

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society

A quarterly newsletter
SPRING 2021

SO, WHAT IS HAPPENING ON OUR RAILWAY LINE?



From trying to ensure adherence to environmental standards over vegetation management along the embankment, to needing to explore the future of the former station building on the bridge at Nithsdale Road, the Strathbungo Society have continued to correspond with Network Rail to explore what is planned in the area. Network Rail has been slow to respond, and not always fully forthcoming about either their intentions or timescales. Here we summarise the information that we have been able to gain as we believe that the Strathbungo community has the right to the information.

We need Network Rail to engage in a meaningful public consultation now, not at some point in the future when

decisions will obviously already have been taken. This would involve not just the Society but the wider community - and the sooner the better.

Contributions to this debate are welcome through <https://bungoblog.com/> and more detailed consultations on the proposals will take place there,

Your Society Needs You!

Calling any engineers, architects, surveyors, or anyone else with experience who can help with evaluating these project plans and finding alternatives. Assessing Network Rail

CONTINUED...

We will get cleaner air and better transport

There is good news. Electrification of the line between Central Station and East Kilbride has been given the go ahead by the Scottish Government and is included in the current work programme. For anyone concerned with a cleaner, greener Scotland this is welcome. Diesel power is responsible for toxic emissions including dioxides and particulates, pollutants with proven effects on health. Electrification will also mean a more reliable service for those who use the rail network.

We have asked Network Rail to provide a project plan and timescales for the work. Strangely, for a major engineering project, we are told that this “will not be available till June 2021.” But while there is no public project plan, we have been given dates for various phases and stages of the work.

Strathbungo station building

The Society had applied to Historic Environment Scotland for a listing for the Station building, owned by Network Rail to provide some protection and maintain it for the area. This was rejected, on the basis that nothing remained of the historic interior. Yet while the building operated as a shop, residents from the Bungo had seen behind the shop facade to historic woodwork and other artefacts. Over a year from its closure, the building had been left to become dilapidated. It is little wonder therefore that the City Council have given permission for its demolition. This is due to take place in February 2022, a loss of a piece of Strathbungo's past.

However, we have also asked about what is planned for the road bridge that the building stands on. This bridge is already not fit for purpose, as there have been weight restrictions and traffic management measures along its length for at least the past twenty years. Previous conversations with Network Rail have questioned its viability under the electrification scheme. We have asked that Network Rail to start a dialogue with local community about the options for the this. Will it stay or will it go? And if it goes what will replace it?

Moray Place footbridge

Electrified lines have different, indeed higher, safety standards to those that currently operate on the diesel line. We have been told that on those standards the current footbridge is ‘non-compliant’ but have requested a fuller explanation as to how it fails them. This means however that the current historic bridge will be no more.

The welcome news is that there is commitment that our footbridge will be replaced and that the local community, presumably Strathbungo, and the Strathbungo Society will be consulted. Network Rail propose to present us with design proposals by June 2021. These designs will be presented despite having no parameters from the community about our

expectations. For example, does a new bridge have to be in the same location as the current one? Spacing it further along Moray Place would be more advantageous to the local community. The Network Rail approach does not inspire confidence that we will be presented with design proposals appropriate to a conservation area.

Engineering works



Network Rail have only recently informed us that site “investigation and piling” along the line are due for completion in Spring 2021”. There are major concerns as to the effects of piling driving on the local area. Moray Place is close to the rail line throughout its length, and the majority of properties in the area are over 150 years old and built on extremely shallow foundations. Pile driving creates more than noise - though we do not underestimate the problems that is likely to cause. It creates vibrations and properties that are elderly and fragile in a conservation area are likely to be more vulnerable.

In this area we have experience of such major works, in that Scottish Water were responsible for the construction of Glasgow's super sewer that went through this area along Titwood Road, involving similar works. We have requested that Network Rail adhere to the same standards as that public body, namely.

- 1) A pre-works survey of properties along that side of the track- not simply on Moray Place itself but, in the squares and tenements that intersect with Moray Place.
- 2) A risk assessment of the project available to all property owners in the area under discussion
- 3) Ongoing monitoring of those properties throughout the project
- 4) A commitment on the part of Network Rail to assume liability for any damages and for the remedy of these.

