

# STRATHBUNGO

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# News



Spring 2009

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# Strathbungo's Spring Fling

Strathbungo's inaugural Spring Fling was a great success – helped along by lovely spring weather, lively jazz music and lots of people eager to discover the results of our children's art competition.

The quality of the artwork submitted from all three age groups was fantastic and made the decision of the judging panel very difficult. Congratulations to all of the entrants. The work of the prize winners in each category was exhibited in Park Gallery until Sunday 4th April 2009.

The prizes were awarded by Avril Paton who also donated signed copies of her book to each winner.

There was also a special prize awarded to Zoe Flower who entered despite being too young for the youngest age group. The society hopes to run another children's art competition next year, so budding artists should get those easels out!

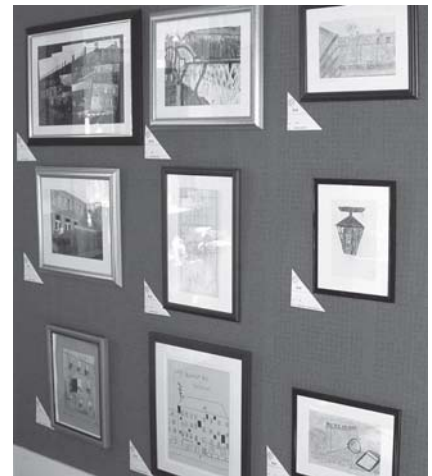
The Strathbungo Society would particularly like to thank David at the Park Gallery for all the time and effort he put in to supporting the competition and Avril Paton for giving her time so generously.

Prize winners were:

**5-8 age group:** 1st Evie Allison,  
2nd Katherine Murphy, 3rd Olivia Piacentini-Smith

**9-12 age group:** - 1st Alice Mellon,  
2nd Gavin Lamb, 3rd Christopher Perceval-Maxwell

**13-16 age group:** 1st Emily Murphy,  
2nd Lily Mellon, 3rd Sarah Davie.



The prize winning entries on display



Emily Murphy, 1st in the 13-16 group with Avril Paton



Alice Mellon, 1st in the 9-12 group with Avril Paton



Evie Allison, 1st in the 5-8 group with Avril Paton

Read Strathbungo News online at [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk)

# Strathbungo Spring Clean

After the Spring Fling some residents joined in to help clean up the back lane behind Nithsdale Rd. The clean up was organised by local Conservative councillor David Meikle and tools were provided by Glasgow Community and Safety Services.

Local campaigner John Bradley, said: "Keeping our communities clean and litter-free is not a party-political matter. Politicians and local communities need to work together on projects like this in order to foster civic pride and show that politicians remain engaged with local concerns. It was a privilege to spend a day improving Strathbungo in a practical way."

The end result of all their hard work was a large skip filled with litter and fly-tipping, graffiti scrubbed away from street furniture and buildings and of course our back lanes looking a lot cleaner.

To continue the good work, Network Rail has also agreed to clear the railway embankments along Moray Place.



## Bashir Ahmad First among firsts

The sudden death of Bashir Ahmad, who died of a heart attack at his home in Strathbungo, aged 68, came as a great shock to his family and many friends and neighbours. Though perhaps best known, in public life, as Scotland's first Asian, first Muslim and first non-white Member of the Scottish Parliament, in Strathbungo he will be remembered as a kind and thoughtful neighbour.

Born in Amritsar, as a young man, in 1961, he moved to Scotland to live with relatives in East Pollokshields. As he often recalled, he arrived at Glasgow airport from Pakistan not speaking a word of English and was helped that day to get to his destination by a bus driver who went off his route; a lasting introduction to the people of Glasgow and Scotland.

His career spanned bus-driving and the hotel and restaurant business. In 1995, he founded Asians for Independence and from then was increasingly drawn to politics. In 2003, he was elected to the Pollokshields East ward of Glasgow City Council, becoming the SNP's first Asian councillor and in 2007 was elected as Scotland's first Muslim and Asian MSP, famously taking the oath in both English and Urdu and in traditional dress.

