

# STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Spring 1999

## The STRATHBUNGO Society AGM

**Monday, 7th June  
7.00 p.m.**

**Resource Centre  
Titwood Road**

**DESIGNS ON  
STRATHBUNGO**

**Guest Speaker:  
Deyan Sudjic, Director,  
Glasgow 1999**

**Where do we fit in with  
Glasgow's Year of  
Architecture & Design?**

### TALKING RUBBISH!

**Your chance to dish the dirt  
with an Area Supervisor from  
Glasgow Cleansing Department**

### PLUS:

- yearly round-up of news from  
Neighbourhood Watch,  
environment/planning,  
publicity & events groups
- see the new-look  
Strathbungo logo
- election of 1999-2000  
committee & officers

**coffee & tea afterward**

## STRATHBUNGO ON SCREEN

**As 'Orphans' hits the big screen, Strathbungo now takes its place in Glasgow's film renaissance with this latest triumph from writer-director-actor Peter Mullan.**

Peter, who lives locally, won the Best Actor award at last year's Cannes Film Festival for his role in 'My Name is Joe'. He looks set to continue the trend with 'Orphans', already collecting major prizes at the Venice and Paris film festivals. Billed as the 'darkest comedy of the year', it's set in contemporary Glasgow and traces the effects of the death of a mother on her four offspring.

Key scenes were shot in and around Strathbungo, including a hilarious scene in Sammy Dow's where one of the protagonists ends up in the cellar. Others include some exteriors shot in Fellini-esque style in the lanes to the back of Moray Place, Regent Park Square and Pollokshaws Road. Look closely and you may also spot Kenmure Street in Pollokshields as well as parts of Govanhill and Crosshill.

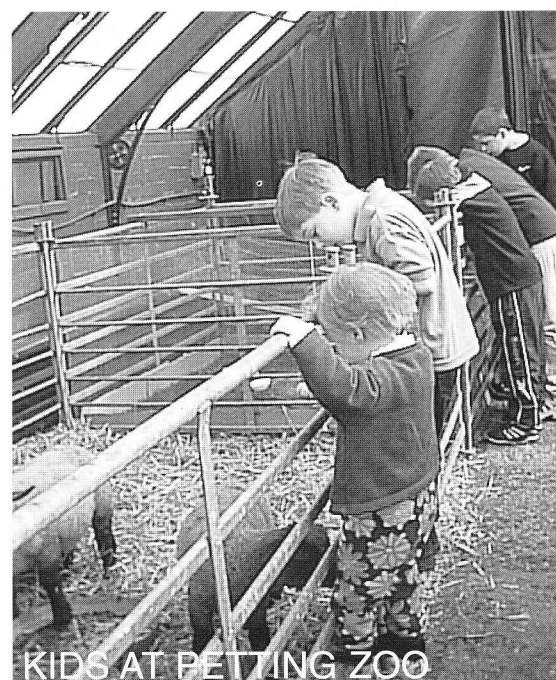
'Orphans' is a real Glasgow success story. In addition to Peter Mullan, the producer (Francis Higson in her first feature) and the majority of crew and actors all live and work in Glasgow. The film was funded by the Glasgow Film Fund and Channel Four and location shooting was assisted the Glasgow Film Office (GFO). GFO Director, Lenny Crooks said, 'We are delighted that Strathbungo has entered the realms of celluloid history.' Crooks also noted that more than £10 million pa is spent on film production activity in Glasgow, making the city the largest production centre outwith London.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

And there's more in the pipeline for Strathbungo. To coincide with the 'Greek' Thomson Exhibition to be held in The Lighthouse (Scotland's new Centre for Architecture, Design and the City) the BBC and foreign broadcasters have commissioned a 50 minute film on

Thomson and his European contemporaries (eg Frederick von Shinkel).

Locations include Berlin and Strathbungo with a half-day shoot of Thomson's terrace, and former home, at 1-10 Moray Place. Grigor is Scotland's pre-eminent architectural filmmaker, having won major international awards for his work on Charles Rennie Mackintosh (who, incidentally, also lived in Strathbungo for a time). The Thomson exhibition is being curated by Strathbungo resident Gavin Stamp and will be the definitive exhibition of Glasgow's 'other' world famous architect.



