

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Autumn 1998

EDITORIAL

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is the first in what we hope will be a new bi-monthly series of the Strathbungo News, thanks to our *Awards for All* grant. That's ambitious, we know, but we reckon we have an unusually active neighbourhood association here in Strathbungo.

And that's where you come in. We want to know what you think, and what you are thinking about. How would you deal with issues that effect all of us.

- How would you stop fly-tippers?
- If we could organise quick, cheap, environmentally-friendly graffiti removal, would you be interested?
- What other services might we arrange on a community-wide basis?
- Do you use local traders? Would you do more local shopping if there was better quality? more choice?
- Do you worry about the lack of facilities for children and teens in our area? Any suggestions?

But it's not just problems and complaints:

- Do you have any interesting information about Strathbungo's history or architecture?
- Any ideas for community events?
- Do you have a hobby? Would you like to form a club for bridge, chess, ceramics, fitness, dancing? Tell us and we'll try to identify like-minded neighbours to join in.

The Strathbungo Society is not a community council or any other 'official' body. It is a voluntary association of homeowners and residents and it works because we - the people who live in Strathbungo - want it to work.

We will print letters of up to 200 words so long as they do not offend reasonable standards of taste or get us arrested. We will also consider articles of up to 500 words on local history or conservation. And - by the way - if we are going to fill six newsletters a year, we really do welcome your input!

CRISIS LOOMS IN LANES

As the Strathbungo News went to press, urgent talks were underway regarding warnings by City Cleansing officials that their operatives might have to withdraw collection services from parts of Strathbungo as a result of the increasingly dangerous state of the lanes.

Senior managers in the Glasgow City Council's Land Services Department were meeting to consider options, according to Councillor Walter MacLellan.

Greatest concern centred round the lane running parallel to Pollokshaws Road, and in particular the stretch between Nithsdale Road and Regent Park Square.

This development coincides with Historic Scotland withdrawing its offer of a £100,000 grant to the Strathbungo Society's back lanes project, following the failure of sufficient numbers of home owners to commit to paying a reduced percentage of the costs. Ross Fergusson, whose employer had agreed to manage the proposed contract, worked for over a year to get the project off the ground, says: 'We needed a commitment from 90% of about 450 relevant households and, in the event, only 82% signed up. Historic Scotland gave us a certain amount of time to get our act together, then they simply allocated the money elsewhere.'

Historic Scotland's grant was a key element in a funding package pulled together by Ross and fellow Committee members Alex Connell and Nigel MacDonald. This includes a free abutment through GDA's Glasgow Works programme and stone setts supplied by Scottish Enterprise through their sett bank at Bonnybridge. Altogether, for a vital project totalling over £450,000, local homeowners were asked to come up with only £150,000, shared

out in proportion to the number of households in each property - commitments ranged from £93 per owner of tenemental property to £763 in the full terrace houses.

What now? According to Ross, 'That leaves us looking for alternative resources. We actually had massive support for this project - over eight out of ten households. Frankly, despite Strathbungo's architectural importance, there aren't all that many bodies willing to shell out large sums of money to help private homeowners upgrade their own property. If we are able to find a new source of grant aid, I hope that a small minority of people won't cause everyone else to miss out on another opportunity.'



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

UP A TREE . . . ?

Trees add beauty to our urban landscape and are subject to preservation orders. However, like all living things, they have a natural lifespan and some of ours have reached the end of theirs. Others, such as lime trees, secrete an awful sappy goo that sticks to cars and ruins any plants in their patch.

You don't have to put up with undue danger or mess, but you do need *planning permission* to fell trees and you must also replace them. Now is the season for dealing with your discontent. The enclosed leaflet has details - correct in every way except for the Council's telephone number, which is **287 5830**.

WILL YOU BE A STREET COORDINATOR?

Let's get Strathbungo's Neighbourhood Watch back on track! Strathclyde Police are sending one of their Community Involvement Officers to help us reactivate the scheme. If you're willing to help coordinate the Watch for your street, please come - especially if you live in Thorncliffe or Carswell Gardens.

Monday - 9th November - 7.30 pm
Titwood Road Resource Centre

BUNGO IN THE PARK

7th June 1998

A day to remember? You bet! Not only was 7th June one of the few dry days in a wringing-wet summer, it was the first of what we suspect will be many annual Bungos in the Park.

Bungo was really two events in one - a day of outdoor fun and games in the stretch of Queens Park that runs along Strathbungo's terraces and an evening ceilidh at the Glasshouse, featuring the Tony Coogan Band.