On his return home that day from the taking the oath, he arrived at Moray Place exhausted, only to be met by neighbours' excited children running up and congratulating him; he had tears in his eyes. In his private and community life, Bashir was a gentleman, always taking time to speak to neighbours and friends, tending his garden and being an active Muslim man of faith.

First Minister Alex Salmond MSP said of him, "He brought the dignity of his faith to the very centre of our democratic process and his lasting legacy will be one of hope, decency and inclusion."

As neighbours and friends, we will remember a very gentle man and all the joy he brought to his family, friends and neighbours. He is survived by his wife Naseem, seven children and eleven grandchildren.

**Bashir Ahmad, politician and businessman, born 12th February 1940; died 6th February 2009**





# Save Our Nurseries

*Parents across the Southside have been protesting against proposals to close and merge a number of local nurseries.*

A protest march against Proposal 21, which affects Nithsdale Road Nursery, Newark Drive Nursery and Pollokshields Nursery attracted hundreds of protestors and was featured on local TV news.

Education bosses plan to close all three nurseries and merge them to create a new early years centre on the site of the former Pollokshields Primary Annexe in Melville Street, saving £170,000. Just £400,000 has been earmarked to redevelop the existing north-facing grade II listed building, which is 1.5 miles away from Nithsdale Road Nursery.

It is part of plans to shut 25 city primary schools and nurseries which were being consulted upon during March. The results of the consultation are expected later this month and the Council will vote on the proposals on 23rd April.

The protest march was attended by a number of SNP councillors, MSP Nicola Sturgeon, who addressed the crowd, and Conservative Councillor David Meikle who said, "I was overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who turned out. Newark Drive and Nithsdale Road nurseries are full, the buildings are in good condition and they both deliver excellent education in lovely green surroundings."

Since the end of the consultation period parents have been advised by Fiona Hyslop, Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, that the decision to close the nurseries will need the consent of the Scottish Government because the nurseries are more than 80% full. This was queried by campaigners during the consultation process but Glasgow City Council officers denied this was the case as the law did not affect nursery schools.



## Consider Yourself...



**Congratulations are in order for Strathbungo boy Francesco Piacentini-Smith who has bagged the role of "Oliver" in the West End of London.**

The 12-year-old S1 pupil from Holyrood Secondary fought his way through many rounds of auditions to win the title role last month and is currently commuting to and fro from London for rehearsals. As we go to press Francesco is keeping his fingers crossed for a good first night which was scheduled for 31st March. Good Luck! Or, as they say in the theatre, "Break a Leg!"

## STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY Meetings

Meetings are open to all and held on the third Monday of each month at **Grianach on Nithsdale Rd.** Meetings begin at 7.30pm and usually finish by 9pm. Agendas and minutes are published online.

The dates of forthcoming meetings are:

**20th April 2009**  
**18th May 2009**  
**15th June 2009**



## Green Shoots of Recovery



Last Autumn residents at 1-10 Moray Place dug out their wellies and decided to give the verge outside their homes an, um . . . autumn clean.

As you can see, residents collected litter, cut back overgrown hedges and planted bulbs for the Spring. The bulbs have now shot up and anyone walking along Moray Place can enjoy a display of crocuses and daffodils, rather than weeds and litter.

If you're inspired and want to organize your own clean up, why not let people know via our website [strathbungo.co.uk](http://strathbungo.co.uk) or get further assistance by contacting Clean Glasgow who can provide equipment and advice. Call 0800 027 7027 or email [clean@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:clean@glasgow.gov.uk)



## PLANTERS, POLITICS AND PUZZLEMENT

Working with the council, the Society had hoped to have some tiered planters in place this month to beautify the pedestrian entrances to Nithsdale Rd but where are they?

Earlier this year, the Strathbungo Society submitted an application for funding from the South Area Committee which has a healthy surplus budget to spend on projects just like our planting scheme. However, despite the Society offering to pay 50% of the costs, our application for funds was vetoed by one of our ward's own city councillors!  
No reasons were given for the

veto and other committee members made it clear that the proposal met, and in some areas exceeded, all their funding criteria. The South Area Committee and the Strathbungo Society are not giving up. We resubmitted our application in March, hoping that any vetoes would be removed as, if the SAC does not spend all its cash in this financial year, funding will be reduced next year. Here's hoping!



## BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES Saturday 20th June

is the date for 2009's  
Bungo In The Back Lanes street party.

Glasgow's best and biggest street party needs volunteers. Last year's event was attended by more than 1,000 people but was organised and run by only 15 (exhausted but elated) volunteers! Our local scout group will again help us to sell raffle tickets this year - so be prepared for them to appear on your doorstep in the run-up to the big day - but what Bungo really needs is YOU!

In particular we need help with:

- Setting up and packing up gazebos and stalls on the day
- Manning stalls
- Collecting prizes
- Selling raffle tickets
- Distributing leaflets and posters

If you can spare even half an hour either on the day or beforehand and want to get involved, contact us via the website or call Joanna on 423 7756.

Tapa  
organic

OPEN 7 DAYS

*"How I wish I had Tapa  
round the corner"*  
- Joanna Blythman

721 Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow G41 2AA T: 423 9494

# Home from Home?

How would you like to spend a couple of nights in a townhouse conversion in the leafy Southside? Sound a bit too close to home? This is how some landlords are advertising short-term holiday lets available now in Strathbungo and Queens Park in properties purchased in residential areas and without applying for changes in planning permission.

The Strathbungo Society is concerned that a number of premises in Strathbungo appear to be being let on a short-term basis to host rowdy weekends in Glasgow. A public inquiry is expected to be held this summer concerning this use of residential flats as holiday lets and it's hoped it could provide answers for residents who feel powerless to act against the short-term residents of the 'hotel' that's opened, without planning permission, in the house next door.

Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council has long supported residents living near Queens Park in their attempts to reduce anti-social

behaviour stemming from nearby hostels and, more recently, short-term holiday lets.

The McKeever Group owns the now-closed Parkview Hotel on Queens Drive, the Queens Park Hotel -which houses homeless people on behalf of a number of councils including Falkirk and East Renfrewshire - and 80% of the residential properties in 32 Balvicar Street.

The transient nature of these populations has led to an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour with many residents feeling they have little option but to leave the area.

Glasgow City Council has served a planning enforcement notice to stop the Balvicar Street flats being rented as holiday apartments but the McKeever Group is currently appealing that order. A spokesperson from the McKeever Group agreed that, "In isolated incidents we have evicted people who displayed anti-social behaviour and have introduced further security measures."

Residents feel they have not done enough and local planning experts feel that renting residential properties for short-term use requires changes to the existing planning permission and consents.



## Bag-Packers!

A new year sees the welcome return of our occasional competition to find the most well-travelled Bungo bag. If your Bungo bag has travelled the world, why not send the editor a photograph featuring it and it could well appear in the next issue of the Strathbungo News.

This issue sees a well-loved Bungo bag being given an airing in Luang Prabang, Laos. It's definitely our most-travelled bag so far but if you can do better just contact the editor!



## WE WON'T BEAT ABOUT THE BUSH...

..SO WE'LL COME STRAIGHT OUT WITH IT.

### Does your hedge need a trim this spring?

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 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.

## Be Prepared...For Anything!

2nd Glasgow Scout Group meets in the Scout Hall on Glencairn Drive, next to Titwood Park, and seeks new recruits. All boys and girls aged from six upwards are welcome to join.

- Beavers are for 6 to 8 year olds and meet on a Tuesday evening from 6.30 to 7.15 pm.
- Cubs are for 8 to 10 year olds and meet on a Tuesday evening from 7.15 to 8.30 pm.
- Scouts are for 10 to 14 year olds and meet on a Thursday evening from 7.15 to 9.15 pm.
- From age 14 there are Explorer Scouts who meet at different times and venues to suit those involved.

Anyone interested in any aspect of the Scout Group can come along on a Tuesday or Thursday evening to have a chat.

