

S T R A T H B U N G O



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

SHA IN MARCH STREET

What's your verdict?

GET OFF YER ARTZ

Who's who at Strathbungo's Arts Fest

THE M74 EXTENSION?

You have your say in Talkback!



It's back – Bungo in the Back Lanes is set for midsummer weekend so mark you diary and make it a date!

Now in its third year, Bungo in the Back Lanes is modelled on the European neighbourhood markets where people set up stalls at their back gates and sell bric'a'brac, crafts – whatever! It takes place primarily in three of the cobbled lanes behind the Squares and the Strathbungo Society provides the value-added items – beer tents, live music, food stalls, tombola, a children's play area. Last year's event attracted over 1,000 people.

The main programme will be out the week before, highlighting some of the attractions and pinpointing which lanes they'll be located in. Meanwhile, we can tell you we'll have:

- live music in both main lanes
- draught beer, real ales & wine as well as soft drinks from 1901, the Mediterranean bistro in Pollokshaws Road
- annual & perennial plants plus advice from the New Victoria Gardeners
- new location for Kiddies Korner with face painting, helium balloons, crafts, games, lucky lollies & much more ...

We've already heard from lots of local folk who are planning to set up stalls, and we've got some great new features – for example, a formal tea garden with mouth-watering fresh baked goodies and Cinema Bungo, featuring cartoons for kids of all ages.

This year, why not have your own stall or help out with one of the Society's stalls?

- clear out your cupboards and sell your junk (that's treasure to someone else!)
- sell handicrafts, art, jewellery, plants, etc
- make up some tablet, jam, pakoras or other specialties
- set up competitions or games for people to play
- perhaps you can do aromatherapy? another alternative therapy? fortune-telling?

Or go on, surprise us – the more stalls, the more fun for everybody! You might also make a tidy profit for yourself or your favourite charity. All we ask is a small donation from your proceeds to the Strathbungo Society – we need funds so we can continue to run a range of activities in our community.

But remember – the main thing is to be here on 22nd June so invite your friends from outside the neighbourhood to come along and enjoy a great day.

It's happening in the lanes between:

- Marywood & Queen Squares
- Queen & Regent Park Squares
- Regent Park Square & Nithsdale Road (children)
- and along Moray Place Lane

We'll find you a spot if you live outwith these lanes.

BUNGO HOTLINE

- get your stall listed in the programme
- volunteer to help out - set up tables, blow up balloons, do a shift on the Society's stalls or help with stewarding ...
- donate unwanted new merchandise to the Society's tombola
- or secondhand books
- or homebaking for the Bungo Bakery!

Ring Joanna on 423 7756!

WHAT MAKES BUNGO EVENTS IS BUNGO PEOPLE!



Citz Theatre Director Giles Havergal presides over the official opening at Queen's Park gates.



Clowning around . . .

to the accompaniment of Ceol Na Eireann ceilidh band



Meanwhile it's a talk'n'walk on the Thomson Trail with Architecture Historian Gavin Stamp



Joe McGinley plays from noon to midnight at one venue or another . . .



Come on in . . .



Jazz & Co are first up at the Tav



Macapella at the Allison Arms

Thanks to

- The Allison Arms
- Arnold Clark Automobiles
- Chilli'n'Cream
- Heraghty's
- Moyra Jane's Coffee Shop
- Queen's Park Baptist Church
- Samuel Dow's
- The Taverna
- Titwood Resource Centre

Also thanks to all the performers pictured here...and those we didn't manage to catch on film, including:

- Muireann Arnold & Ruth Donnelly
- Life & Soul
- Mike Greenwood.



Cartoonist Malky McCormick picks Heraghty's most famous regular to start his talk'n'chalk



meanwhile, at Queens Park Baptist Church the Craftz fair is in full swing . . .



The Morning-After Colloquy with Kevin Kane (second from left) moderating while journalists Jack McLean, Gerry Hassan and Katie Grant debate culture beyond the Bungo . . .



Swing Guitars put on a rousing acoustic set



John & Frank get together for some folk & blues

. . .and Strathbungo did!

Saturday, 27 April was the first – but by no means last – community-wide celebration of the arts in Strathbungo. With Get Off Yer Artz, the Strathbungo Society originated and delivered in less than eight weeks a festival that encompassed 11 venues and programmed 22 gigs spanning music, visual arts, crafts and the spoken word. *Whew!*

And importantly, while much of the day involved music performed live in pubs, we also aimed to reach out to all members of a diverse community – including children's drama and music workshops, a crafts fair cum coffee morning and a walk round Strathbungo's unique architectural heritage.

Much is made of Glasgow and the wider issues its faces, however much less is said and recognised of the social and cultural activism of its communities. Glasgow's Southside is one of the city's most mixed, cohesive and attractive communities. It is all too often a secret waiting to be told. Thanks to the dozens of artists who contributed their talents, all the local businesses who provided stages for them and the hundreds of people who simply turned out and enjoyed the day, it's a secret that is finally being told and heard and talked about.

Even Sir Elton is impressed!



Giles joins local playwright Peter Arnott in a reading of his fanciful Century's End.

