

STRATHBUNGO NewS



June 2001

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

Mon 18 June
at 7.30pm
Resource Centre
Titwood Road

What on earth is happen- ing in Queens Park?

You can put that and any other questions you might have to Queens Park Development Officer Eddie Scanlon, guest speaker at the Strathbungo Society's 2001 Annual General Meeting.

We'll also have a round-up of Strathbungo news, views and events and will be asking you to approve a revised constitution (draft enclosed), elect the new committee and help set the agenda for the coming year.

**Tea and coffee afterward.
See you there!**



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QUEENS PARK ROUND UP

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Local residents tell BT It's even better to listen . . .

BT Cellnet has backed down on plans to erect a phone mast in Darnley Road, following widespread protests from residents of Strathbungo and Pollokshields as well as their Council representatives.

Says Andrew Downie, who led the protest for the Strathbungo Society, 'BT Cellnet replied to our letters, saying politely that they had the law behind them and they were sorry if we weren't happy with that. However, by the time I received this letter, ten days after it was dated, I had already heard from the Council by phone that they were not going ahead.'

A subsequent application to erect the mast in Springkell Avenue has also been withdrawn, apparently, although this too has not been confirmed in writing, according to Sheila Ogilvie of Pollokshields Heritage.

A victory for local democracy? 'If people in the community hear about these phone masts in time and if they mobilise all their resources, then BT are much more likely to look at it from the community's point of view,' says Cllr Walter MacLellan. 'They're trying to sell telephones so obviously they are concerned that their good name is going to affect sales.'

Meanwhile news of an alternative comes from Mike Stanger, who was project manager for the redevelopment

a few years ago of Clydesdale Cricket Club in Beaton Road. 'When we heard that the proposed mast was causing a fuss, we approached BT Cellnet's agents. We have six floodlighting pylons – surely one would be more suitable as this is a sports ground. Their agents seemed relieved to be offered an alternative that makes sense. It hasn't gone any further yet, but we feel is an example of "joined-up thinking".' Mike was, incidentally, a founder member of the original Strathbungo Conservation Society back in the early 1970s.

So we appear to have won a modest victory but cannot relax as we are equally vulnerable to applications from Orange, Vodafone, 1-2-1 or, indeed, BT Cellnet may decide to have another go.

As a footnote, Andrew adds: 'Railtrack wrote to say they didn't own the proposed site on Darnley Road, and the original proposal was nothing to do with them. Although it is now immaterial, this mystery was never resolved as the Council claimed it was nothing to do with them either. The Council promised to check ownership, but haven't got back to me yet.'

BUNG0 IN THE BACK LANES IS BACK!

Saturday, June 23 from 1–5pm

At last year's Bungo in the Back Lanes hundreds of us turned out to enjoy an extravaganza that was gala day, street party and car boot sale, all rolled into one!

In our beer gardens we enjoyed real ale and continental lagers while listening to house music from local DJs and live jazz from our resident band – *Hung, Drawn and Trio'd*. Children bounced on castles while some of us had our feet massaged, fortunes told and faces painted. We bought and sold just about everything from pakora to porcelain, second-hand clothes to sizzling beef-burgers!

We're going to do it again. Can we make it even bigger and better?

The beer gardens and barbecue will be back, so will the music - and this year we're expanding entertainment for kids into a Children's Garden. New attractions elsewhere in the lanes include a beehive with honey for sale (don't worry - no live

bees!), hair-braiding and a Fit for Fun event.

What else? It's up to you. Bring out your table or build a stall – this year's event will focus on the lanes between Marywood/Queen Squares and Regent Park /Queen Square – with the Children's Garden in our usual large grassy enclosure at the back of Nithsdale Road. Home baking, crafts, jewellery, artists originals ... you can sell them all.

You can join in the event with your stall for a small donation to the Strathbungo Society to help cover the costs of the event. Volunteer stewards needed, too. And donations for the Tombola. To book a place or find out more, contact Joanna Murphy on 423 7756.

