

STRATHBUNGO NEW S



February–March 2000

Strathbungo eyes up cyberspace -

what would you like to see on
www.strathbungo.org.uk ?

We already have our domain name - now begins the exciting work of planning and designing Strathbungo's first website. This spring the Strathbungo communications group will be putting together a detailed brief, based on feedback from local residents. Remember, a website is a 3-dimensional, multifunctional concept. You can access huge funds of information with just a few clicks of a mouse, yet you don't have to bother with stuff that doesn't interest you. Some of the suggestions include:

- a directory of trades
- a guide to local amenities
- an local heritage archive including photographs and histories
- links to other community organisations, conservation groups, estate agents, other websites.

So let us know what you want to see online. Email us at website@strathbungo.org.uk or use the snail-mail approach and send your suggestions to 38 Queen Square.

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Environment matters!

Chris Jay files this report on winter activities of the Strathbungo Environment Group

To its residents, Strathbungo is a quiet and elegant enclave of Glasgow, yet that environment is under constant threat. Unless we work to conserve the best features, its special character will be slowly lost. Everyone has a responsibility here, but the Strathbungo Society is taking the initiative in four areas:

Back lanes: as readers of this newsletter will remember, a huge project two years ago attracted funds from various external sources to reinstate the lanes in the so-called 'squares' but fell just short of the 90% commitment from owners required by the funding bodies. We are now planning to do a pilot project in the lane behind Moray Place between Queen and Marywood Squares as a demonstration of the benefits that would accrue by extending the project district-wide (see separate report).

Environmental study: we have met with a landscape architect who is enthusiastic about carrying out a formal, comprehen-

sive investigation of Strathbungo's natural and built environment. An alternative is to do a survey using volunteers trained by the Council. Either way, a report would create a blueprint for the future, looking at community-wide issues involving trees, hedges, railings, paving surfaces, lighting, signs etc. We could also use it to promote awareness of the area and attract grant aid.

Nithsdale Road: we are looking at ways to enhance the amenities and appearance of the area between Pollokshaws Road and the roundabout.

Queen's Park: we continue to press for improvements to the play area, which probably fails to meet new European standards. We shall oppose any suggestion that it be closed down but we especially welcome local parents to support us here.

Do you have concerns about the local environment? Please tell us.

BACK LANES DEMO AT PLANNING STAGE

Stephen Lamb, architect and environment group member, reports:

The planning application for the demo project is in and it has had a favourable response from both the roads and cleansing departments of Land Services. Meanwhile, we have contacted owners of the 10 properties directly affected and held a meeting to explain what the project involves. They are now canvassing among themselves to determine how or whether to move the project forward. We will try and do some enabling work for owners to solve any problems they may have. If so, the pilot could go ahead as early as the summer. If not, we have to begin to question the feasibility of the project.

THIS OLD HōUSE

Just before 30 Queen Square was sold last month, the Strathbungo Society was allowed to photograph interior features in one of the few virtually intact houses from the original Greek Thomson suburb.

The north side of Queen Square was built between 1861-64 – architect unknown – and houses were first numbered consecutively. Thus No 30 was actually No 14 (the stencilled number can still be seen on the inner door) until the facing houses were built nearly two decades later.

Arthur Yates bought the house in 1928 and raised his family there. Seventy two years on, his granddaughter Sandra Thomson was having one last look round the house where her father grew up and her uncle lived until just last autumn. She had been so caught up in the hard work of clearing the house that she hadn't felt nostalgic about selling it – 'not until one afternoon when I took a cup of tea out into the garden. It was sunny and warm and suddenly I felt like a little girl again, sitting on a bench in my granny's back garden.'

Here's how one rang for one's servants in the good old days!



Every house in Strathbungo has a story – what's yours? Our website will have an archive of photographs as a reference for people who are restoring their own homes. If yours has original architectural or decorative features, let us know - we want oral histories too.

Photographs by Karl Schweps



The relatively simple ceiling rose and egg & dart cornices feature in other houses in the street - the light shade is early 20th century.



Strathbungo's great thinkers...

Strathbungo's right in line with current thinking for a new politics in Scotland, according to local resident Gerry Hassan, who has just published a new book *A Different Future: A Modernisers' Guide to Scotland*. Civic activism – or 'getting involved', to you and me – is the touchstone of the new politics.

