

STRATHBUNGO WINDOW WANDERLAND

Strathbungo Window Wanderland once again transformed Strathbungo into an outdoor, glittering gallery for all to enjoy.



As darkness fell on a beautiful, crisp winter's evening, Strathbungo lit up. From Bowie to Grease, Morecombe and Wise to Dad's Army, discos to dog's dens, the windows of Strathbungo were spectacularly brought to life for our second annual Window Wanderland event on 24 February.

The pressure was on, after last year's showstopping displays had reached UK-wide news pages, but residents were not put off and gallantly rose to the challenge! In the days leading up to the event, on an evening stroll, ladders could be seen appearing against windows and nocturnal crafting sessions were silhouetted. Some neighbours had worked together on incredible three-storey displays, others had taken the opportunity to perform to a captive audience, but all had their own quirky and personal stories and sense of fun.

As ever, the event's star attractions were residents' window displays but this year some friends joined us in the shape of street band Brass, Aye?, Pollywood's hidden garden cinema and travelling puppet theatre, Little Fawn, who all added to the enchantment of the evening in their own, unique ways.

We are delighted to see more Window Wanderland events popping up across Scotland, including Maryhill Park, Leith and Inverclyde, and hope to see even more in 2019.

Thanks to all residents who took the time to create displays, event stewards and local shops and businesses who got into the spirit of the event; and to the event's sponsors Lebowskis, Pollokshields Local Area Partnership, The Strathbungo Society and Tramway.

SOUTHSIDE HAPPENINGS

Camphill Gate (988 - 1008 Pollokshaws Road)

Words by Ally Burt



Constructed in 1906 this B listed, 5 storey red sandstone tenement is an Architectural gem located in the heart of the Shawlands Conservation Area. It comprises of 24 flats over three closes and 14 businesses including the Glad Cafe. The art nouveau property was built with many unique features, the most impressive of which is its communal roof garden

high above Pollokshaws Road, giving views over Queens Park to the front and over the entire South West of the City to the rear.

The existence of the roof is apparently the result of a planning rule that specified the amount of drying green space that new builds had to provide. There wasn't enough room between Pollokshaws Road and what, at the time was a very large bakery at the rear, and so the solution was to use the roof with tall railings to the perimeter and drying lines and hooks throughout.

Sadly due to number of issues Camphill Gate is in need of major repairs but the residents have come up with unique ways to help raise funds to restore this beautiful building. Last year they organised three roof top gigs, an art exhibition and an award winning open day and tour for Glasgow Door's Open Day. They are planning more events this year including a night sky gazing evening. Visit their website to be kept up to date with what they are up to: www.camphillgate.co.uk

BUNGO PEOPLE: GRAHAM SKELLERN

Words by Alison Hunter



Come the spring, Graham Skellern's front garden on Regent Park Square is a feature many look out for. His dozens of colourful bulbs dot the pathway and dazzle through the railings. Plus, the oriental poppies are an enchanting addition to the Strathbungo landscape; they

can transport you to sunnier, warmer climes!

Graham moved from Hertfordshire to Glasgow in 1968 to undertake a PhD degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Strathclyde University. Only planning to stay three years, he says 'life changed when I met my wife Elizabeth and was offered a lectureship at Strathclyde'. The couple decided to stay in the city and bought a house in Regent Park Square in 1973. Family life then followed with their two children growing up and attending local schools. Sadly Elizabeth died fifteen years ago, having been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Asked what he likes best about Strathbungo, he says it's 'the young families and the fact there is a bit of a buzz'.

And if he was to give any budding Strathbungo gardeners

tips on what plants grow well in the local soil, Graham suggest that you need to experiment and avoid plants which require good drainage. 'Ericaceous loving plants do well i.e. rhododendron, azaleas, and heathers'.

Armed with his tips, here's to some Graham-influenced front gardens' popping up in Strathbungo!



GOVANHILL BATHS VISION FACES A REVERSE

Govanhill Baths' far-reaching plans for the building and its place in the community have received a serious reverse.



The Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund has turned down awarding the Baths £2.1 million funding – part of £6.1 million needed to develop it into a vital community hub.

This decision comes despite the Baths being championed by First Minister and local MSP Nicola Sturgeon and Glasgow City Council. The Board of the Baths has expressed their dismay at this decision and reaffirmed their belief that they 'fit' the criteria for funding. They have met with the First Minister and local politicians, and will not give up until they make their vision a reality.

