

STRATHBUNGO News



August 2001

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Update on recent issues and more

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We put you in the picture . . .

IN AT THE DEEP END AT GOVANHILL POOL

Wednesday 8th August. Events will have moved on by the time you read this. Our report is – quite literally – a snapshot of an evening when the long confrontation between southside residents and the city council spilled over into an ugly scene not 10 minutes walk from Strathbungo. See report by Kevin Kane inside. Photos by Joanna Murphy.



The Strathbungo News is launched at 'Bungo in the Back Lanes'

AOCB?

Thanks to Queens Park Development Officer Eddie Scanlon who fielded questions from the audience and to all the members of Society who attended. The AGM ratified a new constitution, which had been redrafted to reflect the Society's community-wide remit and to formalise certain procedures for management and finance.

We also were delighted to welcome a few new recruits to the Society's Committee, which meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month, downstairs at the Fotheringay.

Kevin stressed that these monthly meetings are open to any local resident who wishes to raise an issue - "just turn up and tell us what's on your mind" – and we are also always looking for people who are willing to join the Committee or perhaps work with the sub-groups on communications, events, environment, fundraising, Queens Park or Neighbourhood Watch.

IT'S AWARDS ALL ROUND

As Strathbungo's Number Comes up for Lottery Cash

The Strathbungo Society has landed a £4,800 grant from Awards for All to further develop the newsletter and to create a model for wider community involvement through events such as Bungo in the Back Lanes.

The grant comes from the Community Fund (the newly re-christened National Lottery Charities Board) and was announced by Chair Kevin Kane at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June.

"The Society serves as one of the focal points for a community that has a number of discrete issues in common but no community centre as such. The grant will let us understand these

issues better and find ways to bring a wider cross-section of local residents into our activities," said Kevin. "One idea is to develop a community questionnaire to get feedback on the issues people feel are important and are not being currently met. We also want to think about ways of supporting local businesses and enticing better and more diverse traders into the empty shops."



activities. It involves the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council, sportscotland, and the Community Fund.

Awards for All is a joint programme set up to help small groups fund projects which bring people together to enjoy the arts, sport, heritage and other community

STRATHBUNGO NEWS IN BRIEF

Survey goeth before the fall

The race is on to get Strathbungo's first comprehensive tree survey completed before those autumn leaves start to fall. As August began, the Parks Department were training the trainers and making up the survey packs, prior to getting local people trained to conduct the study. They will be collecting detailed but straightforward data for a baseline study of Strathbungo's natural and built environment, which can then be used to inform community-wide issues in the future. We can still use a few more volunteers so if you are willing to devote just a couple of mornings or afternoons to looking at the trees, phone Ian Stark on 632 4995.

LETS get trading

The new LETS directory was published in late July, offering an ever-expanding array of services and items to trade –everything from alternative therapies and babysitting to ironing and Turkish tuition, plus handicrafts and gifts and much, much more. The scheme picked up several new members at the Back Lanes event in June and, as the database grows, so too do the opportunities for living well on a Bungo budget. If you'd like to join, ring Joanna Murphy on 423 7756 for details. Not sure if you want to join up? Then ask for a LETS Information Pack – no obligation.

Phone masts

Further to Strathbungo's successful opposition in late spring to the erection of a mobile phone mast in Darnley Road ... as of 1st August, new legislation has come into effect requiring all mobile phone masts to have full planning permission. That means Scotland has leapfrogged our neighbours to the south and now has the strictest laws governing placement of masts in the UK. While we must remain vigilant, at least there is now more than mere public pressure on the side of protecting our local conservation area.

Missing Person

Strathbungo's new community cop, due to start at Craigie Street station in the spring, has gone on long term sick leave and will not be taking up the post after all. Meanwhile PC Barclay Hall will be filling in for him until a replacement can be found. Contact him on 423 1113 or, out of hours, Sgt Brian Hughes or PC Natalie Davidson on 532 5300.

But will it fly?

Renovation of the lanes is not dead. A small stretch of one of our listed cobbled lanes in

Strathbungo will be the subject of a pilot study looking into how to upgrade private lanes across the whole of Glasgow. To this end the Strathbungo Society was asked by the Council's Roads Department to identify a suitable site. "Don't hold your breath," says Ian Stark from the Society's environmental sub-group, "but it's now possible that work could start sometime next year." We should have more substantial developments to report in October's issue.

