



STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Volume 1: No 2

May 1995

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

AGM

7.15pm – Mon May 22nd
Titwood Resource Centre,
Titwood Road
(opposite the Dairy)

You will have received notice of the Society's AGM in a special flyer delivered to your house last week. Please make every effort to come along – there is no society without you.

ON THE AGENDA:

- Gavin Stamp of the Greek Thomson Society, on the history of Strathbungo
- Marshall Dulton, Network Manager, South Area Traffic, with news about the traffic management schemes planned for our area
- Progress reports from various sub-committees, including Neighbourhood Watch, back lanes & planning, social events
- Election of 1995-96 officers & committee

Many thanks in advance to the Titwood Resource Centre for inviting us to use this superb new local venue. If this is your first visit, you'll be surprised how comfortable and well equipped it is - in fact, we hope you'll stay for a chat along with tea or coffee following the AGM.

To avoid any disturbance to the residents, please enter by the rear door facing the railway line. Just look for the signs!

HERE'S HOW GOOD NEIGHBOURS BECOME GOOD FRIENDS!

STRATHBUNGO GALA DAY

SAT JUNE 10th

Strathbungo's first-ever gala day has something to entertain us all, whatever our interests! The day kicks off with a coffee morning and runs through to a ceilidh in the evening, with games, stalls and fun in between. Join us and . . .

- Meet your friends over a cup of coffee and some home baking from 10 am - 2 pm.
- Browse through the book stall, get special discounts and free gardening tips from Irvines of Pollokshields, or pick up a curio from the bric-a-brac display.
- Kids - bring your bikes and other valuables and have them security marked by the police as part of our Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
- Want to know the history of your house? See our display of house histories and commission your own. An inexpensive and highly personalised gift for yourself or your partner.
- Take part in the quizzes and games.
- Come back in the evening for our Ceilidh! Bring your friends or meet your neighbours over a drink and a buffet supper. Fully licensed bar with guest ales! Live and lively music from *Inish Owen*!

And there's lots more still at the planning stage. *Whoever said the Strathbungo Society was all work and no play!*

All events take place in Pollokshields Burgh Hall, 70 Glencairn Drive, from 10am.

Admission to the coffee morning is 50p payable at the door and includes coffee or tea, with cake or a scone.

Tickets for the Ceilidh are available from Sharon Schweps, 38 Queen Square and Kay Caldwell, 44 Queen Square, or from your nearest committee member. The ticket price of £5 includes entertainment and a light buffet. Great value! Any profits will go to support the work of the Strathbungo Society – particu-

larly to implement the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Come along and join the fun, get to know your neighbours and help make Strathbungo a great place to live!

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE GALA DAY A SUCCESS!

Here's a chance to offer your support without joining a committee or turning out for a meeting!

We need home baking, books and bric-a-brac and will collect all donations, starting during the first week of June. Could you run a stall at the coffee morning? Would you help serve the coffee? Could you prepare a dish for the Ceilidh? Offers of help and any enquiries about the day's events to 424 1896 or 423 3354

PUTTING A FACE ON IT

What a contrast between the elegant frontages of the Strathbungo "squares" and their back lanes. One is reminded of the description of Edinburgh as a grand old lady who powders her nose but forgets to wipe her backside. Or, to put it another way, that she is "all fur coat and nae knickers."

Our camera captured the best-left-unseen Strathbungo on a May holiday Monday - sadder still, we went round after the dustmen had been and gone. People strolling along our lovely squares would hardly guess what lies behind a few of the houses. Household refuse stacked high, sometimes strewn over back gardens and spilling into back lanes - much of it likely to attract vermin and cause a public health hazard. They're only a small minority yet their attitude reflects badly on us all. A number of residents have requested action against persistent offenders and complaints be made to the environmental health department.

This feature is a gentle reminder to us all to dispose of our rubbish in a

hygienic way, before any further action needs to be taken and before an environmental health hazard is identified.

Large items will be uplifted by the City Council on request. Phone 227 4484. They guarantee uplift within 10 working days but normally are quicker.

The Cleansing Department is happy to deal with any request or inquiry about cleansing services but cannot accept your request to lift someone else's rubbish.

Skips are no longer available from the Council, but can be hired at prices starting around £40 plus VAT from companies advertising in the Yellow Pages.

