

S T R A T H B U N G O



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TRAFFIC CHAOS IN STRATHBUNGO

On the 21st of August Glasgow City Council closed Titwood Road bridge. The result: increased speeding and "rat running" along the back lanes (especially around Moray Place) and traffic going the wrong way on the one way stretch of Moray Place.



Traffic, parking and congestion have always been hot topics at the Strathbungo AGM and this year was no different, with calls for the introduction of a "20's Plenty" scheme. But the closure of the Titwood Road bridge has brought things to a head.

Titwood Road bridge will be closed for up to a year to allow the complete construction of a new bridge that will meet stringent European directives on bridge safety standards. The intention was that this would happen once the current strengthening of the Nithsdale Road bridge (at Susie's) was complete. Yet the Council gave the go-ahead, despite single-lane restrictions being in place at Nithsdale Road. The result has been traffic chaos!

Impatient and inconsiderate motorists have come to Strathbungo and its narrow streets and lanes to try and beat queues along Pollokshaws Road. As a result, many drive illegally up Moray Place to the Nithsdale Road roundabout or opt to take the "rat run" up the cobbled lane behind Moray Place. Like all lanes in Strathbungo, this one is for access only. Residents in Queen Square and Moray Place report a steady stream of traffic in these normally quiet streets with many incidences of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds.

The Strathbungo Society raised its concerns with Councillor Malcolm Cunning prior to the bridge closure and again once residents' reports came in. He has written to Land Services Director Robert Booth and said to Strathbungo News, "I have expressed the concerns of local residents and asked him to keep an eye on developments. Obviously, this work has to go ahead and there will be increased traffic on the main roads around Strathbungo for the duration, but if necessary, we may have to look at measures to alleviate the pressure on the narrow side streets and lanes." [Full text col1 pp2]

Kevin Kane, Chair of the Society, said, "Traffic is a big issue in Strathbungo. Even before the bridge closure, we knew that parking, excessive speed and the use of back lanes as rat runs was a community issue. More worryingly, we know that the Chief Fire Officer has formally written to the Council to note his concern regarding access for fire vehicles answering 999 calls. Given the bridge closure, I think the time is now right to sit down with roads officials and discuss how these issues can be effectively addressed. Also, we need to accept that many of these problems are generated by Strathbungo's own car owners!"



For updates on the traffic situation & other breaking news click on www.strathbungo.co.uk



Autumn BUNGo Coffee Break!

Our Autumn coffee morning will be held on SATURDAY THE 15TH OF OCTOBER AT QUEEN'S PARK PARISH CHURCH ON QUEENS DRIVE. All are welcome.

Please contact Joanna on 423 7756 if you would like to donate any baking, bric-a-brac or books.

Full text of letter from Councillor Malcolm Cuning to Robert Booth, Director of Land Services followed by Robert Booth's reply.

22 August 2005

Titwood Bridge Closure

I was contacted by residents today in the Strathbungo area raising concerns about traffic using Moray Place etc in order to avoid delays on Pollokshaws Road arising from the diversions caused by the closure of the Titwood Road bridge.

I appreciate that Monday was the first working day after the closure and drivers will no doubt settle in to the new arrangements. However, can we arrange to monitor the situation over the next couple of weeks to see whether there is a significant increase in traffic in Moray Place as well as the "Squares" of Strathbungo. (The Strathbungo Society is happy to volunteer to provide figures over the next few days.) According to local residents, much of yesterday's traffic was travelling at utterly inappropriate speeds for the narrow streets and there were a number of cars which ignored one-way signs.

If the problems persist, are there any measures which can be taken to discourage or minimise the number of vehicles attempting to cut through Strathbungo towards Nithsdale Road?

Regards,

Cllr. Malcolm Cuning

Dear Councillor Cuning

I refer to your letter of 23 August 2005, regarding the concerns raised about traffic using Moray Place due to the closure of the Titwood Road Bridge.

I have monitored, and, as there are still fluctuations in the volume of traffic using the lanes and going north eastwards on the one-way road, I will continue to monitor the traffic around this area. These fluctuations are showing a general significant reduction in the level of the traffic going through this part of Strathbungo.

If the problems persist, they would have to be tackled by two separate methods. The first would be, in relation to the Moray Place one-way system and the other regarding the lanes. In respect of the Moray Place problem, I have instructed new "no entry" signs to be erected and both my staff and local residents are co-ordinating with Strathclyde Police for enforcement issues.

