

**The Strathbungo Society**

**Registered Charity Number: SCO38276**

**Trustees' Annual Report: Year ended 30 April 2018**

FINAL DRAFT

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# Trustees' Annual Report, Year ended 30 April 2018

## Statutory Information

The Strathbungo Society

Registered Charity Number: SCO38276

Principal Address: 23, Queen Square, Strathbungo, Glasgow G41 2BG

Charity Trustees: Chair - Kevin Kane; Vice Chair - Scott Obrzud (to October 2017), Steve Goode (from November 2017); Treasurer - Nick Kempe; Secretary - Loraine Forde (to October 2017), Fiona Mackinnon (from January 2018);

The Strathbungo Society ("the Society") is governed by a constitution, agreed at the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and available for examination on the Society's website [www.bungoblog.com](http://www.bungoblog.com)

At each AGM, the members of the Society elect four Trustees (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) plus a Management Committee of up to a maximum of fifteen members. The Trustees hold office until the next AGM, when they are eligible for re-election. At the October 2017 AGM Scott Obrzud and Loraine Forde stood down and were replaced, after a short interlude, by Steve Good and Loraine Forde

The Society's objectives as set out in the Constitution are:

- **To advance citizenship and develop the community** by encouraging all members of the community, including families, children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the elderly to interact with the aim of improving the community both by bringing the community together and by promoting the provision, maintenance or improvement of public amenities within or in the vicinity of the Strathbungo area; and
- **To promote the conservation of local architectural and environmental heritage**, including the maintenance or improvement of the built and natural environment.

## Operating Review

### Chair's Report 2017-18

The past year to April 2018, has been one again of continued progress and success for the Strathbungo Society.

The Committee working with a wider set of volunteers has again delivered. We successfully negotiated with Network Rail for a complete renovation of the 'Strathbungo Station' footbridge (currently on-site). We (again) staged the best community-based events in Glasgow in **Bungo in the Back Lanes (2017)**, **Bungo at the Bells (2017)**, the immensely successful **Window Wanderland (2018)** and the **Strathbungo Spring Fling (2018)**. And we have continued our unbroken 24-year record of publishing the best community newspaper in Scotland, **The Strathbungo News**. In addition, we have revamped the Society's **BungoBlog** social media presence with active Facebook and Instagram accounts. And after many years of procrastinating, we have finally overhauled our branding, working with local Strathbungo designer, Niall Murphy, to create our new visual id for the Society which we have used for all our media.

In addition, over the past year to March 2017 we have:

- **Continued to maintain the Society's finances** with tight financial controls and securing new income to fund Window Wanderland. We invested funds to rebrand the Society and in renewing equipment for events. Despite a significant increase in expenditure, we continue to have available funds to "invest" in community initiatives and to continue to publish The Strathbungo News. Sincere thanks to Nick our Treasurer and to event co-ordinators for making this possible. It goes without saying that expenses claimed by Committee members remains miniscule (bacon rolls for the set-up gang for Bungo in the Lanes) and the value of our volunteers is way beyond what we could afford.
- **Reviewed our contact lists and membership database** to make them GDPR compliant. We have reduced and rationalised the information we hold and have adopted a new transparent privacy policy. We would still like to get more community members signed up as (financial) Friends! It costs as little as £1 a month to become a Friend of the Strathbungo Society.
- **Improved our social media presence.** Our **Society Facebook** page has taken off under the auspices of our IT and communications group – with thanks to Andrew Downie, Paola Rezzilli and Heather Alexander for all the work they have done to make this happen, including our new Instagram account which is well used. Our new branding has been incorporated into the new-look website (also known as "the blog") by Andrew Downie and into Andrew's **Bygone Bungo website** – a fantastic resource about the history of the area - illustrating the close link between it and

the Society.

- **The Strathbungo News** continues to provide a much-needed and appreciated news service to the local community, especially to those folk who are not on social media. The Society as always uses the News to inform and entertain and occasionally campaign. The News tells you what is going on in and around Strathbungo. Long may it continue!

### *Society Events*

These changes, have had a positive impact on the Society's events and activities over the year.

**Bungo in the Back Lanes, 2017 - bigger and better event with highest-ever attendance** – that brought its own challenges. After the event, the Committee agreed to introduce a more comprehensive stewarding system for future years. We launched a new “Community Zone” to provide a platform for local community groups to promote their work (e.g. Langside Halls Trust, South Seeds etc.) to the new community. As always, we gratefully acknowledge grant funding support (£1200 this year) from Glasgow City Council.