The Environmental Health Department can investigate com-

plaints from the public (for example, about rubbish which has been dumped and no uplift requested.) Phone 227 4397. A leaflet explaining the right and wrong ways to deal with rubbish is due for distribution within a few weeks.



Many thanks for
Gala Day support
from

Irvines
of Pollokshields

128 Nithsdale Road, G41
5RB - 0141-424 0357

Fresh vegetables & fruit
plus flowers, plants
and your every
gardening need

STRATHBUNGO GALA DAY



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday June 10th
10am - 2pm

Tea • Coffee • Home Baking

A chance to meet your neighbours.

Stalls and games

Security IDs for bikes
& other valuables

Pollokshields Burgh Hall,
70 Glencairn Drive.



**BULK REFUSE
UPLIFT**

0141-227 4484

Remember Monty the Great Dane?

For almost ten years, that gentle giant roamed our streets and lanes at all hours – unfettered, and apparently unfed aside from what he raked from bins. Monty's poor digestion was legendary, his baying operatic, his horse-like proportions alarming. Thank goodness he was a sweet-natured beast.

Even *non-dog* people were strangely fond of the old fellow, but however you felt about Monty – he was Strathbungo's larger-than-life example of dog ownership at its most irresponsible. Now he's gone, we don't always agree on what's acceptable canine conduct.

The law is quite explicit. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 defines offences, and a leaflet available from Glasgow Environment Health couches details in more user-friendly language. Among the points, it is an offence:

- to allow your dog to foul a footpath, pedestrian precinct, children's play area or grass verge adjacent to a footpath maintained by a local authority
- to allow your dog to cause annoyance by barking, being aggressive, etc
- to fail to keep your dog under 'proper control' - this includes a collar tagged with the owner's name and address
- to kick, beat or ill-treat a dog in any way.

Fair enough, but then what? Environmental Health's South Area Manager Jim Blair hopes that legal action will always be the last resort: 'Dogs bring real benefits to their owners. Particularly for children, the elderly or people living on their own, they are like family so emotions can run high when there's friction with neighbours. Very often the offence is unintentional. The owner may be unaware of the law against fouling footpaths, for instance, or not realise that the dog barks when left on its own.'

If you're the 'injured' party, he advises you to wait until you have calmed down and then approach the owner in a polite, friendly manner. 'Draw attention to the fact that the dog is causing an unpleas-

ant, unnecessary situation. If that cuts no ice, then *inform* him of the legislation, rather than threaten him with it.'

But hang on - just who's offending whom? 'We are assuming the owner is unaware of the problem. Once informed, the owner has two options. Change the location, which is to say, make sure your dog uses the gutter or a piece of ground not listed in the legislation. Or take the dog dirt with you. We joke about those American-style poop-scoops but they do the trick – so does a plastic bag. That's the only responsible choice.'

If the softly-softly approach doesn't work, you (along with a second witness) can report the individual to the police who will then decide whether to refer the matter for legal action. Or, in some cases, you may pursue a private prosecution. Both indicate a deplorable breakdown in relations.

'The best route is to realise that this is not a matter of being pro-dog or anti-dog. It's about responsible dog owners and good neighbours,' says Mr Blair. And surely not even Monty of Blessed Memory could disagree with that.

BACK LANES

THE BEST LAID SETTS GANG AFT A-GLEY

Planning sub-committee convenor Nigel MacDonald reports a lot of hard work and some progress on the issues surrounding adoption of the four 'orphan' lanes between Nithsdale Road and Vennard Gardens. The remaining lanes in Strathbungo are in public ownership and thus maintained by SRC Roads Department

In response to our enquiry, a letter from SRC Roads Department states that, as a general policy, the surface of the lane must be brought up to a reasonable standard before adoption, either in tarmac, paviers or relaid granite setts (cobble). However, conservation guidelines will not permit tarmac while the cost of relaying granite setts is prohibitive.

The sub-committee has contacted three companies who manufacture paviers to quote for the 5,000 square metres involved in the four lanes. These will include removal of the surface and relaying of paviers. We will need planning permission to allow this work to

go ahead. The Planning Department wants samples of the three different types of paviers to be laid in situ for examination.