The second issue is to control the use of the lanes. Here, the most successful method of control is likely to be by closing the lanes at

certain points. Given that the lanes in question are the responsibility and are under the ownership of many persons, I would be unable to get involved in such considerations, but would be pleased to give comments or advice on any proposals. Thank you for drawing this to my attention so promptly, and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Ian Stark.

Yours sincerely

Robert Booth

Director of Land Services



"Poor man's" temple will rise from the ashes!

Strathbungo's tiny Thomsonesque temple in Nithsdale Drive will be saved, despite being badly damaged by fire over the summer.

It's thought suggestions for its restoration might include a community-based arts project of some sort.

According to the *Heritage and Design Team at Glasgow Regeneration Services*, the roof was burned off and the interior extensively damaged on 21 July, but the Grade-B listed facade was not affected.

Building Control confirmed in August that the building was not dangerous and the Council has since put in support scaffolding to retain the walls.

Senior Planning Officer Mike Fraser said: "The Council is confident that a suitable community use can be found and discussions are taking place to determine its future. In short, the building is in no danger of being demolished."

It was designed by Alexander Skirving in 1887 as a mission hall for Queen's Park United Presbyterian Church. Skirving (1865-1919) is best known for the Battlefield Memorial at Langside (with sculptor James Young). Nearby Skirving Street was named after him.

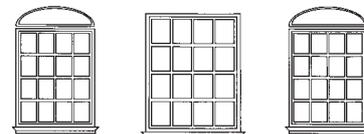
Just as Skirving would never achieve the stature of his mentor Alexander 'Greek' Thomson, the wee hall was on a decidedly smaller scale than its illustrious mother church. Behind its grand sandstone front, gates and railings was a tiny structure made of humble brick - no doubt the elders of the kirk felt that would do for feeding and proselytising the urban poor!

Sadly, Queen's Park Church, one of Thomson's masterpieces, was destroyed by a German incendiary bomb in 1942.

The Nithsdale hall escaped that fate but fell derelict over time and eventually came into Council ownership. Small and quirky, it's latterly been surrounded by the modern sprawl of the Arnold Clark organisation.

Thanks to Jim Rae for the fire photos and to Iain Paterson, Glasgow Heritage and Design, for background information.

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Behind Closed Doors

1 Moray Place has long been a bit of an eyesore at the gateway to Strathbungo. Gradually, local residents Andrew and Charlotte Greg have been bringing it back to life. Now, for the first time, Strathbungo's residents can take a look behind the doors of this architectural gem.

This iconic house was the home of architect Alexander 'Greek' Thomson from the time it was built in 1860 to his death in 1875 and is part of Thomson's most elegant domestic development, 1-10 Moray Place.

The Glasgow architect John Birnie Wilson, wishing to provide a surgery and waiting room for Dr Thomas Forrest, sensitively extended the building to the north in 1900. But over recent decades the house has been neglected, insensitively altered, and much of its fabric inside and out left to decay. Only within the past five years had Gavin Stamp, who did so much to reclaim Thomson's reputation, begun the rescue process by replacing the roof to prevent the serious rainwater ingress which has rotted joists and floor boards and damaged plaster throughout the house.

When Charlotte and I first moved to Strathbungo in 2002 we had already fallen in love with the area, its quiet narrow streets of elegant houses and the luxurious greenery of the gardens. Despite having bought a house in Marywood Square we could not resist the temptation to take over the Stamps' responsibility and try and continue the process of rehabilitation.

It is a mixed blessing that the facade was never cleaned. It has not been subject to the destructive sandblasting that has destroyed the fine stone carving of most of Glasgow's buildings, but the dirty stone

highlights the weathering of the soft sandstone and detracts from the unity of the terrace. Historic Scotland is now firmly against stone cleaning. Repointing is a priority, however. We had the windows cleaned for the first time in many years and are slowly bringing the gardens back to life.

Inside, most of the ceilings were cracked from decades of settlement, damp and leaks, the decorative cornices upstairs are in a poor state, a crucial ceiling joist above the foot of the stairs is rotten. As we work our way round the house all this will be slowly repaired.

