

STRATHBUNGO NewS



October/November 2001

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With personal trainer
Carole Livesey . . .

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Residents and officials unite to wipe out graffiti THE WRITING'S OFF THE WALL!

Even casual observers will have noticed an increase in graffiti over the summer, often with trademark motifs and coded 'signatures'. Urban art or vandalism? Local traders have no problem answering that one, not when their premises are so often the targets.

And neither did around 100 Strathbungo and Shawlands residents who gathered at Langside Halls in late August to discuss how communities and officials can work together to deal with the graffiti. The meeting was instigated by MP Mohammed Sarwar, who says this is one of the issues most persistently raised by local householders and groups. 'Graffiti drags the whole area down, even in Strathbungo where there is an active pride in local heritage and a real sense of community. The message from the people is clear - catch the culprits and clean up the mess on shops in Pollokshaws Road, Calder Street and Allison Street,' says Mr Sarwar. MSP Gordon Jackson attended the meeting as did Chief Inspector Kenny Kerr, in charge of Police in and around Strathbungo. Environmental Protection Manager Jim Kennedy was there from the City Council. Mr Kennedy, recently appointed to lead the clean up of graffiti and litter across the city, made it clear that Strathbungo and neighbouring areas in the

Southside would be prioritised over coming months. Graffiti is either being painted over or washed away from local shops and doorways.

Larger businesses such as Scottish Power and BT have service contracts with the Council to clean up graffiti, but small businesses in Strathbungo will face no charge. The Council is also taking a more aggressive approach to fining businesses that dump rubbish illegally on pavements and in back lanes. This is a particular problem in and around Pollokshaws Road. Chief Inspector Kerr acknowledged that Strathbungo had not been served well by the Police, due to the absence through illness of the local community officer, but a new community officer was set to start soon (see page 4). He indicated that the police will investigate every call to track down who is responsible for graffiti in the area, urging residents not to avoid making a call because they feel that there are more serious crimes for the police to deal with.

Mr Jackson will also be co-ordinating efforts towards securing CCTV cameras for local main streets. If demand in the wider community reflects the opinion of those at the meeting, there is a real desire for this in Strathbungo.

Mr Sarwar urged everyone who lives and works in Strathbungo to take an active stance against graffiti. 'If you see someone scrawling graffiti, phone the Police on 532 5300 or visit the station in Craigie Street. If someone has defaced your property, call the Council's freephone number 0800 595 595. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.'

Councillor Walter MacLellan adds an interesting footnote.

'The Council is prepared to clean graffiti off private property without charge, both for householders and small businesses, but if your property has been hit, don't simply wait around for us to remove it. Oddly enough, unless we're specifically asked by the owner, it's just as illegal for us to take graffiti off as it is for others to put it on! You might point this out to any local shopkeepers who haven't yet taken advantage of our free service.'

And if someone's daubed your garden wall or garage door with their artwork, even though our lanes are private, it's also worth a try!

LOOK WHO'S BACK

After the long dry spell during renovations, the first pair of swans returned to Queens Park pond this autumn.



Get ready for HALLOWE'EN!

*Be you wizard or be you witch
This night will go without a hitch.
By narrow streets and cobbled lanes
We'll chant the spells with Bungo's weans!*

This year our traditional Bungos and Bogles event takes place on the Sunday *before* Hallowe'en - and it's for Strathbungo's wannabe witches and wizards!

Our **School for Spells** is a training and development opportunity for budding spellcasters - and great fun for everyone! It's a rehearsal for the big night itself so the kids can go guising with a brand new repertoire of stories and poems specially designed to chase away the demons - and delight residents on the doorsteps of Strathbungo!

The party is once again downstairs at the Fotheringay in Nithsdale Road. The two hour event will feature a scary story from Wanda the Witch (aka Jan McSkimming) and spooky music by Joe 'Fingers' McGinley. There will also be dooking for apples and a cauldron of presents so every witch and wizard gets a gift - with prizes for the best costumes.

Numbers are strictly limited and, following delivery of leaflets to every household in Strathbungo, tickets went on sale 23 October, first come, first served. If you've not got yours yet, try 423 7756, but **remember, no tickets will be sold at the door.**

STRA'BUNGO MUST BE FREE!

