

## AUTUMN IN STRATHBUNGO

*Despite all that ‘mist and mellow fruitfulness’, autumn is really the start of the year in many ways—back to school, back to work after summer holidays and back to business for the Strathbungo Society.*



Perversely, some might say, the Strathbungo Society's year will begin on 25 October at 7.30pm with our Annual General Meeting. There's a full year ahead and we hope you will help set the agenda for what's to come. It's at the Queens Park Parish Church Hall (170 Queens Drive).

As a non-statutory body, the Society's only real authority is that we represent the voice of the local community, and that can make a real difference when we come up against a powerful organization like Network Rail. We may not be able to prevent them from managing the land along our boundaries, but we have been able to influence outcomes in ways that are much more amenable to Scotland's first 'railway suburb'.

Of course, there can be nothing more un-amenable than empty or boarded up shopfronts, and that's why the Society is always keen to highlight local businesses and encourage you to

use them. So thanks to the Nithsdale-Kildrostan merchants and to South Seeds for returning the favour by advertising in this issue. We need advertising support, though we would never take ads that weren't directly relevant to Strathbungo residents. Whether it's about the annual 'lighting up' party over-by that signals the countdown to Christmas, or making your house snug and warm when winter finally does arrive, do have a look at those leaflets.

### IS THIS BECOMING THE GO-TO PLACE FOR GOOD FOOD & DRINK?

With the number of really excellent cafes, bars and bistros now located within walking distance, you might wonder why anyone would ever consider going into the city. Indeed, people are now coming from all over Glasgow to eat, drink and be merry in Strathbungo. And just think: we can enjoy a great night out without having to get a taxi home!

# NETWORK RAIL: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

*In late September Network Rail met with the Strathbungo Society and our elected officials to reveal their latest proposals for reinforcing the boundary along the railway line in Moray Place. After almost two years, they appear a bit more conciliatory than in January last year, when they first announced plans for an industrial-scale weld mesh barrier between their land and ours. Andrew Downie reports.*



Network Rail (NR) now propose a two-stage solution. Their most pressing need is to replace the insecure wire and post fence at the Gardens end, where the risk of trespass is highest. They first intend to erect a black or green powder-coated steel fence (see inset) along the line of the existing fence, working from the road. They will clear only as much vegetation as is needed for access and also remove fly-tipped vegetation on the bank. This will be in January or February, before nesting season, with a road closure order during the works (8am-4pm, a section at a time).

It's the same fence design as used around the bridge at Crossmyloof Station. The proposed height was 1.8m, but as they previously agreed to 1.4m they will look at that again.

Phase 2 is to replace the hoop-topped fence from Vennard Gardens to the footbridge, and the ranch fencing from the

footbridge to the stone wall at 6 Moray Place. NR remained unclear about boundary issues here. We explained again that the existing fence is on residents' land and they seemed amenable to placing the new fence further back, either 2 feet back on their legal boundary, or 5 feet back on the site of the original wall - essentially a line between the existing wall and the post and wire fence. However, the further back it goes, the more vegetation they'll remove. They are suggesting the same type of fence as for Phase 1.

Even if the work is done in phases, Society Chair Kevin Kane wants to see a proposal for the whole of Moray Place, before work begins. We hope to address this at a planned site visit this autumn.

Many issues remain

- Are residents at the Gardens end happy with the proposals and fence design?
- Any specific vegetation to protect or remove?
- If a new fence is erected behind it, should the hooped fence be removed?
- If so, what happens with the verge and strip of land we regain? Tarmac it for a pavement? Or replant it, and if so, with what?
- Should the sycamore saplings be felled?
- How should the fence connect to the footbridge? Can we get rid of the Leylandii? And the apparently redundant gate & access staircase?

All comments welcome at: [adownie@doctors.org.uk](mailto:adownie@doctors.org.uk).

Thanks to Baillie Norman MacLeod for facilitating the meeting.

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## A ROAD RUNS THROUGH IT

*Is this a vision for the Nithsdale Village Green?*

Could be, if enough people are ready to find the funding and put in the hard graft to make it happen.

The Village Green concept is one of a number of ideas to come out of Make Your Mark, a charrette-style consultation on how to improve life in East Pollokshields. The Strathbungo Society took part as neighbours who have a vested interest in our adjacent community. After all, we not only frequent the shops and eating places across the railway line, Nithsdale Road itself

continues right through Stathbungo as a conduit for public transport and the fabulous green space of Queens Park. It could be a very exciting time for us all.

According to Bill Fraser, Pollokshields Community Council Chair, an over-arching report on the consultation is due out soon, but meanwhile you can get a preview at the Strathbungo AGM on 25 October.



