

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society
A quarterly newsletter

AUTUMN 2026

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

Tues 3rd November, 7.30pm @ Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church

The Strathbungo Society Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30pm at Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church.

The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about what the Society has been doing over the past year, find out what's planned for the year ahead, and have your say on issues that matter to your local community.

We'll also be providing an update on the parking issues in Strathbungo, including the latest developments and how these might affect residents and visitors to the area. There will be an opportunity to hear updates, ask questions and share your views.

Everyone who lives in or has an interest in Strathbungo is very welcome to attend. Whether you're already involved with the Society or coming along for the first time, we'd love to see you.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer

Situations Vacant

Get Involved with The Strathbungo Society!

The Strathbungo Society is looking for volunteers to join our team. We currently have a few volunteer opportunities available for people who would like to get more involved in their local community.

Treasurer

We're looking for someone organised and reliable to take on the role of Society Treasurer. You'll help oversee the Society's finances, keep simple financial records, manage payments and provide financial updates to the committee. Full training will be given.

Bungo in the Back Lanes Co-ordinator

We're also looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Bungo in the Back Lanes Co-ordinator. This is a great opportunity to help organise and support this popular local event, working with residents and volunteers to keep our back lanes welcoming, attractive and community-focused.

No previous committee experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. We have a well-developed event book with all the information required, and the helpful committee to back you up. And new ideas for the event are always welcome.

Window Wanderland

See the back page if you want this to happen again.

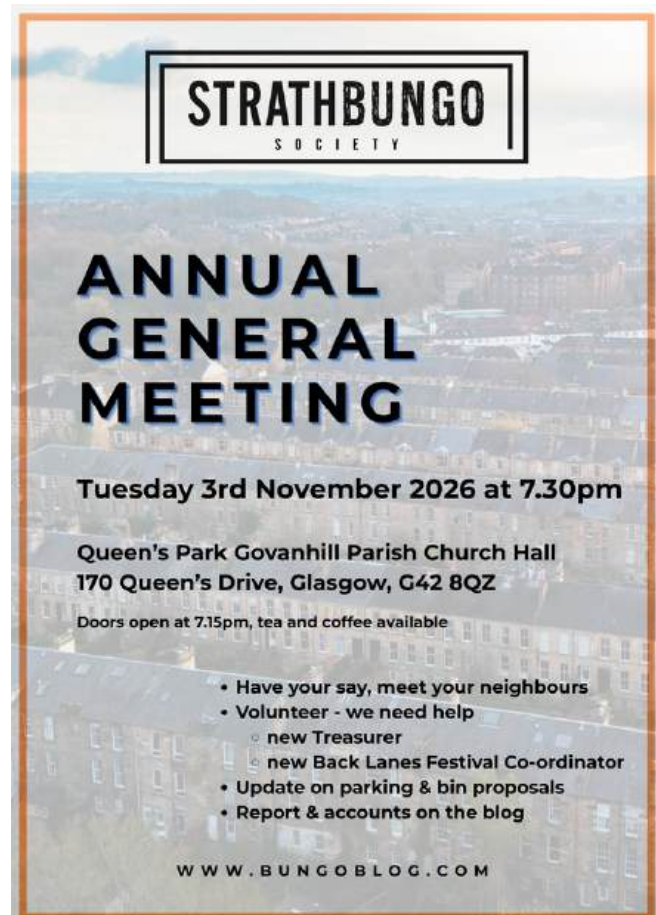
Editor

We could do with help with news, newsletter editing and general communications, if that's your thing.

Interested in finding out more?

Please get in touch with the Strathbungo Society to have an informal chat about any role. You can contact Paola, our chair, by email at chair@strathbungo.co.uk

Or chat to us at the AGM. We'd love to hear from you!



STRATHBUNGO
SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 7.30pm

Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church Hall
170 Queen's Drive, Glasgow, G42 8QZ

Doors open at 7.15pm, tea and coffee available

- Have your say, meet your neighbours
- Volunteer - we need help
 - new Treasurer
 - new Back Lanes Festival Co-ordinator
- Update on parking & bin proposals
- Report & accounts on the blog

WWW.BUNGOBLOG.COM

LOCAL REGENERATION UPDATES

Nithsdale Square

A NEW PUBLIC SPACE FOR STRATHBUNGO



The Strathbungo Society has been successful in securing £20,000 from Glasgow City Council's Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) for the Pollokshields ward to help create 'Nithsdale Square' as a new (much-needed) public space for Strathbungo.