Once quotations are received, we can explore the possibility of grants from various bodies and trusts. Whatever our luck in attracting funding, it is nevertheless inevitable that owners will also need to contribute financially. At this time, whatever happens regarding back lane improvements, there's a long road ahead. Meanwhile, we are also asking the Lottery to think kindly of our needs. [Editors Note: *Perhaps we should simply buy a ticket - the odds there are only 14 million to one!*]

GALA CEILIDH DANCE

featuring music by *Inish Owen*

SATURDAY 10 JUNE - from 8pm

Good music - good food - good company . . . and guest ales!

Tickets £5 from 424 1896 or 423 3354

POLLOKSHIELDS BURGH HALL, 70 GLENCAIRN DRIVE.

We'll be watching you ...

Around 100 residents turned up at the Titwood Resource Centre in April to collect their Neighbourhood Watch materials and launch the scheme officially right across Strathbungo.

Sgt Stewart Dunsmuir of Strathclyde Police's Community Involvement Unit outlined how the scheme works and introduced Area Coordinator Anne Hamilton and six block coordinators, each responsible for his or her own street and the corresponding block of Moray Place:

- Sam Wilson, 27 Carswell Gardens
- Alison Paten, 36 Thorncliffe Gardens
- Bill Borland, 14 Vennard Gardens
- Douglas Ritchie, 24a Moray Place (for Marywood Square)
- Anne Binnie, 21 Queen Square
- Jim Allison, 38 Regent Park Square

Sgt Dunsmuir emphasised that Neighbourhood Watch is designed first and foremost to be a deterrent to break-ins, street crimes and burglaries - that's why it is so important to give the scheme a high profile throughout the area by displaying window stickers in every household and putting up Neighbourhood Watch signs at all the entrances to Strathbungo. 'Most of these characters are just opportunists, looking

for an easy target. If they know you're watching out for each other, they're much more likely to give Strathbungo a miss!'

The meeting agreed that members should be encouraged to contribute £1 per household to the cost of buying and erecting the special boundary signs. The Strathbungo Society has subsequently made up the balance and signs are due to go up in late May or June.

Meanwhile, those at the launch took away free booklets and window stickers and street coordinators have since been distributing materials to others who couldn't manage along to the meeting. If you have not yet got your stickers, contact your block coordinator. And if you've not yet displayed your stickers, get 'em up right now - corner of a window at both the back and front of your house!

NEXT ISSUE

**Multiple-Occupancy
- a multitude of sins?**

THE RUNNING SEWER STORY

Explanation follows explanation of the delay in renewing the sewers in Queen Square and Marywood Square. The dates given by council officials earlier the year have come - and gone - with every stone still unturned. However council officials have been seen of late in both streets and when approached by residents have confirmed that the work has been contracted out and that it will begin "probably within four - six weeks." (Around the end of June?) It seems that the contractor has been delayed on another job. A closure order on the streets concerned has to be applied for and notice of the closure will be issued to all residents before work begins. But watch this space ...

COMMENTS PLEASE

The Strathbungo News is published quarterly by the Strathbungo Society.

Its purpose is to keep you informed of the Society's activities, to open up discussion on some of the broader issues concerning the area and to provide a forum for expressing your ideas for making Strathbungo better.

We welcome your letters - send them to S Schweps, 38 Queen Square.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Speeding & Traffic in Narrow Streets

In response to your request for comments in Strathbungo News, I would like to express my concern about the above noted subject. Having lived in Strathbungo for six years, it is only recently that I have taken much interest in the speed of cars in our area - mainly because I have a young family now and I am concerned about their safety. I have asked a couple of drivers who were 'doing' 40-50 mph, if they were concerned about children's safety. Their positive response was 'of course' and they intended to slow down in our narrow streets.

I am unsure if the speeders are local or not. However, in my opinion, if a child were to run out from behind a parked car, a car travelling at 20 mph would be hard pushed to stop in time. I would urge your readers to slow down for the safety of all Strathbungo residents and I would welcome your thoughts on how to address this problem.

Yours sincerely,

Allistair Laing 2 Thorncliffe Gardens

Editors: Don't miss the AGM on Monday, 22nd May for the 'official' angle on Strathbungo's traffic problems. And if you have a constructive suggestion of how to stop speeders, let's have it in a short letter for our next issue.