- Kay Caldwell



Joe (centre) performing at last summer's Bungo in the Back Lanes

MEDALLION MAN McGinley gets the gong

The talents and energy of a local musician were recognised recently when Joe McGinley of Moray Place received the Lord Provost's medal for services to performing arts at a ceremony in the City Chambers.

Joe is Musical Director of the only surviving project from Glasgow' reign as City of Culture in 1990 – the popular *Call that Singing!* Each week hundreds of Glasgow folk get together for a fun style singalong rehearsal. Then several times a year the 'choir' – they don't use the word! – performs in favourite city venues – the Royal Concert Hall or City Halls.

With a string of qualifications in music (more letters *after* his name than in it!), Joe chose community arts for his career and has been a self-employed musical director for 20 years with a long list of musicals to his credit – *plus* regular gigs at the Society's Bungo events.

Congratulations, Joe!

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Creativity Sprouts at Tramway

The conversion of the former Transport Museum to the Tramway Theatre gave Glasgow a unique performance area which has attracted the best in modern drama to the city. Now an innovative theatre company is to put on a performance at the venue – but this show will run for longer than any other!

Instead of creating a new show for the theatre space, **nva organisation** (they apparently have an aversion to capital letters) will turn their attention to creating a usable space in the derelict area at the back of the Tramway, turning it into a permanent garden. Working title: *the hidden gardens*.

The aim is to provide a useful resource for local residents and training and employment for groups within the Govan and Gorbals Social Inclusion Partnership areas. Initial thoughts are that a green space bringing together Celtic and Asian cultures might create – through participation of local people – a genuinely public work of art!

Interested? Share your ideas with nva organisation at a public consultation meeting they are going to call at the Tramway later in the year. For details ring 204 3304 or check out their website at www.nva.org.uk



'SAVE OUR POOL' CAMPAIGN TAKES POSITIVE TURN

Kevin Kane reports

The campaign to save Govanhill Pool has taken a positive turn amid moves by Glasgow City Council to evict the occupiers.

After over 70 days of a community-supported occupation, the Strategy Group of the *Southside Against Closure* campaign has developed a 'vision statement', according to Bernie Milligan, who leads the group. 'We've been talking with a variety of health, community, sport and youth groups to gauge support for developing the whole Govanhill Pool building as a mixed use "community well being" centre. Ideas floated so far include a hydrotherapy pool, a learn-to-swim centre, a crèche, Internet café and drop-in centre.'

At present, half of the building lies unused after the 'steamie' closed down in the 1970s. The group has already gained *in principle* support from a variety of local bodies, including Govanhill Housing Association and the Strathbungo Society. Indeed, the housing association has offered to convene a meeting of interested local groups and politicians as a way to canvass wider support for the group's vision.

The next step, according to

Bernie Milligan, is to refine the vision and to take it to funding bodies to support the preparation of a business plan for the pool. Through this process, they aim to try and build support, and also engage with the Council, which is currently undertaking a feasibility study of the building.

Councillor Walter MacLellan said, 'I am encouraged that people are thinking positively about the Calder Street building. The Council is keen to explore positive options for the future that retain the building for community use, including, if possible, swimming. Ideas and practical suggestions should be directed to the feasibility study being undertaken by the City Council. If any of my constituents would like to contribute their thoughts, simply address them to me at the City Chambers and I will see that they are passed along to the proper people.'

As summer approaches, it seems clear that there is still some way to go to bring Govanhill Pool back into community use.

CITY PLAN

Glasgow Conservation Forum maps out the future

The Glasgow Conservation Forum, including the Strathbungo Society, met at Pollokshields Burgh Hall on 21 May to discuss the implications of the recently published Glasgow City Plan.

The Plan, quite literally, maps out how the Council sees the city developing over the next ten years. In particular it recognises that Glasgow's built and natural heritage needs to be protected and developed further if the city is to retain and attract population.

