

# Strathbungo News

The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter  
Summer 2017

## IT'S GOOD TO TALK

*Times change and so do people. Living in a conservation area, we also know that we can embrace change while safeguarding the beauty and integrity of our unique community. Which brings us to that classic Edwardian call box in Nithsdale Road.*



In fact it brought us there on a wet Saturday afternoon when a few Strathbungo folk joined a walkabout organised by Pollokshields Trust. The idea was to generate ideas for creating a 'Nithsdale Village Green' along the corridor between Pollokshaws Road and Shields Road. Just being there – right on the spot – made it so much easier to ask those questions that can lead to real progress:

### WHAT IF ...? WHY NOT...?

Stopping at the phonebox, we decided to show some of our millennials what it was like on a wet Saturday afternoon when you needed to make a call and some wifey was having a blether. As yet another coin went into the box ...

A bit of fun, but it made us think how things that are perhaps no longer viable in their historic use can still be really, really nice. Only 14 calls were made from there in the past year. What if, someone asked, we turn it into a mini art gallery? An information kiosk? A light show? A first-aid station with a defibrillator.

Over two hours people came up with some great ideas about big issues such as parking, road congestion, safety, pollution – good stuff from genuine people who live here and want the neighbourhood to prosper.

Jean Mackenzie is coordinating ideas for Pollokshields Trust and will welcome yours at: [nithsdale.green@pollokshields.net](mailto:nithsdale.green@pollokshields.net) Or contact Nick Kempe at: [treasurer@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@strathbungo.co.uk) Now that the Trust is properly constituted as a registered charity, they can start thinking seriously about costing projects and getting funding.

So that phonebox may be way down their list of priorities, but meanwhile, what if we think about adopting it? And, as for 'quick wins', have you ever noticed how Spanish or French shopkeepers start the day by washing down their pavement ... why not encourage ours to do the same!

Let's have your ideas at: [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk) – or during Bungo in the Back Lanes.

# FIND THE HIDDEN GARDENS

*Now that summer's coming, get to know this award-winning green space, says Natalie Davidson, Community Programme Manager. It's just up the road ...*

Opened in 2003 on the site of the old Coplawhill Tram Works, the Hidden Gardens transformed a derelict 5000m<sup>2</sup> brownfield site into a peaceful haven. A registered charity, the Gardens share a cultural footprint with Glasgow Life's Tramway, Scottish Ballet and Glasgow Gurdwara.

The Gardens were designed to encourage thought and reflection, a sanctuary where people can connect with nature and each other. Planting is both native and exotic, and seeks to represent the diverse spread of global cultures in the surrounding neighbourhoods. The plant collection is always evolving.

Artworks integrated into the design were devised by listening to varied opinions expressed during community consultation: among them, Gerry Loose's Inscribed Texts are carved into five sandstone waymarkers, while Alex Finlay's Xylotheque is a library of the Scottish woodland.

Participation, collaboration and learning are central to the Gardens' ethos with many ways to get involved year-round in free activities. These include Tai Chi on the Lawn, Weekend Gardening and Wee Happenings events for families.

The plant kiosk is now open with veg, summer annuals and perennials available for a small donation.

Entry is free (closed Mondays). More on Facebook, and we'll see you at Bungo in the Back Lanes!



# REGENT PARK SQUARE STREET PARTY

*Strathbungo's first... but not the last!*

**minute** plans were being made for a brilliant day of fun. With Regent Park Square closed to traffic all day and the whole community invited, the Strathbungo Society is pleased to sponsor this great new event.



# RUBBISH RESPONSE!

As well as picking up rubbish in our back lanes, the Strathbungo Society now has to pick up the bill for public liability insurance for our quarterly Brighter Bungo clean-up.

Turns out the Council's 'Environmental Task Force' will now only cover us for what we can snag with their little litter-pickers. That means they will no longer dispose of bulk items our volunteers collect unless we pay up for extra insurance to cover large items.

We're hoping the next Brighter Bungo will be fully-insured (our shout!). It starts at 11am on Sunday, 11 June. Join us in Nithsdale Road at Moray Place to tidy-up for Bungo in the Back Lanes.



# MORAY PLACE: THE VERDICT

“Looks great,” said Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane, surveying the smart new boundary fence between Moray Place and the railway line. “Worth the fight,” said Fiona MacKinnon, who was in the thick of things between the Society and Network Rail for 2½ years. Along with dozens of others who fought for a much-improved maintenance package than we were first offered.

