# STRATHBUNGO



# N e W S

Autumn 2004

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**OUR TREES & NETWORK RAIL** 

the campaign continues . . .

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# New Year BUNGO Coffee Break

Saturday 22 Jan 12 noon – 3pm

Church of Scotland, 170 Queens Drive

With lots of our energies engaged persuading Network Rail to respect and care for our local environment, we're drawing breath and planning a New Year Coffee Break to chase away the January blues.

Start your year with the 2005 Bungo Calendar and pick up some hand-made, locally designed Cards (for those you missed off your Christmas list!) Browse the Book & CD Stall and have a Tea, Coffee or Juice with some delicious Home Baking.

Put the date in your diary, come along, help us raise funds for future Events & Newsletters and celebrate our active & involved local community.

Contact Joanna on **423 7756** to volunteer to help with set up or clean up, book a stall and donate books & CD's (good condition) or home baking.



Campaigners at the City Chambers, 16th Sept

# Off the Rails?

Our campaign to prevent the felling of all trees on the railway embankment has so far failed to derail the plans. But residents have won a stay of execution by preventing Network Rail from reaching the trees directly from Moray Place. Cars parked on the railway side of the road have caused a major problem for the contractors and Network Rail has said it will need to apply for a road closure. City Councillors have advised that this process will take at least six weeks and that the Council will not speed up the process!

A well orchestrated campaign extended over the past two months has attracted widespread support. Protests on the railway embankment generated sympathetic press and television coverage, and nightly meetings at the railway bridge allowed residents and politicians to develop plans to oppose Network Rail's indiscriminate felling strategy. Recent actions included a protest outside the City Chambers which attracted coverage in the Evening Times and a deputation to Network Rail's Glasgow headquarters.

A postcard write-in campaign, leafleting locally and on the train services to Central Station, and several meetings with local councillors, MSPs and the MP have built up a head of steam. The campaign is now extending its sights beyond the immediate threat to trees in

Strathbungo and is raising the issue of Network Rail's general lack of accountability with the Freedom of Information Commission for Scotland.

Network Rail proposes to fell the majority of the trees on both sides of the railway on grounds of safety. It refers to - but provides no evidence of - ten safety incidents on the stretch in the past year. So far, Network Rail has refused to give details of its felling plans, or to take on board the results of a tree management strategy commissioned by the Strathbungo Society.

Recent investigations have shown that some residents may have rights of ownership over the land on which the trees are growing. They are exploring the potential of exploiting that ownership. . . watch this space!

more overleaf

# CAMPAIGN DIARY >>>>>>>>

#### 6th August

Residents of Moray Place receive letter, dated June, from Network Rail informing them of "vegetation management works", on embankments, over three nights in July. Two weeks of pursuing Network Rail and residents discover; work due to start on 23rd Aug; involves the removal of "all mature trees" along Moray Place & Darnley Rd; there are no plans to re-plant the lost trees

#### 6 - 20th August

After a concerted campaign led by residents Fiona MacKinnon and Robert Cuthbert, backed by the Strathbungo Society, involving MP Mohammad Sarwar, Cllr Malcolm Cunning, other local politicians and the media, Network Rail suspends work till 6th September but refuse to make available their site specific impact & ecological assessments. Strathbungo Society engages Southcraig Forest Services, who report that up to 70% of trees on the Moray Place embankment could safely be retained.

#### 5th / 6th September

On the night of the 5th, residents park cars on railway side of Moray Place. A fifty strong group of campaigners gather the following morning by the footbridge to challenge Network Rail and contractors. Residents questions and concerns are met with stonewalling by John Simpson, NR's Head of Corporate Affairs. By the end of the first day, virtually every tree, including many healthy, 'non-problematic' specimens, have been clear felled from the Darnley Rd embankment.

#### 8th September onwards

Work appears to have stopped in our locality.

#### 16th September

Residents petition GCC Council Meeting and march to Network Rail offices to protest about lack of accountability and refusal to work with local community.

#### 18th September

Breathing space and bargaining chip!

