

# STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter  
Spring 2019

## STRATHBUNGO WINTER WANDERLAND

*It's back! Strathbungo Window Wanderland returns for it's third year on Saturday 23 February 2019 and will, once again, transform the streets of Strathbungo into a spectacular outdoor gallery for all to enjoy.*



As ever, the success of Window Wanderland is entirely down to the incredible efforts of Strathbungo residents' window displays as they pull out all the stops to create a magical playground for all ages... From performances in front rooms to amazing projections onto buildings; mischievous monkeys, polka dot parties, disco balls, bubble baths, mythical creatures, intricate installations, pop up bingo halls and tattoo parlours... surely we must have seen it all...?

But this year's event promises to top it all with rumours of collaborative Brexit-busting bays, suspicious UFO sightings and perhaps 2019 could be the year the Bungo Human Jukebox is finally realised...

Again, some friends will be joining us... Brass, Aye? return to add their singing, dancing, carnival flavours to the party and Pollywood Cinema will curate a beautiful selection of archive and animated short films especially for us in a hidden garden location. On top of that, many local businesses will be hosting their own special events with late openings, private views, parties and Window Wanderland-inspired cocktails!

The event will run from 6-9pm on Saturday 23rd February but we encourage all residents to leave up their displays for at least two nights to allow those who can't make the main event to appreciate displays at their leisure over the rest of the weekend.

As with previous years, we are unable to organise an official road closure for the event due to the prohibitive cost of doing so, but encourage local residents and visitors alike to park elsewhere and to avoid driving through Strathbungo on the night of the event.

Strathbungo Window Wanderland is generously supported by the Strathbungo Society and Pollokshields Local Area Partnership.

This event is free and unticketed. For more information, email [bungo\\_window\\_wander@hotmail.com](mailto:bungo_window_wander@hotmail.com) or follow our event page on Facebook and Instagram (@bungowindows) for updates.

# STRATHBUNGO... A GREENER FUTURE?

## *New Chair Jane Carolan*

As the Strathbungo Society moves toward its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2021, it continues the mission that inspires its foundation in the first place, namely the preservation of a historic part of Glasgow. Faced with demolition due to the motorway madness of the 1970s, Strathbungo was one of the first conservation areas in the city, and this remains a prime motivation for the Society. The work with Network Rail preserved the character of the planting on the railway verge along Moray Place, while ensuring current safety standards and led to successful collaboration in the regeneration of the railway footbridge. The success of the physical regeneration of Strathbungo is regularly reflected in its high rankings in lists of Scotland's best areas to live: seventh in one such list!

Over the years however, the conservation manifesto has gone hand in hand with developing Strathbungo as a community, sometimes as in the Brighter Bungo Clean Up days bringing both aims together. The Society has organised a variety of activities, many now taken for granted. Bungo in the Back Lanes has become a fixture in the local summer calendar, while few local communities have an event like Bungo at the Bells to mark Hogmanay. Both regularly attract large crowds of residents

and visitors alike. The Spring Fling includes the Bungo Bake-off competition, and now Window Wanderland has become a citywide phenomenon, seeing our streets crowded with sightseers, and giving local restaurants and hostelrys good trade.

As I take over from Kevin Kane as Chair, it's clear that we need to continue with both aims. But in 2019, the Society is also grappling with the question of how we make our community greener and more environmentally friendly. Can we encourage public transport use? Is there a need for a Warmer Homes advice scheme? How do we promote safer cycling and walking in the area? Can we manage local green spaces locally? Should we promote a Brighter and Beautiful Bungo campaign through a garden tool hire scheme? Or are we missing other issues? It is your community and the Society can only reflect what the community wants. Any ideas or suggestions can be directed to me [chair@strathbungo.com](mailto:chair@strathbungo.com)



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## CIVIC SQUARE AND LANGSIDE HALLS

### *Shawlands Civic Square spurs Langside Halls' renewal*

As Shawlands Civic Square nears completion, providing a much-needed community space and a fittingly 'civic' setting for Langside Halls, work is ongoing to redevelop the Halls.

The Halls have been shut since April 2017, following the failure of the boiler, but things are now looking up. Glasgow Life is installing a new boiler, removing localised asbestos and undertaking minor roof and ceiling repairs and hopes to reopen the Halls in April. However, it has conceded that it is unable to fund the investment needed to bring them up to a fully modern-day standard. That's where Langside Halls Trust comes in.

The Trust is working on plans to fund a full refurbishment of the Halls and has established a Consortium with Glad Café, Southside Fringe, Southside Film and the Workers Theatre to develop an active cultural programme.

With the backing of local Councillors and Glasgow Life, it is also finalising an application to take the Halls into community ownership under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Kevin Kane of the Trust said, "The Civic Square is a great new

public space for Shawlands and the South Side. It beautifully frames Langside Halls and will spur community efforts to fully realise the Halls' potential to be a new city venue and community resource."