Last of the Summer Vine

Don't forget - Saturday, 25 August is the Annual Flower Show at New Victoria Gardens, just off Albert Drive at Glenapp Street in Pollokshields. Between 1 and 5pm you'll be able to see a stunning range of prize-winning vegetables and flowers, grown no more than a 10 minute walk from Strathbungo, and most of it will be on sale at bargain prices at the end of the day. You can also enjoy a cup of tea and fresh homemade cakes, then browse through the plant and bric-a-brac stalls - plus, it's a rare chance to view the plots, speak to the "urban

farmers" and see how they've created garden paradise right in the heart of the city. "It's always a good day out and it's also a fundraiser for the Gardens," says Hugh Pizey, Bungo resident and NVG Show Convenor. So get your skates on and enjoy a day out of this world.

Disabled access

Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority has agreed to fund disabled access to Crossmyloof station at a cost of just under £100,000, according to District Councillor Walter MacLellan, who is Vice Chair of the SPTA. "Other stations (notably Pollokshields West and Queens Park) were looked at, but proved much more technically complicated. Crossmyloof offered the best opportunity within the budget."

Lost & found

Did anybody lose an "off road racer" electronic car on our most recent Bungo Day? Ring 423 0050 with a description and we will happily return it.

POLICE PUT BOBBIES ON THE BEAT TO CONFRONT CAR CRIME

A crime wave in Strathbungo? Not precisely, but there was an increase in the level of car crime in early summer, which led to Strathclyde Police deploying additional patrols, according to PC Natalie Davidson of the Community Safety Department. "This has resulted in six charges and these persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. As a direct result, a quantity of stolen property was recovered and returned to its owners," she said.

PC Davidson emphasised that over half of car crime is opportunistic with thieves going for items left in view, especially mobile phones, CDs and CD players. The obvious answer is to take valuables with you or lock them in the boot.

She also urged people to contact the Police when they see anything suspicious happening. This is particularly relevant in the case of a 32-year-old man who has been arrested in relation to two incidents that occurred in July. He allegedly obtained money from local residents by claiming he had lost his wallet and needed to return home urgently.

Although he was eventually nicked in connection with these cases, at least two other local residents told the Strathbungo News that they were approached by a man telling a similar tale of woe. Unfortunately, however, they didn't tell the Police, thinking it would only be wasting their time. Which makes us wonder how many times this chancer actually tried it on before he was caught. Anybody else?

PC Davidson said that people who report their suspicions will not be identified and, indeed, they are not required to give their names at all. She also urged car owners to report break-ins, even if they are not planning to claim on their insurance as this is the only way police can gauge the true extent of the problem. Most calls should be handled through Craigie Street (423 1113) during business hours and Gorbals (532 5300) at other times, with 999 reserved for crimes in progress.

BUNGO in the Back Lanes – 2001

BUNGO BUNGO BUNGO

Not so much a street party as a backyard bonanza, Bungo in the Back Lanes looks like becoming an annual highlight. This year's event on 23 June brought out more people, more stalls and more musicians than last time, with newcomers saying it's the best thing the Strathbungo Society does! Kay Caldwell reports.

Our festival is unique in the city, a genuine celebration of neighbourhood by the neighbourhood - with virtually every activity and entertainment provided by local people and their friends.

But while we haven't had to hire in outside talent to entertain us, we don't quite do it all on our own! We want to acknowledge the sterling efforts of the staff in Glasgow City Council's Land Services Department in helping us get the back lanes cleaned up for the event. Men were seen working through the night prior to the event, with several special uplifts in the days beforehand removing the unsightly rubbish that some of our less community-minded neighbours dump in the back lanes. Our thanks to *Jim McCafferty* and his team, and to *Fountainbridge Stone Restoration* for graffiti removal.

Once the lanes were cleaned up, Eddie Scanlon, Parks Development Officer at Queens Park helped us make them look better - with the loan of planters, shrubs and flowers from the Queens Park nursery and the donation of bouquets and floral arrangements as prizes for our stalls.

Thanks to Steve at *1901 Bar & Bistro* for taking the strain out of the licensing arrangements and running two superb beer gardens, to *Radio Clyde* for their musical jeep and giveaways, and to our local musicians - Joe McGinley, Frank Cairns and Mike Greenwood who were *Hung, Drawn and Trio'd*, DJs Owen Caldwell and Colin Davie from *Remedy and Deviate*, Tom Watson and Tam Gallagher, the award winning *Swing Guitars* as well as pianist Mary Rose.