The book contains contributions from Scottish Government Ministers, MSPs, academics, commentators and thinkers. It has been lauded as the most ambitious and comprehensive collection on Scotland in the last 25

years and certainly shows the ferment of ideas that are about at the moment.

This is the latest publication by Gerry, of Moray Place, who has also written a best selling guide to the Scottish Parliament and is currently putting together a collection of Parliament's first year, due out in summer. *A Different Future: A Modernisers' Guide to Scotland*, edited by Gerry Hassan and Chris Warhurst, published by the Centre for Scottish Public Policy and The Big Issue in Scotland, £10.99 from most good bookshops.



...and drinkers!

The launch of an ale named for our very own community puts a whole new meaning on the term 'local'. Strathbungo Ale is the creation of Houston Brewing Company, a family-owned micro brewery in Renfrewshire. Real Ale aficionados can now sample it at the Taverna in Pollokshaws Road.

Never mind the Euro – the BUNGO is coming !

Over 25 local residents got together last month to hear Lesley Rowan from LETSLINK Scotland talk about how to make a Local Exchange Training System work in Strathbungo.

As a result, the Strathbungo LETS Traders Group has been set up to move things along and Strathbungo's first Trading Event is set for Sunday, 19th March in the Titwood Resource Centre (2-4 pm). Come along to trade, or just to find out more about the benefits you can get from joining.

The idea is simple. If you have goods or services you want to exchange with someone else in the group, you contact them, either through their registered entry in a directory produced by the group or at a local 'trading event'. You then agree a price in the local currency - normally equal to £1 - and make the exchange.

The trade is between you and whomever you make an exchange with. All the LETS group do is record the amount of currency being exchanged. You can 'buy' as well as 'sell' to someone, without having to take their goods or services in return - you simply build up credits when you sell and debits when you buy. This differs from barter where you normally negotiate with one person - with LETS you can trade for anything that anyone in the group is offering, and anyone else can trade for what you have to offer without costing a penny!

Too good to be true? During the six years that the Stirling & Alloa LETS has been operating, thousands of their local currency ('groats') have been traded, people have found a new sense of community and many new friendships have been made. It's a great way to use your skills and

make friends all at the same time. At the Strathbungo meeting, we made up lists of things we wanted and things we could offer and the results were amazing. Before the end of the evening a bit of old fashioned bartering had already taken place ahead of a full LETS group. Someone who didn't have a car to do their weekly shop now has a lift, someone who likes gardening but doesn't have a garden is helping someone else out in exchange for home-grown vegetables, and someone who needed power tools now knows where to borrow them. With only a few people, the list of trades available grew and grew from babysitting and driving to:

*dog walking – hand-knitting
word processing – home-baking
– spring cleaning – alterations –
painting – shopping – hedge
cutting – photocopying – graffiti
removal – employment advice –
CV preparation – computer set-up
& training – languages – group
outings for kids – piano lessons –
party planning – pet sitting – car
washing – plant cuttings –
custom stationery*

Getting to know and trust the people with the goods and skills is all part of LETS, and local trading events will let you do just that, as well as off-loading your cupboard junk (someone else's treasure) at bring and buys and occasional auctions - all in local currency - the BUNGO!

**More details from Rosie Ilett
on 423 3114 or email
strathbungolets@yahoo.co.uk**

Strathbungo's 1st LETS Trading Event

Sunday, 19th March 2000, 2–4 pm
Titwood Resource Centre, Titwood Road

You can just watch the fun or join the group & start trading. Your welcome pack has the LETS constitution, guidelines, tips on how to value your goods or services for trading and your very own BUNGO chequebook.

- trade unwanted Christmas gifts
- bring a sample of handicrafts
- or a poster for services

More details from Rosie Ilett on 0141-423 3114
or email strathbungolets@yahoo.co.uk

Celebrate Midsummer's Day with

BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES

Saturday, 24th June

This June the Strathbungo Society is reviving the European tradition of the Lane Sale - Bungo in the Back Lanes will be a day of music, food, games and entrepreneurial wheeling & dealing, right in your own back yard!

We're still in the early planning stages, but here's a flavour of it. The Society will provide publicity and some added-value events to attract the crowds - maybe a barbecue stand, beer stall, games, fortune telling, plus jazz, techno & ceilidh music - we want at least one event in every lane. Then you can open up your garage, your car boot or just set up a table and start selling.