Network Rail informs us they will apply for a road closure to ban cars from the railway side of Moray Place! But...... Cllr. Cunning (a nightly attendee at Footbridge Vigils) further informs us that Network Rail has not yet applied to the Council for a temporary road closure order. This order needs 6 weeks to process, taking us through to

November. A breathing space, in which to draw up a Re-planting Plan. (See Page 4 for details.)

And our bargaining chip?

Resident Bob Nuttall, researching the Land Registry finds several residents title deeds extend ownership to between one to three feet of land, back from the Network Rail boundary. (The NR boundary can just be made out at the very top of the slope and does not extend to the iron work fence along the roadside.) Removal of trees here would have to have the consent of the owner.

Residents request that Cllr Cunning and MP Sarwar make clear to NR our wish to sit down and negotiate a workable compromise.

#### STOP PRESS. Mid-October

- \* Cllr. Cunning tells us Network Rail has still not applied for a road closure.
- \* City Council's Chief Executive examining Network Rail's "consultation obligations" such that "any safety measures necessary for the operation of rail transport may be undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner"

Join our E-mailing List by contacting Andrew Downie at

#### adownie@doctors.org.uk

Keep up to date with developments by visiting the website at

#### www.strathbungo.co.uk

Register your concerns & objections with the following individuals and organisations:

#### 1. Network Rail

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0LQ

#### Ron MacAulay,

Scottish National Route Director – 0141 555 4000

#### John Simpson,

Network Rail Corporate Affairs – 0141 555 4102

#### Derek Crooke,

NR National Community Relations Manager – 0207 557 8142 <u>Derek.crook@networkrail.co.uk</u>

#### 2. Clir. Dr Malcolm Green,

Policy & Resources Committee Vice-Convener

www.malcolm.green@councillors.glasgow.gov.uk

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GOVANHILL?

Things seem to be moving, regarding the return to community use of the Govanhill Pool building.

The Govanhill Baths Trust is a new body which has emerged out of the Save Our Pool Campaign. The Trust is in the process of establishing itself and is looking for people with skills in fundraising, and swimming pool development, to join their Board. They have also been talking to the Manchester Victoria Baths Campaign, whose building won the BBC's Restoration competition last year - and to architects and plan to present their ideas for development at a future public meeting. Contact Andrew Johnson on 423 0771 for further information.

At the same time, the Dixon Community - a long established local group who provide a wide range of services for the elderly, are looking to the future and the need to meet new standards of care, including access, defined by the Care Commission. The historic Dixon Centre is home to 8 different projects, including the Princes Royal Carer's Trust, a ten bed Dementia Unit and an ethnic minority elderly group. They are now considering 4 different sites, including the Govanhill Pool, where they might have the opportunity to create modern ground level facilities for some of their projects.

Watch this space for further developments!

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Glasgow City Council Approved Contractor

# REPLANTING PLANS - HAVE YOUR SAY!

Work has already begun drafting a Replanting Plan for the railway embankments. Here below is a summary of the draft. (You can obtain the full text of the Plan by adding your e-mail address to Andrew Downie's list - details on Page 1)

The draft Replanting Plan comprises three distinct bands of vegetation:

#### BAND 1 - Wildflowers & Grasses.

Network Rail require a 5m clear felled strip adjacent to the track, to reduce leaf fall and improve sighting along the tracks for drivers and rail workers. This band will comprise wildflowers and grasses and will require to be cut annually (after seeds have set) to prevent scrub and trees from re-establishing. (The Moray Place bank is much more steep and narrower than the Darnley Rd side. Here we will be arguing for three bands of equal width i.e. less than 5m, in order to protect this bank from the danger of land slide.)

#### **BAND 2 - Scrub Band.**

This acts as a barrier, discourages trespass, traps leaves and litter and will also serve as a wildlife haven. Amongst species we are proposing are Gorse, Juniper, Holly, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Guelder Rose. This Band would require management every three years, to prevent encroachment into Band 1.

