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# Strathbungo News

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The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter  
Winter 2016

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## CLEAN SWEEP FOR 2016

*Never underestimate our Brighter Bungo volunteers! Sophie Dobson may have been more eager than most to get Strathbungo off to a fresh start for 2016, but Kevin Kane, the new Strathbungo Society Chair, looks ahead to a year full of equally worthy endeavour – and lots of fun too!*



Thanks to our best-attended AGM in years, the Strathbungo Society starts 2016 with a full roster of Trustees (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) plus 15 Committee members, many joining the Society for the first time. Each brings special interests and skills to the mix, be it in planning/ environmental issues, communications, social networking, children's activities or fundraising.

That shows people really do care about the work of the Society. The job now is to use that enthusiasm to reach out to even more people. Let's get over the notion that community involvement is hard work. It's not, so long as lots of people do just a little now and then.

We'll be running Bungo in the Back Lanes on 23 June and finishing up the year with Bungo at the Bells, our Hogmanay

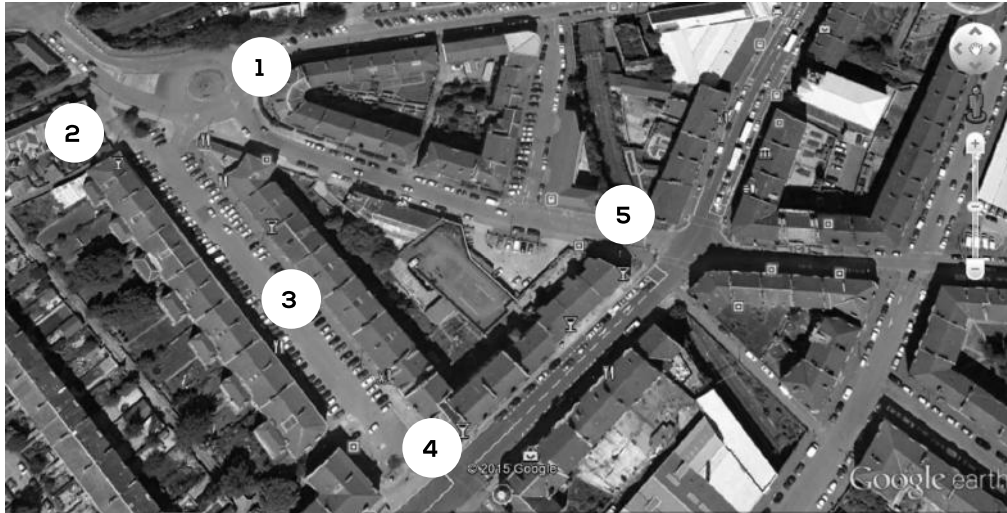
street party – plus a Spring Fling in April, Weans in the Lanes every month, and maybe even a Ghost Walk come Halloween.

Meanwhile we're interfacing with the Council and other statutory and non-statutory bodies on your behalf. And keeping an eye on Network Rail, always out there with their chainsaws...

Over the year everybody in Strathbungo will benefit in one way or another from these activities, and thousands will come from all over to enjoy Bungo events. But technically we only have 75 Friends – that is, people who've pledged just £1 a week to help fund the Society. That's why we are making a big push this year: we need all the Friends we can get to continue our work. I urge you to join today. There's a leaflet in this newsletter or sign up at: [www.bungoblog.co.uk](http://www.bungoblog.co.uk)

# CHARRETTE LOOKS AT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OVER NEXT 20 YEARS

*In late February Strathbungo people are invited to take part in an intensive four-day event—dubbed a ‘charrette’—aimed at producing a long-term, community-based plan for east Pollokshields and surrounding areas. Nick Kempe explains.*



1. Redesign roundabout?
2. Landscape cul-de-sac?
3. Relocate litter bins to street?
4. Open to through traffic?
5. Develop ‘stalled’ space?