Will Network Rail make these commitments to the Strathbungo community before works commence to? We have asked for a prompt response. We would also want very timely information at least 14 days before any works commence to ensure that we can publicise that noise pollution and considerable disruption is to be expected. to ensure that we can publicise that noise pollution and considerable disruption is to be expected.

ACTIVE TRAVEL IN STRATHBUNGO – A ROAD TO NOWHERE?

The Crossmyloof Resource Centre on Titwood Road is now surplus to Council requirements and up for sale. If it is sold as a going concern for residential care, there may be little change but, if it goes to a developer, who knows what might replace it?

That would, however, present an unusual opportunity to improve active travel in Strathbungo. If the council retained a strip of land along the railway boundary, we could have a walking and biking path running directly from the Carswell Gardens end of Moray Place through to Crossmyloof Station and Morrisons, and even a quieter route into Shawlands. In the current climate, we must encourage walking and cycling over car use for short journeys, and opportunities for simple changes such as this should be seized.

An article and survey on bungoblog attracted much overwhelmingly positive support, so we wrote to the Council asking them to consider the idea. Council officers no doubt are focused on maximising the sale value and have yet to respond, so we will be writing to our councillors for further support.



We should however be aware of the impact it may have on residents at that end of Carswell Gardens, and any design proposal would need to ensure the safety and security both of path users and its neighbours. You can comment on the blog or contact the chair of the Society.

<https://bungoblog.com/new-path/>

ARE YOU PART OF NEW VICTORIA GARDENS' HISTORY?

In 1871, Victoria Allotment Gardens moved from Butterbiggins Road to its present location, just off Albert Drive in Pollokshields. Thus 'New' Victoria Gardens has now been a source of fresh air, food, and flowers to local folk for 150 years – worthy of a celebration!

Historian Andrew Greg of Moray Place, a plotholder, has been researching official records and newspapers to document the history of one of the oldest still-functioning allotment associations in Scotland, if not the UK. But we also want to know more about the generations of people who have tilled our soil and that's where you come in.

Meet the McNaughtons, enjoying the annual flower show in 1926. Their present-day family shared a dozen or so photos (1922-1929) from an old album. And we know from our engraved trophies that they continued gardening till well into the 1970s. But how many other stories are tucked away in family albums or perhaps in your memories of days-out with your parents or grandparents?

Do tell us your stories – and if you have photos etc. to share, we will carefully scan and return them.

Even in these pandemic-stricken months, we've been making plans to mark the anniversary with an exhibition, perhaps even a compendium of history, gardening tips, recipes, and poetry. If you can help, contact NVGshowcommittee@gmail.com or ring 07799 481001.



BREWED IN THE BUNGO

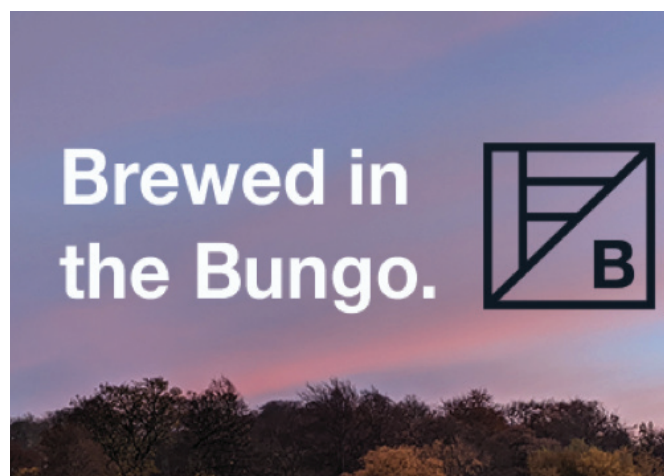
Introducing Bungo Brew Co, a nano-brewery located in the heart of Strathbungo.

What started out as a group of homebrewers, meeting every month at Koelschip Yard to share brews and talk beer, has led to the creation of a commercial brewery. When the opportunity arose to purchase some large-scale brewing vessels from Ride Brew Co, we couldn't resist. With a lot more time spent at home and some of us furloughed from the day jobs, it felt like the perfect time to get something off the ground. Plenty of hard work has been done so far with registration, modifying equipment, brand design, and recipe development. Now all we need is the beer!