Conservation groups from the South Side, West End, Merchant City and the East End met to discuss how they could best balance the need to protect conservation areas with the inevitable pressures to develop housing, retail and other facilities in local area.

The Strathbungo Society is currently working on its own response. Issues to be addressed include:

- **seeking official status for the landscape heritage of Queens Park and environs**
- **designating Nithsdale Road/ Pollokshaws Road as a 'local shopping centre'**
- **including 1-10 Moray Place in 'blocks' in conservation areas**
- **piloting a 20 mph speed zone throughout Strathbungo.**

You can read the City Plan at your local Library (Pollokshields, Calder Street or Langside) or on the Council's website (www.glasgow.gov.uk). Comments or objections should be lodged with the Council by 15 June 2001. – Kevin Kane

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G41: LET'S TALK SHOP!

Many of the Victorian tenements in and around Strathbungo were built to accommodate shops on the ground floor. Just walk along Pollokshaws Road and see for yourself. There are some good examples still around, many of them doing roaring trade. Yet sadly, some once-graceful shopfronts have been tarted up almost beyond recognition, their proportions lost behind illuminated plastic facades ... others lie derelict, covered in fly posters. So what can we do to encourage all local shopkeepers to capitalise on their potential as quality traders? And how can we get local people to support them?

CHICKEN OR EGG?

A certain off-sales, part of a major chain, opened in our neighbourhood a few years ago. They stocked their shelves with beer, spirits and cigarettes, but only a limited selection of rather poor table wine, locked away behind floor to ceiling wire cages. Questioned, they quoted market research that said nobody in this area buys wine unless (perhaps) it's fortified.

As a result, this off-sales appears to sell lots of beer, spirits and cigarettes, but not much wine (unless, one presumes, it is fortified). And many local people, who buy lots of decent wine elsewhere, use this shop only for the emergency bottle of plonk. Thus, instead of listening to their customers, they allowed inaccurate research to become a self-fulfilling prophesy, and both they and their customers have been short-changed.

Question: If people won't use shops that don't stock what they want and shops won't stock what they think they can't sell, then what's the answer? You tell us!

You can argue that small, traditional traders can't compete with supermarkets and DIY centres, that busy families don't have the time to shop locally. Yet all over Glasgow there are pockets of independently owned shops that are doing quite well, thank you, attracting people from their own neighbourhood and beyond. What is their secret?

In the next issue, we'll include a questionnaire aimed at defining your vision of what could be the *G41 Shopping Experience* ... well, at least what you'd like to see down at the shops. Then let's start a genuine dialogue between Strathbungo's shopkeepers and their customers.

DID YOU GUESS?



THEN ... AND NOW



As featured in our last issue, the shop at 738 Pollokshaws Road is still a grocers 63 years on, but there the similarity stops.

Kildrostan Street Shopfronts



Kildrostan Street shopkeepers are beginning to get it together, says Jim Dunsmuir. 'Improvements here have been one-off, with individual traders gradually reinstating traditional shopfronts to create a pleasant overall effect.'

Conservation v Commerce

Nobody ever accused the Victorians of missing a trick when it came to business. That's why Glasgow City Council's Jim Dunsmuir insists there's no inherent conflict between conservation and commerce.

'Generally, in the tenements along Pollokshaws Road, Nithsdale Road and Kildrostan Street, the ground floor was intended to be commercial, with two residential stories above. The original shopfronts had a certain proportion to them – you see the fascia panel, delicate and slender, then the lower edge ties in with the top of the close entrances. At ground level, there's a *stallriser*, with glazing in between.

'These proportions are very much in line with the stone tenement above. It was

quite mathematical – that's why it looked so good and that's what we're trying to get back to. It doesn't mean shopfronts can't be modern and dynamic – these proportions can be incorporated into strikingly contemporary design. But we want to redress the mistakes of the recent past and overcome problems caused by poor maintenance too.'