**Bungo Spring Fling 2018:** despite a year to fix the boiler, Langside Halls were still out of action so it was back to Queen's Park parish hall. Though there was less space for local crafts, the Bungo Bake Off went well and we got lots of folks out to what was, again, a great community event. Many thanks to Paola Rezzilli and Joyce Russell who took over the organisation from Rosie Illett - and to all the volunteers on the day who helped deliver it!

**Brighter Bungo – more volunteers please:** The Society organises community clean-ups, which increased from quarterly to five times a year, under the banner of Brighter Bungo. Held on Sunday mornings, a small group of folk regularly turn out to help keep the lanes, pavements and roads free of litter and fly tipping. To be honest, we'd like to see more folks volunteer and as always the lane between Nithsdale Road and Regent Park Square and behind Pollokshaws Road continue to be the worst lanes by far for fly-tipping. What volunteers are allowed to pick up is restricted by health and safety rules and we continue to be in dialogue with the council about a better system for picking up bulk rubbish.

**Strathbungo Window Wanderland – what an event!** Window Wanderland 2018 became an official Strathbungo Society event and we are grateful to Pollokshields Area Partnership funding which enabled us to add a street band, puppet show, street cinema and lighting to the event. The whole event was almost solely organised by Committee Member Sarah Reid (also Editor of the Strathbungo News) and it was again a fantastic showcase event for the neighbourhood and its creative residents. It drew hundreds of people to Strathbungo with images again featuring on the front pages / screens of national media, plus mountains of social media coverage. Simply another unique Strathbungo event.

Sarah was also the mover and shaker behind the **Regent Park Square Party** that took advantage of the Council's annual offer of a free street closure (it usually costs in excess of £1,000). Both events may well become new annual events in Strathbungo's calendar.

### *Representing Strathbungo*

However, The Society is not all about staging community events. We also try to represent the interests of residents to the wider community, City Council and other public authorities.

The Strathbungo Society works to represent the community at **Pollokshields Area Partnership** and have pushed for greater Council focus on cleansing, planning enforcement and improving the local environment (e.g. Nithsdale Road). As noted above, after the ‘Great Fence Debate’ with **Network Rail** we were delighted that Network Rail green-lighted the renovation of the Moray Place pedestrian footbridge, and are currently on-site. We are keen to promote active travel – walking and cycling – and work with partners in Pollokshields to promote this.

However, it is not all forward progress. We have failed to move forward our aspirations to improve Nithsdale Road (aside from successfully lobbying BT to renovate / repaint the red phone box). We'd like to engage with residents and businesses to help redesign what could be our most important public space but to do that we need more volunteers prepared to do things and knock on doors (probably literally!). There is a plan of sorts (2016 Charrette) but we need folks on the ground.

Finally, as I stand down as Chair, I want to acknowledge the time, input and dedication of the Committee and Trustees, and to the volunteers and elected representative, without whose work the Society simply could not deliver what it does - or be so successful.

## Financial Review

The Society operates an unrestricted current account, through which it runs its ongoing activities. Trustees receive no remuneration for any of the work that they do.

As shown in the following receipts and payments account, the Society made a loss of £1,896 on its activities in the year ending 30 April 2018, compared to a surplus of £1708 in the year ending 30 April 2017. This was expected and planned for, with the main reasons being covered in the notes to the accounts. The Society has continued to maintain tight controls over expenditure.

The Society continues to rely on voluntary donations via its “Friends of Strathbungo” scheme. This helps to provide self-generated funds for the Society and to enable it to fund its activities and publication of The Strathbungo News. Donations from Friends were £895 this year, a slight drop from £927 in 2017. The Trustees wish to see voluntary giving to the Society extended.

The Society received funding of £1957 in this period from Glasgow City Council, from Pollokshields Area Partnership, to help contribute to the costs (and risks) of staging Window Wanderland. Glasgow City Council had also awarded us £1200 for Bungo in the Back Lanes 2017 but this appeared in last year’s receipts and payments and was included in our balance sheet at the beginning of the year. The Society gratefully acknowledges the Council’s continued support of this Society event.

As at 30 April 2018 the Society had unrestricted funds in hand of £4054.

During the year, the Society received donated facilities and services from the local community and businesses, particularly in terms of support for the Spring Fling and Bungo in the Back Lanes, for which the Society is very grateful as they contribute enormously to the success of the events the Society runs. These are credited in full in the Strathbungo News.

The Trustees’ declare that they have approved the Trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the Society’s Trustees

Signed.....

Date: .....

Kevin Kane, Chair

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