Pollokshields Community Council, as organisers, want to work with other stakeholders to complete the East Pollokshields and Port Eglinton Planning Study, and help inform the new City Development Plan for the next two decades. The charrette mostly affects their patch, but takes in parts of Strathbungo, including Nithsdale Road/Drive/Street. And, of course, what happens on the ‘other side of the tracks’ affects the quality of our lives here.

As contributors, we hope to embed the Strathbungo Conservation Area Appraisal into the planning documents.

The Strathbungo Society sees this as an opportunity to progress proposals that have been circulating for some time as well as develop new ideas in cooperation with residents. (See street plan.) Issues for the charrette include environmental improvements, energy efficiency, transport, refuse/recycling, ‘stalled spaces’ - the list goes on.

See a full background piece at [www.bungoblog.co.uk](http://www.bungoblog.co.uk) – updates will follow on both the blog and Facebook. Meanwhile, we particularly want Nithsdale residents to get involved by contacting [charrette@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:charrette@strathbungo.co.uk)

## 2016: THE YEAR YOU STOP TALKING...

*Just as those New Year resolutions start slipping away, here’s a timely reminder of the many ways you can enjoy stretching your mind, body and soul. Just get together with kindred spirits in and around Strathbungo. Here are suggestions of both formal and informal groups - free, unless otherwise noted.*



### READ A BOOK!

Established local book group wants new members. Eclectic reading list, relaxed & informal. Meet monthly. Details from: [bungobookgroup@outlook.com](mailto:bungobookgroup@outlook.com). Also some interest arising on the Strathbungo Society Facebook page – watch that space.

# GREAT NEWS FOR EVERYDAY CYCLISTS

*Do you cycle to work or school, for fitness or fun? Loraine Forde wants to hear your ideas for a new cycling forum.*

As committed cyclists, a few Society Committee members have been considering ways to create a better environment for walkers and cyclists in our area. Lots of ideas are floating around: safe cycle routes to local schools, reduced speed limits, better lane provision and, especially for flat dwellers, communal bike storage.

To that end, some of us attended the inaugural meeting of the Pollokshields Community Cycling Forum which aims to encourage more people to cycle for leisure and exercise. We'll be keeping in close touch with this group so we can share any new developments that are put in place.

The Cycling Forum is being established by Pollokshields Community Council with Strathbungo Society support. It's an excellent opportunity to push for greater cycling infrastructure.

## ON-STREET SECURE CYCLE PARKING

Great news, especially if you share your hall with a bike: Glasgow Land & Environment Services (LES) want to promote the development of on-street, secure cycle parking.

There's a great wee You Tube clip for it (search for '100th Lambeth Bike Hanger').

Give Loraine your thoughts at [loriloufo@gmail.com](mailto:loriloufo@gmail.com)

# AND THE OCCASIONAL MOTORIST

*If you drive only now and then, Co-Wheels Car Club is right up you street – almost literally. This little number is based in Queens Drive at Pollokshaws Road, opposite Mulberry Street.*



Co-Wheels is a cheap, environmentally-sound alternative to car ownership. Book online and use smartcard entry—no need to collect keys. Rentals start at £4.50 an hour for as many or few hours as you wish. Most cars are hybrids or electric.

Co-Wheels is a UK-wide not-for-profit social enterprise, with the blessings of Glasgow City Council, Sustainable Glasgow and Scottish Enterprise. We reckon it's okay by the Strathbungo Society too.

See [www.co-wheels.org.uk/glasgow](http://www.co-wheels.org.uk/glasgow) or phone 0191 375 1050.



## SHAKE A LEG!

Join Southside Swing every Sunday evening, 6-9pm, for social dancing & cocktails, downstairs at the Bungo, £2 a session. Drop in & have a ball – no partners necessary. Can't dance? Come early & learn (5pm class/£5). Details from Madevi on Facebook: Southside Swing.



## BEAT A DRUM!

Liam Chapman is back with his fabulous Glad Café Drumming School. He supplies the drums, you make the noise – lots of it. All abilities welcome. £4/session. Tuesdays, 7-8pm at the Glad Foundation, 3 Abbott Street (beside Co-op). PM Liam on Facebook.

