

# STRATHBUNGO NEWS



Spring 2007

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## MAKE YOUR MARK **X**

After 3rd May 2007, Strathbungo will have three new councillors. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and the City Council have decided to replace the current 79-ward first-past-the-post electoral framework with 17 new wards, each served by several councillors, voted for using the Single Transferable Vote (STV). Strathbungo will be part of Ward 6, the new Pollokshields ward

The STV voting system means that rather than putting an X in the box next to your single preferred candidate, you rank the list of candidates in order of preference, placing a 1 beside your most preferred candidate, a 2 beside your second most preferred and so on.

Our current councillor Malcolm Cunning has decided not to run for re-election. The society wishes to thank him for all his hard work for the area over the years and wish him luck in the future.

**For more details got to [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk) where we have links to boundary maps and voting information.**

## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Come and meet your neighbours on the Strathbungo Society's new website. Give us your thoughts on local issues that concern you and read about the latest news and events in and around Strathbungo. It's one of the very best ways to get in touch with us and it's open all the time, so you don't have to wait to get involved.

### The new site has the following features:

- Information on Strathbungo Society events, including Coffee Breaks, Bungo in the Back Lanes and committee meetings
- Strathbungo Society committee meeting minutes and agendas
- Electronic versions of newsletters, including this issue
- An expanded shops and trades listing in the Living in G41 section
- All the latest planning applications in the Strathbungo area
- The Bungo Map, which will show you views of Strathbungo past and present

All this is in addition to all the usual information on conservation and Strathbungo history, as well as a notice board to place small ads and a talkback forum to put your views out to the Strathbungo community.

We've had over 100 hits a day since the new site started, so you can see plenty of people are using it as a place to find local information and news.

To sign up to email notifications of events and newsletters, visit the site and click on Contact. Make sure you tick the box, as we won't add you to our list otherwise. The newsletter will always appear online before the print edition comes out, so to get an early look sign up now. [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk)

## NEW TIME, NEW PLACE, NEW DAY

The Strathbungo Society is looking for new members to join our committee of around 10 volunteers, who meet once a month to hear from sub-groups on communications (including the website and this newsletter), events, the environment, Queens Park, etc.

With the exception of July (and occasionally modified to fit around school holidays) the Strathbungo Society now meets at 7:45pm on the THIRD Tuesday of every month at Mulberry St, usually in the restaurant area. The minutes are published online.

If you'd like to get involved, just turn up. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, call the secretary, Laura Moodie, on 0141 433 9238.

## HEDGE MAINTENANCE

The Strathbungo Society has volunteers available to cut back hedges anywhere in the neighbourhood in return for a small donation to the Society. Please call Matthew Moodie on 0141 433 9238 if you would like us to cut your hedge or if you would like to borrow the tools to do the job yourself.

# COUNCIL DECLARES WAR ON LITTER

The people of Glasgow have been urged to play their part in keeping the city clean, with the launch of a new £4m campaign.

Clean Glasgow is aimed at instilling pride in the city and punishing people who break the law by littering, fly tipping, spraying graffiti and allowing their dogs to foul the streets - offences that cost Glasgow taxpayers £16 million every year to remove.

The City Council wants to form partnerships with local neighbourhoods to reduce the amount of litter dropped and increase the amount that is cleaned up.

A Clean Glasgow team, consisting of refuse collectors, graffiti removal teams, enforcement officers, mobile CCTV vans and community engagement teams will be coming to our area between 23rd April and 4th May. The clean-up squads will arrive in each area to tackle street litter, graffiti, eyesore fly-tipping, refuse and more – returning on a regular basis.

According to Council leader Steven Purcell: "What's needed is for the people who live and work in this city to decide to stop dropping litter, encourage their children not to drop litter and start to report fly tipping and graffiti."

"By working together, local people and the council can create a cleaner Glasgow. But the ultimate enforcement message is: If you continue to act in this anti-social way, you will be caught and fined."

The Strathbungo Society is getting involved by organising a special local clean-up event. You can sign up to take part in this at the Spring Bungo Coffee Break, or on our website. [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk)



## CHARITY BEGINS

The Strathbungo Society has begun the process to become a registered charity. This means we will be able to reclaim the tax on donations, not only in the future but also retrospectively from 2000.

The Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR), has agreed in principle to our becoming a charity if we make two changes to our constitution. These changes involve tightening up our objectives. The proposed new objectives will be:

1. To advance citizenship and develop the community by encouraging all members of the community, including families, children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly to interact with the aim of improving the community both by bringing the community together and by promoting the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities within or in the vicinity of the Strathbungo area.; *and*
2. To promote the conservation of local architectural and environmental heritage, including the maintenance and improvement of the built and natural environment.

The OSCR also wants us to modify what happens to the society if it dissolves.

