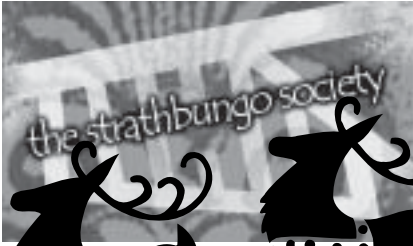


STRATHBUNGO



NEWS



December 2002

Happy Christmas Strathbungo – see you all on Hogmanay for Bungo at the Bells!

BUNGO AT THE BELLS

COUNTDOWN TO THE BELLS



Join your friends and neighbours for Strathbungo's 5th annual Bungo at the Bells. We'll be out in the streets, rounding up a crowd from the four corners of the district. Listen for the drums & bells or make your own way – then get ready to bring in the new year in style before you go off first footing.

REMEMBER KIDS, bring your pots, pans and wooden spoons and let's bring in the New Year with a bang!

BABY BUGGIES WELCOME.

A Strathbungo Society event

HOGMANAY STREET PARTY

Tuesday, 31 Dec 2001

from 11.30 pm

Corner of Moray Place & Marywood Square

Weather check: **Only in case of awful weather on the night, phone 423 3354 for latest advice.**

Christmas comes early as the Strathbungo Society receives news that the back lanes pilot project gets grant approval.

MIRACLE IN MORAY PLACE LANE

Great news for Strathbungo! Glasgow City Council has approved the Landfill Tax Credit grant application to refurbish a stretch of the back lanes behind Moray Place. This means that the respective owners will receive a significant contribution towards the cost of the work.

'This is excellent news for us all as it now means that, with the support from the owners, the project can proceed,' says Stephen Lamb, who has led the project for the Strathbungo Society's environment sub-group. 'We can now move forward and obtain tender information to get competitive quotes for the work.'

The Council's Roads Department agreed to provide the design and supervision service during preliminary discussions last year and members of the environment sub-group will be meeting with them in the near future to review the work involved and discuss a programme.

'Completion of the project before the next Strathbungo AGM and Bungo in the Back Lanes event – both normally held in June - is an obvious target to aim for and it is achievable,' says Stephen.

Meetings with the owners involved will be held to seek their approval to proceed, the first before the Christmas holiday.

'The pilot project's purpose is to establish all the problems associated with this type

of work and then provide solutions so that, with the knowledge gained, we can make future phases easier to manage and deliver, says Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane.

Councillor Walter MacLellan has provided his enthusiastic support throughout this project and lobbied the Council's Executive Committee on the Society's behalf. His contribution is acknowledged and gratefully received by the environment sub-group.

Says Walter, 'The Council provided technical assistance for this project because it appeared to have real value as a pilot for the whole of the city and we then supported the application to the Landfill Tax Credit scheme. We argued that this particular community could demonstrate what could be achieved where there was a local organisation that could take a professional approach to doing things and we used evidence such as the Strathbungo News and Bungo events to support our case.' [We blush – ED.]

A short reminder of what the pilot involves

The lane which runs behind Moray Place between Queen and Marywood Squares represents the area involved. The existing granite setts will be removed and replaced with a similar kind to a conservation standard. New drainage will be provided to collect the rainwater. The street lighting will be improved, with the existing column replaced and two new lights added at the entrance to the lane. The lights will also be of a conservation type, but capable of providing the illumination required for today's standards.

The whole point is to show other residents what a renovated back lane looks like so we can persuade people to contribute to part funding the upgrade of the back lanes.

IT'S THOSE FLAMING BINS AGAIN!

There has been a spate of fires caused by wheelie bins being set alight – at least four that the Strathbungo Society is aware of over the weekend of 1st December, one of which resulted in fire engines being called to put out the blaze that had spread to a garage in Marywood Lane. That incident was put down to 'unlawful fire raising', according to Community PC Andy Munro, who said it is unlikely bins could go up in flames so dramatically without a concerted effort on someone's part. 'One wee match won't do it.'

Inconvenient as it is to get a replacement bin (well, actually all you have to do is phone Polmadie on 287 2018), the real danger lies in fires spreading to garages or outbuildings where residents might keep flammable items such as calor gas canisters, cleaning solvents etc – not to mention cars! One simple way to reduce the risk is to keep the bins in the gardens, as Land Services operatives are constantly stressing, and bring them into the lanes only on rubbish collection days.

It also doesn't say much for Strathbungo's erstwhile Neighbourhood Watch scheme if only the fire in Marywood Lane was reported to the police. The other incidents came to our notice via the local bush telegraph, including descriptions from two different sources of three young people hanging out in the lanes just before fires began. The general feeling was that it was not worth bothering the police about a bin going on fire, but when we compared notes things began to add up.

PC Munro agrees. 'What seems like an isolated incident may be part of a pattern, but we can't see it unless people report it.'