CAKES, CRAFTS AND FACE PAINTING

Another fabulous Spring Fling

Words by Rosie Ilett and Paola Rezzilli

Despite snow showers and the Scotland versus Italy rugby match, as well as St Patrick's Day, there was a great turn out at the annual Bungo Spring Fling on Saturday March 17th 2018. The combination of the Bake Off competition, craft stalls, face painting and balloon animals for children, plus the legendary vintage-themed tea room, attracted hundreds of adults and children to Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church hall – and a great time was had by all.

There were some spectacular entries to the Bake Off competition, and the judging team faced hard, if tasty, decisions - guided by head judge, Snugglemuffin owner Jules Grasekamp. The winners, as announced by Strathbungo Society Chair Kevin Kane, were (in the adult section) Fiona Campbell for her curd and cream cake, with Amy Ahmad in second place for her berry and lemon stripe cake. In the children's section, Alexander Thomson (a previous winner) triumphed again, this year with an orange flower cake with Holly Spooner and Natasha Masterton coming second with a double chocolate nest.

The top prize-winners won a bag of goodies donated by the Society, with special prizes from Zeno's (for the 1st prize in the adults) and Roller Stop Roller Disco (for the children's 1st prize). Both runners-up won a cake decorating workshop, kindly donated by Snugglemuffin.

Thanks to everyone that came along and supported the event, and to all the stall-holders, Society volunteers and helpers

Ann Cameron and Tyn Tyna for making it such a success. See you next year!



THE SOUTHSIDE'S NOT SO FORGOTTEN FOOTBALL CLUB: THIRD LANARK REMEMBERED

Glasgow has lots of history, and football - positive and negative - is a rich part of it.

One of the saddest football stories concerns Third Lanark - once the third team in the city and a major force in the land, who went out of existence in the summer of 1967.

The story of Thirds is the subject of a film simply called 'Third Lanark' made by purpleTV. It charts the club's rise on Glasgow's Southside, their pioneering international tours, winning the league in 1904, and as late as 1961 finishing third and scoring 100 league goals. Sadly, they fell under the ownership of Bill Hiddleston, an unscrupulous owner, who stopped paying bills and tried to sell the club's ground for housing. It didn't work out for anyone - the club went out of business, the land wasn't resold for housing, and Hiddleston died a year later, disgraced.

The film gathers footage of Thirds along with former players, and is testimony to how much Thirds still matter. There is an upside to this tale. Thirds are the club which refuses to die. An amateur team now play under their name, and the star of the film is without question Cathkin Park (just north of Hampden Park) where the old Thirds used to play (as do the new Thirds), whose terracing and pitch remain as a tribute to all those dreams past, present and future.



GAVIN STAMP: A STRATHBUNGO PIONEER

Gavin Stamp, who died on 30 December 2017, was a true polymath - a writer, campaigner and tireless advocate for architectural conservation and in particular, the vision of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.



Gavin was the voice behind the 'Nooks and Corners' column in Private Eye (succeeding John Betjeman) and a regular contributor to Apollo, the Spectator and Architectural Review. Charles Jencks called him 'Pithy, succinct, elegant,

opinionated and analytical with a strong sense and knowledge of history.'

Born in 1948, he came to Glasgow in 1990 to lecture in architectural history at Glasgow School of Art. He was a brilliant, inspiring unscripted lecturer, indefatigable tour leader and writer. In Glasgow, while looking for a place to live,

Thomson's neglected home at 1 Moray Place came up for sale. He later regretted the 'starry-eyed' enthusiasm that caused him to buy it without the funds to fully restore it.

He founded the Alexander Thomson Society in 1991 - of which the Strathbungo Society is a proud member. He produced the two definitive books on Thomson, and helped organise the seminal exhibition 'Thomson - the Unknown Genius' during Glasgow's reign as UK City of Architecture and Design. Previously he orchestrated the saving of Thomson's splendid Holmwood House in Cathcart. It was Gavin, more than anyone, who helped the world appreciate Thomson's genius, and who stood up against what he saw as the architectural vandalism and neglect which still define too much of Glasgow and the UK.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A round up of all things Strathbungo: this quarter's bite-sized Bungo business!



SOUTHSIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL

Southside Fringe is back for 2018. Festival co-founder, Corinna Currie, states: 'Thanks to the good hearts of the Southside creative community, the venues and a heap of hard work from our volunteers the Southside Fringe has been a self-funded arts and music festival, run entirely by volunteers since 2013.' Since then the festival has gone from strength to strength with over 200 events in over 50 Southside Venues in 2017. Some highlights this year include a 450th anniversary event of the Battle of Langside, a Gatsby club 1920's themed cabaret evening and a psychedelic festival of spoken word and music. Join in on the fun this year from 11-27 May.

To find out more, please contact info@southsidefringe.org.uk or find them on Facebook!

BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES

This year's Bungo in the Back Lanes will take place on 23 June and promises to be bigger than ever, with the Regent Park Square street closure (as part of Glasgow City Council's Street Play initiative) coinciding with the event. As ever, the event relies entirely on volunteers generously giving their time to organise, set up and steward the event.

If you are able to help in any way this year, please contact news@strathbungo.co.uk



LOCAVORE ARE GROWING AWAY

In a move to expand their community offer, Locavore will be setting up shop on Victoria Road in April. Kim from Locavore said, 'We are really excited about moving to our larger shop at 349 Victoria Road. Though it is sad to be leaving Strathbungo, we hope you can make the journey along to us and enjoy an organic coffee and cake after your shop.' The new shop will have space for a cafe, deli and much larger range of organic products. We wish Locavore well in their move and look forward to seeing them go from strength to strength in their new store.



SOME GREAT REWARD

New Record Cafe 'Some Great Reward' is set to open later this month on Victoria Road. Store owner, Olly MacFadden, explains: 'We'll be stocking an eclectic range of new vinyl, and you can also enjoy coffee, tea or some cake while immersing yourself in the music. We're very excited, and hope this will prove to be a great new addition to our ever-evolving neighbourhood!' Find them at 520 Victoria Road.

STRATHBUNGO IN TOP TEN BEST PLACES IN SCOTLAND TO LIVE

The Sunday Times Best Places to Live guide has ranked Strathbungo one of the top ten places in Scotland - coming in seventh.

Criteria to assess this included jobs, schools, broadband, culture, local amenities and community spirit. Top of the list was the Borders town of Melrose, and also ahead of Strathbungo were Aberdour, Aboyne in Aberdeenshire, the Black Isle, Dundee and Morningside in Edinburgh.

The annual list produced by the Sunday Times is further proof yet again that Strathbungo - once the Southside's greatest secret - is going from strength to strength, and really getting noticed!



SNOW IN STRATHBUNGO

Snow day on Regent Park Square and skiers in Queen's Park.

BUNGO CULTURE: BREADFEST

Words by Rachel Smillie

We are delighted to announce what we think is Glasgow's first ever Bread Festival! It's the Crossmyloof Bread Festival and is taking place in Crossmyloof Bakery Lane behind the Glad Cafe and Camphill Gate, 966 Pollokshaws Road, on Saturday April 21st from 11 am – 4pm. There will be stalls selling bread and other baking (High Rise Bakers, Freedom Bakery, Wild Flours and others), hot food (Ranjit's Kitchen), Coffee (Dear Green) and soft drinks (Ginger Drinks Co); musical entertainment (Glad Community Choir, Sprog Rock, Glad Drum School); Crossmyloof Bakery Trail tours; and talks from Gerry Hassan, Andrew Whittle, Catriona Milligan, Matt Fountain and others. An evening gig, 'Songs of Protest and Hope', will feature Kathryn Joseph, Biff Smith and friends (A New International), Vinnie Blackwell (Trembling Bells) with Marco Rea (The Wellgreen), and Emily Scott (Modern Studies) and friends.

The festival will launch a number of Heritage Lottery funded activities to highlight the amazing philanthropic work of Neale Thomson in the 1840 and '50s. These will take place throughout the summer and will involve tours for adults and primary school children as well as a number of educational resources: website, map, school worksheets.

A theme of the festival is 'bread and roses' and alludes to a political slogan 'The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too'. This inspired the song Bread and Roses[by James Oppenheim, written in 1911. The slogan was an appeal for both fair wages and dignified conditions, and has enormous resonance for the lengths to which Neale Thomson went to reform the working conditions of journeyman bakers in the middle of the 19th century.



For more information and for evening tickets:
www.thegladcafe.co.uk

LOCAL LISTINGS

12 APR

Bread Festival, Glad Cafe and Camphill Gate

11-27 MAY

Southside Fringe

17 JUN

Brighter Bungo Cleanup

23 JUN

Bungo in the Back Lanes

19 AUG

Brighter Bungo Cleanup

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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