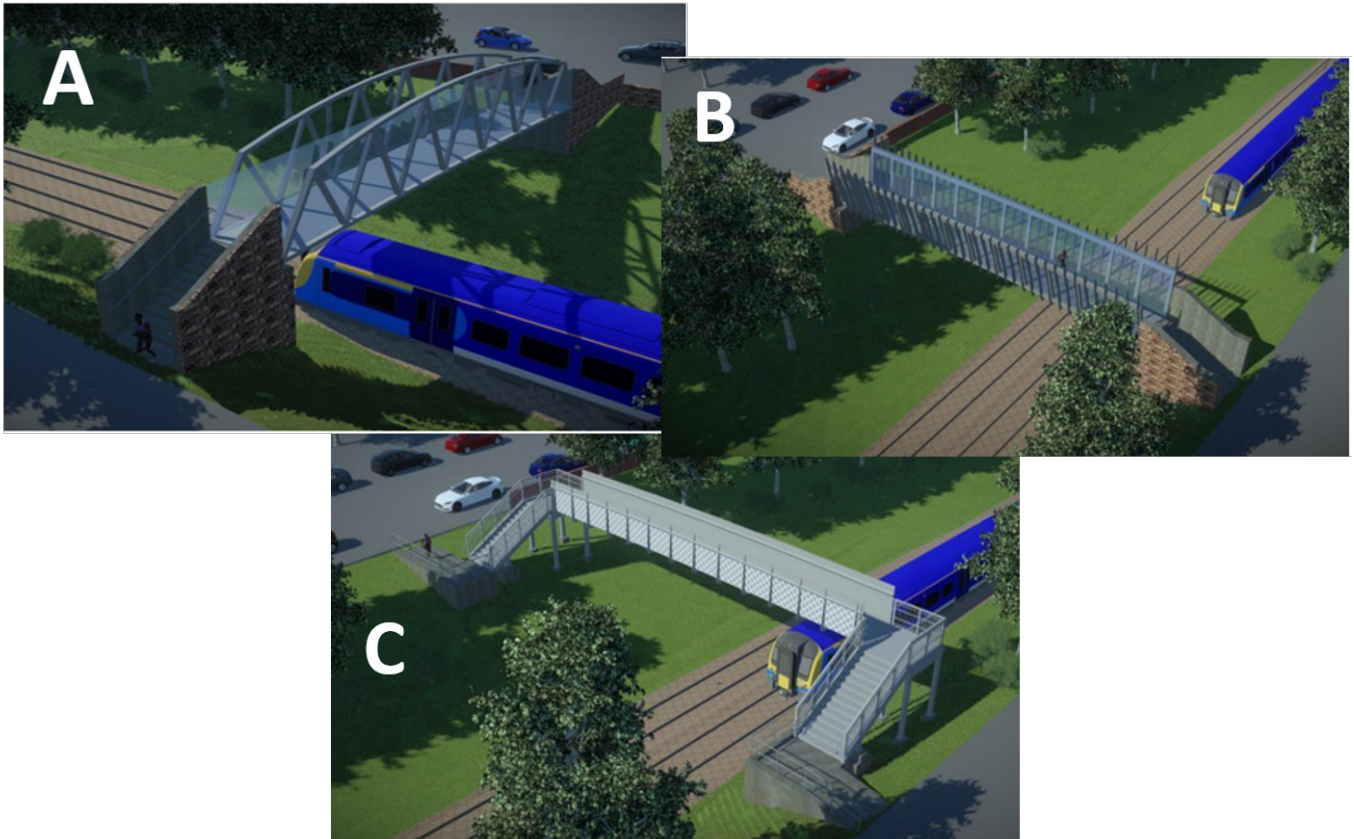


A BRIDGE FOR THE FUTURE?

Network Rail Survey Residents on New Bridge Options



Residents will be aware that Network Rail have been planning electrification of the East Kilbride / Central Line with the issues that it raises for the Strathbungo community. Central to this has been the issue of our much-loved pedestrian bridge over the railway between Moray Place and Darnley Rd, providing ease of access between Strathbungo and Pollokshields.

The bridge had been the subject of an expensive refurbishment less than three years ago, and it is a daily reminder of the history of our area, having stood since Strathbungo became Glasgow's first railway suburb. Given this, and the fact that the bridge is in the middle of a conservation area, it was hoped that some effort could be put into preserving it, even if it required modification.

Sadly, this has proved not to be the case. Not only is the arch under the height required to allow of the pylons carrying electric cable under it, the bridge itself cannot be modified to reach current Health and Safety standards. These state that the current height of the parapet is inadequate and that there is a need to ensure

that electric cables cannot be accessed from it in any way (no little fingers sticking through the ironwork) In addition Network Rail have stressed that there are cost considerations.