You can report any suspicious incident to the Craigie Street Station on 423 1113 or more directly to 532 5300 – genuine emergencies to 999.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

of Queens Park...

The one when Kevin and the gang get together with a big cheese from the Council.

Since the Autumn issue of the Strathbungo News, there's much to report regarding the creation of a Friends of Queens Park (FoQP) steering group.

Representatives of the Strathbungo Society have joined with our friends across the park in the Camphill Avenue Association (now going by the catchy acronym of CARTA) and a variety of other interested parties and individuals, including the Model Boat Club and QP Allotments to move things forward. The group has already had an hour-long discussion with the man responsible for Glasgow's parks, Councillor Alistair Watson, Convenor of Lands Services, who said he believes in 'this type of hands-on community consultation'.

According to Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane, 'the group wants to understand the current plans of the Council and explore how FoQP, once constituted, can influence the creation of a long term Development Plan for the park - one that the community wants and will value - as well as seeing that shorter-term issues like maintenance, safety and signage are addressed.'

Once FoQP is formally constituted at an open public meeting in the spring, it aims to seek funding for what Councillor Watson described as a 'Stage One Lottery application' for a comprehensive heritage and landscape survey of Queens Park.

'Councillors Watson and Walter MacLellan were candid about the scale of resources required to renovate the

infrastructure of the park – upwards of £10m!' says Kevin. 'And there's money about – at last – for park and open spaces, so vital in an urban neighbourhood like ours. Tollcross Park has seen a £4m invested, Glasgow Green £20m and plans are in place for Springburn, Elder and Rosshall parks. The vision of the Friends of Queens Park is to see it "recognised as one of Glasgow's great parks".'

Councillor MacLellan, who first brought diverse parties together in the summer to discuss Queens Park, feels upbeat about the possibility of funding coming our way in the immediate future and notes that the allotments have already had money for improved fencing. 'I think the Council can now be much more serious about the regeneration of parks in general and establishing FoQP will help make ours into the model park it is capable of being.'

No argument there – and no doubt Sir Joseph Paxton, the celebrated Victorian designer who master-planned Queens Park in the first place, would approve.

If you want to know more about the steering group or want to get involved, contact the interim Secretary Dylan Paterson on: 632 8379 or write to him at 29 Camphill Avenue, Camphill G41 3AU.

TOPPING OUT CEREMONY

Some 25 metres off the ground, John Cairns of Assured Tree Services goes about the tricky business of felling twin poplars that have long been a landmark in Queen Square. Sadly, this pair were suffering from severe trunk rot at their base, although the full extent of decay further up was not discovered until the felling operation was underway. All trees have a natural lifespan and poplars are a huge but relatively short-lived species – their obvious beauty must be weighed (quite literally) against the danger of diseased branches coming down in storms. Trees in the squares are listed, however, and owners must get planning consent before felling them. You can get advice from the Council Regeneration Services on 287 2859, including a list of suitable trees for replacing them. From his unique vantage point John reported a spectacular view of the whole of Strathbungo – we'll take his word for it!



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(off pollokshaws road near safeway garage)

WELCOME TO STRATHBUNGO G41

The Strathbungo Society wants to see better and brighter shopping in "G41" so we're pleased to bring four new businesses to your attention. Let us know what you think!



Catherine Henderson Design

Catherine Henderson's eponymous new shop in Kildrostan Street is a treasure trove of beautiful household items, gifts and cards, and also serves as a base from which she offers a full interior design service. Catherine likes to work on a one-to-one basis with clients, helping to interpret their own tastes in a fresh and individual concept, whether for a single room or an entire house. She then project manages the whole show through to successful completion, from organising the building works to supplying top names such as Designer's Guild, Osbourne & Little, Cath Kidson and Mulberry. Catherine grew up in and around Strathbungo, but studied design and did her internship in the United States before setting up in London, where she has practised successfully for the past 10 years. She will still divide her time between here and there, although with the move to Queen Square last summer and now the opening of her new shop she plans to establish herself more and more with clients in Glasgow.

Joup Organic

In case you're wondering, 'Joup' is short for juice and soup and it's the name chosen by Henry Dawes for his new fast food shop in Pollokshaws Road, opposite the Arnold Clark showroom. Of course, fast food is a bit of a misnomer since Henry makes up each sandwich to order, absolutely fresh, and we understand that the more exotic fruit juices will not feature big time on the menu till the weather warms up ... But meanwhile the soup's on, and it's delicious. All Joup soup is homemade with three 'regulars' and a guest soup of the week. Sandwich fillings range from cheese to meat to 'cheat' (ie, suitable for vegetarians) and the bread is fresh-baked and organic. Henry also features Fair Trade coffee and a range of soft drinks. Check out the current luncheon special of soup, a sandwich and can for £2.90. Joup is open Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm, and orders over £5 can be delivered free to the Strathbungo-Shawlands area - just phone 422 2242 before noon.