#### BAND 3 - Tree Band.

Rather than clear felling, lopping, feathering and pollarding could be used on existing healthy, mature specimens, to immediately reduce their size and leaf fall. Dead, dangerous or non-native species e.g. sycamore could be selected for felling in the first instance. An agreed, phased removal of such trees might involve two trees per block of overlooking houses, per year. Both embankments will require implanting in the gaps with half, heavy standards plus younger (and cheaper) trees. Young trees especially would need to be mulched and weeded in the early years. Species suggested include - Oak, Scots Pine, Rowan and Beech.

So what do you think? Are there other suitable native species that we might include? (Remember, these cannot include Lime, Sycamore, Ash, Poplars (except Aspen) and Horse Chestnut - Network Rail's 'problematic leaf fall' species.)

We will be writing to Network Rail in the next few weeks, seeking a meeting to discuss this Plan. We will then consult with both wildlife and landscaping experts to help us draw up a more detailed Plan and present this for residents' approval at a forthcoming public meeting.

Have your say by contacting the Editor or e-mailing the website. Contact details are on page 2.

# COMMENT

Our Campaign to save railway embankment trees is not about refusing to allow any trees to be cut. We are aware that leaf fall can cause trains to skid or over-run platforms & signals and that lime, sycamore, ash, poplar and horse chestnut are regarded as 'problematic' in terms of the leaf fall they produce. We are also aware that dead, diseased or elderly trees can be in danger of falling on to the line.

The Campaign initially built up steam due to Network Rail misinformation. Requests that NR reveal specific plans to local residents, Scottish Natural Heritage, GCC Tree Officer and others, were met with the 'operational matters' stonewall favoured by big business in protecting its interests. Investigations of what had happened elsewhere revealed not a single tree remaining at Burnside and other sites throughout the UK.

Problems experienced by these communities include :-

- Increased possibility of landslip
- Increased safety risk to local children
- Decreased sense of security to householders due to removal of natural barrier
- Destruction of amenity, ecological & environmental value
- · Increased litter and noise pollution

(See fellow campaigners Network Wail's clear-felling horror stories on www.networkwail.co.uk.)

Our Campaign is set within a context of NR having inherited powers, which eclipse, Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Area Status and the powers of the Local Authority. They admit that "vegetation & tree management was neglected preceding

privatisation" and that previous rail operators should not have allowed matters "to get to this stage". We argue that actions, which exceed what is necessary to maintain safety, will create a whole new set of problems with which we will be forced to live.

Yet Network Rail's Environment Policy talks about

"Partnership working that will establish clear channels of communication with stakeholders to implement and refine our environmental policy."

"Stewardship for protected heritage features and habitats under our care."

"Identifying shared responsibilities, concerns & opportunities so we can develop solutions to the environmental problems we face."

The current situation presents an opportunity for Network Rail to engage with a well-informed, active local community, prepared to put time and energy into developing a compromise solution. We are asking Network Rail to work with us to agree the phased removal of problematic trees and their replacement with herbs, shrubs and trees of suitable size and ecological value. Is this really asking too much?

**Kevin Kane, Chairman, Strathbungo Society** 

### A COMMUNITY IS NOT ABOUT BRICKS AND MORTAR

#### - it's the people who make a community

#### Here are some photographic memories of the Get Aff Yer Artz Festival and Bungo in the Back Lanes Events held earlier this year.

Both Events were very well supported and a lively time was had by all. Special "Thanks" are due to musicians Jazz & Co (at both events), Colin Davies & Owen Caldwell, Macapella, Kelly's Ceilidh, the Mourne Mountain Ramblers, Swing Guitars, Ceol Na Eireann, Frank O'Hagan & John McDonald, Howlin' Jack McLean & Friends; To Robin Cairns & the Bungo Film Group; To Andrew Greig for leading the Architectural Walk and Sharon Schweps for the accompanying Leaflet; To Lynne Healy, Stephen Mann & driver Joe, (Culture & Leisure Services) for 'Real on the Road' Cyberbus; To Joe Graham for lanes clean up priior to the 'BackLanes', Bill Kennedy for strim & spray, Joe Egan for floral displays (Land Services); St. Bride's Primary School; To everyone who donated prizes for the Tombola, Raffle and other stalls including Bumble, Hairgarden, Floral Haven, The Fotheringay, Sammy Dow's, The Titwood Bar, The Taverna, Heraghty's, Kelly's and the Allison Arms, La Tea Doh, Ikafe, Barber Biker, Cameron's, Shimla Pinks, Pizza Hut, The Star Fish Bar, Paris Balsillie, Safeway Garage, members of the committee and various Strathbungo Neighbours 'you know who you are'... To everyone who attended or helped with set up & clean up at the both Events