He noted that the Trust is urgently seeking to recruit new Board members with property, legal and financial experience. So if you want to be part of Langside Halls' rejuvenation contact the Trust at [langside.hall.trust@gmail.com](mailto:langside.hall.trust@gmail.com)



# STRATHBUNGO STATION FOOTBRIDGE

## *A short history*

Strathbungo's footbridge was built by the Paisley engineering firm of Hanna, Donald & Wilson in 1877.

An elliptically arched, cast-iron girder bridge with lattice railings, it originally had steps down to the two platforms at Strathbungo station, steps that have long-since been removed.

Curiously, for 85 years or so, the footbridge never actually reached Darnley Road! Originally, it only provided access from Strathbungo to the station platforms. Indeed, when it was opened, Darnley Road was just green fields. The Darnley Road extension was only completed in 1962, when the station was closed, most probably using materials salvaged from the dismantled steps.

The bridge was C listed in 1995 after one Moray Place resident apparently asked that it be taken down for security reasons – while other residents took a different view! For a time its ownership was disputed until in 2015 Network Rail finally accepted responsibility, and later agreed to its current refurbishment - after much pressing from the Strathbungo Society.



Hanna, Donald & Wilson were based on the White Cart in Paisley and built ships - launched sideways into the White Cart - some rather unsuccessful naval torpedo boats, plus gas-holders, boilers and other heavy engineering products.

Their bridges include the Albert Bridge at Glasgow Green, recently restored. And they were evidently proud of their bridges, using several in one of their advertisements. Indeed, pride of place in the top left is Strathbungo's very own footbridge!

For more about the footbridge and Strathbungo's history, see Bygone Bungo at <http://bungoblog.com/>

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## ERIC SHAYLOR

The 28th October 2018 saw the sad passing of one of Strathbungo's longest residing characters.

Eric Shaylor (92), originally of Mossbank, proposed to his beloved Eileen at Queen's Park flagpole and soon after their marriage, they moved into Queen Square - 63 years ago.

Eric and his 13-year-old Cairn Terrier Angus could regularly be seen walking together through the local area (as he was for many years with his two previous 17-year old Cairns). Latterly the car would ferry Angus and Eric, a lover of music, to Maxwell Park with all kinds of music blaring from his burgundy Ford Fiesta.

Eileen and the family reminisced with The Strathbungo News about Eric and life in from the 1950s to the present day. From the coalmen doing their deliveries in the lanes, the steam trains engulfing them in clouds on Strathbungo's two footbridges (far more exciting for kids than today's simple horn hooting), to the original two-way (!) streets throughout Strathbungo, when cars were far more of a luxury.

A lively character, Eric was often seen tending to his front garden and chatting with neighbours, and well into his 80's he was still playing tennis at Poloc Cricket Club, golf at Haggs Castle, and led the Bridge Club at Titwood Bowling Club. During his last few months in hospital, the Strathbungo community spirit was there to be seen, with many friends and neighbours taking a turn at walking Angus, making sure

Eileen got to her hair appointments and her fix of fish and chips.

A true gent, Eric Shaylor will be missed by friends, family and neighbours old and new.



# NEW NEIGHBOURS: BAM

*The Strathbungo section of Nithsdale Road is undergoing a business renaissance.*

The latest addition is BAM, created by Glaswegian twin sisters Elaine and Jen. BAM combines a love of coffee and homemaker cake with vintage. They sell gifts and homewares from past and present and showcase local artists and makers.

There is a great family story behind the name. Elaine and Jen explain: "It stands for Bunty and Margaret, our Great Aunt and our Gran, the women who inspired the concept. Margaret, our gran, is the ultimate hostess: you can't visit her house without being fed and everyone is welcome at her table. Growing up, she taught us the importance of a good cup of tea and how to bake. Bunty, is where we get our love of charity shops and vintage. An immaculate lady, we coveted her style from a young age and still wear lots of her clothes today!" Having got the keys to a very tired and altered shop at No. 44 in August last year the sisters set about renovating. The Strathbungo Society were delighted to see them uncover the original Greek Thomson cornice and sunburst ceiling rose, the wood panelling and best of all restoring the battered storm doors. We need to cherish what we have in the conservation



area and it's great to see Jen and Elaine embracing this. "Since opening we have had a lovely response to our shop and it's been great to get to know our neighbours and the residents of Strathbungo!"

# BUNGO AT THE BELLS

*Happy 2019!*

Strathbungo rang in 2019 with Bungo at the Bells. 300 folks congregated at Queen Square / and Moray Place to see in the New Year, Bungo-style. Kay Caldwell did the countdown; 20 years ago she, Joe McGinley and Sharon Schweps had the original idea for a Bungo street-style Hogmanay event. Twenty years later, it's still going strong, having never missed a beat.

