STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society
A quarterly newsletter

SUMMER 2026

BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES

Where a Neighbourhood Comes Alive

Every June, something remarkable happens in the cobbled back lanes of Strathbungo. Gates swing open, tables appear laden with homemade treats and hidden treasures, music drifts through the air, and neighbours come together for one of Glasgow's most distinctive community celebrations, Bungo in the Back Lanes.

First launched in 2000, the event was created to bring Strathbungo's historic back lanes to life and encourage residents to see these shared spaces as valuable community assets rather than overlooked passageways. Over the years, it has grown into a much-loved annual tradition that attracts visitors from across Glasgow while remaining firmly rooted in local participation.

What makes Bungo in the Back Lanes special is its grassroots spirit. Residents transform the lanes into a vibrant festival-feel space, setting up stalls selling everything from home baking and crafts to plants, books, antiques and pre-loved treasures. Children run their own enterprises, and local makers showcase their creativity.

Alongside the stalls, visitors can enjoy live music, tea gardens, food vendors, children's activities, makers' market and social spaces that turn the neighbourhood into a giant outdoor gathering place. The event demonstrates how public and shared spaces can foster connection, creativity and community pride.

It has also played an important role in caring for Strathbungo's unique environment. Each year, preparations for the event inspire residents to work together on clean-up efforts, helping maintain the lanes and strengthen a sense of shared ownership.

More than two decades after its inception, Bungo in the Back Lanes is one of the primary reasons for Strathbungo being consistently rated as such a great place to live. So come out and support your local community, join in the fun, and get those Christmas gifts nice and early. Maybe set up your own stall - surprise us!

There's guidance and a FAQ on our website at bungoblog.com, with a few rules oround alcohol and food. There is also a map of the main features on the lanes, which will be updated before the event.

That's Bungo in the Back Lanes; a celebration of place, people and the enduring strength of community spirit.

LOOKING AFTER STRATHBUNGO'S BACK LANES

Keep 'em tidy

Strathbungo's back lanes are one of the neighbourhood's most distinctive and valued features. They provide shared spaces for residents, support local wildlife, and play a big role in community events such as the upcoming Bungo in the Back Lanes.

However, there are increasing amounts of fly-tipping and improperly discarded waste. There's the larger items such as furniture and household goods, but residents have also noticed more bin bags being left on the ground rather than secured in bins. These are often torn open by foxes, birds and other wildlife, scattering rubbish throughout the lanes.

This not only creates an unsightly mess but attracts rats and other pests, increasing the risk of infestations and creating hygiene concerns for nearby residents.

Many residents volunteer their time to maintain planters, organise clean-ups and keep the lanes attractive and welcoming. When rubbish is dumped, much of this hard work is quickly undone.

There are simple steps we can all take to help. Place household waste securely in bins with lids closed, and don't leave bin bags loose in the lanes. Bulky items should be disposed of through appropriate collection services, and not abandoned in communal areas. Those hiring contractors for home improvements should ensure waste is being disposed of legally; householders can be held responsible if their waste is illegally dumped.

Strathbungo's back lanes are a valuable part of our community. By our good behaviour, we can ensure these unique spaces remain a source of pride for residents and visitors alike.

Purple Glass Bins

Residents in Queen Square (even numbers) and Regent Park Square will soon receive a letter from Glasgow City Council regarding the removal of their purple glass recycling bins.

Householders are encouraged to use nearby alternative recycling points as listed in the letter (and yellow, below) or GGC's recycling facilities such as Polmadie.

BRIGHTER BUNGO

Saturday, 13th June, 11am - 1pm

Fancy lending a hand to get the lanes in tip-top condition for Bungo in the Back Lanes? 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).

And if the newsletter doesn't reach you in time, there'll be another one along in due course. Watch out for posters, social media & the WhatsApp Groups.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

La Gelatessa

We are Chiara & Dave Pieraccini-Partington of La Gelatessa, a small Gelateria who hand-make natural Italian-style gelato, using only high-quality and seasonal ingredients.

