STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society
A quarterly newsletter

SPRING 2026

WINDOW WANDERLAND

Saturday 7th March, 2026, 6-9pm

Window Wanderland photos were used by Time Out magazine in evidence of Strathbungo's ranking as 22nd coolest neighbourhood in the world.

While it attracts wanderers from far and wide, it's basically an event run by the community for the community. It's a great way to bring people together at the end of a long, dark winter; wander round Strathbungo taking in the festive atmosphere, bumping into neighbours, enjoying performances and displays.

The outstanding talent and imagination displayed by some of our residents is a delight, but every picture tells a story of commitment to being part of this vibrant community; the more decorated the windows, the better the event.

A history of Window Wanderland

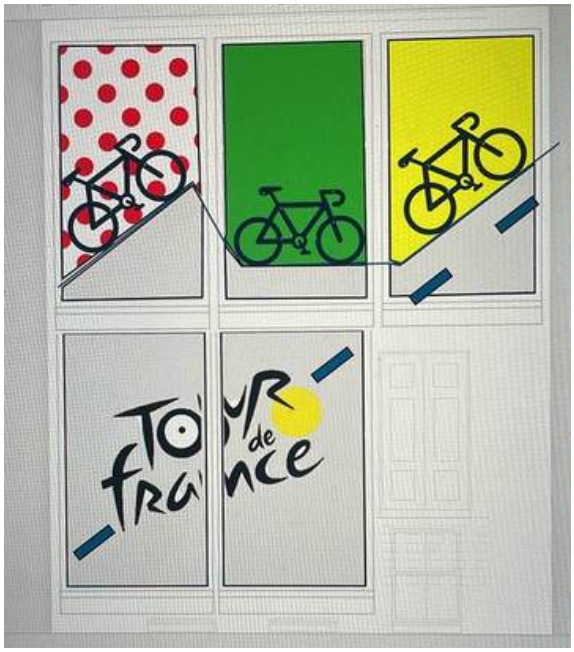
Window Wanderland started in Bristol in 2015, when one local woman used nightly walks to aid her rehabilitation after an accident. She asked friends in her neighbourhood to create window displays and she found that these brought her joy and helped her cope with chronic pain. The stated aims of Window Wanderland are to reduce loneliness, improve mental well-being through creativity and foster community connection. It's a simple concept, so effective that it has spread far and wide, with Strathbungo being the first Scottish neighbourhood to pick up on it, in February 2017.

Time to get planning!

So Strathbungo's own Window Wanderland is back on 7th March and everyone is welcome to join in. Lacking any inspiration? Scour the internet for good ideas; call in family and friends to help; check out the 'how-to' videos on YouTube. Try windowwanderland.com for starters.

Please contribute to the success of the event if you can. The Window Wanderland team will be on hand to support.

As in previous years, the Strathbungo Society will be laying on stewards for the evening. Please avoid using your car on the night, and discourage others from driving to the event. Those streets get very busy!



PARKING AND BIN HUB UPDATE

The Society has formally objected to the proposed parking changes, including the introduction of charges and the reduction in the number of cars permitted on local roads. We are now awaiting a response from Glasgow City Council and continue to advocate for our preferred alternative: the introduction of a Home Zone for Strathbungo.

The proposed bin hubs for Strathbungo streets have now been scrapped. The Society has instead suggested the purchase of additional smaller refuse vehicles, particularly caged trucks, which we know can access both the back lanes and Strathbungo roads. We are currently awaiting their decision.

Meanwhile, the issue of glass recycling remains unresolved. The Council is gradually removing purple glass bins with plans to end residential glass collection in Strathbungo entirely. The Council has proposed installing additional large communal glass bins—similar to those currently located at the end of Nithsdale Road—in Regent Park Square and Queen Square. The Society has raised strong objections as we believe it will lead to increased fly-tipping and dumping of glass in plastic bags within these areas.

We would therefore like to ask Strathbungo residents where they would prefer to take glass for recycling?

- Large communal glass bins in Regent Park Square and Queen Square (Pollokshaws Road entrance)
- Polmadie Refuse and Recycling Centre
- Kildrostan Street recycling collection point
- Supermarket recycling collection points
- At the Queens Park Gates (near Brodies & the bike racks)

Tell us which street you are in and email your preference to

chair@strathbungo.co.uk

We will collate responses and present the community's views to the Cleansing Department.

Even easier, just scan the QR code and reply to the survey on line.

On street glass bin in Partick, just what we need. (Photo: Jill Ferguson, Facebook)

BRIGHTER BUNGO

Saturday, 28th February, 11am - 1pm

Less glamorous than Window Wanderland, but another event that depends on community participation for its success. We'll be delighted to see anyone who can spare a half hour between 11 and 1.