**KIDS AT PETTING ZOO**

*Queens Park staff pulled out all the stops over the Easter holidays to show off their beautifully upgraded glasshouse. Attractions included a mini-farmyard, complete with live bunnies, chicks, lambs and piglets to the joy of Strathbungo's city kids.*



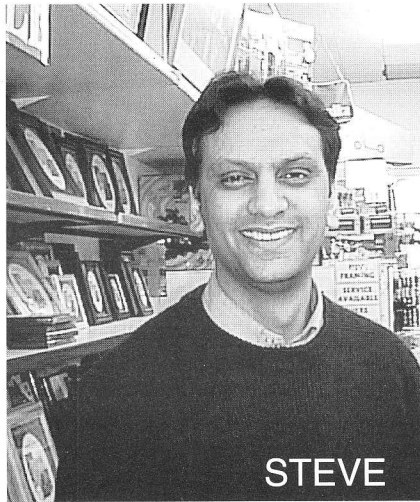
## BUNGO AT THE BELLS

London, New York, Edinburgh ... Strathbungo?

Strathbungo is now firmly established as one of the world's best places to be on Hogmanay - or at least that was the verdict of the 200 or so local residents who turned out to Bungo at the Bells! The bemused spirit of Greek Thomson must have chuckled to himself, seeing a rousing Strip the Willow in the genteel environs of Moray Place. And that was only the start ... some first footers were still making the rounds when the pale winter sun rose.

### TALKING POINT:

*So how about the Millennium? Shall we plan another 'Bungo'?*



STEVE

Meet Satbinder Hoonjan, the picture framer formerly known as Steve.

Satbinder made lots of friends over the years as proprietor of Steve's Hardware, but like many local shopkeepers, he was finding business very slow - especially with the new parking restrictions in Pollokshields Road. We wish him good luck with his new picture framing shop.

The Strathbungo Society urges you to support all of your local traders - we need them just as much as they need us!

### TALKING POINT:

*What sort of shops do you want in Strathbungo? How can we encourage more people to shop locally?*



## NO DUMPING!

The Cleansing Department have asked us to repeat their procedures for rubbish collection in lanes where wheely bins can't be emptied mechanically.



Here's the drill:

- put all rubbish in a black bag
- secure the bag - either tie it in a knot or use tape, string etc
- put the bag in the wheely bin
- do not put loose rubbish in the wheely bin
- do not put out rubbish in any other type of container (i.e. carrier bags, cardboard boxes, etc.)
- if you need extra black bags, phone 429 4532 for a free supply.
- if the wheely bin is full, put your black bag on top of or beside it - either late Tuesday night or early Wednesday.

## PEOPLE POWER

Prompt action from local residents avoided a conservationist's nightmare being built between the railway line and Grade A & B listed homes in Moray Place, according to Strathbungo Society Vice Chair Chris Jay, who lives in one of the affected properties.

As Chris puts it: 'We were delighted when workmen arrived to take down the old dilapidated schedule board beside the railway bridge - that is, until they began putting up six foot high concrete posts with a view to erecting an enormous chainlink fence. It looked like something out of Barlinnie, though at least we were on the right side of the fence!'

Neighbours agreed unanimously. However, as it was a Saturday, they had a hard time finding anybody 'official' to raise conservation issues with. Chris continues: 'It took some clever detective work, but we eventually managed to get the Railtrack contracts manager at home that afternoon and he proved to be very helpful. The barrier was being erected to reduce litter on the lines, so we were relieved when he agreed to consider more suitable alternatives to the chainlink fence.'

The fence was up long enough for residents to appreciate how truly lucky their escape had been. Workmen returned on the following Tuesday and took it down, replacing it with fast-growing evergreen shrubbery.

'It really was a victory for people power,' says Chris. 'Strictly speaking, Railtrack don't need planning permission for projects of this sort, even in a conservation area so we are doubly grateful for the goodwill they demonstrated.'

### TALKING POINT:

*It's been suggested that Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's brother and business partner had links with the Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock Railway Company. Was Strathbungo Scotland's first railway suburb? Can any local historians fill us in?*



Pollokshields Depot: 429 4532  
Bulk Uplift: 445 6399  
(out of hours, 287 9700)



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Shawlands, Camphill & Strathbungo Community Council meets at 7.00 pm on the second Wednesday of every month at the Resource Centre in Titwood Road. Minutes of the meetings are required to be made available to the public at several locations, including the Public Library in Calder Street and the Strathbungo Post Office Sub-station in Pollokshaws Road. District Councillor Walter MacLellan holds his surgery immediately prior to the meeting at 6.30 pm.