This soundbite is not, contrary to rumours, the new battle cry of the Strathbungo Society. It dates from the 1870s and 1880s, when debate was raging about the expansionist moves of Glasgow as it became Scotland's first city - and the pockets of resistance to annexation in areas such as Govan and Patrick.

The Baillie was a humorous local journal which satirised, among other things, the 'parasites' who lived outside Glasgow's boundaries, but enjoyed its services (*Some things never change!* - Ed.). Now Strathbungo was too small at the time to have Burgh status, but its village mentality (unlike the cosmopolitan, internationalist community of today...) was the perfect plat-form for sending up these areas as small-minded and parochial.

A regular column had Sir Jeems Kaye - coal merchant, Colonel of the 1st Royal Strathbungo Fusiliers and Provost of the Burgh - fighting to save all he loved. For example, giving evidence to the Boundary Commission on the case for a Greater Glasgow, he was asked:

'What are you noted for?'

'The finest park in Scotland, the Crossmyloof bakery, the only place in the three kingdoms whaur ye will see a baronet sell-ing coals by the hunnerwecht ...'

'You don't wish to be annexed to Glasgow?'

'Annexed to Glesca? I should think no. The Glesca folk come rinnin' oot tae us loking for hooses. Ye never hear o' Strathbungonians wanting tae flit intae Glesca.'

The Chairman said, *'Whatever we do with Crosshill and Govanhill, and all these mushroom burghs ... Strathbungo must be free.'* ... So we adjourned, an' that's the way Strathbungo wis saved.'

Indeed, Sir Jeems, his wife Betty, and a host of local worthies who populated his column, had some-thing to say on all the popular issues of the day. The column was in fact written by Archibald MacMillan, who lived in Strath-bungo and reputedly based his characters on real life villagers.

This is a story that captures a mythical Strathbungo at a crucial point in the development of Glasgow, but some of the issues it

touches upon - for example, the need for a Greater Glasgow - are still beyond the wit of gov-ernment to this day. For more information, see the excellent *Imagine City: Glasgow in Fiction* by Moira Burgess, Argyll Publishing £12.99. And thanks to Aileen Smart for permission to print the Jeems Kaye cartoon from her equally excellent *Villages of Glasgow*.



THE MARCH OF THE STRATHBUNGO FUSILIERS.

Any descendents of Sir Jeems out there?

Send your proposal and - who knows? - you may end up with your own column in the Strathbungo News.

- Gerry Hassan.

Win a FREE workout with Personal Trainer Carole Livesey!



In conjunction with Ryvita and Carole Livesey, the *Strathbungo News* is offering a free one-to-one personal fitness session worth £30 to the first entry drawn in our Autumn competition. Just send your name, address and phone number to the Secretary, 16 Queen Square, Glasgow G412AZ or email competition@strathbungo.co.uk.

All we ask is that you are 18 years or older, set your appointment with Carole at a mutually agreeable time and are willing to share your experiences with our readers in a future edition.

Your free session will include an initial consultation so that Carole can build the hour round what you like, what you *don't* like and what goals you want to achieve. Running, weight training, interval training, fartlek (yes, that's what she said!) ... she will put together a custom workout, perhaps followed by yoga and stretching and some advice on diet and nutrition!

Carole, originally from Manchester, has been living in the Strathbungo area for six years. She was a social worker for 12 years before retraining as a personal fitness expert, including an HNC in stress management. Her long-term ambitions include developing opportunities for people with disabilities to access fitness and leisure centres. Thanks, Carole, for this generous offer.

NOW COME ON, STRATHBUNGO - YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR INHIBITIONS!

Following three failures in the past seven years, another attempt is being made to upgrade the lanes in the older parts of Strathbungo. This time, it's not just the owners who are watching and hoping for success – it's Glasgow City Council. The small stretch of lane being tackled is a pilot project that will be used throughout Glasgow by other owners of private lanes – that is, if it works. IAN STARK reports.

THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Ever wonder why doesn't the Council just get on with it and rebuild all the lanes that badly need work? Several reasons:

- the lanes are privately-owned and the Council isn't allowed to spend taxpayers money on private areas
- to bring all these lanes up to standard would cost around £50 million
- as the lanes would still be private, the owners would be cashing in on the millions spent by other taxpayers on their behalf
- almost all the other roads and lanes in the city had to be built up to standard by private owners before the Council would look after them. What makes us any different?