The Society have now been informed that Network Rail have commenced a consultation exercise on a new bridge design in keeping with the area -beginning soon. Households will have received a voting paper, with three designs and the chance to choose which should be erected in the area. The proposals are online for Strathbungo residents and others to examine these at <https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/east-kilbride-enhancements> now and have a look at our potential future crossing.

We hope you cast your vote before the deadline of 28th May, and conversations continue with Network Rail as to the 3 proposed designs and any potential enhancements we can suggest to influence the design of the new bridge to ensure that the tradition continues.

SOLD OUT! BUNGO BREW CO. @ THE WEE BEER SHOP

Last issue we reported on the impending release of the Bungo Brew Co.'s first canned product, a lovely New Zealand Pilsner.

Blink and you'd have missed the first batch at Niall Kennedy's Wee Beer Shop on Pollokshaws Road. Niall commented it was his fastest selling beer ever! (please note, other beers are of course available!)

There are more batches being canned by the team at Ride to re-stock supplies, and stocks will start to be seen if you can catch them before they sell out at Curious Liquids up in Shawlands, and at Drinks on Victoria Road.

The Bungo Brew Co. and The Wee Beer Shop have been blown away by local support, and will keep brewing, canning and selling to keep up with demand, as well as introducing new innovative flavours and styles with new designs from local artists and illustrators.

For this issue's competition, you can win 4 cans from Bungo Brew Co. if you can tell us what % ABV their New Zealand Pilsner is? Answers to news@strathbungo.co.uk please.



LES PETYO – FIRST CLASS AS EVER!

In July, after 50 years with Royal Mail, Les Peyto will hang up his mailbag for the final time as the Last Post sounds. Les has pounded the paths of Strathbungo for over 30 years through rain, shine, snow and latterly, pandemic.

It all began in Watford in 1971 when Les started work as a telegram boy. He was soon "the youngster" in Watford Mail Centre with his own round. In 1988 he followed his heart to Glasgow's Southside moving to Strathbungo and by 1990 he had secured his current post becoming an integral part of his local community.

After his arrival in Glasgow Les was made Postman of the Year by Royal Mail. After he won, the award ceased so he (perhaps rightly) claims the title is still his!

Despite Internet shopping, under-sized letterboxes and untrimmed hedges, Les has been very happy in his work. The postman's life is always a mixed bag and his has involved chasing burglars, returning lost people to their correct house and moving pianos. As Royal Mail initiatives have ebbed and flowed (never ask!), Les has maintained his belief that his customers always deserve a first class service whatever that may involve.

When Les completes his final round in July, he may not miss those 4.00am alarm calls, but he will miss the privilege of being Strathbungo's postie. Whatever the future delivers, he can reflect with pride on 50 years of public service in a job he has loved.



VOLUNTEER SITUATIONS VACANT!!

Are you a whizz at organising? Can you design simple yet effective layouts? Then you're just the people to join The Strathbungo Society's newsletter team!

We have volunteer vacancies for a keen, versatile Project Manager to oversee the production of the Strathbungo Society Newsletter and a Design Coordinator for the layout.

The newsletter is quarterly (March, June, September, December) and it gets the Strathbungo news and articles out through the letterboxes to the local community.

We are also looking for budding journalists who can squirrel out a story and write it up with flair!

If you're interested and want some further information, please contact chair@strathbungo.co.uk. Old, young, someone with some time on their hands, this is a great opportunity!



**Volunteer
Vacancies**

YOU'VE GOT THE T-SHIRT, NOW READ THE BOOK.....

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Strathbungo Conservation Society (see the original logo below), formed in 1971 under the auspices of the Scottish Civic Trust to campaign for Conservation Area status.

Those were precarious times for Strathbungo. Once grand terraces had slipped into genteel (and sometimes not so genteel) decline. You could buy a whole townhouse for very little money, but there was a catch: you would really struggle to get a mortgage. Not when bulldozers were almost literally parked on the margins, poised to flatten our irreplaceable Victorian architecture, and make room for a motorway. It was that close! The Conservation Area was created in 1973, the 'squares' were officially listed and the whole neighbourhood from Nithsdale to Titwood Road—including the bijou art deco 'Gardens'—were saved from any further fits of urban planning gone mad. We have a lot to thank those early activists for.

The Strathbungo Society as we know it was reconstituted in 1994, 'conservation' was dropped from the name (though not the remit) and soon a new word - 'Bungo' - was added to the local vocabulary. Within a few years we were staging community-wide events in our streets and lanes.