Located at the closed-off junction at Nithsdale Road and Pollokshaws Road, the current space, though having some block paving and bollards, is a bit of a dumping ground that includes a redundant air quality monitoring unit; inappropriately sited secure cycle storage locker and cycle rack, and new drop-off section for Voi bikes; glass recycling units and—frustratingly—the commercial waste bins for a couple of neighbouring businesses.

The opportunity to create a more civic space was identified in the 2025 Local Place Plan funded by the Shawlands & Strathbungo and Langside, Battlefield & Camphill Community Councils. The Strathbungo Society nominated both 'Nithsdale Square' and 'Balvicar Square' (the area between the Queen's Park gates and Brodies Bar), but we were unsuccessful in securing NIIF funding for the latter.

The aspiration is to rationalise/re-site the existing cycle parking, remove commercial waste and introduce seating and planting, while leaving the glass recycling. One idea is for "pebble planters" (as at GOMA in the city centre) or pebble seats as at the Transylvania Shop on Victoria Road. The Society is still to meet with Council officers in October to agree what can be achieved with the funding.

So, watch that space!

Balvicar play park

NEW FACILITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AMONG US

The most recent meeting of the Queen's Park Working Group (QPWG)—a partnership of community representatives, elected members and Council officials, with an interest in improving Queen's Park—heard City Council officials confirm that they are at an advanced stage in appointing a contractor for a significant 'design & build' contract to renew and upgrade the much-used Balvicar play area.

A tender was drawn up by officials with input from the original play area campaigners and their community consultation. Tenderers are aware that, once appointed, they will be required to bring their proposal back to QPWG to demonstrate how they have responded to the points made by the Balvicar play area group and the outputs of its consultation.

Plans include the installation of new wooden play equipment, a new soft surface, seating and public lighting to enable its use in the darker autumn and winter months—as well as into the evenings—extending its value for the community.

The investment is part of wider efforts by QPWG to develop a 10-15 year plan for Queen's Park and the "Recs" that draws on the outputs of a Development Plan it commissioned from Ironside Farrar, a Glasgow-based landscape architect. This is currently being developed into a management plan that identifies short-, medium- and longer-term priorities for revenue-based works, capital works and voluntary efforts, including the use of Community Pay Back to undertake much-neglected maintenance.

The tendering process is nearing completion and the current timeline is that the new Balvicar play area will be installed in spring 2027. It can only be an improvement.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Charlie's Perfect Paws

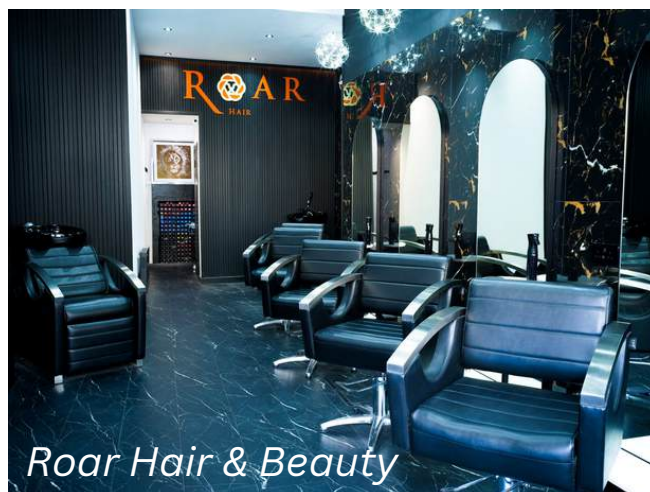
Charlie's Perfect Paws is a friendly and professional grooming business on Nithsdale Road, Strathbungo, run by Lisa and Charlene Stark.

We groom dogs, cats & rabbits, and are happy to care for any animal that requires grooming. Our priority is creating a calm, safe and positive experience for both pets and their owners. I started the business because of my deep love for animals. I realised life is too short not to do something you truly care about, and turning my passion into a career felt like the right step for me.

One of the first challenges was finding the right location. We viewed many properties, and it was quite stressful. However, when we saw the shop in Strathbungo, we immediately felt it was right. We were very lucky to find it, and I'm so grateful we didn't go with any of the other properties we considered.