- bric'a'brac (aka the cupboard clear-out)
- books, tapes, videos
- plant cuttings & seedlings
- arts & crafts
- home baking

Get the picture? Whether you go it alone or get together with your neighbours, it's going to be a great day for all. But don't wait till June to book your space - phone Kay Caldwell on 0141 423 3354.

We also need volunteers to help organise it.

Gordon Angus
(Irvine Rusk trained)

CAMERONS
— HAIRDRESSING —
for

LADIES & GENTLEMEN
671 POLLOKSHAW ROAD,
QUEENS PARK ~ 0141-422 2660

Ladies, Cut & Blow Dry £16.50

Gents, Cut &
Blow Dry £8.00 - £10.00

CHILDRENS PRICES.
OAP CONCESSIONS (MON & TUE).

STYLISTS: Gordon & Kirsty.

Bungo at the Bells



About 400 revellers came along to our second annual Bungo at the Bells - a record turnout worthy of the historic occasion. Extra special thanks to those who provided music and noise - and commiserations to those who had a date with the Millennium Bug instead. There's always next year!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE GREENWOOD, KAY CALDWELL AND KARL SCHWEPS.

Moray Place beats Regent Park in traditional Ne'erday rounders match

From our Sports Correspondent



Moray Place won out over Regent Park Square in the Ne'erday Rounders Match 2000 at Queens Park.

In the first match of the Millennium, Regent Park Square were keen to retain the trophy they won last year: a battered EPNS teapot and gold spray-painted swing bin. In the end, however, Alan McCusker Thomson made a magnificent catch from the spirited bat of former 'Bungo resident David Paton to clinch the victory for Moray Place. Players then exited the park for a well-earned apres-match "refreshment". Now a 'Bungo tradition, a New Year game for kids and parents

was the idea of Hillary McCusker Thompson, who moved to Strathbungo with small children in 1993. Each year it provides an opportunity for old and new residents alike to meet up on New Year's Day. Held in the (not too) early afternoon, co-ordination can be a problem for parents, whilst for kids it's trying to get them to stop at the bases and not run on to eternity. Plans are to commission a handsome trophy to celebrate this living 'Bungo tradition.

MEET STRATHBUNGO'S NEWEST NEWSAGENT

Mr Shah and his son Saif opened for business in November in the freshly renovated shop at 725 Pollokshaws Road. The shop stocks confectioneries, soft drinks and cigarettes as well as a comprehensive choice of newspapers and periodicals. Local residents can order any newspaper or magazine for home delivery. Mr Shah is also keen to help any dis-



abled or elderly people in the neighbourhood who have difficulty getting into the shop. The Shah family have another newsagents in Minard Road, so they are certainly not newcomers to the business. They also enjoy occasional visits from Mr Kazmi, a very familiar face in Strathbungo, who ran the newsagents in Pollokshaws Road for many years before retiring last year.

SUPPORT STRATHBUNGO'S LOCAL SHOPS!



Walter's watching you ...

Queen's Park has now joined the network of railway stations with closed-circuit television (CCTV), according to Councillor Walter MacLellan, Vice Chair of Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT).

The cameras are linked to a control centre, with a direct line to British Transport Police. Also an 'audio help point' doubles as a panic button for platform passengers. 'But you don't wait for an incident to use it - we want people, particularly women travelling alone, to feel they can talk to somebody anytime they feel uneasy.' Crosshill saw a 63% drop in crime after cameras were switched on there.

Still celebrating our 21st year in Strathbungo with special birthday discounts

- signed limited edition prints, specialising in William Russell Flint & ER Sturgeon
- large selection of oil paintings and watercolours
- professional picture framing – choice of over 1,000 mouldings
- handcrafted doll houses made to order



J & J PAUL FINE ARTS

46-48 Nithsdale Road 0141 423 4689
Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm

THE FOTHERINGAY is changing ...

Now under new management, many changes will be taking place in the coming months.
WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS OF OUR EXCITING NEW PROGRAMME
● Music ● Top DJ's ● Promos ● Quiz Nights ● Cash Prizes

Our FUNCTION SUITE is FREE for your BIRTHDAY, WEDDING, CHRISTENING

We'll help you organise your Food, Music, DJ (Whatever you require)

Or for quieter occasions - FUNERALS, HOLY COMMUNIONS, etc.

Ring Gillian on 424 0463 for details - New Menu on request

● New Lunch/Bar Snacks Menu ● Real Ales ● Big Screen TV for Top Sporting Events

The Fotheringay, Nithsdale Road, Strathbungo Telephone 424 0463 Fax 423 2258

TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words - send them to 38 Queen Square or email letters@strathbungo.org.uk.