So, like it or not, owners are going to have to bear at least part of the cost for upgrading what is, after all, an asset.

Some people rarely use the lanes and, when they do, they manage to get along them. Rather than spending lots of the hard-earned savings or borrowing loads of money, they ask – why not just leave the lanes to their own devices? Lots of difficulties there – but most obviously, the lanes will continue to get worse and worse.

However, most people in Strathbungo's 'squares' do want their lanes fixed and for the best possible reasons – they want the lanes made attractive and useable. You need only look at our annual 'Bungo in the Back Lanes' to imagine their potential for adding to the amenity of the whole area.

So where are we now? All over Glasgow, councillors appear ready to help constituents improve their communities. This is why they have got together to work out what difficulties the owners have – first among them, the design and estimating work required. This overcomes the need for owners to pay out money before knowing the cost of the project. It also allows owners to pursue grants. Once all these factors are known, owners will be able to make an informed decision about committing themselves to getting the work done.

WE TALK TO THE TREES



This magnificent *Araucaria araucana* (aka monkey puzzle) graces the corner at Moray Place and Vennard Gardens ... sadly, it's older 'brother' at the corner of Regent Park Square has died of old age.

The tree survey has started! Trainers have been trained, training packs and maps issued, but none of the volunteers thought this exercise was going to be quite so satisfying, pleasant and stimulating.

They are 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.

So far, the most interesting property for trees and probably the best looking is 33 Moray Place, where the very well-shaped 'monkey puzzle' is in great condition.

This is complemented by a

nice silver birch and a very rare tulip tree. On the other hand, we were surprised that one of the trees on our 'patch' was in poor condition, dying of old age at around 80 years.

The bad news for owners of trees is that a lot of trees in Strathbungo have sub-standard, unattractive shapes. This has been caused by the trees being trimmed by people or companies who either didn't know how to trim them – or didn't care. If you are considering making alterations to your trees, we can help with advice on contractors, grants etc. Just ring 632 4995.

- Ian Stark

Strathbungo.org.uk

Brief sets out the way for Society's website

At long last, the Strathbungo Society's getting set to make our presence felt on the internet. We've prepared a detailed brief for the design and maintenance of our website and now want to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on the job. We can't offer a commercial contract, but it may be a good opportunity to build your portfolio and associate yourself with a dynamic community organisation. To register interest and receive the brief, email website@strathbungo.org.uk.



PC Andy Munro, Strathbungo's new Community Cop, wants your help in reviving Neighbourhood Watch.

Strathbungo has a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in place ... or does it? We certainly used to, but it now it's little more than stickers in the windows of some of the original members.

What happened? Was our scheme too 'organised'? Did it cave in under the pressure of so much structure? Is there any reason to have a representative for each street, as well as the overall co-ordinator?

Since the resignation of our NW co-ordinator a couple of years ago, nobody's come forward to take on the role. Would you be willing to give it a go? Since our scheme is officially still on the books, there's no need to repeat all the tiresome groundwork and questionnaires. Your main responsibility would be to serve as a point of contact between the Police and the local community.

Police tell us that wherever Neighbourhood Watch schemes are active, crime goes down. Insurance companies seem to agree as they often offer discounts to householders who live in a NW area. All residents have to do in return is keep their eyes open and phone the Police if they see something suspicious.

PC Andy Munro, our new Community Police Officer, stresses that you do not have to give your name if you report an incident – and actively encourages you to ring, even though it turns out to be perfectly innocent.

If we want to get our scheme back up and running, he's ready to help with free literature and advice, new window stickers and street signs, and lots of valuable tips on home security and property marking.

So give us a ring on 423 2621 if you're willing to help revive the Strathbungo scheme – or email nw@strathbungo.org.uk.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 'EXTENDED' BY CONSTRUCTION WORK

Two of the secondary schools in Strathbungo's catchment area have been at the centre of complaints by parents, pupils and teaching staff after major refurbishment programmes failed to be completed in time for the re-opening of the schools in August.

Some 1,250 pupils at Shawlands Academy were sent home on the first day, when teachers claimed the refurbishment had left them without time to prepare their classrooms. Claims in *The Herald* by Depute Director of Education Ian McDonald that Shawlands Academy 'operated as normal' were refuted by the glee of pupils escaping lessons for most of the first week of term, according to Strathbungo resident Jean Mackenzie, who is Chair of the Shawlands PTA.