- In the event of the society being dissolved, any assets or funds remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities of the society shall not be transferred to members but shall be dispersed as follows:
- If sufficient members are present at a properly constituted meeting, the meeting may only vote for dispersal to one of the sources noted below, A, or B.
- If insufficient members are not present or a properly constituted meeting cannot be held, dispersal shall be by giving the groups listed the option to accept the funds, property or goods of the Society in the order A then B.
- A - Another society or group whose constitution includes the conservation of the Strathbungo Heritage and which is a recognised charity.
- B - Another body with similar charitable objects to that of the Strathbungo Society.

You can see and comment on the proposed modifications and our current constitution on our website [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk).

In order for us to make these changes, we need to have them approved by **YOU** at our AGM on Monday 21st May. The AGM is also your chance to vote on issues surrounding the society and meet your newly-elected councillors.



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**GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE.**



### Special offers valid 1st March - 30th May

Holistic Facial £20

Dead Sea Salt Body Scrub £10

Aromatherapy back, neck and shoulder massage £12

Chocotherapy nourishing, anti-aging and oxygenating facial £20

### MOTHERS DAY OFFER

Book Mum in for an anti-aging, collagen Glorious Skin Facial and receive a beautiful bag with a selection of anti-aging mignon products.

**Valid from the 16th of March until the 31st of March.**

All of the above offers are not available with any other offers.

The

# BUNGO Coffee Break



Our Spring coffee morning will be held on  
**SATURDAY 21st APRIL**

(same day as the Farmers Market)  
11 to 1pm at Queen's Park Parish Church Hall  
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.

## southside

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HudsonMackay  
Artists' collective  
Presents:

An exhibition of

## Contemporary Art

27<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007



The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall,  
Island Bar, 2 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3NY

Meet the artists evening - Friday 20 April 2007, 6-8pm

[www.HudsonMackay.com](http://www.HudsonMackay.com)

Contact: 0141 423 0182 / [info@hudsonmackay.com](mailto:info@hudsonmackay.com)

### Gone But Not Forgotten

**John McTaggart**, who died in December, aged 66, was known to most of us simply as John the window cleaner – shortened, to his delight, to John the W.C.

For 25 years John made the sun shine into our houses, not just with water and a chamois leather but with wit, a joke, a story and sometimes even a song.

Newcomers to the area would ask neighbours to recommend a window cleaner and without hesitation, John would be introduced. He'd accept the job, arrive on your doorstep and then become a fixture in your life. On his visits, you would fill his bucket then fill the kettle, knowing that over a mug of tea, John would share his reflections on life, the state of the nation and sometimes even the state of your windows.

John never married and lived alone for most of his life. A bit of a rolling stone, he would disappear for a few months from time to time, but always came back.

Sadly, he won't be coming back this time.

It was impossible to go for even a short walk round the squares and gardens of Strathbungo without bumping into Charlie – another man invariably known by his first name.

**Charlie MacDowell**, who lived in Regent Park Square, was known also by his dungarees and bunnet – so much so that friends and neighbours who would meet him at church regularly failed to recognise him in his Sunday suit. Charlie's perambulations around Strathbungo kept him fit into his eighties. It was during these walkabouts that you could stop him and ask him for advice on a wee job you needed doing. Is there a window frame, or a gate or a railing in Strathbungo that Charlie hasn't given some tender loving care?

Whenever something needed done, Charlie, a retired builder, would tackle it for you. As one neighbour put it, "he was a great all-rounder, a great neighbour and a great friend."

One of nature's gentlemen, Charlie died on 5 December, aged 84. He is survived by his Dutch wife Jeltse, daughters Helena and Laura, and grandchildren Benjamin and Chloe.

Our streets will be a wee bit emptier without him.

## DIARY DATES

Get your calendars and diaries out and jot down our forthcoming events.

### Spring Bungo Coffee Break

11–1pm SAT 21 APRIL 2007

Queens Park Church of  
Scotland Hall, Queens Drive

### Strathbungo Society AGM

7.30pm MON 21 MAY 2007

Queens Park Church of  
Scotland Hall, Queens Drive

### Bungo In The Back Lanes

SATURDAY 16 JUNE 07



# TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words - send them to Laura Moodie, G/L 33 Nithsdale Rd, Glasgow G41 2AE or email [letters@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:letters@strathbungo.co.uk).

## BUNGO AT THE BELLS

Despite the torrential rain and howling gales, this year's Bungo At The Bells was amazingly well supported. The society would like to thank all of those who turned out to celebrate the New Year with us. In fact, given the cancellation of the street parties in Edinburgh and Glasgow, we think that this year's Bungo At The Bells might have been the biggest Hogmanay street party in Central Scotland!

The organisation of this year's event has sparked a debate which you can read here in the Talkback section or on our website. Join in. If you came along, what did you think? What would you like to see done differently this year? If you didn't come out, what would make you change your mind and come along in future years?