TALKBACK²

Continued from the back page . . .

Making sense of Nithsdale Road

To the Editor:

On the subject of parking in Strathbungo - there is an ongoing problem in Nithsdale Road (between Sammy's and the Regent) for residents' parking. The spaces in the street are regularly taken up by people living outside the street, and also by the staff of Arnold Clark and others surrounding works. The problem arises on return from work when it is becoming more and more difficult to find a parking space.

Is there a possibility that residents parking would be introduced for this length of street, as it would guarantee parking spaces for all the residents. Further, having a designated number of spaces for each shop unit might encourage more people to use the shops, as at present there is precious little available parking for any customers to use.

The road could also be much improved if some landscaping were to be introduced - perhaps delineating parking bays and introducing trees every few bays. It might be an idea to see whether these proposals could be taken to the Council/Roads Department.

I would be happy to draft up some schematics for parking/landscaping along this length of street, and if we get enough support I'll help make a case to the Council. It would make a huge difference to the street, and would give an ideal setting for future Strathbungo Society events.

Also - I remember a previous issue that offered a skill-swap system in the area. We, at No. 40, are looking to rebuild the rear court boundary wall, as this was knocked down some years ago (we can't trace when or how). I can offer any local builders my services to draft up plans/proposals etc, if they will build a wall, or assist. I'm a fully qualified architect, so I can do the full works, planning, building warrant etc.

George Muir
Nithsdale Road.

From Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane:

You raise a number of issues, several of them that the Society is keen to progress.

1. Resident Parking. This comes at a cost to residents (and retailers) to cover enforcement costs. It would need to be progressed via the Roads Department. Local Councillor Walter MacLellan is a bit of a roads expert and if there was a head of steam to pursue then I'd say talk to him. The issue of the double yellow lines at the Regent Bar end has also come up, and there may be scope to reduce this area and increase parking.

2. Landscaping. I totally agree. If we could get an agreed new parking regime, resurfacing would help to underpin the retailers, and provide a surface for, say, a 'farmers market' or other outdoor events (just an idea ...). Happy to broker a meeting with Walter to discuss further. A schematic for the next newsletter would be great to take the issue forward.

3. Your wall came down about three or four years ago during gales on Boxing Day (a number of trees and garage roofs did too). There are several developers busily redoing former conversions into town houses. I could point a few of them in your direction. Also, there's a local guy at the Moray Place end of Regent Park Square who's a great handyman (maybe you need a wee bit more than that). But he might be worth a shout. - KK

Re parking bays: have you ever noticed how often poor parking creates gaps that aren't quite big enough for a car to squeeze into but add up to lots of lost space along the block? If we had painted lines to guide drivers, such as you see in car parks, it might save residents having to pay to park outside their own front doors! - ED.


Attention telephone callers

If you wish to leave a message for the Strathbungo News on our answer machine, please give your name and address so we can include your comments in Talkback. - ED.



Cheerio ...

to J&J Paul Fine Arts in Nithsdale Road. Proprietor JohnMcSheffrey is closing his gates for the last time at the end of June and plans to start his retirement with a 3-month sojourn in France - lucky him! John's been a part of local life for almost a quarter of a century and a good supporter of the Strathbungo Society. We wish him well ... meanwhile, everything must go with discounts starting at 50%!



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or email news@strathbungo.co.uk
or hand them in at Evergreen's
in Nithsdale Road



Two ways of looking at it

SHA development opens at March Street & Nithsdale Drive

This striking building, built for the Southside Housing Association by Robison and Davison, and designed by Russell and Bryce Architects, will provide 20 flats ranging from one to three-bedroom properties, including a wheelchair-adapted main door flat.

"All the flats are for rent and have been allocated to people from the Association's and Glasgow City Housing's waiting lists. They will be moving into what is an exciting and individual building, with the prospective tenants already commenting on how spacious and light the flats are," says Patrick McGrath of the SHA.

It's certainly the most unconventional building that's been built in Strathbungo for some time. What do you think?



A bottleneck too far?



Emergency traffic restrictions on the railway bridge outside Susie's were put in place, we understand, when it proved even weaker than first thought in December. This has created long tailbacks at the roundabout and virtually cut off access to flats in Nithsdale Road. While Railtrack and the Council ponder their next move, perhaps it's time to think laterally and introduce a better traffic management system – for example, maybe one issue is the direction traffic flows in ...

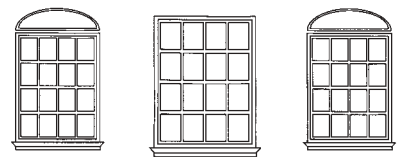
Whither the community council ...?

The Strathbungo Society has asked Cllr Walter MacLellan consider whether it might be possible to pull together interested parties with a view to establishing a new Community Council to deal exclusively with Strathbungo. The former Shawlands, Strathbungo and Camphill Community Council disbanded last winter following a number of difficulties and since then, our area has had no formal mechanism to take the local community's interests to the Council, particularly in matters to do with planning.