Meanwhile, in mid-September, a series of electrical explosions led to 2,250 pupils at Holyrood Academy being evacuated.

'Those are just the most outward signs of disruption, says Jean 'It's been a catalogue of disasters waiting to happen. On 21 August, in a letter to the headteacher for onward transmission to the contractors and the Director of Education, she listed dozens of concerns, including health and safety issues (fire-safety, asbestos, broken glass), vandalism, theft of computers, TVs and other school equipment, and lack of supervision of building workers on site. As of mid-October, the PTA was still waiting for a reply.

As winter approached, the PTA was still trying to organise a meeting with the Director so that he can explain why the project has not

been better managed as per the promises of the public private partnership (PPP). 'We want to know why our children are being educated in a building site and what measures the Council is taking to ensure the safety of the pupils and staff. Unfortunately, this reasonable request has been ignored, and the Council once again shows no interest in *talking* to its tax-payers, never mind being accountable to them,' says Jean. 'The PTA would like the Health & Safety Executive to investigate the circumstances of the opening of Shawlands Academy on 20 Aug, particularly whether the Council's own H&S inspectors were put under tremendous pressure to sign off parts of the refurbished areas that they might otherwise have rejected.'

Refurbishment at Shawlands and Holyrood is being carried out as part of the Glasgow School Project, Britain's largest ever PPP. The £1.2 billion project will see all of Glasgow's 29 secondaries being rebuilt or upgraded, and then maintained for a period of 30 years by 3ED, a consortium made up of the Miller Group, Amey, Halifax, Mitel, Hewlett Packard and Morse. Jean fears that the attitude of the Council's Education Department and the 3-ED Consortium bodes ill for the remaining 28 years of this contract. 'If they can't be bothered to talk to us in the honeymoon period, what will it be like in five years?'



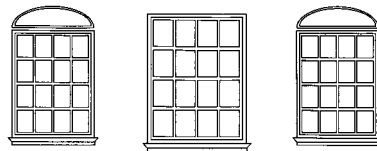
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Demolition began in October on the none-too-lovely Balvicar Centre alongside Queens Park.

Initially, following an application from John Dickie Homes for building on the site, objections were lodged from local residents, Queens Park Baptist Church and Cllr Walter MacLellan - these were largely to do with density of population and appropriateness of a modern design within a Victorian neighbourhood - a bit ironic, considering the awful 60s architecture it was replacing. (see below)



Amendments were made to the original plans and consent was granted to build a development of 30 luxury flats, which will include 100% underground car parking to avoid adding to congestion on the streets.

Work is due to start soon so, as they say, *watch this space ... !*

THE WRITING FINGER MOVES



Women's Writing Southside, established in Pollokshields Library 10 years ago by award-winning author Janet Paisley, has recently moved to Strathbungo.

It is said that writing is the loneliest of professions, but this group offers companionship and constructive criticism in equal measure when they get together every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30-3.30 pm in the upstairs room at Sammy Dow's in Nithsdale Road. Despite the name, members come from all over and cut right across the generations. [*Sorry, fellas - it's an all-girl outfit. - ED*]

'Some writing groups can be oh-so-very earnest and dedicated - we tend to be quite laid back,' says Fiona McKemmie. Nevertheless, all members are published writers and quite serious about their works-in-progress, which span every genre from poetry and short stories to novels, children's books and plays - non-fiction articles, too. 'It's a terrific support system that lets writers hone their skills in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.' Four times a year they invite a well-established author to join them, with the meeting usually taking the form of a workshop.

If you're interested in joining or would like to know more, Fiona has details on 637 4309.

Thanks...

... to the following local businesses who gave prizes for our tombola at Bungo in the Back Lanes.