But mostly - thanks to all who set up stalls and added their own bit of magic to the day, plus the many more who turned out to support the event - without an audience there's no show! Join us again next year.





Calder Street on Wednesday 8th August

IN AT THE DEEP END?

Angry demonstrators clashed with police as sheriff officers moved in a dawn raid to eject protesters who have maintained a community occupation of Govanhill Pool.

In contrast to the peaceful 141-day occupation, the day saw sporadic clashes between protesters and the police with injuries reported on both sides. Local residents and pool campaigners complained of the heavy police presence at the scene with reports of over 180 officers, mounted police, the police helicopter and numerous police vans littering side streets. Both Victoria Road and Calder Street were closed by the protest.

Several Strathbungo residents have been active in the campaign including Sheena Salvatore of the Queens Park Ladies Swimming Club. She was at the scene to show solidarity with the pool protesters and spoke of her anger at the closure of the pool not

only for older women but for local kids and residents.

Reflecting the significant ethnic issues raised by the closure of a facility that allows private bathing for women and other groups, the protest saw a large, organised contingent from the muslim community. The local MP Mohamed Sarwar was seen late in the evening in heated discussions with local groups, including a representative of the Govanhill Community Council. No local city councillors were present.

Local Pool campaigners said the protest would continue and that direct action would follow.



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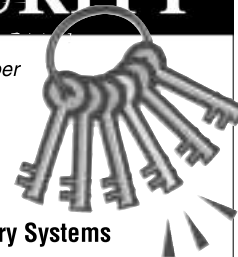
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Deadline for next issue: 20 September

TALKBACK

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

Dear Editor,

The older streets of Strathbungo were called Regent Park Square, Queen Square and Princes Square when they were first laid out. All very suitably Victorian. Can anyone tell me when and why Princes Square changed its name to Marywood Square? Just curious.

Andrew Downie
Marywood Square

That's one for the local historians so answers please by mid-September to the address printed elsewhere on this page – and while you're at it, how about our "garden" streets - Vennard, Thorncliffe and Carswell?

- ED

Dear Strathbungo News,

Me and my friends are having a best garden competition with our neighbours in Pollokshaws Road. We would like you to be our judges. Would you please write back to both of us.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan and Madeline
Marywood Square

STRATHBUNGO
News

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Tel: 0141 423 0050

or email news@strathbungo.org.uk

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

PS – The best garden competition is at the end of the summer holidays.

Dear Kids –

Well done on your summer gardening project! Since we don't know all that much about gardening (and also want to continue living in Strathbungo!), we've asked some real experts from New Victoria Gardens to be the judges. We will also provide prizes so get digging and we'll publish the results in the next edition of the Strathbungo News. Now here's a thought – how about a neighbourhood-wide competition next summer?

- ED

To the Editor:

I know you had the local Parks guy at your AGM, but I've got to say this summer Queens Park has never looked so poor. All right, there are new, tiered flower baskets at the Balvicar Street entrance – which is lovely – but the actual entrance gate has never been repaired in five years! The pond is still fenced off, the paths are strewn with mud and the children's play park is in an appalling state with missing ropes, broken swings and a generally forlorn and unkempt air. Finally, the much-vaunted rose garden that commenced, and then stopped as soon as it began in the early summer, has been fenced off since then. The Council gets a good income from the Goals football concession, but it doesn't appear to be being used to improve our park. When will the Council realise that parks are a necessity not a luxury for city dwellers?

Elizabeth Sinclair
Torrisdale Street

In fairness, most of Queens Park is lovely, especially at this time of year – you need only go for a wander over the top of Camp Hill to see all of Glasgow

stretched out before you, the facilities for tennis and pitch'n'putt are excellent and when the weather's not up to much, you can nip in and commune with nature in the beautifully-restored glasshouse. But, like you, we're getting sick and tired of some of the most heavily-used areas of the Park being either allowed to fall into a dangerously rundown state or put totally beyond use for months on end – and how about this island debacle that wasted so much time during the spring? It's back-to-school time and the pond is still not finished! We've given considerable right to reply to both the appointed and the elected officials. We accept that nobody really knew how the 100-year-old pool was constructed until they started mucking about with it, but "muck" is the operative word here. And then there's the matter of the play park ...

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.

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)