Park Gallery

David Johnstone worked in the electronics industry for 20 years until the economic downturn gave him the opportunity to fulfil his dream. The result is Park Gallery, transforming the long-empty bank building in Pollokshaws Road at Niddrie Street into a delightful exhibition space and shop. He chose Strathbungo, he said, because a cluster of new galleries opening in the Southside is establishing an important culture for collectors here. Park Gallery offers originals, limited editions and sculpture by acclaimed and highly collectable artists, along with selected gifts and cards. The gallery will also host special exhibitions from time to time, opening in November with Lawrence Coulson, followed by Rolf Harris (hurry - closes 21st December). The Charlotte Atkinson 'Masquerade' tour is set for February. David is a knowledgeable but down-to-earth collector, who learned his trade over the years by working as a volunteer in galleries. Facilities such as home approval and interest-free credit take the strain out of investing in good art and he also offers a professional framing service.



Northwood Residential Lettings

Strathbungo's come a long way from its days in the wilderness of bed-sit land, a fact recognised by Keith Robin and Isabelle Harte (shown here) who run the new Northwood Residential Lettings branch in Pollokshaws Road at Queens Drive. They handle property throughout Glasgow and the surrounding areas, and specialise in quality flats and whole houses.

Northwood is a major property management company down south, but this branch, which opened in September, represents their first move into Scotland. According to Isabelle, their competitive edge lies in a guaranteed income contract which gives the landlord a fixed income over a 12-month period, regardless of whether the property becomes vacant or the tenant defaults in the meantime. In addition, the cash starts to flow within 25 days of handling over the property and comes in like clockwork on the same day each month.

[So right - time to pack up the kids, take off for Malaga and let the old homestead foot the bill ...!]

The Hidden Gardens



Head Teacher Marlene Mackinnon's pupils from Cuthbertson Primary made charming and enthusiastic guides during a recent open weekend at the Hidden Garden in the Tramway.

The organisers have spent two years creating what they're billing as 'Scotland's first sanctuary garden in over a century – a visionary new landmark' though you might be forgiven for thinking 'hidden' is the operative word. There was certainly not much to see out the back with December's event confined to talks, music and an indoor model – the real thing opens formally in May 2003 so, as they say, watch this space!



a happy ending . . .

How often do we read those heart-rending flyers about missing pets and wonder whether they're ever seen again? Well, here's a story to cheer you up. Moray Place resident Anne Hamilton cuddles Starlet, subject of one such flyer in November, who was found shivering under a bush in Vennard Lane through the efforts of the local 'Cat Flap' network of volunteers.

Cat Flap stands for **Care And Treatment For Lost or Abandoned Petcats** – and that just about sums it up, except to say it's a tiny, totally Scottish charity that is particularly well represented in and around Strathbungo. Anne herself frequently takes in pregnant cats that have been abandoned and sees mum and babes through to adoption – she also gets the even harder job of hand feeding orphaned kittens round the clock. Thankless? 'Oh no,' says Anne. 'Each kitten is brand new and it's wonderful to see them go off healthy and happy to good homes.' So what do Cat Flap need? Money,

obviously – you can send donations to Cat Flap Treasurer Miss A Frater, 190 Titwood Road, G41 4DD. 'We're also really desperate for more volunteers,' says Dr Janice Kennedy who founded the charity in 1997, 'particularly people with transport. And we need more foster homes – someone with no pets who would like to have one on a short term basis or with a garden big enough for a pet run.'

Or maybe even somebody like Anne and her friends who were willing to search the lanes of Strathbungo on a chilly autumn night until they find a naughty little runaway called Starlet ...

COMING NEXT ISSUE!

SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL

Designs on Strathbungo

Unique homes created in our Victorian terraces

Living with conservation standards

Sometimes the right way is the best way too

How to spot the cowboys

Adrian Jamieson on assessing builders and specialist contractors

'tis the season ...

Eastwood High Church in Thornliebank is looking for donations of domestic goods for distribution to the families of Glasgow's refugee and asylum seeking community.

The church has over 300 families on its books with many of them living locally in the Southside. The congregation is actively involved in running a weekly fair where families can get good quality domestic goods. At the moment they're especially short of bed linen, crockery and cutlery and things like clothes, baby buggies and toys (no electrical goods, please).'

Eastwood High Church is located at Mansewood Road, off Thornliebank Road and is open for donations on Fridays between 3 and 6pm. So come on Strathbungo- let's help Glasgow live up to its reputation as a warm hearted city.

STRATHBUNGO News

Published by
The Strathbungo Society

Edited by
Sharon Schweps
Design & Layout
by Liz Macdonald.

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of general interest to:

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