Folks celebrated and danced 'til the early hours to a mix of Scottish music (courtesy of Alistair McCallum), with young folk starting the traditional dancing. Sincere thanks to our hosts, Teresa Mooney and Davie Latto – and especially to Teresa "hi-fi" Mooney who set up the Society's fancy PA system from scratch (and to Andrew Downie who soldered a damaged jack). But the biggest shout-out is to seven year-old Ayla Powell, up in Scotland for her first Hogmanay, who donated £20 to the Strathbungo Society, given to her by a Bungo reveller when she was giving out free chocolates. Ayla, you paid for the soft drinks, shortie and the odd nip that we distributed on the night. So, thank you to Ayla and everyone who came out to see in 2019. See you all next year!



# NEWS IN BRIEF

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

## STRATHBUNGO NEEDS YOU!

Strathbungo events need Strathbungo volunteers! What ever talents you have, join us in helping out with events organised locally.

If you can make tea, clear tables, or do the dishes, then you can help out at the Spring Fling. Even if you're not able to make it on the day, could your baking skills make a donation for the tea room? Or if more ambitious, you could enter the Bungo Bake Off.

If you can wear a tabard, and give out directions you could help with the stewarding team for events like the upcoming Window Wanderland, or later in the year at Bungo in the Back Lanes. Brighter Bungo events take place regularly. Giving a few hours on a Sunday morning with the team helps keep the area clean. Or if you have organisational or publicity skills the society could use you. We always need new blood. Contact: [chair@strathbungo.com](mailto:chair@strathbungo.com)



## GOVANHILL BATHS POGRESS

The pioneering Govanhill Baths continue their progress with Glasgow City Council unanimously agreeing to move forward with plans to transfer ownership of the Baths to a trust. As a result of this a further report will go to council committee with the full terms of the sale to Govanhill Baths Building Preservation Trust. This is a crucial step in the plans to turn the Baths into a £6.5 million health and well-being centre which will play a vital role in the regeneration and vibrancy of the Govanhill area.



## CATHKIN PARK TRANSFORMATION

Cathkin Park is the striking and still intact home of Third Lanark – who went out of business as a professional football club in 1967. The ground has been allowed to fall into decline over the decades but has now been the subject of a comprehensive clean-up of the terraces, pitch wall and running track – aided by the Jimmy Johnstone Academy – all with the aim of bringing back football to the once thriving Cathkin Park and potentially Third Lanark. Below is the difference between Cathkin Park before and after.

## A NEW COMMUNITY ARTWORK?

The Strathbungo Society has successfully accessed funding from the cycling charity Sustrans to create a mural on the gable end at Pollokshaws Rd. / Nithsdale St. The Society is currently seeking the permission of the building owners (714-706 Pollokshaws Road) and, if successful, the aim is to commission an experienced mural artist to create an arresting and creative artwork to welcome folks to Strathbungo. If you have a view on what we should do, please contact us at [news@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk)

## BREWING IN THE BUNGO

A group of local craft beer brewers have formed the Bungo Brewers, meeting monthly in Koelschip Yard to share creations, advice and ideas (and to sample some bottles from Koelschip's selection). The monthly meet ups are open to anyone, whether you're looking to start brewing or would like to come along and share a beer. There's even talk of brewing a special Bungo batch... maybe in time for Bungo in the Back Lanes. Watch this space!



## SOUTH SEEDS

South Seeds Urban Croft, based next to the Queens Park Recreation Ground, will be opening up applications from February onwards to allocate raised beds to the local community. Open to all abilities, with access to expert advice and workshops to guide you through growing your own fruit and vegetables. South Seeds have also opened a "Tool Library" in their hub on Victoria Road. The aim is to encourage locals to borrow tools, instead of buying them, from an ever-expanding inventory of around 350 DIY and gardening tools.



# LESLEY MCCALLUM: A TRIBUTE

## *A tribute to a much loved member of the Strathbungo community*

The Strathbungo Society was saddened to hear of the untimely death of Lesley McCallum before Christmas (21 October 2018). Lesley was a stalwart supporter of the Strathbungo Society and former Committee member. Lesley organised and ran the Society Bottle Stall at every 'Bungo in the Back Lanes' event since its inception in 2001 and also hosted with her neighbour Teresa Mooney many 'Bungo at the Bells' events at her home at the corner of Queen Square and Moray Place. Lesley's help and encouragement of the Society's work will be sorely missed and the Society passes on its sincere condolences to her husband Davie, brother Alistair and nephew Jack. Rest in Peace.

The Strathbungo Society



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## LOCAL LISTINGS By Katherine Cory

**23 FEB**

Window Wanderland

**26 FEB**

Glad Cafe Quiz Night

**26 MAR**

Glad Cafe Quiz Night

**10 - 26 MAY**

Southside Finge

**24 FEB**

Park Lane Market

**19 MAR**

Strathbungo Society  
Meeting in The Bungo Den

**7 APR**

Park Lane Market

**22 JUNE**

Bungo in the Back Lanes

### STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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