
Strathbungo News

The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter
Spring 2017

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS...

It's hard to miss the current state of disruption in Moray Place as the contracting team from Network Rail have now embarked on a six-week programme. After more than two years, the long saga of the railway boundary and vegetation is coming to an end—or, as Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane suggests, perhaps a new beginning.



It started in early 2015 with a rather ominous letter announcing that Network Rail were going to install a new fence and 'manage' vegetation along the railway line in Moray Place. Thus began prolonged negotiations as the Strathbungo Society, representing adjacent householders and the wider community, sought to discover what NR Rail had in mind. The news wasn't good: it was basically a high, prison-like weld mesh fence sitting on a scorched-earth landscape. Over 24 months of discussion this initial plan has evolved into a greatly improved outcome for Strathbungo, and it's happening now.

SOME SHORT-TERM DISRUPTION

- Work started on 30 January and will continue in two phases from the Gardens end over the spring.
- This will involve removal of most of the existing trees and shrubs to clear the fence line.
- A day-time road closure order will be in place for sections of Moray Place, with emergency vehicle access at all times.

By the start of summer we should have a new, more appropriate fence and a pretty-much blank canvas for replanting.

SOME LONG-TERM BENEFITS

- A positive and effective level of engagement between property owners, Strathbungo Society, our elected officials and Network Rail who, after all, did not really have to engage with us at all.
- A better quality project, both in terms of the size and design of the fence, its precise location and help with replanting.
- Research by Andrew Downie of the Strathbungo Society has established the legal boundary along the whole length of Moray Place, something lacking for over 100 years, and this is accepted in full (and with gratitude) by NR.
- Along the way, the Society (via past-Chair, Teresa Mooney) also established ownership of the railway footbridge: it's theirs, and they have agreed to schedule much-needed refurbishment in the 2018/19 financial year.
- The Society has engaged with the Tree Council to access funding for a resident-led, block-by-block re-planting scheme to create a sympathetic, bio-diverse and beautiful boundary for now – and for generations to come. See inside for a preview.

WINDOW WANDERLAND STRATHBUNGO

Excitement is growing for the first-ever Strathbungo Window Wanderland, with more local folk going 'on the map' for creating a night of imagination and fun.



Drawing by Craig Smille

The idea is simpler than it sounds, says Sarah Reid, leading the small band of volunteers organising it: "Just dress up in your own windows for the night, and encourage your neighbours to do so too. House by house, street by street, Strathbungo will be transformed into a magical open-air gallery with people wandering round to view it.

"Don't feel intimidated! Your 'display' can be as simple as fairy lights or balloons. Or go all-out and stage a performance in your front room or project a lightshow onto your building. Anything goes so long as it's family-friendly!"

Check out Sarah's event page on Facebook for regular updates and lots of inspiration. Or email bungo_window_wander@hotmail.com if you have questions.

PLUS, the Tramway is kindly running a free drop-in Window Wanderland workshop on Tuesday, 21 February, 4-7pm, with free materials and artistic advice to help you realise your dream display.

Kevin Kane, Strathbungo Society Chair, said: "Well done,

Sarah, for bringing this terrific event to Strathbungo. Local residents have form when it comes to getting into the spirit and staging a collective event, like Bungo in the Back Lanes, that's bigger than the sum of its parts. We hope everybody does something special for the night."

And indeed, Sarah says, there are already rumours of themed blocks, bands playing and parties all round the Bungo.

Come along to the
**WINTER WANDERLAND
STRATHBUNGO**

Saturday, **25 February 2017, 6-9pm**

All round the houses!

SPRING FLING & BUNGO BAKE-OFF



This perennial favourite is a crafts fair cum coffee morning cum cake-baking extravaganza – and it's back this year in a new venue to hold more and more varied stalls.

A lot more people too, says Rosie Illet who is organising the event for the Strathbungo Society. "Moving to the Langside Halls will give us much more space for our crafts fair, including an expanded area for the children's crafts workshop."

The event attracts unique creations from talented local makers including hand-knitting, paintings, design, jewellery, cards, badges, upcycled home décor, hand-printed handbags and vintage glad-rags.

The Bungo Bake-off had 16 fabulous entries when it was launched last year and we hope to have even more this time, with professional judges and great prizes.

Rosie says: "Can't bake, won't bake? Then just come along and eat cake because it's a great coffee morning and a chance to catch up with your friends and neighbours."

Regular updates and details of how to hire a stall or enter a cake are on the Facebook events page and at: www.bungoblog.com.

RE-PLANTING MORAY PLACE: GETTING IT RIGHT NOW, AND FOR THE FUTURE

Moray Place is about to change as Network Rail installs the first proper new fence since the 19th century, but a lot of our current 'green corridor' will go. Fiona MacKinnon has good news about how we can create a diverse and appropriate boundary – and fund it too!