The public may raise general issues at Community Council meetings. Individual problems, however, should be taken to your District Councillor.



## ROUTE ACTION PLAN:

### HOW'S IT FOR YOU?

Glasgow City Council's Land Services Department, currently assessing the Route Action Plan, are asking for comments from local residents regarding the one way system and other traffic alternations in Strathbungo, according to Councillor Walter MacLellan, who is Convenor of the Roads Committee.

'As far as I'm aware, the main issues in Strathbungo are to do with increased traffic in Moray Place and concerns about the pedestrian crossings near Allison Street, where the positioning of lights hasn't quite settled in yet,' he said. 'We may need to take further steps to calm traffic in Moray Place.'

Alterations to the entrance of Queens Park proved more complex than it looked, owing to repairs required to the drainage system, but it has resulted in a substantially improved approach to the area. They have also relocated the pedestrian crossing lights at Nithsdale Road to tie in with the cycle path where it crosses Pollokshaws Road. This 'green' route will eventually run from Bellahouston Park to East Kilbride.

### TALKING POINT:

*If you have had difficulties with the new system or wish to make any other comments, write to Councillor Walter MacLellan, Glasgow City Council, City Chambers, Glasgow G2*



## SAVING STRATHBUNGO'S DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

The Strathbungo Society has joined with Pollokshields Heritage and Friends of Glasgow West Council in efforts to safeguard the heritage of the city's domestic architecture. Over the past few months, this has involved Strathbungo's Trevor Lee, Kevin Kane and Chris Jay in a series of meetings staged to highlight the dangers of fine Victorian and Edwardian properties being put to inappropriate uses.

'We are particularly concerned with certain organisations - notably housing associations or other property developers - being given planning permission to operate in properties that are not suited to multiple occupancy. Look at them now: elaborate cornices and ceiling roses removed, fine fireplaces ripped out, spacious drawing rooms partitioned with crude lobbies and corridors, doors and banisters panelled - in other words, it's vandalism stalking under the cloak of benevolence. Planning officials seem unable to stop them because it all happens behind a listed facade,' says Chris.

A meeting to discuss tactics with other like-minded organisations in March generated lot of enthusiasm. In April, following an encouraging meeting between Pollokshields Heritage's Karin Currie and City planning folk, two groups were set up to identify issues to be raised - one to work at Parliamentary level and the other at Council level. Chris, Karin and a delegate from the Greek Thomson Society formed the second group.

*More information in the next Strathbungo News.*

## HELP WANTED

**Community involvement is not all to do with back lanes and traffic problems. Strathbungo's a terrific place to live and a lot of the Society's 'good works' are good fun too. So come on - put yourself forward for The Strathbungo Society's new committee, especially if you have an interest in:**

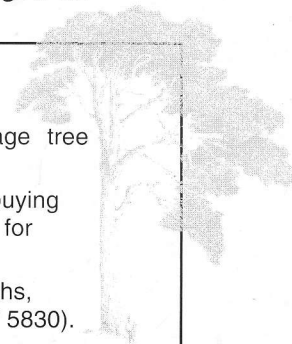
- publicity
- special events
- environmental issues
- architectural & social heritage
- Neighbourhood Watch

**We are always looking for new ideas and new people to make them happen so don't be shy. Sign up at the AGM on 7th June.**

## TALK TO THE TREES

Glasgow City Council offers two small grants to encourage tree planting:

- for individual residents, grants of up to 75% of the cost of buying and planting suitable trees (phone Sue Jones on 287 5829 for details)
- for community gardens, a scheme to cover refurbishing paths, seating, laying out plants and trees (Judith Parsons on 287 5830).





#### To the Strathbungo Society

Firstly may I congratulate you on your winter edition of the Strathbungo News. It is good to be part of an active neighbourhood and a regular newsletter should both support and encourage community spirit.

I am, however, most disheartened by your leading story about the lanes. ...It is a tragedy to think we have lost the support of Historic Scotland, especially when 82% of households were prepared to pay up. Those involved in the first campaign must be congratulated for finding the funding and gathering the support, but we must not give up here. The situation is only going to get worse and is eventually bound to affect house prices as the lanes become less accessible to house owners and more attractive to trouble seekers.