Ostrich, venison, Scottish salmon, mussels & herring; free-range eggs, gourmet ready meals, pies, flans & breads; fresh-picked, in-season vegetables and fuschias for the garden - just some of the produce on sale at recent 'trial run' Farmers' Markets held in Queen's Park on two Saturdays in September. And there are now high hopes that the Farmer's Market will become a regular event.

The Market runs from 10 - 2pm, is situated at the Victoria Rd entrance and dates from now till Christmas are 16th Oct / 6th & 20th Nov / 4th &18th Dec. Each Market also makes available a free stall for the use of a registered charity.

Said Graham Wallace in Glasgow City Council's Markets Dept. "If the outcome of feedback from these trials is positive, then we intend to pursue the introduction of a twice a month Market in Queen's Park. The survival of such ventures depends on support and I would of course be interested in hearing peoples' views on the Markets they've attended."

So if you want to able to pick up your ostrich steaks or free-range eggs while taking a Saturday morning stroll in the park, let Graham know. Tell him what you liked, what you'd like to see more of and whether you think the Farmer's Market should become a regular feature by contacting him on **Graham.Wallace@drs.glasgow.gov** or on Tel 0141 287 2500.

#### **SMALL ADS**

# ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP WITH YOUR GARDEN OR HOME?

Have you got an item for sale? Do you want to ask a question? Do you want to start a Group?

Are you looking to make contact with a long lost relative from these parts?

Then for £10 you can place your Ad here and also have it posted on the Strathbungo Society Website for 30 days (50 words approx.)

Ring 422 1743 and leave your message plus contact details with the answering service.

# MATURE FREELANCERS, LIVING OR WORKING IN THE BUNGO AREA?

Working on the edge of the public and corporate sectors in Scotland?

Like minded individuals seek informal relationships for monthly Monday morning meetings, with a view to possible long-term networking and support.

Must like coffee shops, vibrant debate and sharing experiences. GSOH essential.

Contact Jerry Hassan (0141 423 3114) or Joanna Bleau (0141 649 1517)

# Strathbungo Calendar 2005 - Call for Photographs

This is a call for any favourite photos you may have taken in or around Strathbungo, this year or in years gone by. People (including little ones), architecture, wild and domestic animals, our wonderful trees and Bungo Events all featured last year. But go on, surprise us - let the artist in you draw our attention to something new! Or if you're a young person, building up a portfolio for art college entry, get your first photos published here! All submitted photos will be published on the website with the best ones considered for the Calendar. All photographers will be credited. Contact Laura Jones on 433 9238 or at <a href="mailto:strathbungocalendars@yahoo.co.uk">strathbungocalendars@yahoo.co.uk</a> to arrange for the submission of your photographs.

And yes, it's also the time of year to place your order for the 2005 issue and avoid disappointment. Calendars sold out completely within weeks last year. The freestanding Calendar in it's slim, plastic case is ideal for your desk or next to the phone or as a nice Stocking Filler or small Gift for friends or family who may have moved away.

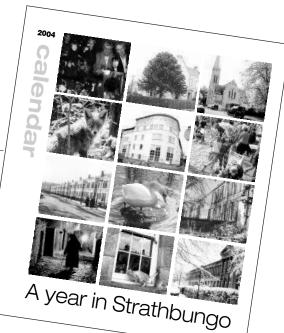
So, to be sure of having a future piece of Strathbungo memorabilia, reserve your Calendars NOW by filling in the Order Form below.

#### **2005 CALENDAR ORDER FORM**

Quantity Calendars @ £3.00 (single) £	[multiples] £.2.50 (each) £
Name	
Address	
	Post code
Tel Email	

Send no money now. You will be contacted before Christmas to pay for your order when Calendars will be delivered.