Here's hoping for decent weather, but come rain or shine we will be outside Bossa on Nithsdale Road handing out litter pickers, gloves, black bags and optional hi-viz vests (children's sizes now available).

ANDREW MCINTYRE - BUNGO BUILDER … & FATHER OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY?

The curious tale of John McIntyre's younger brother — Bygone Bungo

Andrew McIntyre was the youngest child of Archibald McIntyre, a mason from Glenorchy. He was born in 1831 and grew up in the shadow of his two elder brothers, both masons. In particular, John McIntyre was a partner with William Stevenson, the quarrymaster, and Alexander "Greek" Thomson, the architect. He built Queens Park Terrace in Eglinton Street, then bought and developed Strathbungo, himself building 1-10 Moray Place, and possibly numbers 11-18 too.

Andrew would eventually become a brickmaker and builder also, commencing in the 1860s. When John died in 1872, he inherited the right to build on Nithsdale Road, and erected Titwood Place (think La Gelatessa, Titwood Bar, New Anand), to a design likely by Greek Thomson, but executed by his partner Robert Turnbull, as Thomson too died in 1875. The terrace was completed in 1877.

In 1880 the Maxwells of Pollok laid out Nithsdale Drive and Andrew bought the adjacent land to build the Salisbury Quadrant tenement, again to a design by Turnbull but with Greek Thomson influences. He took a flat there when it was completed in 1885, but died almost immediately, while visiting Bute.

However, it is his early life that is most interesting. He married at 18, and had a son at 19, but then took his young family to join the Australian gold rush.

By 1854, he was established on his claim at Ballarat, living in a tent with his wife, and now two children, beside his goldmine. Whether his wife had any say in this isn't clear, but she stuck with him.

The riot and burning of the Eureka Hotel at Ballarat.

However, life for the miners was getting tough. The huge numbers (20,000 in Ballarat alone) placed pressure on infrastructure, and the cash-starved colonial administrators turned to taxation through expensive miners' licences and tough enforcement by the mostly ex-convict police force.

James Bentley, another ex-convict, owned the notorious Eureka Hotel and had all the local authorities in his pocket. When a Scottish miner called James Scobie was murdered outside, Bentley was the prime suspect, but was cleared twice.

The miners responded with a riot. McIntyre then stepped in and made a speech from the hotel window to calm the crowd, but despite his efforts, they burned the hotel to the ground.

McIntyre was one of three men then arrested and jailed for causing the riot, which further angered the miners, who swore allegiance to the rebel Southern Cross flag.

Ballarat miners gather at Eureka to swear allegiance to the Southern Cross, or Eureka, flag.

The end result was a stand-off where the miners took up arms inside a wooden stockade. The ensuing Battle of the Eureka Stockade between the miners, the state police troopers and the British Army was over in 20 minutes, with a death toll of several soldiers and some 22-50 miners, but it is remembered today as a critical moment in the birth of democracy in Australia.

You can read Andrew McIntyre's full story, and those of the other Strathbungo builders, on Bygone Bungo, at bygone.bungoblog.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lane Repairs

The Strathbungo Society has now completed its lane repair programme funded by the Council's Private lane Improvement Fund with a repair to another flood-prone lane entrance, this one off Vennard Gardens.

Thanks go to Richard Birch Gardens and Richard's team, who have been excellent contractors to work with. We are now waiting on the council to raise and repair the pavement across the entrance to the lane to displace any remaining pooling of water.

The council fund is still under-utilised, so if you have ideas for improvements to other Bungo lanes, the Society can help you apply - get in touch.

Window Wanderland Info

Join our WhatsApp group - scan the QR.

Guerilla Gardening

First signs of spring to reward those who took part in our guerilla gardening beside the roundabout.

And with the news that Apparel Exchange are moving away, the Strathbungo Eco Group has also taken over the planters on Nithsdale Street

Keep your eyes out for the full display over the next few weeks!

Bungo in the Back Lanes

Bungo in the Back Lanes will be back again on Saturday, 20th June, 1-5pm with music, bars, stalls, wobbly back lanes, fun and sunshine – we hope!

So get planning your stall. Lets see some quirky ideas. How about bringing back my all-time favourite, the snail racing?

See you there.

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Would you like to get involved? Please reach out if you have a story idea or creative piece to feature in our next issue.

If you're interested in contributing, please send your story to news@strathbungo.co.uk with your name and contact information.

Advertising enquiries welcome.