We will miss our present green vista, but this is a short-term loss that offers a rare opportunity to improve the street most everyone in Strathbungo travels along every day. In time and with native planting, Moray Place could have year-round appeal with spring and summer blossom, seasonal fruit and spectacular autumn colour—more diverse wildlife too.

Households opposite own a strip of land on the railway side, so can plant trees and shrubs between the road and new fence. The good news is Network Rail works with the Tree Council, a UK charity that gives grants to help communities buy and plant new native woodland trees. The Strathbungo Society has tapped into this and the Tree Council is keen to get us planting.

The Society intend to come up with a 'menu' of suitable trees and shrubs, working out how many are needed to cover the ground effectively and creating a plan for how we do the work. The finished street will look planned and connected, but each block should have its own distinctive look. An early idea is to have 'sentinel trees' at the junction of each street.



Strathbungo is famously community-minded and already many Moray Place blocks see great neighbour co-operation on common issues. This existing bond offers a more manageable way to accomplish new planting down a long street. What is being proposed is that each block puts forward a block representative to make their Tree Council application. Grants go up to £700 so we can buy high quality plants. The Tree Council pay 60% of the costs upfront and then when everything is planted they paid the 40% balance.

Meanwhile, the Strathbungo Society has agreed to cover this 40% until the grant comes through, allowing residents to get going without worrying about finance.

Re-planting is likely to get underway in the autumn. It will take working together and working hard to make this happen, but we will have the right to feel proud of what we have done – and the leisure to sit back and watch it grow.

We are reaching out to experts in landscape design, especially for native trees and wildlife. Can you or do you know anyone or any organisation that might help?



BYGONE BUNGO

Andrew Downie takes us on a quick tour round a fascinating new website that you will want to spend hours delving into. And he modestly neglects to mention that he researched, designed and built it virtually single-handed. A tremendous asset that is now up and running bygone.bungoblog.com



Ever wondered about the history of where you live? Or who lived in your house before you?

Did you know ...

- Nithsdale Road has links to the Elgin Marbles
- One of the Gardens' builders got his next job on the Empire State Building
- Queen Square was built by Alexander Thomson (just not THAT Alexander Thomson)
- The Maxwells of Pollok tried to bury the name Strathbungo
- The McMillan Restaurant was originally a car showroom
- There's buried treasure in Strathbungo Parish Church
- The architects of the Gardens preferred designing cinemas
- It was 50 years before the footbridge reached the other side of the railway
- The streets were named after the protagonists in the Battle of Langside
- Strathbungo's football team won the FA Cup. Twice.

With the aid of a new website, you can now find out. There's

a history of the development of Strathbungo from a small weavers' village to the community it is today, including details of those who built it, in many cases previously unknown. There are articles on local history, old photographs and maps, and sources for further reading. And there is plenty more to come during the year.

Key to the project is a database of every property in Strathbungo, listing builders, landlords and residents, mostly from 1865 to 1925, some 5000 people in all- so far. Just pop in your address and see who used to live there. We know of Greek Thomson and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, but there were also other architects, military men & footballers (and one who was all three), ministers, doctors, builders, a secret service agent (allegedly), and even Ian Fleming's Q.

Have anything to add? We welcome your contributions – and remember, pictures and stories from even 10 or 20 years ago are already becoming part of Bygone Bungo.

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD LANDMARK?

Langside Hall, an A-listed building at the corner of Pollokshaws Road and Langside Avenue, was originally built in 1847 as a National Bank of Scotland in Queen Street. In 1901 it was re-erected in its present site without any significant change to the façade or interior – some flit!

Langside Halls Trust now wants to create a new future for this beautiful but much-underused facility. The idea is to raise funds to redevelop it for cultural and community events as well as a venue-

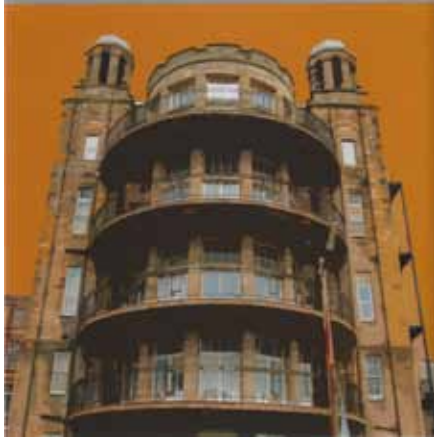
for-hire for groups across the Southside.

The Trust is already talking with Glad Café, Southside Fringe and Southside Film Festival, and Glasgow Life appears keen to make the Halls a key Southside venue for Celtic Connections, Glasgow Comedy Festival etc. This ties in nicely with the new Shawlands Civic Square, coming soon in front of the Halls, and promises exciting times ahead.

More from Trust Chair David Cook at langside.hall.trust@gmail.com.



NEWS IN BRIEF



© Stephen O'Neill, Gallery & Shop at 1030 Pollokshaws Road.