'The Strathbungo Society has no interest in becoming a community council itself, although we think a few of our individual members might be willing to serve in this broader capacity,' says Chair Kevin Kane. 'It certainly makes sense to have a community council that deals with what we can only term "Greater Strathbungo" – that is, the old traditional boundaries up to Victoria Road and extending roughly from Eglinton Toll to the Park – rather than taking in Camphill and the much larger area of Shawlands, in which our day-to-day interests would be dwarfed.'

Community councils are statutory bodies and receive public funds to carry out specific responsibilities. The Strathbungo Society has never been anything more – or less – than a loose organisation of residents who are interested in building and maintaining the local community. If you would like to get involved in either capacity, phone Kevin on 423 3119 or email info@strathbungo.co.uk.

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TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters on topics of general interest to local residents - send them to 38 Queen Square or email letters@strathbungo.co.uk

The M74 - is it really inevitable?

To the Editor:

As an active member of Joint Action against the M74, I was amazed to read Kevin Kane's defeatist view that the M74 Northern Extension - less than a mile away from Strathbungo - "will become a reality". Public consultation on the proposal doesn't begin until 2003, the outcome of the Public Inquiry will not be known until 2004 and construction of the road would not start until 2006 - so there's still lots to play for!

Instead of calling for minimisation of visual intrusion - how do you minimise the impact of a six-lane motorway, 40 ft high and 100 ft wide at Eglinton Toll? - I would urge Strathbungo residents to join the campaign against this destructive road which would:

- dislocate 100 businesses in its path
- create a 'noise corridor' miles wide
- attract major increases in local road traffic to the massive Govanhill interchange
- soak up public funds needed to develop a modern tram system in Glasgow.

If you share my view that Britain's biggest urban motorway plan should not go ahead in a city where more than half of the households don't have a car, why not call me on 433 2723 to discuss getting involved in the JAM74 campaign.

David Spaven
Marywood Square

To the Editor:

I enclose copies of some letters I have written over the years re the M74. I find it so distressing - and needless. It doesn't have to be inevitable. I think it is important to apply pressure now, before it is too late (the plans are very thin on detail).

... There is no evidence that the motorway would bring benefits to Glasgow generally. I know that some members of the CBI and others lobby for quick access through central Glasgow, but I feel the views are narrow and likely to become obsolete with improved IT. A bypass should be

a bypass, and not a wedge. Multinational company headquarters are more likely to be attracted to beautiful cosmopolitan cities. London abandoned its 1959 box scheme, as did Edinburgh its 1966 link road plans. Charing Cross and the Clyde Expressway are testimony to Glasgow's disastrous 20th century planning. The poverty of Hull, near where I worked for two years, is a case in point: main roads and warehouses are not enough.

A combination of better regional integrated transport, road pricing during peak hours and encouragement of large companies to have work at home days or staggered work hours may be enough to alleviate the problem - the M8 through the city centre seems already one motorway too many.

Clive Kempe
Maybank Street

Okay, guys - Kevin pleads he was only trying to open the debate and he appears to have done so. Why not use Bungo in the Back Lanes to set up a stall and let people know what the issues are - or for that matter, if you think it's bound to happen and should, here's your chance too. It's too important an issue to let it slide! - ED.

Big thanks ...

... to all the neighbours who helped us after the fire on 23 April: Jim & Carol, Morag, Sharon & Karl, Ann & Andy, Joanna & Denis, and an especially big thanks to Edna & Richard who lent us their house.

Jean, Gordon, Alasdair, Jonathan & Julius
39 Regent Park Square

PS. Residents of the Squares should also take note that the fire engines were delayed by having to manoeuvre through streets narrowed by car parking - we have to do something about this before the next fire.

Ironically, Jean's fire came just days after our last Strathbungo News Talkback, when we wondered - in print - what might happen if fire engines got stalled in our tightly packed streets. Time to think this one through too! - ED.

Bungles in the back lanes?

It was the first night our new baby was home from hospital and I was having some difficulty sleeping. I got up at about 5.30 am to get a drink and, on looking out the window down into the back lane, I noticed two figures creeping between the gardens. Dressed in white and fully illuminated by a neighbour's security light they were impossible even for my sleepy eyes to miss.

I quickly got dressed and ran out the front and around to the back lanes - no back door, of course. I was met at one end of the lane by two confused police officers who were glad to accept any help that was forthcoming at this time of the night. Another police car blocked the other end of the lane whilst I and four police officers scoured the back lane looking for the two young offenders.

A dog handler was called in with his German shepherd to assist in the search. About 40 minutes later the two youths were found skulking in one of the back gardens.

It turned out that another local resident had spotted them trying to steal his car and they had then travelled half the length of the Marywood back lane by climbing over the various walls, hedges etc in their bid to escape.

The real thing that I would like to share with the Strathbungo folk is how much noise was going on and no one heard it. Three police vehicles in the back lane whilst myself, another resident, five police officers and a dog jumped in and out of gardens... I have to confess that if I had not been awakened by the new member of the family I would have been oblivious to it all myself.

Tom Burke
Marywood Square

All goes to show it only takes one watchful neighbour to save the day (or in this case, night). Wish we had the film rights! - ED.

Due to an exceptionally large mailbag this month TALKBACK is continued on page 3 inside.