STRATHBUNGO



N e W S

Autumn 2002

INSIDe THIS ISSUe . . .

RAIL BRIDGES

Don't believe everything you hear . . .

QUEENS PARK

How does your garden grow . . .

LANES PILOT

Looking Good . . .

BOGLES IN THE BUNGO

Set for Halloween? . . .

SOGGY BUT FUN

Summer in the lanes . . .

STOW IT AWAY

Rubbish Rules ok . . .

In the spring newsletter, the Strathbungo Society distributed a questionnaire asking local residents how they felt about the neighbourhood, what were the problems and possible solutions and – on a more positive note, what was good about Strathbungo and how could we build on it. The survey was part of our Awards for All grant, a way testing whether the Society is in tune with the local community and setting out an effective agenda for the future.

Strathbungo Community Survey: here's what you said!

Who responded?

Out of 800 questionnaires, 124 individuals responded – a little over 15% which we found a bit lukewarm but are told is above average for such things. The sample was split almost equally between male/ female and 72% came within either the 25-44 or 45-60 age groups, with a slight edge to the Baby Boomers.



REFLECTIONS on Strathbungo's Lanes

If our environmental group have their way, photo opportunities like this will soon be a thing of the past. At long last, progress is being made in the Strathbungo Society's efforts to get grant assistance for a pilot project which, if successful, could trigger an upgrade of the back lanes throughout the conservation area.

Full story on page 4.

Our next largest group, however, at 18% were 60-plus. Many didn't specify occupation, but among those who did, 59% categorised themselves as professionals or executives.

How long have you been here?

With 9% having lived in Strathbungo less than a year and 33% between 1-5 years, a total of 41% are more or less newcomers to the area – which is to say, they probably weren't around when the last back lanes project failed so perhaps this bodes well for the future. They were also not here the last time the Council circulated the rules for rubbish collection in the Squares – so, ever optimists, we are publishing the drill on page 8.

With 23% at 5-10 years and 21% at 10-20 years – a combined total of 44% – these longer-term residents slightly outnumber the newcomers. Add to that 13% who have been here over 20 years, and Strathbungo becomes a much more settled community than it first appears.

Where did you come from?

Some 49% came from the Southside and 24% from elsewhere in Glasgow – which is to say, we appear to be one of those urban villages which has people watching for vacancies. The other third were surprisingly diverse ... coming from the Highlands, London, Europe, even Edinburgh!

Why choose Strathbungo?

We allowed up to five choices from a list and here are the most popular ones:

- convenience to the City Centre (71%)
- architecture (67%)
- price of property (50% changing fast!)
- public transport (44%)
- Queens Park (39%).

What disappointed you?

No surprises here. Once again in order of response:

- rubbish/litter (86%)
- back lanes surface (55% no doubt the half who live in the squares!)
- graffiti (44%)
- car crime (37%)
- parking (36%).

On reflection, some of the items crossed over. For example, if you group vandalism (22%) with graffiti and car crime, then non-violent street crime is on everybody's mind – and Strathbungo's love-hate relationship with the motor car also makes an appearance with a total of 66% mentioning either parking or traffic management (30%).

If there are any consolations it is that only 11% saw housebreaking as a problem and just 2% were bothered about planning restrictions.

continued overleaf

Any pleasant surprises?

Overwhelmingly, you mentioned things that could be grouped together under the banner of community spirit – friendliness, good neighbours, community events, the newsletter. Very gratifying!

Local amenities

A total of 74% use local shops/pubs/ restaurants – 49% often/whenever possible, and 35% use a few/ selectively. Of the sample, 96% put restaurants/cafes and 92% put pubs in the range of average or above average.

That indicates a fair level of support for local traders – the ones mentioned most were (in no order of importance)
Evergreens, Safeway BP, Gregg's,
Bradford's, Victorian Barbers, Cameron's,
New Anand, Shimla Pinks, Sammy Dows,
Heraghty's, the Taverna, Moyra Jane's,
Mise en Place – and various unspecified newsagents.

What's missing?

The shops/services you would support in significant numbers are:

- quality greengrocer/fruiter (74%)
- specialist food shop, deli (54%)
- fishmonger (48%)
- bookshop (38%).