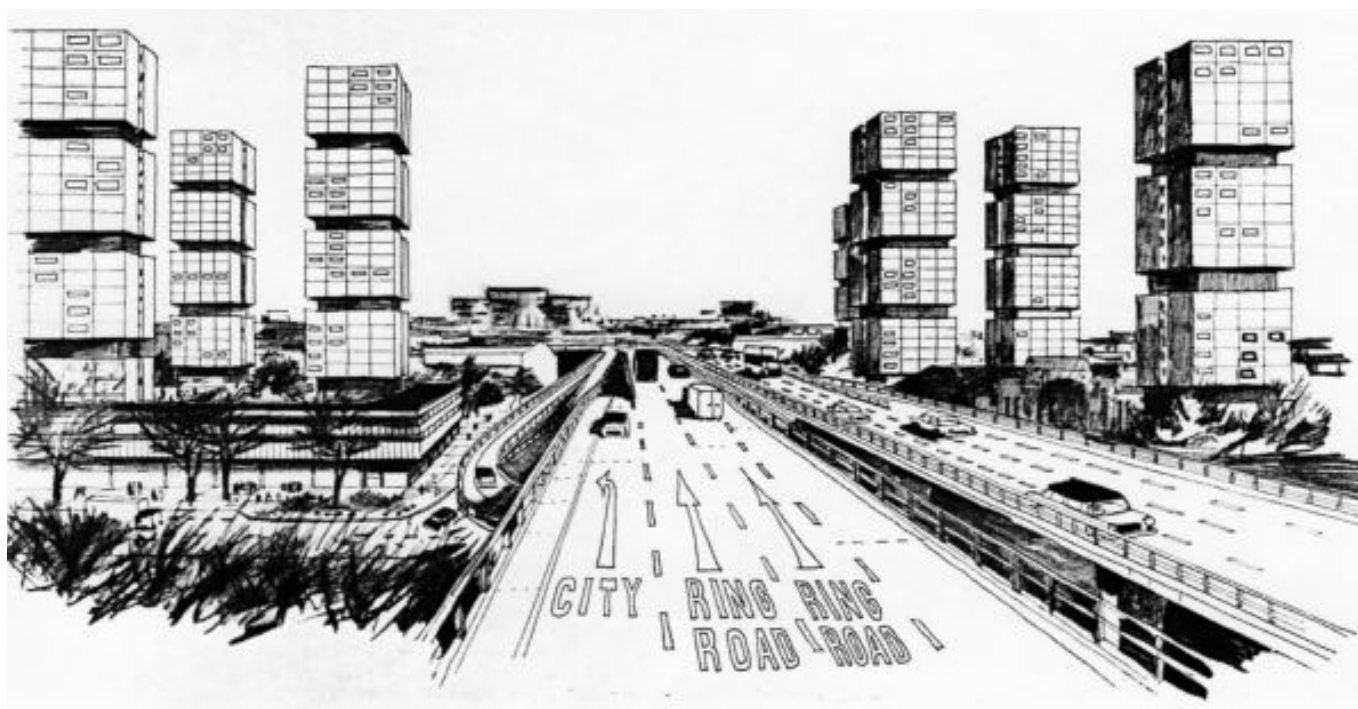
What do you think? Ironically, what we feared would be a total loss of vegetation turned out to be so sensitive to residents’ wishes that in some places there are few gaps for replanting in the autumn. However, we’re still interested in a community-led landscaping initiative using Tree Council tree/shrub stock.

Another positive outcome was establishing - at last - the exact property lines for owners. This research led by Andrew Downie gave us a lot of leverage with Network Rail, but it also means that owners are now responsible for maintaining their land between the kerb and the fence. Please keep those bushes from growing into the road again.

The Society has also succeeded this spring in getting the Council to commit to road repairs, new double yellow lines, and cleaning and repairing the now-exposed road edge, especially at the at Gardens’ end. We now are pressing for a Bungo-wide 20 mph speed limit. More information during Bungo in the Back Lanes at the Society stall, where we hope you will also be inspired to become a Friend of the Strathbungo Society. £1 a month – a big bargain!

## BYGONE BUNGO

*Andrew Downie has unearthed the story of how Glasgow Corporation’s post-war modernist agenda nearly flattened Stathbungo.*



### STRATHBUNGO'S DICE WITH DEATH

We all know of the tarnished promises of the Gorbals high rises, but the sheer scale and audacity of some of Glasgow Corporation’s plans are less known, from the Bruce Report that proposed the wholesale demolition of the entire city centre (City Chambers, Art School, Central Station, and all between), to the planned freeway network that gave us the M8, but proposed much more.

The conservation movement arose in the late-60s in reaction to the worst excesses of modernisation. Strathbungo was then rather down at heel and under threat from South Link, a

planned motorway. The Strathbungo Society was formed in 1971 to fight those plans and the conservation area followed soon after. It was only in 1978 that the motorway was cancelled, and over ten years of planning blight was finally lifted. What saved us? They came to their senses, ran out of money, or perhaps a bit of both.

Whichever, it was a close call, and if you want to see just how close, for the first time in 50 years you can see the detailed plans for the motorway that would have risen up from under the Queens Park duck pond to level half of Strathbungo. It’s at: <http://bygone.bungoblog.com/wp/motorway/>



## WINDOW WANDERLAND

*Let's relive that crisp, clear night in late February when Strathbungo became a magical outdoor art gallery.*

Organiser Sarah Reid and her small team had no idea how many would buy into the idea, but as the sun set it became apparent that Strathbungo had taken this concept to its heart. Dozens created art in their windows, hundreds came from all over to see it and we even made the national news. Best of all, people are already talking about what they're doing next year!