How did you start? Being furloughed during the lockdown gave me (Chiara) time to question where I wanted to go in life. I had over 10 years experience as a professional baker, 17 years in hospitality. I always wanted to start my own business, but never had the time. Being half Italian, my only experience of proper Italian gelato was in Italy. I always secretly dreamt of opening my own Gelateria but I wasn't sure it was something people would want in Scotland. But the pandemic taught me the importance of the small pleasures in life. Gelato was mine, that I wanted to share. Fast forward a couple of years, I learned what I could from books, then enrolled in the Carpigiani Gelato University in Bologna to fill in the gaps. A whole load of blood, sweat and tears later, we secured the keys to our shop on 38 Nithsdale Road, where we have now been for nearly 3 years.

Why Strathbungo? Our heart is in the Southside. We have lived here almost 19 years, mostly in Pollokshields, and have witnessed its many changes over the years. So it brings us so much pride to be able to bring a bit of joy to our local community. We were so lucky to secure premises on Nithsdale Road where the sense of community is so strong. We have the best neighbours and community anyone could ask for.

What's your USP? I mean, obviously it's the gelato, and our hot chocolates! But I think what brings people back time and again is that the flavours we offer are a bit more interesting than what you would find in most traditional gelaterias.

And your plans? Well, Dave and I had our first baby in May, so any plans are on the back burner for now. So just surviving a summer without us being in the shop is our main goal to be honest! Thankfully, we have the best team looking after the place in our absence. You'll just have to wait until 2027 to find out.

The Wee Beer Shop

I'm Niall Kennedy of the Wee Beer Shop. I've been open at 623 Pollokshaws Road since October 2017.

How did you start? I had spent a considerable amount of time working as a marketing consultant, but fancied doing something for myself. I had also recently moved to the Southside and was fed up having to trail over to the west end to buy nice beers so I decided to open a specialist beer shop.

Why Strathbungo? I looked at lots of shop units around the area but it was during a visit to Bungo in the Back Lanes that I felt that I had found the community that I wanted to open my shop in. At that time there wasn't the range of small independent shops that there is now so it was a bit of a leap of faith but I'm delighted that other shopkeepers have decided to base themselves here. It's a really vibrant area and one I'm very happy to be a part of.

What's your USP? I offer something a bit different. Most of what I sell you won't find in other shops, and particularly supermarkets. I'm also keen to support local breweries, and that's an approach that lots of people in Strathbungo seem to take. We are lucky to have 3 brewery owners living close by - Simple Things Fermentations (see them at Bungo in the Back Lanes this year), Dookit and Up Front.

What are the main challenges for small independent businesses? My approach is very focused on quality and with quality comes a higher price tag. However, people don't have a lot of disposable income these days, and lots of small specialist shops who want to offer something better than the supermarkets are struggling. Putting aside my own business, I'd urge people that if they value the diversity that currently exists to support their local shops if they can. If you don't use it you'll lose it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lane Repairs

The Council have reinstated the pavement surface at the Vennard Gardens lane entrance, completing this project. We thought they were going to repair the road surface too, but this hasn't happened (yet?). Hopefully this lane entrance will now remain dry next time it rains.

The council back lane 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.

The Deep End

Folks at the Deep End and Govanhill Baths Community Trust have spent a weekend landscaping the derelict former 47 Nithsdale Street, and what a result! A great spot to sit in the sun.

Queens Park Glasshouse

Photo: Chris Haikney (Wiki Commons) when it still had a dome

There's growing concern about the fate of the Queens Park Glasshouses after GGC declared they are closing permanently. Dereliction and a fire no doubt await, in the eyes of the cynical.

A campaign is forming with the support of local MSP Holly Bruce, and a first meeting is due at the Roma Cultural Centre. Watch social media for the outcome and future developments if you're interested.

Bygone Bungo Walks

Bygone Bungo is joining the South Glasgow Heritage & Environment Trust (SGHET) summer walks programme on 27 June and will be back at Doors Open Day too on 18 Sep. If you fancy a guided walk around your neighbourhood, follow SGHET on Eventbrite for details; places book up fast.

Want to know the story of your own house? Ask at bygone.bungoblog.com

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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.