Schools? Social issues?

These sections of the questionnaire were not filled in as extensively as the others. Some results. Of 29 respondents whose children attend local schools, 15 said their education was *above average* and 13 said it was *average* (just one said it was *poor*).

We asked about issues such as mobility and social exclusion and these don't appear to be a priority – or else you felt it was none of our business! Some did express a sense of isolation because of having young children and a few mentioned being new to the area so look out for them! Some of the activities you were interested in seeing organised on a community-wide basis:

- babysitting networks
- coffee mornings/social events for mums & babies (also for seniors)
- bridge/backgammon/chess
- dancing/music/other creative activities
- sports
- · cookery/dining/wine.

And finally ...

We asked about the Strathbungo Society ... 94% have heard of it and lots of you attend Bungo events, including the Back Lanes (75%), the Bells (49%), the AGM (35%) and the Hallowe'en party (25%). The survey was carried out before our first *Get Off Yer Artz* festival.

And re the *Strathbungo News*, 92% read it and 99% find it covers topics of interest. Other subjects we might consider: gossip, a buy/sell column, gardening tips and (wait for it) a lads page! Well, we'll see ...

So what should the Strathbungo Society's priorities be for future campaigning?

- back lane improvements
- conservation/planning issues
- · traffic management
- recreational activities
- local shopping.

That's a pretty busy agenda and we hope it excites you enough to come along and get involved.

Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire – and also to Awards for All for their generous funding.

UPDATE: Railway Bridge Blues

The Council has made an assessment of what needs to be done as regards the railway bridge at Susie's and this is now with Railtrack, according to Cllr Walter MacLellan who estimates that the situation is likely to remain as it is for as much as two years. Painting in the yellow box junction at the roundabout has eased the traffic flow somewhat, but for the foreseeable future there's bound to be congestion there during the hours when traffic is heaviest.

Elsewhere in the area, the bridge at Titwood Road also needs to be dealt with and may even require a new bridge. There was a rumour that the bridge on Albert Drive beside the Tramway had been found to be satisfactory after all – but this was unfounded, said Cllr MacLellan.

'There's a massive operation going on throughout the country to meet heavier lorry weights now allowed so this is something local officials will be looking at for many years.' Railtrack is operating with the receivers and the hold-up is not actually money, he says. The assessment first goes to Railtrack engineers, then there's a debate about the proportion of costs picked up by the Council, then someone has to design the spec so it's a huge planning process and engineering resources are quite stretched.

Meanwhile, he emphasised that the bridges are perfectly safe with the current modifications in place, such as narrowing the traffic on Nithsdale Road or restricting weight on Titwood Road – it's just inconvenient to motorists during peak traffic times.

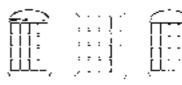
Continuing our series featuring local traders



Here's one of Strathbungo's best kept secrets. Box Green opened back in the early summer at 6 Springhill Gardens, tucked in beside the bike shop facing Queens Park. It's a florist shop, card shop, art galley and confectionary rolled into one - with Dawn McTaggart, shown here, and her partner Sarah Quigley combining their talents to produce quite out of the ordinary items for sale. They specialise in hand-tied bouquets that are 'not your usual carnations and chrysanths', and also have handmade cards, framed paintings and homemade truffles and fudge. What next? They're thinking of maybe adding awardwinning smoked salmon produced by Dawn's dad at his Highland smokehouse.

BAY CITY

WINDOWS & JOINERY



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Eddie Scanlon and Joe Austin from the Park Development team feel the vibes in their new poetry-inspired rose and sculpture garden.

A rose is a rose is a rose...

Thankfully Gertrude Stein wasn't Scottish, else we might have found her prosaic tribute carved in stone in our very own Queens Park. Instead, as a centrepiece, we have Hugh MacDairmid's '...little white rose of Scotland, That smells sharp and sweet, And breaks the heart.' [First suggested in the Strathbungo News in 2001 – ED]

Land Services designed the garden and planted the roses, and the sculpture is by David Lindsay of Edinburgh, a mix of carved sandstone boulders and simpler tributes where pathways intersect. Poets include the usual suspects – Robert Burns (...a red, red rose) and Robert Louis Stevenson (... over my heart a rose) – and quite a few others who don't immediately spring to mind – Violet Who, you may

Indeed, we're told, even the litter bins will have a poetic theme (Don't throw it, stow it, said the poet ...)