Just felt the need to voice my disappointment at this year's event. I understand the weather contributed to the low turnout but I sensed not much was organised anyway. No real sense of occasion, a lacklustre countdown to 'the bells', barely audible music and kids pulling at the microphone with no adult supervision. That was the only focus for the residents of Strathbungo and their guests this year in place of a fun gathering ... not good enough for a neighbourhood that prides itself on its unique character. Perhaps most telling that five days after the event, the notices asking cars to free up the parking spaces for the street party are still tied to the hedges, rain soaked, abandoned

## STRATHBUNGO News

Published by  
The Strathbungo Society;

Edited by Laura Moodie

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Design & Layout by Liz Macdonald.

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and obsolete...just like the over-hyped Bungo At The Bells. Let's see how long it takes the organisers to read this!

**From: Bungo At The Bells**

*Bungo at the Bells: A Reply*  
"Ask not what your community can do for you, but what you can do for your community"  
Your comments on Bungo at the Bells are noted. You are too right in that the weather contributed, and we felt a turnout of two to three hundred or so was pretty remarkable given that at 11.30pm it looked like the event wouldn't happen at all. Bear in mind that this is a free event, organised by volunteers, and it costs both time and money to run. PA systems are expensive, and musicians hard to find. If you want a professionally organised event, I suggest you buy a ticket for Glasgow or Edinburgh. And see what you get for your money when the wind blows.

*Failing that, get involved yourself. If you can't play, sing or comper, you could always take the notices down . . .*  
A Society like ours relies on the community to contribute. Your opinions might carry more weight if you brought your own ideas to the next committee meeting. Hope to see you there.

**From: The Organisers**

Hi, well done to whoever replied to that first complaint about Bungo at the Bells! It was my first experience of it and I have to say I thought it was magical. I don't know what went on in previous years, but I felt that it was the sheer simplicity of it that made it special . . . just a crowd of like-minded people getting together to bring in the New Year, and best of all, not a bliddy firework in sight! Heaven. Whoever wrote that first comment must be struggling if he/she needs something on which to focus. Ever heard of chatting to folk?

**Brilliant**

*"This Lady's not for turning!"*

*Okay, I accept the responses presented, in particular by the organisers of the event who, I acknowledge, forego of their valuable time for the benefit of this community, and I'm sure encounter many frustrations in the process.*

*But to our new neighbour who admits "didn't know what went on in previous years", I will refrain from using sarcasm as they did in my reply, but would like to confirm that I chatted with many people that night, old neighbours and new faces, and even joined in the conga! However, I remain firm that the event definitely lacked focus as in previous years when we had a piper heralding the start of the event, a comper to countdown to the bells and the distribution of shortbread and nips of whiskey. Why not have voluntary charges*

*for these extras? The bulletin would be the perfect place to request this or at the 'Back Lanes' in the summer. At least we could try to raise enough?*

*I sincerely hope I have not offended anyone by my previous comments, especially when I don't contribute of my own time as an organiser, but I presumed our new notice board was constructed for the residents of Strathbungo and members of the Society like myself to voice their opinions if unable or not of the disposition to attend formal meetings. Surely we still have a voice?*

*I hope to join in our local New Year celebration for many years to come because I too don't like large professionally organised events, nor do I like "bliddy fireworks". Oops, that might have been a tad sarcastic after all!!*

**From: Bungo At The bells**

Well Said! Bungo at the Bells. Ouch! Didn't mean to offend or be sarcastic, just thought the first letter re: The Bells was a bit unfair but can see what you mean now. Pals?

**From: Brilliant**

*The criticisms are noted. The reason there was no table, whisky or shortbread was simply it was blowing a howling gale and they would all have been blown away. Joe, the pianist of previous years, wanted a rest and the piper cost a lot of money and disappeared after ten minutes. We can't afford to repeat it at that price. OK so there wasn't a countdown, but again with 15 minutes to go there wasn't even going to be an event due to the weather. Hopefully next year there will be glorious sunshine. OK, maybe not at midnight... And if anyone does know anyone prepared to perform on the night, we want to hear from them.*

**From: Bungo Blog**

You might like to know that the Society's meeting tonight (20/02/07) is to discuss Bungo At The Bells and the comments received. Given all that's been said and notwithstanding the weather, I think the general feeling is that we could have done better - if only for the feel-good factor of people handing out shortbread and whisky (though most people bring their own - which seems to be mostly bubbly).

Re: past years' glories; that was based on Joe the pianist giving of his own time (and foregoing pleasures till after his performance - ditto for Bungo in the Back Lanes!).

We - collectively - can do better and identifying talent in the neighbourhood that's willing to entertain would be great. The Society can easily revive the feel-good shortie etc., ensure we have a PA that works, plus some flaming torches for the kids.

**From: Kevin Kane**