See more on Facebook Strathbungo Windows Wanderland.





# NEWS IN BRIEF

## FAKE NEWS

Last time we announced that Mulberry Street was to close for a major refurb, Mamafububu's was to open in Nithsdale Road and a new bar-bistro was imminent in the former Shimla Pinks. Wrong, as Donald Trump would say: Zero. So, cautiously, we welcome Kowloon Pan Asian in Nithsdale Road and Brodies in Pollokshaws Road, and the update at Mulberry Street will not be till autumn. If then. Remember, you read it here.



## QUESTION TIME

About 90 folk turned out for the Pollokshields Ward Hustings, sponsored by Pollokshields Trust, Strathbungo Society and other groups. All candidates (bar one) from all parties came to answer questions, hosted by BBC Scotland's Douglas Fraser. When the dusted settled on 5 May, we had elected one of each- three incumbents:

- Norman MacLeod (SNP)
  - David Meikle (Conservative)
  - Bailie Hanif Raja (Labour)
- and newcomer Jon Molyneux (Green Party), shown here practising Tai Ch.

Contact all by email formula:  
firstname.lastname@glasgow.gov.uk.

## EVERY LITTLE HELPS

Well done, Tesco Express in Victoria Road, for signing up to FareShare FoodCloud, and donating their good quality unsold food to local charities.

<http://cyrenians.scot>

## ST ANNE'S NURSERY GOING!

How many generations of Bungo kids have passed through St Anne's Nursery in Regent Park Square? Established in 1950 and managed these days by Sue Faulkner, daughter of the owner Anne Wilson, it will close for good on 23 June. Any old-time pictures or stories to share with Bygone Bungo?



## ME AND MY BEST FRIEND

Meet Mellow (left) and Summer, two very friendly labs with their best friend Erik. Do say hello when you see them out for a walk. And why not nominate yourself and your dog for the next issue!

Send a photo to [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk).



## SPRING FLING

Jules from Smugglemuffin and Chris from Christopher Robin had the tough but tasty job of judging entries to the Bungo Bake-Off. It was part of the Strathbungo Society's annual Spring Fling at Langside Halls, which also featured a coffee morning and crafts fair with over a dozen stalls. Thanks to Rosie Ilett and her team for a fun event that cleared around £300 for Society funds.



## FOR SPEED READERS

Local man's fight against obesity:

[ian@savidstark.me.uk](mailto:ian@savidstark.me.uk)



## SITTING DUCKS

Three ducks have taken a shine to a roof ridge in Regent Park Square since the upper pond at Queens Park was drained. It sprang a leak, says Stephen Dochert of Friends of Queens Park, and has now been sealed with puddled clay and a plug for easier repairs in future. Replanting of marginals and lilies will progress as the pond naturally refills. See for yourself via the new opening in the railings beside the bus stop in Pollokshaws Road.

The road closure in Queens Drive will continue till late September, says Scottish Water. The good news is they plan to put in a new caged games court and 5-a-side pitch when work concludes in the Park.



## WEE BEER SHOP

Okay, another leap of faith. A bottle shop with a difference is coming to Strathbungo this autumn. The Wee Beer Shop will focus on craft beers, small-batch spirits and organic wines- maybe even take-away draft beers in reusable containers. At 623 Pollokshaws Road (opposite Arnold Clark).

## THEN



47 Nithsdale Road is not an Alexander 'Greek' Thomson building, despite the proximity, but it's part of the townscape and originally reflected the building opposite. The left-hand side was knocked down for a single-storey garage in 1932.

## ... AND NOW



The sad shell that remains is derelict, stripped out, dangerous, and almost certain to be demolished after the Strathbungo Society and others failed to get it 'spot listed'. We're now pushing for any new building to respect its important setting.

*A Strathbungo Society Event*

# BUNGO

## IN THE BACK LANES

**SAT 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

**RESIDENTS' STALLS ★ BEER GARDENS**  
**LIVE MUSIC ★ HOME BAKING ★ TOMBOLA**  
**★ TEA GARDENS ★ BBQ ★ CRAFTS ★**  
**★ CHILDRENS GARDEN ★**

1-4 PM

For more information on volunteering and hosting a stall, contact [bitbl@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:bitbl@strathbungo.co.uk)

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE BACK LANES BETWEEN NITHSDALE RD AND VENNARD GARDENS

Bungo in the Back Lanes 2017 is organised & funded by The Strathbungo Society (Reg. Charity: 9038276) with a grant from the Pollokfields Area Partnership.

### SAVE THE DATE

**4 JUN** Regent Park Street Party

**11 JUN** Brighter Bungo

**17 JUN** Bungo in the Back Lanes

**19 AUG** New Victoria Gardens Flower Show

### STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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