Any Strathbungo shopkeeper who wants to alter a building will first need planning consent. Those located within the conservation area (for example, Nithsdale

Road, even numbers Pollokshaws Road) will need Listed Building Consent. However, Jim wants shopkeepers to think of this as a positive opportunity: 'we want them to come to the Planning Department with a "shopping basket" of ideas and discuss how we can work together.'

Jim Dunsmuir is Senior Planning Officer, Heritage and Design, with Glasgow Development and Regeneration Services, 229 George Street.

You can reach him on 287 8626.

ONE GOOD TURN

Thanks to these businesses who have supported the Strathbungo Society during the past year.— do return the favour by trading with them!

Allison Arms

Arnold Clark Automobiles

Cairns & Crossan
Chiropodists

Camerons Hairdressers

Evergreen

Flowers 2000

Fotheringay

Fountainbridge Building

Hair Garden

Hong Kong Chinese
Takeaway

J&J Paul Fine Art & Framers

Kenneth McLeod
Photographers

Murchies Plastering Co

New Anand Restaurant

1901 Bar & Bistro

Nivens Automotive

Pollokshaws Super Save

Royal Bank of Scotland

Sammy Dows

Shah Newsagents

Shahed's Turkish Kebab

Star Fish Bar

Strathbungo Post Office

The Taverna



Nancy Henderson's drawing of a Strathbungo landmark is currently on show at Moyra Jane's in Kildrostan Street.

MORAY PLACE UP FOR AUCTION?

Local artist Nancy Henderson is auctioning one of her pictures at Bungo in the Lanes to raise funds for the National Kidney Research Fund (NKRf).

The picture, a beautiful framed charcoal drawing entitled *Looking towards Moray Place* (100cm x 85cm) is on display at Moyra Jane's café, where bids can be placed at a cost of £1 per bid. Nancy's friend, Frances Diver, will continue the bidding at her stall to the rear of 37 Queen Square during the back lanes event on Saturday, 23 June.

NKRf funds research to prevent and eventually cure kidney disease, and is the leading charity in the UK, says Nancy. 'All the money raised will go to the charity. There are a few bids in already and you never know - someone might get a real bargain!'

Nancy's husband, Patrick Gillies, is also set to raise funds for NKRf by cycling in the 'Tower to Tower' cycle challenge in early September. The towers in question? Blackpool and Eiffel, some 500 miles apart! He hopes to complete the stint in seven days and you can encourage him with sponsorship, also available at Frances's stall.

The Gillies family have been frequent visitors over the past few years to Yorkhill Hospital, a recognised centre of

excellence for treatment of paediatric kidney disease, and their son Charles has made many friends among patients and staff there.

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QUEENS PARK ROUND UP

From our roving park reporter Joanna Murphy

The good news from the Park is that the bins will now be emptied daily (about time!) and the play areas will be subject to a daily safety check (that is, if there are any swings etc left to check).

Island adventures

The ongoing saga of the Queen's Park Pond continues...we now have a *will they/ won't they* situation regarding the removal of the pond's islands. The Council's position is that the islands are not part of the original plan and will be removed to under water level, thus enabling specialist greenery to be planted which will keep the pond 'self-cleaning', so to speak, and eliminate the need to clean the pond chemically. However, as we went to press, the islands were still in place ... watch this space.

Who loves ya, baby!

Park Development Officer Eddie Scanlon puts this intriguing proposition to any would-be Kojaks or Nancy

Drews in the neighbourhood. It seems a piece of Queens Park's perimeter fence opposite the Safeway in Pollokshaws Road is being persistently knocked down. No sooner is this section of fence welded together by the park blacksmith than it is flattened again and - as the deed is being done under cover of darkness (well, after clocking off time anyway) - there are no park staff around to witness the scene.

"Somebody must see them," says Eddie, "and it would help us if local residents could report them." Eddie's theory is that shoplifters, targeting the garage, see the park as the ideal escape route though the Police report no evidence to support it - Sgt David Wood

of Gorbals Station reckons it's just people looking for a shortcut through the park. Whatever the motives, this recurrent vandalism wastes tax money that could be better used elsewhere in the park.