The rose garden is part of the city-wide preparation for an international rose conference coming next year and it is expected to attract large numbers of visitors. The Council chose Queens Park as one of only three sites in the City to benefit from a central initiative to create or refurbish rose gardens (the other two being the Botanic Gardens and Tollcross Park). The good news is that it's ours now, well in advance of the summer 2003 conference, and we can enjoy it as it matures over many years.

Lunchtime poetry readings

A local creative writing group have been given the go-ahead to start a monthly poetry reading session in the rose garden – provisionally this will be a Friday lunchtime, starting in October. The Glasshouse will be the venue in case of bad weather. Details from Anne Murray, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Dixon Community Centre on 632 3035.

Multi-community group considers forming FRIENDS OF QUEENS PARK

Strathbungo is just one of a half dozen or so surrounding communities who regard Queens Park as their garden. And then there are all manner of other folk who claim it as a base for hobbies or special interests - everything from model boats to allotment gardens to t'ai chi. So it was quite a mixed group who came together in Langside Halls on 3 September to discuss whether the time was right to form an umbrella organisation of park users – say, *Friends of Queens Park*.

Councillor Walter MacLellan called the meeting with the support of fellow councillors whose wards also touch on the Park. In general, those present felt that such a group could be useful to:

- represent the interests of local people to the Council
- act as a sounding board for consultation
- promote the Park's facilities and events to the wider area.

Cllr MacLellan admitted the Park had suffered from years of under-funding, though there had been a lot of investment recently, and that there was a tendency for funding to be "disaster-driven" – which is to say, the pond was in such a dismal state that they either had to fix it or fill it in! That's why, he said, he fought so hard to get Queens Park chosen as the site of one of three special rose gardens around the city for next year's World Rose Convention - a major coup.

The Strathbungo Society asked whether the Council would take such a Friends group more seriously than its previous representations to, among other things, upgrade the Balvicar Street playground, repair the gates, improve signage, etc. In answer, Cllr MacLellan felt that officials are confused about representations coming from many diverse individuals or groups and that a Friends organisation with a degree of formality would be a more effective way of lobbying the Council – all the while, he added, "None of this guarantees there would ever be enough money to satisfy everybody's ideas."

He declared himself delighted with the turnout and with the obvious interest and enthusiasm. As a result, he agreed to convene a meeting in October to explore the parameters of what such a group would entail and form a steering committee to launch it into a more public arena.

ALSO IN THE PARK

Hands across the Park

During the summer, representatives from the Strathbungo Society were invited along to share our experiences with some friends across the Park, who then went on to create the Camphill Avenue Association. We understand they are currently undertaking their own Community Survey!



Lynne McGonigle (no relation to the poet) has recently opened a Costa Coffee concession in the Glasshouse, with the same opening hours (10am-4pm daily except Friday, when it shuts at 3pm). In addition to genuine cappuccino, latte and the like, she serves up tea, soft drinks, fresh-made sandwiches and home baking – plus Carte d'Or ice cream. That should hold you!

Holidays are Coming

Special Halloween and Christmas weeks are being planned at the Glasshouse – these will be family–centred events around the holiday themes. Details posted there.

Come & Try Sessions

In case you didn't know, Queens Park hosted an *international* sporting event this summer – the Scottish Soft Tennis Association staged their Scotland v Japan fixture at the QP tennis courts (no prizes for guessing who won) and also ran 'come & try' sessions for local kids

It was a last minute affair (Eddie Scanlon reckons he stole it for QP when Tollcross Park got bogged down in bad weather) and had no publicity, but still proved popular with youngsters who were lucky enough to happen upon it. He's now negotiating with the Scottish Athletics Union to bring more come & try sessions into the Park, perhaps featuring American football and baseball.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

IS THAT LIGHT AT THE END OF THE LANE ...?

Stephen Lamb reports.

Good news on Strathbungo's pilot project to upgrade the back lanes! Our application to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme has been approved by Entrust, the Government's watchdog, and is now being considered by Glasgow City Council.