# STRATHBUNGO FOLK: ROSA SACHARIN

*Everyone has a story, Rosa Sacharin says, and it's true. Yet few have such remarkable stories as this petite 91-year-old who has lived in Strathbungo with her husband Joe for over half a century.*



In a famous 1938 photograph of Kindertransport children arriving in Britain, that's Rosa in the top right corner – just 13, small for her age, bewildered, utterly alone. Incredibly, those eyes had already witnessed Hitler at close range, whipping a crowd into a frenzy of hatred. She had seen her father imprisoned, his manufacturing business destroyed, the aftermath of Kristallnacht when Nazi thugs carried out state-backed violence against Jews, her brother arrested, and finally her mother and sister left behind as that train took her from Berlin to the relative safety of Britain.

The Kindertransport was a massive humanitarian effort between 1938 and the start of the war that enabled some 9,000 unaccompanied refugee children to escape the coming Holocaust. “It got better, but we were the first and they really didn't know what to do with us.”

In the event she was sent to Edinburgh where, after a nightmare stay with family whose cat covered her with fleabites, she lived for the next few years with a foster family. “They were kind,” she says, “but quite old, and I was really just the maid.” Unable to understand or be understood, she virtually taught herself English, relying more on the Chalet children's books and the public library than school.



Miraculously, her older sister Betty made it out of Berlin just before the war started and in 1941 they were reunited in Glasgow where Rosa moved into a hostel run by the Quakers. They never saw their father again, nor their brother Abraham Karl who was murdered at the Belzec camp in Poland. In 1947, they learned their mother had survived and were able to bring her to Glasgow. By then Rosa was training as a nurse and had begun a career as a practitioner and tutor that would include writing the seminal textbook in her field, *Principles of Paediatric Nursing*. Along the way she met and married Joe, who followed wartime service in the Royal Navy with a distinguished career in aviation aeronautics. They bought their lovely home in Strathbungo in 1960, and raised their two daughters here. After so many hard times, life has been good.

Rosa's story is well documented, both in her autobiography, *The Unwanted Jew* (2014), and in powerful online interviews she gave to Gathering the Voices ([www.gatheringthevoices.com/testimonies/rosa-sacharin1](http://www.gatheringthevoices.com/testimonies/rosa-sacharin1)). Her own voice is steady and calm, but those same eyes that stare out of the 1938 photo still see the world as a dangerous place. As a new generation of unaccompanied child refugees head toward Britain, racism and anti-semitism are growing. “Human beings will never change. Suffering is suffering. It doesn't matter which colour, creed or religion you are.”



# THE REAL-LIFE SUSIE AND OTHER TALES

*Last time we asked if anyone knew the eponymous Susie of Susie's Shop over the railway bridge and lo and behold, someone did! We've also had sightings of others who lived here in bygone days.*

Douglas Robertson reckons the original Susie's Shop was in Pollokshields, run by Mr Mirza Begg and his wife ... Susie. They met on the buses as a driver and 'conductress', and opened their shop in Maxwell Road in the 50s. After Strathbungo Station closed in 1962 the Beggs re-located in small premises on the Moray Place side. Douglas also remembers a 'wee sweetie shop' there previously, run by a mother and daughter. Mirza and Susie were a well-liked couple, he says, always cheerful and smiling. Their son had a shop in Cambridge Street until recently.



Thanks to Irene Kendall at the Regent pub for this vintage photo. The No 12 tram was enroute to Mt Florida.

## SWEET SISTERS IN REGENT PARK SQUARE

Fiona Mackinnon recently found a secondhand book called All About Sweetmaking, a 1909 textbook from the Glasgow

School of Confectionery. Turns out this institute was run by sisters Gertrude and Julia Clark at 34 Regent Park Square. They were still there as tenants (£43 a year rent) in the 1913 valuation rolls, but gone before the 1925 Post Office Directory. We may try one of their recipes for the next Bungo Bake-Off.

## A MYSTERY IN MARYWOOD SQUARE

After reading about the real-life Q of James Bond fame in Regent Park Square (SB News Spring 2016), Andrew Downie uncovered a spot of espionage in his own patch. Martin and Betty Lustig, who'd married in Palestine in 1935, came to Glasgow as refugees and their son Yehuda was born at 52 Marywood Square in 1948. Yehuda later joined the Israeli Army and was killed in action during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

However ... in 1994, twenty years after his death, Yehuda Lustig changed the birth name on his British passport to Christopher Lockwood. In 2010 the Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh was assassinated in Dubai, creating a worldwide media and diplomatic storm when the assassins were identified as a Mossad hit squad travelling on fake British and American passports. The only one using a genuine passport was one Christopher Lockwood, the getaway driver. So was Yehuda resurrected as a Mossad agent? Or, more likely, was his identity stolen, using the method Frederick Forsyth described in Day of the Jackal. We'll never know: the assassins got away Scot-free.

Read longer versions of these stories at [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk) Any more to share?

*Come along to the*

## STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

Tuesday, **25 October** 2016 at **7.30pm**

Queens Park Parish Church Hall  
170 Queens Drive

*'Make Your Mark – a community vision'*

Guest Speaker: Jude Barber, Collective Architecture

Plus update and consultation on Network Rail proposals, election of new Committee and trustees, and your chance to raise your issues. Tea & coffee afterwards.