**Group Scout Leader Moira Fletcher can be contacted either by phone 07771 613894**

**or email moira1.fletcher@googlemail.com**



# The Big Swim's



## £1 Million Challenge

**Govanhill Baths could reopen as soon as March 2011. At least that's the ambitious aim stated by the Govanhill Baths Community Trust at a meeting held this Spring.**

The group has secured lottery funding for the project and found design partners and sponsors but they're now seeking to make their ambitious business plan a reality.

They need the support of the local community, Glasgow City Council and Holyrood to raise an additional £3m over the next year.

The ambitious regeneration project - for which a planning application is currently before Glasgow City Council - incorporates the re-opening of the pools and Turkish baths, a cafe and flexible community space within the existing building. A second phase of building will incorporate the old steamily building and extend it to provide recording studios, local enterprise suites and a nursery.

Nearly 100 residents attended the meeting, along with Frank McAveety MSP, Councillor Hanif and Councillor Alderslowe.

£1 million of the necessary £3 million still needs to be raised by the local community. You can help physically or financially by contacting the Govanhill Baths Trust to become a Friend or make use of the successful charity shop, currently at 73 Calder Street.

To join the Friends of the Baths, simply complete, print and send the form available at [www.govanhillbaths.com](http://www.govanhillbaths.com) and post it to the address that appears on the form, or call 423 8705 and they will post one out to you.

You can also visit the shop, which will soon be moving to larger premises on Victoria Road, to pick up a form in person.

## THE END OF THE ROAD

**The Strathbungo Society has begun consulting with residents who share ownership of one back lane about blocking the lanes to through traffic by placing bollards at the junctions.**

The proposal will see a bollard placed at the back lane behind Pollokshaws Road next to William Hill on Nithsdale Rd and another bollard behind Moray Place at the Regent Park Square entrance. The response so far has been positive and we will be passing this on to the Council who will then decide whether to instigate formal traffic order proceedings in order to carry out the work.

If the lanes are blocked off the hope is to improve safety for pedestrians, reduce rat running and to enable the Society to use the Entrust grant to upgrade the condition of the back lanes where they have been blocked off.

## Southside HOUSING ASSOCIATION

*YOUR LOCAL HOUSING PROVIDER*

**553 Shields Road Glasgow G41 2RW**

Tel: 0141 422 1112 Fax: 0141 424 3327

[E-mail: enquiries@southside-ha.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@southside-ha.co.uk)

## Grianach

Cafe and Gallery

*Come into Grianach Cafe  
this April and get a*

# **FREE SCONE**

*when you buy any hot drink!*

Offer subject to availability and limited to one per advertisement. Advert must be presented.

**38 Nithsdale Road, Strathbungo, Glasgow G41  
Telephone 0141 423 5926**

Want to talk shop to 1,000 households within a 5 minute walk?

Then take an ad in the Strathbungo News.  
We deliver to the doors of thousands of people who live in your area.

**Cost effective too, including free artwork – Contact 433 9238 or [ads@strathbungo.org.uk](mailto:ads@strathbungo.org.uk)**

**CALL 433 9238 TO CHECK THE COPY DEADLINE FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE**



## Locals celebrate Bungobama Night with a 'progressive' dinner



**Any excuse for a party, especially when the Party of the moment is promising to return America to the worldwide community of nations.** At least that was the excuse when Bungo-folk got together to celebrate the inauguration of US President Barak Obama with what our American cousins call a 'progressive' dinner .

Progressive? Well, it started with themed cocktails and canapes in Queens Drive (annexed by Strathbungo for the evening) whilst watching the televised formalities, progressed to Queen Square for starters, thence to Moray Place for the main course and ended with desserts in Nithsdale Road.

*Meanwhile, overnight Lonesome George had been consigned to the dustbin of history...or at least to a wheelie bin in Strathbungo.*



**YOUR TURN!** Don't wait till the next election to organise your own progressive dinner. It's an easy way to entertain, nobody gets left with a lot of washing up, it can have a community-wide dimension and it's great fun. ONLY QUESTION IS, WHEN'S THE NEXT ONE? (LET US KNOW ...)