Daytime activities included everything from the Bungo Bazaar with tombolas, cakes and crafts to live music in the beer tent, showcasing local talent in such aptly-named jazz combos as Bungology and The Strathbungo Pond Orchestra. That selfsame Pond saw the Glasgow Shipmodellers Society in full sail, whilst all round the Park were dotted family-style entertainments, including teddy bear hunts, face painting, parachute & earthball games, kite-making and puppet shows - plus Lillian MacNeill's Flamenco dancers and teams of youngsters learning the intricacies of Kabbadi. Local pubs and shopkeepers contributed to the fun as well. Thank you, Strathbungo and all our friends in the surrounding communities for coming out to play!



Any ideas for next year's Bungo in the Park? Let's hear from you!



Secretary of State Donald Dewar gets Strathbungo-ed by Sharon Schweps and Robert Lamont at the Awards for All presentation in September.



£2,420 FOR STRATHBUNGO IN 'AWARDS FOR ALL' LOTTERY PAYOUT

The Strathbungo Society has received a grant of £2,420 in the first round of 'Awards for All', an innovative funding programme being piloted in Scotland as a means of helping small community groups share in the pot of money generated by the National Lottery. Awards for All is run by a consortium of the National Lottery Charities Board, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Sports Council and National Heritage Memorial Fund and offers grants ranging between £550 and £5,000 to groups functioning in the key areas of Charities, Arts, Sports and Heritage - in other words, CASH! Our cash will go to improving communications and staging events. 'When we raise issues in the newsletter or hold public meetings, we are acting as a focus for the concerns all of us have as home owners and residents, but a community is not just rubbish collection and traffic problems. It's important to bring the people of

Strathbungo together for purely social occasions - to get to know their neighbours and have a good time. After all, Strathbungo is really just the people who live here.' That's what Acting Chairman Robert Lamont told the Awards for All Panel, when he was called in at short notice to present our case. Well done, Bob!

The money will enable us to publish the newsletter more regularly than before and without so many labour-intensive hours at the photocopier - also one-off leaflets promoting both the heritage and modern amenities. Community events will no longer be quite so desperately tied to 'break-even' priorities. Of course, Bob is also Strathbungo Society's treasurer so nobody gets to go daft. 'This may not seem like a lot of money to large groups, but it's a tremendous help for one that operates on a shoestring. We're going to get the maximum impact.'

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY COMMITTEE 1998/99

May's AGM saw the first major changes to the Strathbungo Society committee since we rose from the ashes of the old Conservation Society four years ago. Following the resignation of Alex Connell, who has moved away from the area, Treasurer Robert Lamont has agreed serve as Acting Chairman. We have since set up sub-committees to deal with environmental issues (Trevor Lee), events (Kay Caldwell) and communications (Sharon Schweps). If you have any insights or expertise to offer in these particular areas, contact the relevant convenor.

Chair (Temp)/Treasurer

Robert Lamont, 53 Queen Square;

Vice Chair

Chris Jay, 11 Moray Place;

Secretary

Judy McDowall, 17 Vennard Gardens;

Wendy Anderson, 51 Queen Square;

Kay Caldwell, 44 Queen Square;

Laura Davie, 2/1 57 Nithsdale Rd;

Sarah Donnaghy, 830 PollokshawsRd;

Ross Fergusson, 9a Regent Park Square;

Kevin Kane, 6 Moray Place;

Caroline Laing, 37 Thorncliffe Gardens;

Trevor Lee, 32 Marywood Square;

Jean Mackenzie, 39 Regent Park Square;

John Sackett, 34 Marywood Square;

Karl & Sharon Schweps, 38 Queen Square;

Noreen Thompson, 6 Marywood Square;

Alison Walker, 7a Queen Square;

Stella Watson, 20 Thorncliffe Gdns.

CART BLANCHE

Kevin Kane is representing the Strathbungo Society in plans for an exciting contribution to Glasgow 1999 from communities on the Southside. This is his report:

As part of Glasgow 1999, a new coalition of community groups has come together to explore ideas for developing the River Cart as an amenity, heritage and environmental resource for Glasgow and the Southside. This has already involved the Strathbungo Society, Pollokshaws Community Forum, Pollokshaws Heritage, Mansewood Community Council, and a community artist, meeting with Council planning officials, the River Cart Environmental Project and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The overall initiative, provisionally titled Cart Blanche, is to develop ideas for using the Cart as a focus for community celebrations as part of Glasgow 1999: UK City of Architecture + Design.