VICKY CONSULTATION

A consultation on the re-development of Victoria Infirmary by Sanctuary Group, a housing association, will comprise six drop-in sessions at Langside Library on 9 & 11 February (the Masterplan), 9 & 11 March (design ideas) and 23 & 25 March (findings and proposals). Sanctuary bought the 9-acre site in 2015 and plan to build 400 flats. They say they will keep the listed admin building and heritage features such as the Nightingale wing and gatehouse, but some locals are concerned that demolition has started before the consultation.

HOSPICE SHOP NEEDS YOU

The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice shop in Pollokshaws Road was their first in Glasgow, opening in 1988, and has lately reopened after a major freshening up. Manager Arlene Taylor says business is brisk and they could use more volunteers for 'sorting, meeting & greeting', especially towards the end of each week. A great atmosphere and a great cause – do pop in and see her.

POLLOKSHIELDS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

It's all go for this new body set up to take forward ideas from the Pollokshields 'Make Your Mark' charrette. They now have Scottish Government funding, a paid staff member, a new logo and plans for a public meeting on 25 March.

Bill Fraser has details at: BillF@pollokshields.net

BOX SET

The salt box which languished in the flatlands of March Street has come to roost on the steep slope outside Susie's. Cllr Meikle took up our case with Land & Environmental Services (LES) who weren't at first minded to move it. True grit, David – thanks. And thanks to Brendan Dick, Chair BT Scotland, who took an interest in our poor sad listed phone box nearby, a rare sight these days. It's already had some sprucing up and is due for a new coat of paint, but he also noted that just 14 calls were placed from it in the previous 12 months. Perhaps we should think of a new use?

Ideas to: news@strathbungo.co.uk



BUNGO AT THE BELLS

Strathbungo's annual Hogmanay street party was mobbed and – as always – lots of fun for the hundreds of revellers who turned out to welcome in 2017. Here are four of them, Murphys all. After 18 years of helping organise the Strathbungo Society event, often outside their own gate, Ann and Andrew Downie would like to pass the privilege on to others and the 2018 event looks likely to

be around the corner of Thorncliffe Gardens and Moray Place. Many thanks to Ann & Andrew, and also to Teresa for all the years of celebration.



THE PARTY'S OVER

Brighter Bungo organiser Alan Dobson noted that the Society's post-holiday work party numbered 18 hardy volunteers and collected over 30 Christmas trees along with the usual rubbish – thanks to all. And thanks to the LES recycling team who managed to cope with this overflowing bottle bank – quite a party!



CHANGES ON BAR-BISTRO SCENE

Mulberry Street shuts on 20 February for 3-4 week for a major refurb – owner Stuart Covi promises a fresh new look, include relocating the bar, opening up more space in both bar and restaurant, and upgrading the décor before re-opening in March.

Mamafubu is an Asian fusion restaurant that has taken over Salisbury's in Nithsdale Road. They have already opened a sister outlet in the Merchant City and are associated with the popular Dumpling Monkey outfit in Partick.

And Shimla Pinks is gone, to be replaced soon by a bar-bistro serving traditional grub with local Scottish produce.

THEN

Now you see it ... this was a chance photograph taken during a shopfront re-fit about 15 years ago that revealed two shops that had been there before. K Scatchard was a chemists with an old-style apothecary shop on the left side and an opticians on the right, complete with an eye chart in the window. When Scatchards closed in the late 70s-early 80s, they donated their lovely jars and instruments to the Museum of Transport, who made it part of a shopfront in their historic street scene until relocating their collection to the West End. Anybody know what's become of it?



As the lower part of the fascia suggests, Steve's Hardware, which followed in the 90s had just about anything you needed - a very handy shop. Then came a couple of kitchen showrooms before Little Botanica took it over in recent years.

... AND NOW

This is a new concept in eating and drinking for us discerning types in Strathbungo! It's opening early in March (appropriately enough), and takes its name from the old Strathbungo village where three 'marches' or boundaries met for Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and Govan.



Marchtown is first and foremost a bar serving fine wine and special beers in a relaxed, comfortable environment. A choice of 'small plates' too, and there will also be an off sales where you can buy wines to take home, personally selected by Anthony Reynolds, who runs Marchtown with his partner Kim Scott.

And there's more: downstairs they will **be holding** wine tastings, gourmet events and workshop dealing with everything from food to flowers to - well, whatever you fancy knowing more about.



SAVE THE DATE

25 MAR

Pollokshields Development Trust meeting


11 JUN

Brighter Bungo community clean-up

17 JUN

Bungo in the Back Lanes Civic Day Scotland

START SPREADING THE NEWS

We need someone to manage distribution of the Strathbungo News, taking over from the long-serving Andrew Downie. Also always looking for help to deliver through the doors.  Thanks Andrew.

Contact news@strathbungo.co.uk if you can help.

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Send letters and brief articles of general interest by 5 May 2017 to:

news@strathbungo.co.uk or 38 Queen Square, G41 2AZ.

Advertising enquiries welcome.