All the stained and torn 1980s interior decoration will be stripped off. Thomson's original painted decoration will be restored in the hall and appropriate historic colours used in the dining and drawing rooms. We have also found fascinating evidence of the redecoration done at the

time of the 1900 extension when the house was substantially remodelled. Thomson's natural unstained woodwork will be restored by removal of the dark varnish of 1900 and many layers of faded white gloss.

Thomson's eccentric sash windows will be restored to their original function and fireplaces in the public rooms will have their cast iron inserts reinstated.

In the meantime we are replacing the decrepit 1980s kitchen and bathroom, restoring the original 1900 bathroom and toilets and partially recreating the original room layout upstairs and down by moving door openings back where they should be in the dining room and first floor drawing room.

We hope that the house will be in a respectable enough state to take part in Doors Open Day in 2006, ideally as part of a Thomson in the Southside trail.



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While the Strathbungo Society would love to take all the credit, we have to offer special thanks to all those who made this year's event truly spectacular. These include:

- 1901 Bistro
- The Taverna
- The Horseshoe Bar
- The Titwood Bar
- Kelly's
- The Alison Arms
- Heraghty's
- Shimla Pinks
- Indiagate
- Moyra Jane's
- Ikafe
- Pizza Hut
- Hairgarden
- Cameron's
- The Barber Biker
- Paris Balsillie
- Floral Haven
- Nisa Day Today's
- The Sunshine Grocer
- Catherine Henderson Design
- Joan Short
- Lah Tea Doh
- Zucchini
- Clyde 1
- Re/Max Scotland
- Arnold Clark
- Councillor Cunning
- Environmental Protection Services
- Land Services
- Tapa
- JazzCo
- DJs Owen & Colin

And thanks, most of all, to YOU for coming out, holding a stall, buying a beer and dancing in the streets. See you next year!



MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Bigger, better, brighter, Bungo In The Back Lanes returned in June for our most successful event ever. The weather was sultry, the food fresh, the music funky and the atmosphere frenetic (well, for the organisers at least!).

Particular thanks goes to the Bungo people who put out stalls and activities in the back lane near their homes to sell books, handicrafts, pictures, household bric-a-brac, plus refreshments including milkshakes, tea and coffee, home baking, etc. Special thanks to Owen Morris for organising the snail races!

The kids enjoyed the bouncy castle and face painting at Nithsdale Rd, thanks to Laura Davy who organised and supervised all day. There was the tea garden at Marywood Square with music provided by Mary Rose on the piano. Other music venues included DJs Colin and Owen on Marywood Sq Lane and the Jazz tent on Queen Sq (JazzCo).

As always one of the most popular stalls was the beer tent,

many thanks 1901 for organising this again. Also the Lager Bar and Real Ale bar. For the first time this year India Gate provided a snack stall selling delicious pakora, which was also a roaring success.

Strathbungo Society stalls included the Society Marquee, the Bottle Stall and the tombola and raffle stalls (all sold out). These had some great prizes donated by local businesses including Remax, Lah Tea Doh, Floral Haven, Ikafe, The Taverna, Catherine Henderson, Tapa for providing food and sandwiches.

Many thanks to Andrew Greg, our resident Alexander 'Greek' Thomson aficionado, for the excellent Architecture Walk around the neighbourhood which attracted much interest and was part of this year's National Architecture Week.

The day was blessed with some of the best weather of the year, staying warm and sunny all day long. But, as always, it was Bungo people which made this a real celebration of the neighbourhood. Even if you didn't set up a stall or play in a band, without an audience there's no show, so thanks to everyone who turned out to support the event.





Trees usually thrive with a minimum amount of interference. However, with the onset of autumn, restricted space, shading and leaf litter often present problems for residents.

The careful thinning of certain branches, preferably by a skilled tree surgeon, is far preferable to the unsightly pollarding of healthy trees. When problems are too severe to be overcome by tree surgery, the City Council approves removal and replanting with a suitable species and may even provide grant assistance for this to take place.

The law protects trees in the Conservation Area. If you are planning any tree works in Strathbungo, applications for consent should be made to Landscaping and Conservation at the address below (where leaflets on tree care are also available) at least six weeks in advance.

Be warned - anyone who cuts down, uproots, tops, lops, wilfully destroys or wilfully

damages a tree in a Conservation Area without first giving notice is guilty of an offence and can incur a fine up to £20,000 on conviction in the Sheriff Court. For other offences, fines of up to £2,500 may be imposed. Serious cases may be taken to the High Court, where there is no limit to any fine that may be imposed on conviction.