The planning department is keen to develop the Cart and a new 'Stirling Maxwell Forest' to link Pollok Estate by woodland footpath to Paisley Abbey. At present, the Council is working to develop the Cart as a recreational/her-

itage route to link historic sites and conservation areas along the way. However, lack of active community involvement is hampering efforts at raising the profile of what is been a piecemeal approach.

Thus the 'Glasgow 1999: What's Your Problem?' initiative has been a major step forward with grants of up to £5,000 for developing a student design project. Glasgow School of Art's top-rated product design department have already met with the Cart Blanche Group to consider designing a craft able to navigate the Cart between Holmwood House/Linn Park and Pollok House.

Other ideas include a walk and cycleway, a linear Art-Park, a Festival Flotilla for 1999 celebrations and finding new fording points to link communities. If you have any other ideas, memories or stories of the Cart or if you'd just like to get involved, phone Kevin Kane on 423 3119.

WHEELS OF PROGRESS?

Now that Strathbungo's had time to get used to wheely bins, we asked Jim Reilly, supervisor at the Pollokshields Cleansing Depot, *how is it for you?*

People have complained about bins getting jumbled up on collection day. Any advice?

It is a nightmare returning wheely bins to the proper gate and a lot of it is guesswork.

Two suggestions:

- put house numbers on the bins (preferably on lids), using paint or indelible markers
- mark all gates with the number of bins that belong there, as was previously done with black sacks

If someone forgets to put their bin out, will you go into the garden to get it? What about elderly or infirm residents?

No, sorry, we can't go into gardens to collect bins. If you are not physically able to wheel a bin into the lane, a neighbour may be willing to help. Otherwise, phone the depot. We may be able to supply a smaller bin that's easier to handle or, if all else fails, we will supply black sacks and collect them - but only by prior arrangement.

What happens if a resident occasionally has too much rubbish for one bin?

If someone accumulates an unusual amount of refuse in a week - say they're moving house, doing a spring clean or whatever - phone the local depot (429 4532) in advance of normal collection day and we'll make special one-off arrangements to pick it up. Please do not leave bags or boxes out beside the wheely bin and expect them to be collected.

Can we get extra wheely bins?

If you routinely generate more refuse than one bin will hold, you can buy a second one at £29.50, including delivery. Just phone Cleansing Services on 287 9700 and explain what you need. You will be invoiced by the Council.

What happens when households have no access to the lane?

We have a note of households that require collection from the front. If we ever miss emptying your bin, ring 429 4532 and we will send someone out that day, if possible, or by the next day.

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

is published bi-monthly by
THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

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Will you collect large items from the lane?

No- we are not equipped for that. What you need is Bulk Uplift, a free service for anyone throwing out large household items. Just phone Cleansing Services on 287 9700. There is a nominal charge for builders rubble.

Is the new system working?

Yes, the lanes are generally tidier and there's less fly-tipping. Unfortunately, there will always be a few people who abuse the system, no matter how hard everyone else tries to make it. Short of knocking on these people's doors and taking the rubbish from them, I can't think of anything else we can do to make it easier. When wheely bins are used properly, we have no problems with foxes, cats or dogs - and even midgie rakers are less likely to bother.

How would YOU deal with rubbish blackspots? Letters to Strathbungo News at 38 Queen Square.



BULK UPLIFT
287 9700
Pollokshields Depot
429 4532



ON YER BIKE, WALTER!

Councillor Walter MacLellan joined Olympic cyclist Graham Obree and a Police escort in a *magnificent* display of pedal power during National Cycling Week last summer. Walter, a Strathbungo resident, hopes everyone will follow the green tarmac bike routes & cycle to work!

CHEERIO CHEERIO CHEERIO...



Strathbungo Society stalwart Nigel MacDonald, caught here in mid-flit, has moved to Nottingham where he started a new job this autumn. The Committee also waves goodbye to Alex Connell, another emigre, and Mike Greenwood, the last remaining member of the old Strathbungo Conservation Society team, who just felt he needed a break. Many thanks to all outgoing members and welcome to the new!



BUNGO AT THE BELLS HOGMANAY EVENT SET TO RING IN 1999

Plans are now being made for a community-wide celebration to ring in the New Year in Strathbungo. Events Convenors Kay Caldwell and John Sackett, who organised last summer's Bungo in the Park, will be putting it together with the help of assorted Bravehearts and Tall Dark Strangers.

'It's not a party,' says Kay. 'It's an open air countdown to 1999 with lots of Scottish sounds & Scottish sights to get the first footing off to a good start - then people can carry on for as long as the spirit moves them. If anybody winds up having a 'quiet' Hogmanay, it won't be for lack of opportunity!

FULL DETAILS NEXT MONTH.