

STRATHBUNGO IS CHANGING

Network Rail tell us the road bridge will open in January, but will it just be a return to possibly the world's ugliest roundabout or can this be the driver for a greener, more attractive urban landscape?



If you didn't see the bridge come down, you probably heard it—and you certainly will have noticed the disruption as Network Rail finally got stuck in to electrifying the railway line.

The Strathbungo Society's conservation remit requires us to safeguard our historic built environment, but in this case it also means influencing necessary changes. Ongoing negotiations with Network Rail have enabled the community to make simple but important modifications all along the way—restoring the original colour scheme on the replacement footbridge, for example, and addressing safety concerns by ensuring a clear view of approaching pedestrians.

During demolition we made sure the Victorian support columns were retained and we hope to find a place for them in the redeveloped site. We also received a commitment to stone cladding on the parapet at the conservation area side of the new concrete bridge.

So what next?

One thing is for certain: we can't just sit back and see what happens. Cllr Jon Molyneux is aiming to get a site meeting with ourselves, Network Rail, Glasgow Roads Department and the city planners about what comes next as regards cars, cyclists, pedestrians and green spaces.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle," says Strathbungo Chair Jane Carolan. "There are lots of pieces still to put in place, but we have a real chance this time to get things right for future generations."

Have your say at the Strathbungo AGM on 8 November – details on back cover.

Q&A: ZEN GHANI

Cllr Zen Ghani, elected in June to represent the Pollokshields Ward, is currently the youngest member of Glasgow City Council—and he's lived all of his 21 years in Strathbungo.



Q: Can you cook?

A: I'm a real foodie. I make a really good lasagne and my own garlic bread from scratch.

Q: Dog or cat?

A: Stella, my black and white cat, is two years old.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Shawlands Primary, then Shawlands Academy. I'm now in my senior honours year in politics and history at Glasgow University.

Q: How did you get interested in politics?

A: It was Thomas Donnelly, my modern studies teacher at Shawlands. He said politics is a way to make changes, rather than sitting around and complaining. So I started learning about issues, getting involved. I joined the SNP in 2018 and later became Secretary of the Strathbungo Branch.

Q: Does it matter that you live in Strathbungo?

A: I'm here to represent everybody across the ward, and whether they voted for me or not. But it's easier to understand issues like speeding, litter or antisocial behaviour because I see things that concern people every day.

Q: What would you like to see for Strathbungo?

A: Young people are underrepresented in decision-making and they need to make their voices heard. Politics can put people off with all the arguing. It should be about debate, respecting opinions even if you disagree. By diversifying the voices, the community will flourish. Oh, and I'd like to see a female councillor elected next time!

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I enjoy reading crime novels and I love gaming. With my PlayStation 5 I'm connecting with people all over the world. It's amazing to see how they think.

BUNGO EVENTS ARE BACK!

After a two year break, Strathbungo's signature events returned in June with Bungo in the Back Lanes. Even the weather seemed to be celebrating as folk took to the lanes to eat, drink, buy, sell, entertain and be entertained. Thanks to local photographer Roberto Cavieres for these great shots. Save the dates for more to come as the year rolls on.



"IF YOU DONT REPORT IT, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN"

So said Community Policing Inspector Cennydd Smith who met with Queen Square residents after a spate of car break-ins. His advice is relevant to the wider community.

It seems cars were being entered and contents rifled through, but without smashed windows or locks. Some folk even wondered whether they had just left the doors unlocked. With not much missing and no damage, it probably would have gone unreported except for the chatter on the street's WhatsApp group. As people shared their experiences, they realised something was up, but what?

Insp Smith, who leads a team of 12 based at Gorbals station, reckoned the intruders were using an electronic device that can read smart keys inside your house – from the street. So how can you deal with that? Using a Faraday pocket will block the signal (about £9 on Amazon)—or you can just pop keys into a biscuit tin. He recommended ways to discourage opportunist crime—lighting at your front door, keeping your hedge cut to around 3 feet and making sure street lights are working and not blocked by trees.