The area has such a strong sense of community. It's welcoming, diverse and inclusive, and we've been made to feel so at home here in Strathbungo. It's been lovely to experience that support. We're a small, family-run business, and that's something people really value. Over the past 3 years, we've built strong relationships with our customers and their pets. We aim to grow until our diary is consistently full, while maintaining those close relationships and the high standard of care we pride ourselves on.

I have two dogs of my own, which keeps me grounded in what pet owners need. My 15-year-old Chihuahua, Baby, is a very grumpy old man but very loved, while my 7-year-old Shih Tzu cross Pomeranian called Zero is adorable. Having my own dogs reminds me every day how important trust, patience and gentle care are when someone hands over their pet.



Roar Hair & Beauty

Roar Hair and Beauty are a multi-award-winning hair salon at 735 Pollokshaws Road. This is just one of their salons, with the others at Giffnock and Muirend. Brian Leo McCallum is the owner and salon director.

How did you end up starting a business?

For me, as a hairdresser, it was always my dream to own my own salon with my own team, where I could create a space where people could grow.

Why Strathbungo?

I was born and raised in the southside, and the appeal of the busy and thriving Bungo area was a no-brainer.

What do people like most about your business?

We offer a bespoke, one on one, custom and tailored hairdressing experience without it feeling pretentious, so people love that we treat them as guests in our salon and not just another number.

What are the main challenges small independent businesses face?

Our whole industry faces so many challenges with increasing costs and a lack of government support.

We also have a lack of young people entering the industry, so my job is to show the next generation how much fun it is!!!

What are your plans for the next year?

Our salon has gone through a major renovation, which we love. We also continue to be nominated for huge industry awards. It's not just hair, it's a pride thing.

(And they win too: Colourist of the Year & UK Colour Expert so far in 2026 - Ed.)

WINDOW WANDERLAND

Lights on, or Lights out?

In March, Strathbungo once again showed itself in its best light. Windows across the Squares, Gardens and beyond glowed with colourful displays, from King Kong or Batman to books and theatrical scenes. Folk came from across Glasgow to wander the trail on a cold night, hot drink in hand.

Thanks to everyone who took part, or came to look. Window Wanderland brings real joy to the neighbourhood and nights like these make it feel special. There's no getting away from it, though: notably fewer windows were lit this year. The event only works when enough residents join in, and it relies on volunteers giving up evenings and weekends to organise it.

Before planning next year's event, we want to know where you stand. Our short poll asks whether Window Wanderland should continue, whether you'd put up a window and whether you'd lend a hand organising it. Please scan the QR code or visit bungoblog.com by Monday 30 November—even if your answer is “not this year”. We want honest feedback and do not want to continue if most residents have moved on.

If Window Wanderland is to continue, we will also be looking for volunteers and fresh input. Any help is welcome, but ideally, we're looking to form a small group willing to take the reins and develop the event going forward. Any help is welcome, whether with organising, producing the map or spreading the word. Tick the relevant box in the poll, join the Window Wanderland WhatsApp group with the link below or contact the Strathbungo Society through its usual channels.

If Window Wanderland is going to keep lighting up Strathbungo, we need a few more hands on the switch.

Take the survey



WhatsApp Group



Moray Place Trees

A passing lorry uprooted an entire tree on Moray Place recently, leaving it propped precariously above the road. It took a man with a chainsaw working after midnight to make it safe.

A local resident has asked us to remind residents of Moray Place that they are responsible for maintaining the vegetation that overhangs the road on the railway side. Can they please cut back any vegetation to preserve the roadway, particularly any low-hanging branches that might impact passing vehicles, including vans and lorries.

One caveat. After the battles with Network Rail over the new fence a while back, it became clear they own the first 1m from the fence line, so if the tree arises within that 1m, you could try asking Network Rail to deal with it. Good luck.

Queen's Park Archaeology



Archaeology Scotland & Glasgow University were recently digging at the Camphill earthworks to better understand its function.

Finds included (from top left) a 1920s Glasgow Tramways token, a 1910 sixpence, C19 stoneware, C16-17 slipware, dressed stone, and bottom right, a polished neolithic axe head (5000 years). A post hole was also found in the enclosure. Further lab work is required, but it's enough to suggest they may dig again next year.

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Published quarterly by
The Strathbungo Society
Registered Charity No.SC038276
Website www.bungoblog.com

Layout & Editing: Andrew Downie

Distribution: Imelda Devlin

Many thanks to Paola Rezilli, Kevin Kane, Duncan Gammie and all others who contributed.

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 details.

Advertising enquiries welcome.