Return form to: The Strathbungo Society C/O Laura Jones (Secretary) Flat 2/2, 736 Pollokshaws Road, Strathbungo, Glasgow G41



The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words – send them to Ann Carolan, 43 Regent Park Sqaure G41 or email <a href="letters@strathbungo.co.uk">letters@strathbungo.co.uk</a>

#### **Network Rail Neglect**

To the Editor Is it not the case that Network Rail has been neglecting it's responsibilities with regard to the trees? When was the last time it did any maintenance, pruning or the like? Network Rail has neglected regular maintenance and now faces a hefty bill in catching up. It is actually responsible for causing the 'safety issue' by not maintaining and allowing the trees to pose a threat to safety. Large pay outs have been made over the years to 'fat cats' within Network Rail, for reducing costs. I wonder if one of those costs was cutting back on the maintaining of trees? I think it should be charged with causing the safety issue by the Council and any other governing body, for not

#### Janice Martin

properly managing the

wish you every success.

vegetation, retaining it and

caring for it sympathetically for

the communities they affect. I

Yes, Network Rail admits bank maintenance has been neglected over many years. Our Campaign argues that work which exceeds what is necessary safety-wise, will create series of problems in our community. Ed

# STRATHBUNGO NEVVS

# Published by The Strathbungo Society

Edited by Ann Carolan

Send letters & short articles of general interest to:

Ann Carolan, 43 Regent Park Square G41

or email news@strathbungo.co.uk

#### **Network Rail Dirty Tricks**

To the Editor

I undertook to write a letter to all members of Network Rail's Board - about 60 people from memory - protesting about the felling of trees in this area. I was working from a sheet of labels each pre-addressed to a member of Network Rail. In almost every case the address given was c/o Members Liaison Executive, Network Rail, 40 Melton Street, London NW1 2EE I dispatched the letters in three batches as I compiled them. A few days later I then received a large envelope from Network Rail, which included one of my batches of letters, all unopened. It contained a handwritten message "None of these people are known at this address"

#### Chris Jay, Strathbungo

A shocking example of Network Rail's disregard for public accountability, Chris. The people you wrote to are listed on the NR website as our public representatives. Ed

#### **Tree Massacre at Burnside**

To the Editor

Very proud of your stance and swift action. The stretch of rail line at Burnside has no houses for a considerable distance. I saw no notice of intent to demolish all trees, so changing the appearance of the area and noise factor of railway. There was no sign of selective action against the trees.

It is a disgrace that such vandalism should go unpunished.

#### O.M. McKinnon, Burnside

Unless communities protest vigorously Network Rail will raze to the ground all vegetation, as has happened up and down the country.
Our fight is not over yet.
Thank you for your kind words.

#### To the Editor

I have visited the site where Network Rail is currently working. I was deeply saddened to see the trail of destruction left by the ongoing work. And would like to add my support to your Campaign.

Please keep me informed of future events and I will get along and add my voice to your protest. Good Luck

#### Dr Janette McAlpine

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Glasgow South.

#### 'Travis' Protest

To the Editor

It's outrageous! But keep fighting - we're behind you all the way!

Fran Healy, Lead Singer, Travis

# Will you be up for it?

We're starting to plan for our Annual Hogmanay Street Party where we ring in the new year together.

Offers of help, suggestions for venue, music,and callers for Scottish Country Dancing welcome.

Contact Ann Carolan, 43 Regent Pk Square.

#### There's always something great on tap at



#### JAM SESSIONS

featuring

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

Thursdays from 8.30pm

Listed in CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004 & 2005

#### Coming soon!!! University of Strathclyde BIG BAND

Bungo Film Group - 3rd Mondays, 7.30pm

Acoustic Nights - 1st Sundays

Southside Writers - 1st Mondays, 7.30pm

Quiz Night - Tuesdays, 8.45pm

Women Writers Group - Tuesday, 1pm

Weightwatchers - Weds (5.30) & Thurs (10am)

The Hearth Pagan Group — 2nd Mondays, 8pm

Big Matches on Big Screen TV ! (Setanta & Sky)

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