We are brewing the first batch of our New Zealand Pilsner soon. It is a classic easy drinking lager, with a tropical hop twist, which some of you may have sampled during the last Bungo in the Back Lanes. Canning the beer with our pals at Ride Brew Co will ensure we provide you with the freshest possible beer. The

cans will then be available at local Southside bottle shops like Wee Beer Shop, who have been a great support. Our kegs will go to pubs as soon as they can open, roll on that day.

We have exciting plans for more contemporary takes on classic beer styles using new malts, hops or yeast strains; and simply cannot wait for you to sample our beer. Please like us on Facebook and follow on Instagram for updates!



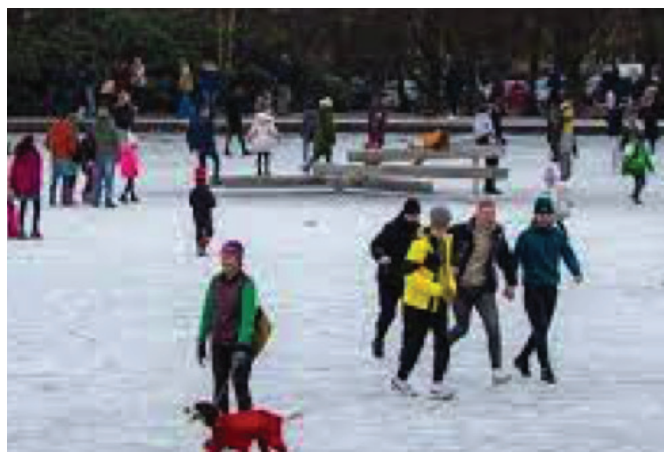
RIGHT ANGLES WRONG TIME - THE SCULPTURE AND THE THIN ICE STORY

George Rickey's Three Right Angles Horizontal sculpture was finally installed in Queen's Park pond in December following 26 years lost in Glasgow Life's storage facilities. The pond had been drained in order to facilitate the installation, which meant that when the cold snap hit us, the water was not as deep as it usually would be and froze solid.

Both local people and Glasgow's skaters flocked to the pond to take advantage of the opportunity to be able to glide across the ice. Some skaters, who have clearly been training for years, displayed impressive and graceful moves entrancing those who had ventured out for their daily exercise. Queen's Park's slopes were sledged down by locals who had picked up sledges from local shops and squeals of delight could be heard from even the fringes of the area. Many of the broken sledges that were abandoned in the park have been picked up by Strathbungo-based Rags to Riches and are being recycled at the Deep End.

There has been some disagreement within the local community about people's response to the ice. Some people flocked to the park to enjoy the spectacle and the rare opportunity to stand on the frozen pond. Others felt that the park was far too crowded, meaning that the virus was more

likely to spread, did not appreciate the volume of cars parked on Pollokshaws Road alongside the park and felt that children would be encouraged to venture onto icy ponds putting themselves at risk in future. In amongst the raucous and enthusiastic playing on the ice, the sculpture was damaged. Glasgow City Council hopes to carry out a repair this Spring. Let's hope that Three Right Angles Horizontal becomes a much-loved fixture in the park.



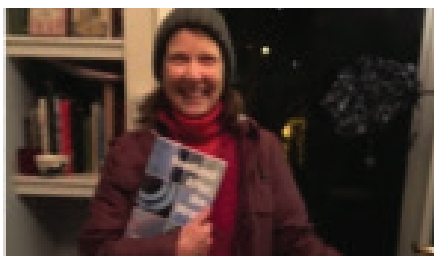
NEWS IN BRIEF

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



SEVEN ONE SEVEN - A NEW ORGANIC GROCERY

If you tend to start cooking recipes from an Ottolenghi or Meera Sodha book, then realise part way through that you are missing an ingredient, then you're going to have far less of a problem from now on. Strathbungo resident, Sophia Murday, has opened the 717 organic grocery on Pollokshaws Road. It's a treasure trove for foodies who will find a fantastic range of fruit and vegetables as well as staple cupboard ingredients. There's a vegan friendly deli counter, making up lunch boxes from a selection of freshly prepared salads, and serving take away teas, coffees, and smoothies, all with delicious freshly baked cakes. Sophia is very knowledgeable about cooking and is happy to share her tips and suggestions.



COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Marion Bryans of Queen Square who won a signed copy of our editor Gerry Hassan's new Book, "Scotland After the Virus", for correctly answering the question posed in the last issue.

LOCKDOWN HERO

In February, our resident hard-working, smiley, and chatty street sweeper George Stevenson retired. He will be a sad loss to the community, and the residents gave him a great send off. Let us hope the streets stay as clean, and we are sure we all wish George a happy retirement!



STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY ROUND-UP

In normal times, the quarterly newsletter is awash with updates of our events, but 2021 still looks pretty bleak for our ability to run our usual events. The New Year was brought in with a cacophany of clapping, singing and banging, but still brightened a muted celebration for those still awake, or awoken by the noise.

Window Wanderland was postponed for fear of drawing its usual crowds - there's still some nice window displays around if you go hunting on your daily local exercise.

Bungo in the Back Lanes takes some organising so already the decision has been made to run our 3rd online event. Yes, we've been locked down a year! The online markets last summer and at Christmas have both been well received so are likely in some form to become a permanent fixture. 2021 also sees the 50th Birthday of the Strathbungo Society, hopefully a year to remember whilst forgetting 2020.

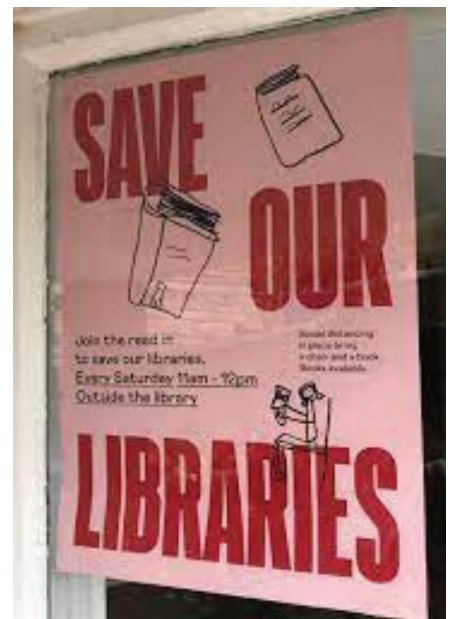


LIBRARY UPDATE

Prior to the current lockdown, Pollokshields, Langside and Govanhill libraries had been listed for re-opening by early March. Indicative dates show that the majority of Glasgow Life's venues will need to stay closed until at least late April, in accordance with the 'stay at home' guidance still in place across mainland Scotland.

Glasgow Life's eLibrary has a huge range of digital content available 24/7 for work, study, and pleasure. You can access over 12,000 eBooks and audiobooks, 100 popular magazine titles and 15 million songs, all of which are free and available to download to your phone, PC, or tablet.

You can find out more at <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/online-library>. Information on service developments and plans for reopening will be posted via the Glasgow Libraries twitter account and on the Glasgow Life website.



NEW KILN DELIVERED TO THE DEEP END

Govanhill Baths Community Trust has received a new 325 litre electric Raku kiln and associated equipment following a generous sponsorship from Denis Houlihan of Houlihan Pharmacies. The investment has been matched by Culture and Business Scotland bringing a total of £10,000 towards new pottery equipment for the Southside art and wellbeing project.

The new kiln will be used by the Govanhill Baths Ceramics which began in April 2016 as a free, weekly wellbeing class for local people using only basic tools and a small kiln. The project grew to be incredibly popular within the Southside community and eventually was moved from its temporary home in the Baths building to The Deep End unit on Nithsdale Street which is managed by Govanhill Baths

Community Trust. From here, Govanhill Baths Ceramics grew from a pop-up project to a fully operating workshop. Since then, Frances Diver and Adam Gandy who run the project have been able to offer new, affordable, courses and extend their contacts throughout the Southside Community to other parts of Glasgow.

It was due to this expansion that Govanhill Baths Ceramics came to the attention of Houlihan Pharmacy who wanted to help upgrade the equipment in order to further serve the project's growing clientele.

To win a unique piece of pottery, email news@strathbungo.co.uk and tell us which 1990 film famously featured a potter's wheel scene?



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Published quarterly by
The Strathbungo Society
Registered Charity No. SC038276

www.strathbungo.co.uk

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