areas over the past few months. 'Signs of the Times' is a public art project by Choudhry, based on her memories of growing up in the Southside of Glasgow.

The project was the result of interviews conducted with local people from across the Southside, connecting the experiences of the artist as a child to the present day, and to local people in this richly diverse and dynamic area. These shared memories were related through posters that the artist designed, which subtly infiltrated the local landscape in shop windows, local businesses and cafes and bars.

'The project aimed to reflect some of the signs of change in the area,' explains Choudhry, 'interspersed with memories and fragments of the Southside.'

The project was a commission for the Tramway Local project which seeks to bring new art outside the traditional gallery space and out into the community. Their aim is to foster stronger relationships between the Tramway and artists, audiences, organisations and businesses in the areas around the venue.

Rabiya Choudhry is currently working towards a solo exhibition in Glasgow in early 2018. For more information go to [www.rabiyachoudhry.com](http://www.rabiyachoudhry.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### 24 OCT

Strathbungo Society AGM  
7.30pm  
Queen's Park Parish Church

### 29 OCT

Brighter Bungo  
Community Clear-up  
11am-1pm  
meet at junction of Moray  
Place and Nithsdale Road

### 16-19 DEC

Tramway Winter Printshop  
12-4pm, drop-in, free

### 31 DEC

Bungo at the Bells  
Hogmanay Street Party

### 20 FEB

Window Wanderland  
workshop at the Tramway

### 24 FEB

Strathbungo Window Wanderland

## STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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*Come along to the*

## STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

24 October 2017 at 7.30pm  
Queen's Park Parish Church  
170 Queen's Drive

All are invited to join the Strathbungo Society for the night to review the past year and to look ahead to 2018 and beyond in Strathbungo. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.