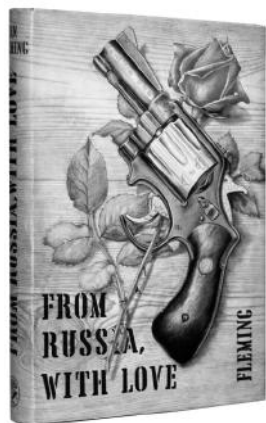


## FIND YOUR MARKET!

Do you knit, sew, felt, weave, pot, crochet, patchwork, draw, paint or do any other handicrafts? The Society is running a range of 'Made in Strathbungo' events this year. We want to build a network of local crafters interested in exhibiting & selling. More from: [rosieilett@hotmail.com](mailto:rosieilett@hotmail.com)

# WHEN THE REAL 'Q' SET 007 RIGHT

*Imagine the curtains twitching back in 1956 when the CID called at 17 Regent Park Square.*



They wanted to question the licence-holder of a pistol similar to the gun used by one of Scotland's most notorious serial killers. Geoffrey Boothroyd, a young technical rep at ICI, told them that his gun was actually down south being illustrated for the cover of Ian Fleming's next James Bond novel.

That old excuse ...

And it was true. Boothroyd, a gun collector, had written to Fleming earlier that year to say that Bond's .25 Beretta was 'really a lady's gun'. He suggested instead a manly Smith & Wesson .38. Little did he know that it was also the weapon of choice for one Peter Manual, then on a murderous spree that would claim seven lives, the last three in Burnside.

The detectives eventually got their man and Manuel got justice at the end of a rope. Boothroyd and Fleming continued their friendly correspondence. In his next novel, Fleming introduced 'Major Boothroyd' - later known as Q - who confiscated 007's Beretta for a 'proper gun' - the very .38 that appeared on the original cover of *From Russia with Love*.

Boothroyd himself became firearms consultant for *Dr No*, the

first Bond movie, and also advised on such matters as how to set an ocean on fire - no doubt his work at ICI came in handy.

He was quite an eccentric who once told Fleming: 'I cherish a dream that one day a large tiger or lion will escape from the zoo or a travelling circus and I can bag it in Argyll Street.' That never happened, but he went on to become the world's leading authority on shotguns.

There's a fuller story on the Bungo Blog. Or check out Fleming's letters in *The Man with the Golden Typewriter*. ISBN-10: 1632864894

## WHO LIVED IN YOUR HOUSE?

David Cook, who pointed us toward this story, found a wonderful gift when he moved into his house in Moray Place - a complete set of title deeds dating back to the original owners in 1859. It reminds you, he says, that we are only caretakers - so many people have walked up our steps, looked out our windows and raised their families here.

Alexander 'Greek' Thomson lived at 1 Moray Place and Charles Rennie Mackintosh stayed in digs in Regent Park Square. A Victorian journalist, living in Queen Square, scandalised local folk with thinly-veiled tales of Strathbungo.

What about your house? Any stories? Any ghosts? Want to know how to explore the history of your house?

Get in touch at: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)



## GROW IT

Locavore, the social enterprise supermarket, hosts weekly 'Open Gate' days at The Croft, their community plots at Queens Park Recreation Grounds. Come & help - learn new skills, meet people. Starts in March. Contact Reuben Chesters: [shop@glasgowlocavore.org](mailto:shop@glasgowlocavore.org)



## BREW IT

Make clear, crisp quaffable wine for pennies a glass - beer & lager too. All it takes is a little knowledge and odd bits of specialist gear so let's get together to share expertise and equipment. Come to our Taster Session: [bungobrewers@gmail.com](mailto:bungobrewers@gmail.com)

## ... AND JUST DO IT!

This is just a flavour of the things that are happening in Strathbungo this spring - why not be a part of it! Let us know if you are involved in a group that could be welcoming other members of the community. We're happy to publicise your details here and on Facebook or the Bungo Blog.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

*These are all on-going items – look for updates on the Bungo Blog and Facebook.*