That is cause for a celebration, but in a bad year for big gatherings, we've decided instead to publish a commemorative book. It will have lots of history and heritage, but even more about getting the best out of living in Strathbungo today and in years to come.

Publication is set for autumn – more details at: news@strathbungo.co.uk.



NEW LIFE FOR LANGSIDE HALLS?

Langside Halls has a remarkable history, including being moved stone by stone from the City Centre, and after four years of closure, it's future looks brighter by the day.

Langside Halls Trust has developed costed proposals for refurbishing the much-missed community facility, which has been closed for four years. Working with Hoskins Architects, their plans would see the Halls become fully accessible with a new public entrance and foyer (see picture) and a 50-seat basement cinema/performance area, increasing bookable space and capacity by 40% to 500 people.

Construction costs are estimated at £4.6 million, excluding VAT & fees, to cover installation of a new lift, electrical, power and fire systems, triple glazed windows, and refurbishment of the adjacent Bothy.

Kevin Kane, Trust Chair, said: "Our plans identify a viable future for Langside Halls as a community-run venue. The Trust is determined to move forward to seek funders and take plans to the next stage."



The proposals received overwhelming support in 700-plus online responses as part of the Feasibility Study's community engagement process.

Langside Halls, operated by Glasgow Life on behalf of Glasgow City Council, have been shut since April 2017. At present the City Council has no plans for re-opening and the prolonged closure has seen significant fabric deterioration from water ingress, with only the ground floor and basement accessible for health and safety issues.

Langside Halls Trust is keen to recruit new Board members,

BUNGO BUSINESSES BOUNCE BACK!

Not all made it, but most Strathbungo traders have ridden out the pandemic—thanks to local support.

Strathbungo's commercial revolution of recent years hit a pandemic-shaped bump as its independent shops, bars and bistros were forced either to make radical changes or pull down the shutters altogether. Hospitality was especially hard-hit. Impromptu takeaways helped some continue trading and as restrictions eased, others opened in outdoor spaces, braving a cold, wet spring.

It was tougher for those with no outdoor space. The Allison Arms, established 1884, kept going through 2 world wars and countless recessions, but had to close from Boxing Day till June, when they reopened with limited capacity. That is hardly profitable, but Manager Ryan Murray has high hopes for something like the good old days when social distancing eases. "Lockdown was so boring – we really missed everybody! But we got through it with the staff furloughed and they've all come back."

Aperçu, the beautiful but 'non-essential' plant and botanicals shop in Pollokshaws Road had a particular problem: what to do with hundreds of living plants? Luckily they found a light and airy studio space to save their valuable stock, round the corner in Nithsdale Road. They also used the time to build a web shop and

create free plant care resources. Partner Ruan Fellowes says they hope to open the studio soon for occasional workshops and a lending library.

Stevenson's Cleaners, in Nithsdale Road, was also classified non-essential, then got a reprieve after three months. Owner Joanne Stevenson says about 70% of their dry-cleaning business is suits so that went flat with homeworking. "But this community is amazing—people rallied round and got us through!"

Kick-starting the 15-minute city? Although the pandemic has brought few silver linings, it has made many realise how much of what we need is right here in Strathbungo or a short walk away in Shawlands and Victoria Road. It can only get better if, as 'normality' returns, people keep supporting our local businesses.

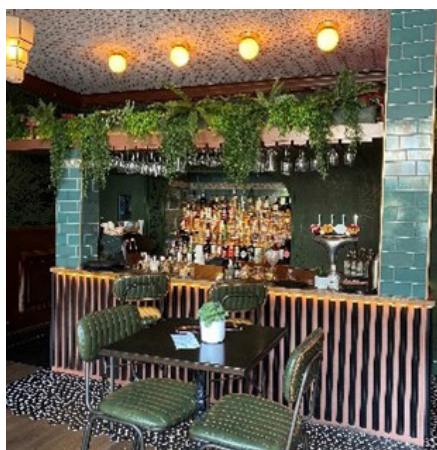


NEWS IN BRIEF

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

THE LUCHADOR

The Luchador on Pollokshaws Road has quickly grown a large clientele, serving a range of tacos, empanadas tortillas, stews, and other delights, it has been getting great reviews from locals. There are plenty of vegetarian and vegan choices and a brunch menu that includes breakfast tacos. The decor is fantastic. A classic pub feel, but with very modern, luxurious touches. There is a small amount of seating outside. The staff are very friendly and helpful. At a time when very few people are able to get away from the city, the Luchador makes you feel as if you've passed through a portal to go somewhere truly exotic where you can relax and get that holiday feeling for an hour or two.