SO ... keep your eyes open and if you do see something,

either phone the Police directly on 532 5300 or, after the event, call the park office on 649 0331.

[The Police stress that you should never attempt to interfere with a crime in progress. Simply note the person's appearance and any other identifying details. -Ed.]



Three of Strathbungo's younger traders at the LETS trading event in April.

QUEENS PARK SET FOR SUMMER

Tennis

(per hour) £7.45 for adults, £2.40 for children. Racket hire £1.05.

Daily from 11am - 8.15pm

Pitch'n'Putt

£1.60 per adult, 90p per child, 70p for Passport holders

Daily from 12 noon - last tee off at 5.45pm (6.45pm on Thursdays, Fridays & Sundays)

Bowling

£1.60 per adult, 90p per child

Open daily 11am - 8.15pm

If you are in receipt of benefits, the Glasgow City Council's Passport to Recreation costs £2.60 and entitles you to major discounts for many Council facilities. Buy yours at any leisure centre (Gorbals & Bellahouston are closest) or at 20 Trongate.

LETS event brings out the Bungos

The first of this season's LETS trading events was a great success, says Jean Mackenzie, one of the event organisers.

'We not only had our largest ever turnout of stall holders, but also recruited quite a few new members. The LETS directory now offers services ranging from Reiki to gardening, from catering to ironing and from DIY to language lessons. We are optimistic about the future of the scheme.'

The Strathbungo Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) was founded over a year ago and now boasts more than 40 members, many of whom gathered to 'sell' their unwanted goods or to promote services that

they offer. The system uses an alternative currency to Sterling (in this case, what else but the *Bungo*) so members can trade goods and services with little or no financial outlay.

Joining the LETS group means you can access all these services by swapping your goods and services with others. So why not look into it and see if you can get someone round to do your weeding or produce a home baked desert for your dinner party...you really can't lose!

Joanna Murphy has details on 423 7756.

Didn't they do well...



'The Invisible Band' - the new album from Travis - may be an overly-modest title for the UK's biggest band, but that can't be said of the boys when they stayed together here in Strathbungo. Back in 1996, when they were honing their stage performance by playing to crowds of two or three, Frontman Fran Healy, Guitarist Andy Dunlop and Drummer Neil Primrose lived in digs in Nithsdale Road. (Bassist Dougie Payne was still basking in suburban splendour down the road.)

As Fran remembers, 'we lived across

from the Fotheringay and we had no heating - just two calor gas heaters for this huge flat. That was the winter of the big freeze and it got down to 26 below - I was frozen to my chair.'

So it wasn't much fun then, living in Strathbungo? 'Well, that's where I wrote *Writing to Reach You* and that's the song that got us our record deal and so I guess it was pretty good after all!'

The Invisible Band goes on worldwide release on 11 June, but it's already arrived in Strathbungo.

Win a signed copy of The Invisible Band!

JUST ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Writing to Reach You was a hit single on the second Travis album, *The Man Who*, which has thus far sold over 3 million copies - **but what was the title of the band's first album?**

Competition Rules:

Send your answer (along with your name, address & phone number) to Strathbungo Travis Competition, 16 Queen Square by 22 June - first correct entry out of the hat wins an autographed copy of the new CD. Decision of the judges is final, all entries become the property of the Strathbungo Society and no correspondence will be entered into. Winner will be notified and the results published in the August *Strathbungo News*.



**BULK UPLIFT
287 9700**

**Pollokshields Depot
429 4532**

Spring Competition Winners

Congratulations to:

- L Paddison, who wins Gerry Hassan's collection of political best sellers
- Peter Livingston, who wins *Swing Guitars' It Takes Two to Django*.

Correct answers:

- Margo Macdonald won the Govan seat for the SNP in 1973.
- Glasgow has 17 parliamentary seats in the Scottish Parliament (10 first-past-the-post and 7 list).
- Django Reinhardt's partner was Stephane Grappelli.