The pilot covers the stretch of lane behind Moray Place between Queen and Marywood Squares. This lane was chosen because of the high uptake and enthusiasm of owners in the 1997 scheme which so nearly succeeded (see panel).

The project is being sponsored by the Glasgow Roads Department who have provided valuable advice and support over the last year. Strathbungo Councillor Walter MacLellan has also played an important part to date and has been quick to back the application. In his letter to the Environmental Protection Services he says, 'My purpose in writing is to advise of my wholehearted support for this application.... The description of the project makes it clear that this scheme is a pilot project which it is believed will act as a catalyst for the refurbishment of the lanes throughout the Strathbungo Conservation area.'

The Council is reviewing a number of projects and a decision is expected in December. It is hoped that a grant award of 50% will be provided.

Who is Entrust?

... and what do they do? Frequently asked questions at our various meetings!

All rubbish collected by Glasgow City Council is taken to landfill sites and this rubbish is subject to taxation from central government. Why? To raise cash for our Chancellor, obviously, but also to act as a deterrent to dumping waste.

The Government decided to set up a scheme to redirect this tax back to environmental projects to benefit the community - this is the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The scheme has various criteria to meet and it also has to be vetted - this is where Entrust comes in. Entrust is the Government's official watchdog, charged with vetting all projects to make sure they meet the conditions.

A registered "environmental body" must make all applications and as the Strathbungo Society recently achieved this status, we were able to submit the pilot project which was subsequently approved. More information on Entrust can be found on their website at www.entrust.org.uk

What happens next?

The grant application will not be decided until December. However, preliminary meetings have already started with the owners involved. The first received a warm welcome from those who attended and another is planned for early October.

If the grant is approved and owners agree, it is possible to get the works carried out in the spring in time for next year's Bungo in the Back Lanes event.



Stephen Lamb and Ian Stark from the Strathbungo Society's environmental subgroup take in the ambience of the pilot site.

What's involved?

The works will involve removal of the old cobbles and replacement with a more regular sized granite sett, similar to those used in the gutters along the Squares. New surface water drainage will be provided and the street lighting upgraded to improve the lighting levels.

The project has full planning permission and support from the Planning Department.

Residents will rebuild the lane to a standard which would allow it to be adopted by the Council, if this were agreed. Adoption of the lane would transfer all future maintenance to the Council. No maintenance is carried out at the moment as the lanes are in private ownership.

Future projects

The number one priority is to get all of Strathbungo's Victorian lanes upgraded and we hope that the pilot will inspire a rolling programme. Now that the Society is registered as an environmental body, however, the doors are open for other projects somewhere down the line. Perhaps there might be a suitable project in Queens Park or could the quality of the vegetation on the railway embankment be improved? Your ideas are welcome as well as would be new members for the group.

Contact Stephen on 423 5263 or email <u>lanes@strathbungo.co.uk</u>.



LEST WE FORGET...

The lanes have been on the agenda since the Strathbungo Society was reconstituted in 1994 and, between 1995 and 1998, there was a huge effort to bring together funding from a range of sources to help owners on an area-wide basis.

The original scheme brought in funding from Historic Scotland, free labour from the (then) GDA's Glasgow Works programme, and stone setts supplied by Scottish Enterprise - altogether, £450,000 in free money and all local residents were asked to pay was £150,000 more, shared proportionally according to the number of households in each property. That ranged from £93 for a tenement flat to £763 for a full terrace house.

It would have taken about three years in stages to carry out the total renovation (a lot of people said "that long?") so the whole thing would have been done and dusted by early 2001. (To put it in context, well before the foot & mouth outbreak.).

So what happened?

All we needed were the signatures of 90% of the property owners for the project to go ahead, fully funded. In the event, we got 82% - a shortfall of just a handful out of 400 households. The time limit ran out and Historic Scotland pulled the plug. A real tragedy, not just for the amenity and added value the community lost, but for the volunteers who had spent hundreds of hours knocking on doors.

Perhaps the mistake was trying to do the whole thing at once. We can only hope that once people see what is possible in the pilot, they will work together to get their own patch upgraded.