- Network Rail is quiet, not always good news. Waiting for them to meet at City Chambers with the Society and Cllrs Meikle & MacLeod about 'vegetation maintenance' and fencing. Chris Jay's (11 Moray Place) letter in Herald questions clearing railway embankments whilst flooding rages. Moray Place owners checking title deeds re ownership and NR's siting of fences.
- Bus to Busy Lizzie! Half-hourly service from Darnley Rd at Sainsbury's to & from the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.
- Sammy Dow's reincarnation. Leaseholders met with Strathbungo Society and adjacent property owners to discuss key issues in current and proposed applications. Hopeful agreement to share applications with the Society prior to submission to avoid further confrontation.
- Strathbungo & Shawlands Community Council, the statutory consultee for planning applications, now has a permanent rep from the Society.
- Kitchen waste recycling is coming soon with free caddies & compostable liners.



## WEANS IN THE LANES

It's great to see (and hear) kids playing in the lanes—just like old times. This play scheme for children and their parents/carers happens on the first Sunday of every month, 10am-noon. Let's get everybody out there as spring approaches. More from Alison Hunter: [huntermalison@gmail.com](mailto:huntermalison@gmail.com)



## BUNGO AT THE BELLS

After torrential rain and gales all day, a minor miracle happened on Hogmanay evening when the weather abated just in time for the 18th annual Bungo at the Bells. Hundreds streamed into Marywood Square at Moray Place where the Society provided a wee malt, mulled wine, soft drinks & shortbread and the revellers did the rest!



## FESTIVE DRINKS

Is this a new tradition? Residents all along Queen Square and Regent Park Square were invited out to their mutual lane for pre-Christmas drinks. It was a BYOE (Bring Your Own Everything) get-together including lights, lawn chairs and a brazier to keep everybody toasty. Great fun!



## BRIGHTER BUNGO

Nothing bright about the day, but thanks to all who turned out for the January clean-up in the lanes – including the chainsaw team who trimmed the vegetation in railings along Moray Place.



## AGM

Our 21st Annual General Meeting drew the biggest turnout in recent years. Thanks to all who came and especially those who signed up for the new Committee – great to see so many new faces.



## THE GOOD LIFE

Locavore, the social enterprise supermarket, are keen on sustainable, transparent food production. Some 16 local people have bought a share in their pig patch which has moved from Queens Park to their market garden in Neilston.



## OTHER SIDE

*Blink and you'll miss this great new shop in Pollokshaws Road.*

Owner Aalya Maan has hundreds of vinyl records from across the decades, including real collectables. Now vinyl is making a comeback, Aalya chose Strathbungo because there is a big interest in music here. She gets her stock from various sources, including DJs and eBay. There are also books and what she calls 'curios'.

Why 'Other Side'? Aalya believes the other side of things is often more interesting. And something interesting is always on the turntable – check it out!



### NOW ...AND THEN?

The shop is actually on the other side of the Allison Arms, whose landlord Matthew Reilly says it was originally a 'pend', the Scottish term for a horse & cart passageway. The conversion was done in the 80s and it may have once been a fish & game shop. Anybody know?

Send stories and photos on this, or any other long-gone shops, to Andrew Downie, who does our Then & Now features: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)

## THEN ... AND NOW *638 Pollokshaws Road*

The old Queens Garage in 1928. The site persisted as a garage until the mid-90s and was much loved, not least because they filled your petrol tank and washed your windscreen in the forecourt. Now the Arnold Clark dealership.

– Andrew Downie



### SAVE THE DATE

**EVERY THIRD TUES** Strathbungo Society monthly meetings, 7.30pm, The Bungo.

**7 FEB/10 MAR** Weans in the Lanes

**APR** Brighter Bungo, Spring Fling

**23 JUN** Bungo in the Back Lanes

**3 JUL** Scotland's Gardens Open Day in Strathbungo

Details on [www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com)

### STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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Send letters and brief articles of general interest by 1 April 2016 to: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk) or 38 Queen Square, G41 2AZ.

**Advertising enquiries welcome.**