And while we're at it, if you'd like to order *Swing Guitar's* CD, the *correct* phone number is 632 8839 (price £10). Apologies all round for publishing the wrong number last time - Ed.

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28 REGENT PARK SQUARE

TALKBACK

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

To the Editor:

With regards to your article, our fears on the location of the islands within the pond at Queens Park were not the fact that vision would be obstructed, but that the islands were formed by material dredged from the base of the pond. For years, our members have had to wade into the pond to recover models and we have found ourselves sinking ankle-deep into the sludge.

This has now been gathered into two large mounds of quicksand-like material to form the islands and our fear is that youngsters could get caught in this and be in serious trouble. We understand that the islands have been covered in bio-tech material, but this is only a challenge to the local yobs who could damage this and leave the aforementioned danger to youngsters, to whom the islands would be some kind of challenge.

Ron Thomson, Club Secretary
Glasgow South Ship Modellers Society
We asked Cllr Walter MacLellan to respond:

'When the contractors dredged the pond, they produced more spoils than anticipated. The soil has now been analysed and this shows that it can used

to grow things elsewhere so that's where the islands are going. We certainly recognised the challenge these islands might present to youngsters and the fears of parents if their view across the pond were to be obstructed. We also understand that the GSSMS runs an internationally approved regatta course for model boats so they may well have concerns, quite rightly, about the amount of clear water if the islands remain. For all these reasons, the plan has always been that the bottom pond would be kept clear for the model boats and eventually there might be a franchise for rowing boats there, while the upper pond would be wildlife friendly.'

To the Editor:

I picked up a copy of your paper in Evergreen the other day and just wanted to say *well done*. It's so refreshing to read a local rag (sorry, quality publication) that's full of positives and packed with things going on.

Although I live on the wrong side of the tracks and just picked up the paper by accident, I'm pleased to read of people making a difference to try to keep the community on its toes and looking outward.

Your lack of sensationalism and NIMBYism does you credit. And presenting both sides of an argument too – imagine!

Ieuan Phillips
Waverley Street

Thank you very kindly. As a voluntary outfit, we're always inordinately pleased when someone says something nice, but especially after our last issue, which contained rather more gloomy material than usual – all that was missing, as some wag said, was locusts and boils! Strathbungo is a terrific wee community, but we can't overlook serious issues that concern and sometimes divide us. And indeed, there's reason to believe that bad news in one issue can

be followed by good news in the next – to wit, BT Cellnet's retreat on page 1. – Ed.

To the Editor:

As a campaigner and member of one of the clubs using Calder Street Pool, I say [Leader of the Council] Charles Gordon's "alternatives" are not "viable".

St Bride's school pool has been offered. This pool is only suitable for primary school children, not adults, being 2 feet at the shallow end and 4 feet at the deep (!) end. Castlemilk is not viable for mothers to send young children alone there. Bellahouston is a 2-bus ride away!

Govanhill Pool services a wide area – Govanhill, Strathbungo, Pollokshields and beyond. Charles Gordon is not listening to the people of our area. He must re-open the Calder Street Baths.

Sheena Salvatore
Queen Square

See related article on page 3 – Ed.

The Strathbungo Society Committee meets at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month, downstairs at the Fotheringay in Nithsdale Road. To raise an issue, contact the Secretary Trisha Jones, 16 Queen Square, on 423 2621, or any member listed here. Or, if you prefer, just turn up in person. This month only, the meeting will be replaced by the AGM on Monday, 18 June at the Resource Centre, Titwood Road.

Strathbungo Society Sub-groups:

- **Back Lanes Renovation**
Stephen Lamb (423 5263)
- **Communications**
Sharon Schweps (423 0050)
- **Events**
Kay Caldwell (423 5746)
- **Queens Park / LETS**
Joanna Murphy (423 7756)
- **Trees Survey**
Ian Stark (632 4995)

STRATHBUNGO **News**

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**or hand them in at Evergreen's
in Nithsdale Road**