THE TREES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!

Ian Stark in conversation

Things are going well with Strathbungo's first ever tree survey. After the obvious break over the winter, people were to be seen all summer, clip boards in hand, gazing wondrously up into trees in the highways and byways of Strathbungo. Thanks to these volunteers, over half of the neighbourhood has now been mapped, with the species type, size and other relevant data recorded. This information is being collated to produce a digitised Tree Map of Strathbungo - one of the very few areas of Glasgow where such information will be available.

As the survey has been progressing, a few folks have raised questions about what they can, cannot and should do with their trees, so here goes...

Am I allowed to touch a tree in the conservation area? Nope ...at least, not with saws, pruning shears, axes or poisons. Can I get permission to get a tree cut down? Yup - if there's sufficient reason. Contact Morna Henderson (287 - 8673) in the Council's **Development and Regeneration Services** for details, including a list of approved contractors and advice on which trees are acceptable replacements. Can anyone do anything with my tree without my permission? Nope - but if your tree gets in your neighbours' way, they may be entitled to take out orders to stop any interference.

One of the initial findings of the survey is that many trees have been spoiled by bad pruning. In fact, the best policy is to leave trees alone to find their own shape and place. In addition, some trees are dying of old age and some have outgrown the space that they were planted in.

If you are concerned about your trees, you have three options. If you live in the conservation area (generally speaking, the Squares and Moray Place), then you should seek permission from the Council and, if granted, hire a recommended contractor. Two, you could wait for us to come up with a scheme to help homeowners replace trees; however, this may take some time. Or, three - and this is the best one - help us complete the survey so you can have a say in whatever scheme we can develop to finance the renewal of Strathbungo's trees.

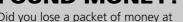
FOUND MONEY!

Did you lose a packet of money at Bungo in the Back Lanes? We will can describe it. Phone 423 0050.

It's clear from the community questionnaire that our trees contribute significantly to the amenity of Strathbungo, beautiful to look at as well as acting as an effective visual, air and noise filter for the community.

If you want to get involved before the leaves fall, contact lan on 0141-632 4995 or email trees@strathbungo.co.uk .





cheerfully return it to the person who



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Fountainbridge Building

NO TICKETS SOLD ON THE DOOR

Stone restoration and masonry repairs Stonecleaning and powerwashing All work carried out to local planning and conservation guidelines.

BUNGO in the Bac

During the wettest summer in years, we were probably lucky to get away with only two cloudbursts during Strathbungo's third annual Bungo in the Back Lanes. Most folk brought their own brollies and the rest just refused to let a little rain spoil a great day. Thanks to all who came along and thanks to all who helped us put the day together, especially:

1901 Bistro The Taverna Pizza Hut, Shawlands Star Fish Bar **Masterton's Butchers** Heraghty's Evergreen J&J Paul Fine Arts **New Anand** Sammy Dows The Fotheringay **Cairns & Crossan** Cuticut **Victoria Barbers** Floral Haven Paris Balsillie **Allison Arms Shimla Pinks** Cameron's Hairgarden The Barber Biker Niven's Garage iKafe Sugar Daddy's Joan Short **Mark Stevens Kitchins Pharmacy Inches Leisure** Laura and friends for their continued help

Thanks also to Glasgow Land Services who sent out teams of men to clear away rubbish and get the lanes looking their best. They really did pull out all the stops for us.

with the kids events!



k Lanes 2002



CITIZENS Theatre

Why not pop down the local this autumn?

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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.co.uk

To the Editor:

Has anyone else noticed the large amounts of rubbish that are strewn across the streets in Strathbungo? I live on Titwood Road (just off Pollokshaws Road) and am constantly disgusted and dismayed at the high level of litter that is on the streets. Vennard Gardens also appears to be hard hit. I have tried repeatedly to contact Polmadie Cleansing Depot and have left messages on the answering machine but no-one has called back. The Pollokshields Depot which cleans Titwood Road at least call back and try to clean up the litter, but I have noticed that the road sweepers clean up some of the mess but not all!