I have some time on my hands to help with a new campaign and I very strongly about this issue. Considering how close you came last time round, it is certainly achievable but prising money from people is never easy - even if it is in their own interests!

**Fiona Mackinnon**  
Pollokshaws Road

Dear Fiona,

Thank you, thank you, thank you ... not just for the kind words, but also for recognising how much Strathbungo depends on people like yourself who are willing to give up a bit of free time. Just get in touch with any committee member - or come along to the AGM on Monday, 7th June.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### To the Strathbungo Society:

Has any owner-resident noticed the litter and rubbish lying in Queen Square lane? In my opinion this is a health hazard. These are lovely Victorian terraced houses in a delightful area. Can anyone suggest a solution to eliminate this problem?

**(Mrs) Y Hunter**  
Queen Square

Dear Mrs Hunter,

We asked Jim Reilly, Area Supervisor, Pollokshields Depot, Glasgow Cleansing Dept, for his comments:

"There are really two problems here. One is loose refuse in and around the wheely bins, and the other is refuse and/or large household items being left elsewhere in the lanes.

Everything that goes into the wheely bins must be securely contained in black bags or it won't be collected. We supply bags free of charge and if you need extras, all you have to do is phone 429 4532. Because of health & safety issues concerning the lanes, there is no alternative to this system at the moment.

As for the dumping, a few persistent offenders are creating the problems. These people just can't be bothered to use the wheely bins or to arrange uplift for larger items - and we intend to stop them. We will now be seeking evidence that links refuse to certain individuals or addresses and relaying it to Environmental Health, who will follow it up.

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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 subjects of general interest, particularly local history or conservation. Write to The Strathbungo News, c/o 38 Queen Square, Glasgow G41 2AZ.

But frankly, the only way to solve any of these problems is for everybody to cooperate. So don't put loose refuse into the bins and don't leave refuse in carrier bags or boxes beside the bins. If you go out to collect your bin and find spillage, even if it's not your fault, it's still your refuse and it's only going to get worse if you leave it. If you need to get rid of large household items or garden refuse, phone 445 6399 for free uplift. If you are carrying out major home improvements, there is a small charge for uplifting builders rubble, but it is still cheap at the price.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### To the Strathbungo Society:

Why is it that our boys in blue can remove an illegally parked car from the City Centre on a Saturday afternoon within an hour, but when one is set on fire, as was the case in Moray Place over the winter, it appears to take them weeks to remove it? I can see the need to remove dangerously parked cars for our own safety, but surely a burnt out shell presents an even greater hazard to the general public.

In another recent instance, the Police were informed of a car in

Thorncliffe Gardens that was observed being dumped by a group of youths. The car was left unlocked, 'hot wired' and without road tax - yet it took six weeks before it was removed and then by a tow truck that travelled the wrong way down the one way system!

Whilst I find myself teetering upon my soapbox ... just who is responsible for pruning the Triffid-like growth of trees and shrubs that run the length of Moray Place? My car feels as if it has appeared alongside Basil Fawlty, such is the 'damned good thrashing' it has received!

Enough. I'm off for a pint. And, come to think of it, how about the changes at one of our most respected hostelrys - that may be the topic of my next venting!

**Bruce Whyte**  
Thorncliffe Gardens

Dear Bruce,

Keep taking the tablets. Cars are towed from the City Centre faster than you can say '£125 fine' because they are deemed to be causing an obstruction. Unfortunately, the two you refer to weren't actually blocking traffic although the continued presence of a derelict car gets everybody down and probably encourages vandalism too.

If you suspect a vehicle in your street is abandoned (say, it's a smouldering heap!) phone the Police in the first instance. They will attempt to locate the owner and, if they can't, arrange for the Council to remove it. And yes, it may take weeks if it's not considered a nuisance, although if you and your neighbours become nuisances yourselves, who knows what might happen!

Railtrack are responsible for vegetation coming through the fence and do cut it back from time to time, though not often enough given the narrowness of Moray Place. We will relay your complaint to them. Although everybody likes to have a go at Railtrack, it may just a matter of them not being aware of sensitivities on the other side of the railing. A recent episode (see separate story on page two) shows they can respond very positively to public opinion, once they twig.

We liked your letter, Bruce - want a job?

#### the Strathbungo News

Published by:  
The Strathbungo Society  
Edited: Sharon Schweps

Design & Printing: Iain Crosbie Printers

Correspondence to:  
38 Queen Square, Glasgow G41 2AZ