**Latte & Art-**  
arty crafty fun for kids and great coffee for  
parents, downstairs in the Den at Tapa  
coffeehouse.

**Every Tuesday at 11am,**  
hosted by Busy Bees craft studio.

**721 Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow G41 2AA T: 423 9494**

## STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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or email [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)

# We get by with a little help . . .

## YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOUR FRIENDS

The Strathbungo Society has come a long way since the original group was set up to promote a small Conservation Area back in the early 1970s. Today, it takes in around 1,000 households between Nithsdale Street and Titwood Road, and while still committed to our fine architectural heritage, the Society's aims have also reached out to cover local amenities, environmental improvements, social events - in short, everything to do with living in one of Glasgow's most vibrant communities.

We are always grateful to those who volunteer to help out - and indeed, to those who turn up and support our events. Even so, not everybody has the time or opportunity to play an active role. That's why we've set up Friends of Strathbungo.

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

As a Friend of Strathbungo, you agree to pay an annual subscription of £12 – just £1 a month –preferably by using the standing order mandate in this leaflet. You may decide to pay your subscription either once (£12) or twice (£6) a year or pledge a higher amount, if you wish. If you live within the Society's boundaries, your Friends membership card will entitle you to vote at the Society's Annual General Meeting each June. If you live outside the area, you will receive the Strathbungo News by post, along with news of special events or offers.

## Here's why we need all the Friends we can get

As a community-based charity, the Strathbungo Society represents local residents' viewpoints and interests to the powers that be, including government officials in planning, cleansing and environmental health, as well as the Police. We campaign for better local amenities, from shopping to transport to facilities at Queens Park. We also work to secure outside support and funding for major projects, such as back lanes renovation.

## BUT IT'S NOT ALL JUST WORTHY ENDEAVOUR!

The Strathbungo Society brings local people together through a year-round calendar of events and communications:

- Strathbungo News, a regular round-up of local news, features and opinion
- Bungo at the Bells, the annual street party on Hogmanay
- Bungo in the Back Lanes, the mid-summer gala
- Ad hoc meetings in response to community issues – from election eve hustings to crime prevention workshops
- Occasional events such as coffee mornings, Hallowe'en parties, ceilidhs, heritage walks – *just for the fun of it!*

**By becoming a Friend, you will help generate a reliable stream of income so we can continue.**

## COME ON – BE A FRIEND!

The Strathbungo Society needs your support. As a voluntary organisation, we rely entirely on public generosity and odd bits of fundraising to keep going. We believe we get every penny's worth of every £1 we spend, but it's always difficult to know where our next newsletter's coming from, for example, or to maintain the high standards we've set for community events.

By pledging just £1 a month, you can help make the difference. All you have to do is fill in the standing order mandate overleaf and send it to:

**The Strathbungo Society, c/o Lynne Flower, Treasurer  
25 Regent Park Square, Glasgow G41 2AF**

## THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR FRIEND!

Please complete both sections and return to the Strathbungo Society's Treasurer at the address above. The Society will retain the top section only and forward the mandate to your bank.

THESE DETAILS WILL NOT BE PASSED TO ANY THIRD PARTY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want the charity to treat all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations. [Tick Box]

"You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for every £1 you give)."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Notes

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the charity.
2. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity or refer to donations by individuals.
5. please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

## Standing Order Mandate

DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK

My Bank/Building Society \_\_\_\_\_ plc

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_ - \_\_\_ - \_\_\_

### MY ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay: Clydesdale Bank plc, Shawlands Branch, 21 Kilmarnock Rd, Glasgow G41 3YW

For the credit of

**The Strathbungo Society** Account No **90531396** Sort Code **82-64-27**

For the sum of (tick appropriate box)

£12 now and thereafter every 52 weeks  £ \_\_\_\_\_ now and thereafter every 52 weeks

£6 now and thereafter every 26 weeks  £ \_\_\_\_\_ now and thereafter every 26 weeks.

### PAYMENT PERIOD

From \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ until you receive further notice in writing from me.

Please cancel any other Standing Order in favour of the beneficiary named above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### BANK USE ONLY

The Strathbungo Society Account No \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_ - \_\_\_ - \_\_\_ Bank to Quote Ref No \_\_\_\_\_