He also suggested resurrecting Neighbourhood Watch, saying the scheme has evolved from the cumbersome model that failed to get a foothold in Strathbungo a while back. NW signage sends a message to would-be villains that neighbours are looking out for each other.

Overall, he said, prevention is infinitely better than detection. If you are worried, ask the Community Policing Team (GreaterGlasgowLPSTGorbals@scotland.police.uk) to carry out a free crime prevention survey of your property. It mostly comes down to commonsense measures, but if something does happen, the Police need to know. Phone them on 101 or, in an emergency, 999. And Insp Smith promises they will respond.

Full story by Rhiannon Spear on bungoblog.com



WhatsAppening Here?

Neighbourhood Watch is great, but a WhatsApp group can also help if you want to borrow a screwdriver, share a glut of apples, alert a car owner who's left the lights on or, as happened recently, announce the sad passing of a much-loved pet. Cooper, 9, was a familiar face in the neighbourhood.

Most WhatsApp groups started up during the pandemic and continue to thrive. They have formed around streets, but also special interests or concerns such as the Eco Group.



A TALE OF HOPE AND HYPEROPTIC

Update on our grant from the Council's Private Lanes Improvement Fund from Andrew Downie and Stephen Lamb.



At our invitation, representatives from Hyperoptic and their contractor met us on site and accepted their error. Given the poor state of the lane beforehand the best approach is unclear, but they are willing to make some amends. We hope further repairs will be undertaken in the next month, though these may cause more disruption in the back lane for a couple of days. This may involve cobbles, if available, or concrete patch repairs, but only in the patches they dug up.

If you were affected by their work and wish to be involved or kept informed, or raise your own complaints with Hyperoptic, email adownie@doctors.org.uk and we can supply their contact details.

With £20k in the bank, a supply of granite setts, a contractor and a costed proposal, the lane repairs project is gaining momentum. We hope to start work around the new year, but currently have a shortfall of £4k, and no more money available from the Council. Details of further discussion to work around this will be posted on bungoblog.com.

Repairs will be carried out by Richard Birch Gardens, a Strathbungo-based contractor, at three sites that are particularly prone to flooding. The recycled granite setts came via Network Rail from their work in Moray Place, and from a garden in Queen Square.

Meanwhile Hyperoptic threw a spanner in the works by digging up the private lane behind Queen and Marywood Squares while installing fast fibre broadband—without permission or even advanced notice. Reinstatement was also suboptimal with some loss of cobbles. They claim to have been told the lane was public property.

We hope it will all be worth it when high speed broadband arrives, and the lane might even be in a better state than when they started.



BUNGO AT THE BELLS

Hogmanay
from 11:15pm

Come out for the
countdown and dance the
year away.

All ages welcome.



WINDOW WANDERLAND

Saturday, 25 February 2023

From dusk, the windows of
Strathbungo will become a
magical outdoor art gallery.
Follow preparations on
Facebook and start planning
your masterpiece now!

NEWS IN BRIEF

These are all on-going items – look for updates on the Bungo Blog and Facebook.



Cool Heads in a Crisis

Tom Nockolds (left) and Chris Carus, co-founders of Loco Home Retrofit, hosted their first AGM in October with a timely discussion of how to mitigate the energy and cost of living crisis. This new cooperative business offers practical help to decarbonise homes, including traditional-built properties such as grace the Bungo. They now have 120 members. South Seeds and Home Energy Scotland were also on-hand to answer questions.

<https://locohome.coop>



Shawlands Rocks

Congratulations to Shawlands (a.k.a. Nether Strathbungo) on being named by Time Out magazine as the 11th coolest neighbourhood ...in the world!