I have even now resorted to contacting our local councillor, the Depute Director of Cleansing and the Lord Provost to highlight this soul-destroying problem. On another note – Global Video Headquarters (which is situated at No. 7 Titwood Road) has vacated its premises. I suppose the vandalism/graffiti/litter was just too much for them also. The building was constantly sprayed with graffiti and I contacted the City Council's freephone number to get the graffiti sprayed off. Is anyone else as fed up with the whole situation as I am?

Vivien O'Donnell

Titwood Road

Thanks for your letter – the only one Talkback received this issue (where did everybody go?). We have been told by staff at Polmadie that you were ultimately visited and your specific complaints dealt with and we hope this is so. – ED.

STRATHBUNGO STRATHBUNGO

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Send letters & short articles of general interest to:

38 Queen Square G41 2AZ. Tel: 0141 423 0050

or email news@strathbungo.co.uk

or hand them in at Evergreen's in Nithsdale Road

Rubbish collection in Strathbungo: HERE'S THE DRILL.

The letter opposite – plus the results of the Strathbungo questionnaire – reminded us that it has been some four or five years since we last published the 'rules', as it were, for rubbish collection in the Squares, and a lot of newcomers simply may not be aware of the restrictions on normal collection.

Residents in the Gardens can use wheelie bins as nature intended, but there are three factors that make things difficult in the Squares:

- These lanes are not meant for rubbish collection in the 21st century – they are too narrow for the cleansing's normal lorries to get down and the surface is uneven and pockmarked, raising health & safety issues.
- The cobbled lanes are listed and cannot simply be covered over with tarmac, as some would like.
- They are privately owned so it's not up to the Council to sort them – it's up to us, the owners.

Importantly, Land Services are under no obligation to collect rubbish from the privately-owned lanes and have every right to withdraw their services if conditions deteriorate further. Do not believe that the Council will come along and tarmac them over so they can continue providing owners a convenient service – they can't and they won't. What they can do is require you to have your rubbish collected elsewhere – say, in Pollokshaws Road.

Which is a long-winded way of saying that Land Services actually *are* doing us a favour by collecting rubbish from the lanes behind the Squares.

The rules for the Squares

Here is the compromise they offered us a few years ago to continue offering the service:

- Wheelie bins are supplied only for holding black bags of rubbish, securely tied. This protects them from being broken into by animals or (more often) midgey-rakers.
- Do not put loose refuse in the bins this won't be removed because Land Services cannot get the appropriate vehicles down our lanes. The bins are emptied manually and only black bags will be removed.
- Rubbish is collected every Wednesday (or usually a day later following a holiday). Put your wheelie bin out first thing on Wednesday morning or last thing on Tuesday night.

- Do not leave the wheelie bin in the lane during the week – that only tempts others to fill it up!
- Do not put bags, boxes etc of rubbish in the lanes for collection.
- If you do not have a wheelie bin, phone 287 2018 (Polmadie Depot) and request one.
- Same goes if your wheelie bin is full of somebody else's rubbish and you're afraid to bag it up. Ask nicely and they will try and get it specially emptied for you.
- If your rubbish gets strewn about in the lane, for whatever reason, do not expect it to be picked up by the men. They are kept to a tight schedule and are not allowed to do this. Your rubbish – your problem. And that's the same for everybody.

Bulk Uplift

For special collections, the same rules apply to both the Squares and Gardens. Phone Bulk Uplift (see box) and arrange for them to collect large items of household goods, furniture, appliances, etc from your lane – also garden refuse, which should be bagged if possible or tied in bundles of 4ft length.

Bulk uplift is free for everything except builder's rubble, for which their fee is still cheaper than from a commercial outfit. Ask for a free quote.

The Council should collect bulk items from the lane within ten working days. [If they don't, let us know – it would be good to keep an area-wide log of how well they meet this target.]

To report fly-tipping in the lanes, phone 0800 027 7027. If you see it happening, do not challenge offenders, but get a good description and, if they're in a car, their number plate.

And on a more pleasant note ...

Sorry if the tone of this article seems harsh. Most people try and keep the lanes in good order. It is a few persistent offenders who make life difficult for everybody. If we work together and co-operate with Joe and Andy, our Men at Polmadie, things will improve for the whole community.



BULK UPLIFT: 287 9700 Polmadie Depot: 287 2018