If you intend to carry out tree works, do the following first:

- Check with Landscaping and Conservation Services to check if consent is required and ask for their leaflets on tree care.
- Inform them of the location of the tree and the species if known and exactly what work is proposed - a proposal simply to 'top' the tree or 'lop' or 'cut back' some branches is too vague because it fails to describe the extent of the work.
- Hire a reputable contractor, avoiding casual labourers who call at your door.
- Always prune to retain the tree's natural shape.
- Carefully cut branches and avoid damage to new growth, other branches and tearing the bark.
- Never pollard, lop or top.
- Plant new trees where space allows.

**LANDSCAPING AND CONSERVATION SERVICES, Development and Regeneration Services, 229 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QU 0141 287 8673
regeneration@glasgow.gov.uk**



HERE'S THE REAL COST OF SATELLITE TV

Council Enforcement Officers John Ryan and Karen Robertson with a satellite dish removed from the facade of a Grade-B listed building in March Street on 31 August.

Owners are notified in writing if they are in breach of conservation area policy and, if they do not comply, an enforcement order is issued giving them six weeks to remove the dish. If they still do not comply, then the Council takes 'direct action' and the owner is liable for the costs of removing the dish. In this case, the cost includes access equipment as well as contractors and will be close to £350. As no-one was home when enforcement officers called, they left a letter and took the dish with them. The dish could have been sited legally on the roof/chimney and it would have cost a whole lot less!



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What better way to christen your new Bungo Book Bag than by using it for its intended purpose and taking a well-thumbed tome along to the Bungo Book Club?

As the autumn leaves fall, escape to the brilliant sunshine of Jamaica, find intrigue in the Bay of Angels or explore the custom of kite flying in pre-Soviet Afghanistan. Better still, do it all from your or a neighbour's home with a glass of wine to hand by joining the Strathbungo Book Club.

The Strathbungo Book Club have been meeting since March 2004, on one Wednesday evening every month, and have read and discussed novels ranging from classics to the bestsellers.

So if you love discovering, reading and discussing books, and are willing to explore novels that you may never otherwise have read, contact Linda Forrester on 423 3258.

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So, if you missed out on buying one (or more) at this year's Bungo in The Back Lanes, why not fill in and post this handy order form and never have to use a carrier bag again?

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WORLD DANCING IS COMING TO STRATHBUNGO!

A new World Dance Group is starting up in Strathbungo this autumn, bringing dances both traditional and modern from around the world.

No previous experience is needed and you can be any age or level of ability, provided you are willing to have a go and enjoy yourself!

World Dance is non-competitive, does not require a partner and is also a very gentle form of exercise. The dances also have a wide variety of mood, from the energetic to moving meditations.

Dances were initially drawn from the traditions of the Balkans, Greece, Israel, Russia, France and Celtic Britain and more recently from the Americas, Africa and Asia.

For start date, venue and information call Jenny on 01360 770497 or Ann on 0141 422 1743



SEEING RED

Red public telephone boxes, first designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as part of a public competition in 1924, have long been icons of British design. Over recent years the cost of upkeep means many have disappeared, replaced by a number of new designs.

Strathbungo's telephone kiosk on Nithsdale Road is one of the few red public telephone boxes that remain in Glasgow and has not

been replaced because it is regarded as being of special architectural and historical interest.

Sadly, this neglected gem has been allowed to fall into disrepair and has gradually become a rather shabby shade of salmon pink rather than the classic red.

On behalf of local residents, the Strathbungo Society contacted Bob Downes, director of BT in Scotland, and asked him to rescue our

neglected landmark. Happily, we were informed in August by Josephine Brown at BT that "The Nithsdale Rd telephone kiosk will be on the repainting list for 2005-2006."

The exact date depends very much on the weather but we hope to see our kiosk looking scarlet and shiny once more in the very near future. THANK YOU BT!

CONSIDERATE CONTRACTORS

20,000 holes are made in Glasgow's streets and pavements every year by utility companies, contractors and the Council. As residents of Strathbungo know, these works can cause considerable inconvenience and, over time, erode the fabric of the road network.

The City Council's Considerate Contractors' Scheme is part of Land Services' plans to improve road maintenance and public involvement. The scheme aims to establish safety procedures for street works throughout the city;

inspect the quality of their repair and reinstatement; and set customer satisfaction standards for every road contractor.