"With its great parks, art, coffee and dining, Shawlands keeps Glasgow braw. The neighbouring areas of Langside, Strathbungo and Govanhill have all played their part in the Southside's rise to eclipse the West End as the city's best area to socialise and live in recent years – but Shawlands is the bustling nexus point of Glasgow below the Clyde."

Well, who would argue with that?



Push The Magic Button

The Bike Bus, a supervised commute on Friday mornings from Strathbungo to Shawlands Primary, has now grown to 70 riders, including Owen (above) and his dad Gareth Johnson. But with success came a problem: how to get all those riders through the traffic lights at the Granary when the light phase only last 10 seconds? Enter the Council's Road Safety Unit with a specially-adapted remote control button that fits onto the lead bike and holds the light for 45 seconds—enough time for even P1 legs to peddle through. Believed to be the first in the UK, the button uses a military-grade encrypted signal to do the trick—magic!



A Bungo Dynasty

Andrew Downie continues his fascinating history of Strathbungo houses with 13 Moray Place, home of William Stevenson, quarrymaster. William may look like a stodgy old Victorian gent, but his life was the stuff of a TV soap: wealth, power, a second wife 20 years his junior and a bunch of grown-up kids who occupied most of the north side of Marywood Square. The cast includes a daughter, described as 'an annoying, twittery little woman', who insisted on taking a taxi to Newcastle to visit friends. Don't wait for the box-set—read it now at bygone.bungoblog.com.



Your Move

Chess in the Park has come indoors, setting up at the Glad Café on Sunday mornings. Meanwhile the Thursday night group at Brodies is moving to the Corona Bar in early November. No changes for the Tuesday night Queens Park Chess Club at Wellcroft Bowling Club. In October these groups were jointly awarded a £1,000 grant from the Thriving Govanhill Fund to increase capacity and digital outreach. All ages and abilities welcome. Tournament play may involve a fee, but otherwise just turn up and make your move, says QP Secretary Derek Rankine.



RIP Malcolm

Glasgow Councillor Malcolm Cunning, who has died age 65, started his political career in 2003 when he was elected to the old Strathbungo Ward—just in time to join residents on the footbridge to protest Network Rail's 'chainsaw massacre' of the green corridor. Malcolm went on to bigger things, latterly as Glasgow Labour Leader while representing Linn Ward. Even so, he will be remembered here first and foremost as a kind and decent man.

STRATHBUNGO: IT'S THE BUSINESS!



@66 Hair and Lifestyle in Nithsdale Road is the personal vision of owner and head stylist Graeme Snell – a fun, inclusive space where clients are made to look and feel their best. He's restored period features and commissioned new art such as the stained glass transom – and also Mavis the sheep who lives in the window. All products are cruelty-free, vegan-friendly and sustainable. Graeme leads a diverse team of seven talented people who love vibrant colours as well as classic styles. It's a busy shop and plans include expanding into the basement in time.



Danyar Barbers at 713 Pollokshaws Road is a Kurdish run local business. Google informs us that Danyar means 'wise', and judging by the fact they're always busy Danyar makes for a wise choice. Who needs a fancy hairdresser when you can get a haircut, a shave and, for those of a certain age, your eyebrows done, and still have change from £20. The proprietor's chat is as good as the price with tales of long drives from Strathbungo to Iraq, as well as the state of the Queen's Park playpark where his kids play.

This beautiful little book is packed with history, pictures and stories about what makes our community so special - there's even a guided walk and fold-out map.



It's a bargain at £5, even better at three for £10, just in time for Christmas. Get yours at the AGM on 8 November, or order direct from info@strathbungo.co.uk

Strathbungo News

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Send letters and brief articles of general to: news@strathbungo.co.uk
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Advertising enquiries welcome.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



8th November 2022 at 7.30pm
Queen's Park Church Hall,
170 Queen's Drive

Doors open 7pm, Tea and Coffee available.
To be followed by cheese and wine.

- Reports and accounts on the blog
- Have your say and meet your neighbours
- Discussion on opportunities for change with new road bridge

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