Lofty Ambitions

To the Editor:

My family and I have just recently moved into the Strathbungo area and are very happy here on Pollokshaws Road between the Greek Taverna and Haddows.

I am now considering upgrading and improving my property and was wondering if any other readers residing in similar blocks could give me some advice. With a top floor flat the idea of converting the loft space into another bedroom is a possibility and something I have seen many times in Pollokshields. Has anyone converted their loft space and if so could you please get in touch for a chat?

Also leading on from your article on satellite dishes, what restrictions are in place with regards to double glazing and furthermore what companies are sympathetic to the look of the buildings and who should I avoid at all costs?

The sharing of information with regards to tradesmen is another aspect of the barter scheme which could be launched very quickly and effectively with a 'black list' in a small corner of the magazine. Just a thought.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to getting more involved in this fantastic little community in the city.

Steve Macluskie, Pollokshaws Road

Welcome to Strathbungo, Steve. So long as it doesn't alter the exterior, you may only need a building warrant to do the conversion, subject to approval of your plan, but check first with Building Control (south division) on 0141 287 5874. They can tell you how to go about it and advise whether you will also need planning consent.

Double glazing is not a problem per se but changes to windows in all listed buildings (yours is C-listed) do require planning permission and must conform to conservation standards. Our experience is that most double glazing companies will tell you whatever you want to hear so check first with Planning Officer Jean Morrison on 0141 287 5732.

A company called Mozolowski & Murray (01577 864 706) recently completed a successful job in Nithsdale Road, we are told. Tempting as it is, a black list is a non-starter for legal reasons. However,

the Strathbungo Society has long discussed compiling a directory of trades and suppliers of specialist materials and services. The only real hurdle is time so how about it - any volunteers?

Epistle on Rough Roads

To the Editor:

I'm now arrived - thanks to the gods! -

Thro' pathways rough and muddy,

A certain sign that makin roads

Is no this people's study:

Althou' I'm not wi' Scripture cram'd,

I'm sure the Bible says

That heedless sinners shall be damn'd,

Unless they mend their ways.

R Burns, Ayrshire

We can only assume this lament, which appeared mysteriously in our letterbox on 25th January, refers to the two crater-like holes in Moray Place (since filled) which created havoc over much of the winter. Thus we passed it along to Strathbungo's resident district councillor, until lately convenor of the Glasgow Roads Committee. His reply:

Dear R,

Very sad I am to hear

This criticism damning

But are those potholes that you see,

Or new ways of traffic calming?

But on a more serious note, if residents report roads and lighting faults to RALF on 0800 37 36 35 (24-hour freephone) you should get action. If you don't, then contact me.

Walter MacLellan, Glasgow District Council

[contact details in panel at right]

Garden Variety

To the Editor:

I write to thank the Strathbungo Society for your kind gift of a composting bin. On behalf of my wife Jane, I can assure you that it will be put to good use and our garden can only benefit.

William Carolan, Marywood Square

We were delighted so many people took us up on the offer in our October newsletter, but the real thanks should go to Land Services Recycling Officer Gary Beacham, who supplied and delivered 30

of these high quality composting bins absolutely free. If anybody got missed out, ring 423 0050. Gary, who is based at the Council's material recycling facility at Polmadie, is now exploring ways to extend the weekly 'green box' collection for newspapers and plastic to all of Strathbungo.

Strathbungo's Representatives:

Who, Where & When

Walter MacLellan

Glasgow City Councillor

632 0828

Surgery:

St Bride's School, Craigie Street

1st Saturday 10am

3rd Tuesday 6pm

Mohammad Sarwar MP

427 5250

Surgery:

1st Saturdays: 12-12.45

@Langside Halls Every Friday,

4-5pm @ 247 Paisley Rd West

Gordon Jackson MSP

427 7047

Surgery:

2nd Saturdays: 10.45-11.45

@ Langside Halls

Shawlands, Camphill & Strathbungo Community Council

Sam Wilson, Chair

632 8312

Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays - 7pm

Resource Centre Titwood Road

STRATHBUNGO NeWS

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Rosie Ilett and Chris Jay

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Send letters & short articles of general interest, particularly local history or conservation to:

38 Queen Square G41 2AZ.

Tel: 0141 423 0050 or

email news@strathbungo.org.uk.