BIKEHANGARS

The long promised bikehangars have arrived. GCC, in partnership with Cyclehoop, has installed 60 cycle storage shelters (at time of press 273 applications for 360 spaces) on Glasgow's streets. Local sites include one at the junction of Nithsdale Road and Nithsdale Street, one planned beside Floral Haven, and one at the cycle station at Balvicar Street. A space costs £72 a year, and you can try and book yours at www.cyclehoop.rentals now.



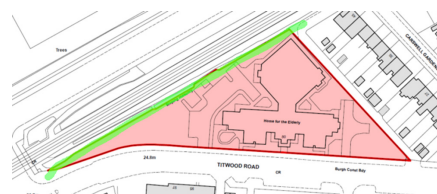
THE COOPERAGE

If you have been thinking that Strathbungo lacks a vibrant, brightly painted courtyard area that has a great cafe and is a bit of a sun trap where there are a few shops to browse around, then your wait is over. The Cooperage at 674 Pollokshaws Road has opened and has plenty of seating for customers of VVI's Deli, where you can munch on delicious vegan food and cakes. Check their specials board. we'd recommend buying lunch and sitting at one of the tables on their decking area in the sunshine, but they also do takeaways and food deliveries via Deliveroo. While you're there, pop into Seamster Village, which has opened next door. The new location is more spacious than the previous Victoria Road site and they run special events extending out into the courtyard area. Emily Rose Vintage has moved to the Cooperage too with a showroom and workshop in the space. You'll also find a jeweller and a tattoo studio.



ACTIVE TRAVEL PATH

In the last newsletter we reported a proposal for an active travel path along the railway line behind Crossmyloof Resource Centre and were waiting for a council response. That response can now be read at bungoblog.com/path-council-response/, but could easily be summarised as "has some merit, but involves extra work for us, and we can't be bothered." They are clearly reluctant to do anything that might reduce the value of the land sale, but much of their reasoning does not stand up to scrutiny. Meanwhile the centre is now on the open market, and ripe for redevelopment as housing. Undeterred, Cllrs Jon Molyneux and Anna Richardson (the latter City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction) have asked the council officers to look again at their decision, and the officers have agreed to continue the dialogue, with a meeting held on 12th May to discuss. Meantime the centre may be about to re-open temporarily as a covid testing centre. We feel the council may talk a good game when it comes to a climate emergency, but when presented with easy ways to improve active travel, they should seize them, not bat them into the long grass on the railway embankment.



BT PHONE HOME

The red BT telephone box on Nithsdale Road is a listed structure. BT offer to sell them to local communities and charities for £1. The Society recently enquired, but the box has already been offered to another local charity. We shall have to wait and see what use it it put in the future.



BUNGO NOT IN THE BACK LANES

Bungo (NOT) in the Back Lanes will be back with a vengeance on Saturday 19th June with an online market and live music.

Last year's online event was a massive success and although we had hoped we would be out in our lanes again this year, it has not come to pass with restrictions and timings curtailing our plans.

However, like last year we will be hosting an online market for the whole weekend on the Strathbungo Society blog and live streamed music on Saturday 19th June on our Facebook page courtesy of Southside Sessions. If you are an artist, a maker, a crafter, a local food, or drink vendor who has a website or an online selling platform and live in the Southside, you can have a virtual stall. If you have accumulated a pile of 'stuff' over the year that is sellable (toys, 'as new' clothes, bric-a-brac etc.) you too can have a virtual stall. Visit www.bungoblog.com/BNITBL for more details.

Bungo in the (Actual) Back Lanes will be back folks. Fingers crossed for next year!



MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

LAST ISSUE'S COMPETITION

Last month's Govanhill Ceramics competition prize winner was Karen Cairns who answered correctly that the famous pottery wheel scene was from the film Ghost, She currently has a bespoke vase being fired in the kiln.



COMMUNITY ENERGY

Calling all local folks and community organisations! Don't miss your chance to join Glasgow Community Energy - a community owned renewable energy co-operative. Last year, they successfully installed solar panels on the rooves of two schools including local Glendale Primary (pictured) and hope to expand to

further sites across the city and explore other renewable energy technologies over coming years. They've just launched a first community share offer to invite you to invest in the project and get involved in developing future plans. Individuals and organisations can buy shares in this first offer before 18th June 2021 at glasgowenergy.coop

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Editor James Spooner

Layout Katherine Cory

Distribution Imelda Devlin

Contributors James Spooner, Kevin Kane, Sharon Schweps, Marianne Harper, Andrew Downie, Jane Carolan, Paola Rezzilli, Vivienne Wilson

Send letters and brief articles of general interest to:
news@strathbungo.co.uk