Robert Booth, Director of Land Services, said: "These new measures should really improve our ability to achieve our objectives and allow a productive, long-term partnership between the Council, utility companies and the public."

A key element of the scheme is to appoint lay assessors;

members of the public who volunteer to help measure contractors' performance and customer satisfaction by monitoring work where they live. The scheme currently has 61 volunteers, 28 of whom are now fully trained but, despite our many problems with works on the back lanes, Strathbungo currently has no lay assessors, so if you're interested in getting involved, ask the Council for an information pack on 0141 287 9507.

Christmas Calendars

Strathbungo Calendars are back with a bigger, better design with more space for scribbling and beautiful images to reflect a year in Strathbungo.

We expect this year's calendar to be as popular as ever, so we recommend ordering now to ensure you get the copies you'd like in time for Christmas. And if you've got a treasured photograph of the area there's still time to submit it to the editor.

To place an order call Laura Jones on 0141 433 9238

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TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words - send them to 'Laura Jones, Flat 2/2, 736 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2AE' or email letters@strathbungo.org.uk.

To the Editor

I just wanted to congratulate you on a great website and newsletter. We've only lived in Strathbungo for four years and it was nice to be welcomed to our new home by an edition of the Strathbungo News. Your committee and supporters are doing a good job of protecting this great wee patch. I loved reading the history section. It would be good to get more web links and illustrations added about the history and architecture.

I was looking at some websites myself and read about two previous competitions that unfortunately failed in their attempts to erect a monument on Alexander 'Greek' Thomson on the roundabout opposite Moray Place. As someone who sees the roundabout from every window of our flat, it would be fantastic to look at something other than heavy traffic. It would certainly make the school-run more aware of the history of the place they are driving through.

Could there be a third time lucky attempt to erect a monument to the person who left an outstanding impression on Strathbungo?

Tila Morris, *Nithsdale Drive*

To the Editor

As an avid fan of black and white musicals, I was amused to find a reference to Strathbungo in a Fred Astaire film; 1937's *Damsel In Distress*.

STRATHBUNGO News

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or email news@strathbungo.co.uk

Written by PG Wodehouse, with music by George and Ira Gershwin, the film reports an astonishing feat of derring-do in 1787 on the part of Lord Leonard of Strathbungo in leaping from the tower of Belper Castle in order to preserve the honour of the Countess of Marshmoreton.

The film version was modified from the original Wodehouse novel of 1919, where Lord Leonard was "Lord Leonard Forth, eldest son of...the Duke of Lochlane." But Strathbungo still got a mention. The tale ends, "Her ladyship took up visiting the poor and eventually contracted an altogether suitable alliance by marrying Lord Ronald Spofforth, the second son of his Grace the Duke of Gorbals and Strathbungo."

What were Wodehouse's links to Strathbungo? Surely this can't be the only literary or theatrical reference to our very own dear green place?

LD, *Pollokshaws Rd*

Dear Editor,

For some time I have been concerned about the speeding of vehicles up Queen Square (where I live) and the recent bridge issues compound this.

In the face of this, and given the nature of Strathbungo with its narrow streets and home to many children, it's time that the residents lobby for the speed limit to be lowered to 20mph.

Hard-engineered speed calming measures are not, in my mind, appropriate or in keeping with the conservation area. However, a well posted 20mph area in Strathbungo might go some way to deterring the reckless antics of some drivers.

Sam Athey, *Queen Square*

To the Editor

I only moved into our new home in Queen Square a month ago. It seems like I picked the wrong time to choose Strathbungo.

While I appreciate the need for the renewal work and can just about accept the botched timing of the work on the two bridges, can we ask the Council's Traffic Calming Section whether the timings of traffic lights in the area have been extended to allow the flow of this

greater volume of traffic around us? Or is this too much like hard work for them?

We can't let this situation continue for a whole year. It's dangerous, and we can't sit and hope that things 'calm down'. That's a ridiculous attitude for the Council to adopt.

G. McLaughlin, *Queen Square*

IS 20 PLENTY?



Yes, I'd like to see a mandatory speed limit of 20mph in Strathbungo.

No, I don't think Strathbungo needs a new, lower speed limit.

If you're willing to get involved with any campaign, please give your details.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return to L. Jones, 2/2 736
Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow,
G41 2AE