# NEWS IN BRIEF



## WHY, IT'S OWEN!

Who has not received an email or text saying 'Owen will deliver your parcel between 11.38 and 12.38' or some other equally-precise timeframe? If you thought that was an attempt at personalising their service, you're right: here's Owen himself. Owen Brown has the DPD franchise for the whole of G41. His day starts at the depot, picking up about 120 parcels put in sequence with a one-hour window for delivery- allowing him two minutes per drop. No time to chat, but he's always up for a friendly hello.



## THE REGENT BAR

The Regent Bar at Pollokshaws & Nithsdale Roads has been stopping passers-by with a striking photo from the early 1900s in which the pub itself can be seen. Landlady Irene Kendall chose a cream colour scheme during a recent refurb to blend in with the surrounding sandstone, and hopes to install more vintage photos soon. There was a public house on that corner as long ago as the 1892 ordinance survey – the first pub in Strathbungo.

## STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY ONLINE

- Our new Facebook page (search for strathbungosociety) is the main online channel to notify you about news and events. Not to be confused with our FB friends at Strathbungo Community Group, an excellent community bulletin board.
- Our revamped website is coming soon with lots more about events, the area and services. We're giving it a modern, mobile-friendly design with easier navigation.

We welcome any help you can offer to make this a really valuable resource: [tech@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:tech@strathbungo.co.uk)



## SO LONG, BERNIE

Bernadetta Corvi, 54, co-owner of Mulberry Street, died on 29 July. She and her son Stuart took on the licence in 2006, and have become good friends of the community, also running the bars at Bungo in the Back Lanes. Bernie was still in her 20s when first diagnosed with cancer and always said her proudest achievement was becoming grandmother to Sofia in 2009.



## BRIGHTER BUNGO

Lily Hulme, 8, proves that it's fun to be one of our clean-up volunteers who go round the lanes every quarter. Next Brighter Bungo is scheduled for Sunday, 8 January at 11am. All equipment supplied. Meet at the lane beside Lebowski's – you never know what you might find.



## THE WORLD'S FIRST HALAL PIZZERIA?

The former Bradford's Bakery at 10 Torrissdale Street has been transformed into a gleaming pasta & pizza ristorante called Al-Forno, which aptly enough means 'oven-cooked'. Why Halal? Owner Ikram says he loves Italian food and wanted to open it up to a wider community. Chris and Rindi are ready to help. Great coffee too – check it out.



## BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES

This summer's Bungo in the Back Lanes was bigger and more varied than ever. Thanks to all who came and all who helped, including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. And thanks for tombola prizes from Marie Brown at Home and Circa Carino Hairdressers in Kildrostan Street; Rowlands Pharmacy, Locavore, Zucchini, Cuthbertson and Woods, Maxwells corner shop and the new general store in Nithsdale Rd; World Foods in Nithsdale Drive; and Buddy's, Bikers+ and Ranjit's Kitchen in Pollokshaws Road.

# THEN ... AND NOW *116 Nithsdale Road*



These dapper gents were posing in 1930 in the doorway of G.S. Kitchins the Chemist, a Pollokshields landmark. Kitchins is long gone, but the name remained on the fascia until this year when Rowlands Pharmacy, the present incumbent, undertook a makeover. The beautiful curved frontage is listed and, although the deep green and gold livery is missed, Rowlands consulted conservation guidelines and had planning consent for the change to cream paint and their corporate



signage. Life moves on, after all, and we wonder what those old boys would make of having a lady pharmacist – that's Charlotte Gibbons (centre), with Caroline Brown, medicine counter assistant on the left, and Laura Davis, dispenser.

If you have any suggestions for Then and Now, contact: [adownie@doctors.org.uk](mailto:adownie@doctors.org.uk)

## SAVE THE DATE

### 22 OCT

Queens Park Farmers Market  
(10am-2pm) and every 1st & 3rd  
Saturday

### 25 OCT

Strathbungo Society AGM (7.30pm)

### 6 NOV

Weans in the Lanes (10am-noon),  
and every 1st Sunday

### 16 NOV

Pollokshields 21st Christmas Night  
(6.30-9.30pm)

### 19 NOV

Beachcraft workshop,  
[beachcraftdrummore@hotmail.com](mailto:beachcraftdrummore@hotmail.com)

### 31 DEC

Bungo at the Bells, Hogmanay street  
party (from 11.45pm)

### 8 JAN

Brighter Bungo, quarterly clean-up  
(11am) at lane beside Lebowski's

Details at: [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk)

## JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

We're looking for someone with editorial/journalistic experience to join the (very) small team who produce the quarterly Strathbungo News. Meet interesting people, gather news, make it fit, work with a professional designer. Lousy pay (zilch), but satisfaction aplenty.

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

## STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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Send letters and brief articles of general interest by 5 Jan 2017 to: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk) or 38 Queen Square, G41 2AZ.

**Advertising enquiries welcome.**