Alims (Newsagents)

Alison Arms

Ashid Monir (Opticians)

Bank of Scotland (Victoria Road)

Bridges Dental Practice

Cairnquay Ltd

Camerons Hairdressers

Chilli'n' Cream

Evergreen

Floral Haven

The Fotheringay

Glasgow Land Services

Golden Boat Chinese Takeaway

Hairgarden

J & J Paul (Fine Arts)

John Masterton Family Butchers

Letslink (Scotland)

Millen Meats Ltd

Moyra Jane's Coffee Shop

The New Anand

Nithsdale Dental Centre

Nithsdale Financial & Communications Services

HC Niven

Paris Balsillie Hairdressers

Pollokshaws Supersave

Pollokshields Newsagents

Queens Park Baptist Church

Safeway (Crossmyloof)

Shah (Newsagents)

Shaheds Kebabs

Strathbungo Post Office

Sue Ryder Foundation

Susies

Victoria Barbers

If we've left anybody out, let us know and we'll make amends.

Please support Strathbungo's local businesses - and do let them know you appreciate their contribution to community events.

STRATHBUNGO FAMILY RAISE £2,700 FOR KIDNEY RESEARCH

As featured in June's newsletter, a Strathbungo family have raised a tidy sum for charity. Local artist Nancy Henderson auctioned a framed drawing of Moray Place, taking bids first at Moyra Jane's Coffee Shop and then at our Bungo in the Back Lanes. Meanwhile, husband Patrick Gillies was off cycling between Blackpool and Paris in the Tower to Tower Challenge - a return trip of over 1,000 miles. Together, Nancy's picture and sponsorship for Patrick's private Tour de France raised in excess of £2,700, all of which went to the National Kidney Research Fund to prevent and eventually cure kidney disease. Thanks to all who contributed to that total, and also to friends who helped them collect donations at the Bungo and elsewhere around the city, including Sammy Dow's.

Gordon Angus
(Irvine Rusk trained)

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TALKBACK

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

What's in a name?

To the Editor:

Re: Letter from Andrew Downie regarding names of streets in Strathbungo.

I remember there being references to names within my Title Deeds. Carswell Gardens was originally named Afton Place and Thorncliffe Gardens was originally named Thorncliffe Street. Changes took place in 1860s and around 1927 when the last batch of houses were built.

Hope this helps. I'm sure there may someone out there with more details.

Paul Flynn

Thorncliffe Gardens

To the Editor:

Sorry I have no answer to Mr Downie's query about Marywood Square, but regarding Vennard Gardens, I was told when I came here 35 years ago that the builder, Mr Wright, married a Miss Vennard and the Gardens were named for her.

Also the rows of terraced houses between Titwood Road/Vennard Gardens were originally known as Moray Park and were not part of Strathbungo.

M Mackay

Vennard Gardens

Thanks for these interesting bits of information about Strathbungo's history– any more?-ED



Brand new terrace houses in Thorncliffe Gardens around 1930- and not a car in sight! (Photo courtesy of the Mitchell Library.)

It pays (everybody) to advertise

Hi there –

Can you tell me if advertisers in the newsletter are endorsed by the Strathbungo Society? I'm looking for a reputable company to replace my windows and any info would be appreciated.

Lynn Greer

Queen Square

A good point. Where there is a conservation issue at stake – for example, for windows - we do check to see whether contractors comply with planning guidelines for listed buildings. But no, the Strathbungo Society cannot endorse any advertisers per se.

We are quite pleased that several of our advertisers have got work as a direct result of ads placed here, and even happier to have had very good reports back from residents who have used their services. We have not yet had a bad report, but would certainly investigate any complaint before taking more advertising.

Do mention to local businesses that you've seen them in the Strathbungo News – whether as advertisers, contributors to events (see page 5) or both. Their support is vital if we are to continue publishing this newsletter.

We are also considering a bulletin board for our website on which residents can recommend tradespeople. What do you think?– ED.

Calling all web-footed friends

Hi Strathbungo.co.uk,

If you remember I was a 'Strathbungo tourist' :) staying here occasionally. I have now moved officially to Marywood Square and am keen to get moving in local online circles. I am working on a Strathbungo/Southside version of my A to Z business directory and will keep you posted on that. If you require any input for the Strathbungo site then please give me a buzz. The real world paper newsletter is looking great.

Tom Burke

<http://www.bigspace.net>

Thanks, Tom. We're about to wander off in cyberspace (see page 3) and want all the help we can get. And BTW, we're actually an 'org', not a 'co'. Email us at website@strathbungo.org.uk –ED.

The Strathbungo Society Committee meets at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month, downstairs at the Fotheringhay 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)

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