

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Spring 2005



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DESIGN'S ON YOU

Every spring, The Lighthouse, Glasgow's architecture and design museum, awards grants to community projects via its Innovations Fund.

This year, for the first time, the Strathbungo Society has applied for money to fund an architectural photography project.

Our aim is to secure funds to produce a Strathbungo calendar and Christmas cards reflecting the area's unique architectural and design heritage. However, we want to get the community involved, rather than employing professional photographers and designers, so we'd like to run a series of photographic workshops that focus on the use of digital cameras and photographic composition.

This will give the community the skills and knowledge to photograph

Strathbungo's architectural details that surround them.

We hope the project will be sustained in subsequent years as residents pass

the skills on in new rounds of workshops.

The community calendar will promote Strathbungo's design and architectural heritage while involving all sections of the community. We're also hoping that photographs can be used for a brochure promoting an Alexander 'Greek' Thomson walk through the Southside.

Once we know how we fare, we'll let you know via the website.



Read Strathbungo News online at www.strathbungo.co.uk



PLAYING POLITICS

Scotland's Boundary Commission last month published its long-awaited report into the new electoral boundaries for Scotland.

The report has been perceived as the first concrete response to Tam Dalyell's now infamous West Lothian question, which asks why should Scottish Westminster MPs vote on English matters when English MPs cannot vote on Scottish matters? With a General Election apparently imminent, the Strathbungo question is, how does this affect us?

Scotland's Westminster quota has been cut from 72 to 59. Strathbungo will now be part of an enlarged Glasgow Central constituency, stretching from Kelvingrove to Dalmarnock and Toryglen. Overall, Glasgow's quota of Westminster MPs is down from ten to seven, prompting a scramble among Labour candidates to secure those seats that remain.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has also been discussing changes to Glasgow City Council's 79 wards and wants to reduce the number of wards in Glasgow to around 20. There would still be 79 councillors, but three or four would be designated to each of the 20 larger areas. So, rather than having a single councillor like Malcolm Cunning working for residents in Strathbungo, we'd share three or four councillors with neighbouring areas.

A new voting system called single transferable vote is also being proposed for council elections. When we vote we'd indicate our first, second and third choice candidates, and a quota or formula would be applied to decide who is elected based on the preferences of voters. The next council elections will be in 2007.

We'll keep you updated on changes on our website, www.strathbungo.co.uk

You can also find out more and download a constituency map at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk

New Hope For Govanhill Baths

Winter saw a flurry of activity regarding the possible regeneration of the Govanhill Swimming Pool.

The newly-formed Govanhill Baths Community Trust (GBCT) called a public meeting at the end of January to discuss the future of the pool.

Attended by over 100 people, they outlined a five-year plan to change the now derelict baths into a healthy living centre.

The Trust, using plans from local architectural group Nord, would reopen the biggest of the three pools for swimming, the second as a hydrotherapy area and the third as a steam room.

After a three-year campaign against the closure of the baths, the Trust has attained charitable status, which unlocks new funding options such as the National Lottery, and is considering options for the building's future. The Health Board are interested in entering

into a partnership to refurbish the building and other sources of funding may become available.

Plans for the pool will be developed over the coming months and there are hopes to include renewable energy technology in the building along with facilities for young people, mothers and babies and the elderly.

A meeting with the area's elected representatives took place on the 12th of February, and the response was generally positive. The Trust hopes that it may soon be able to gain access to the Baths so their architect can begin to draw up accurate plans.

The next step?

The Trust is hoping to commission its own feasibility study of the building for use as a healthy living centre.

Anyone can attend meetings of the GBCT every Tuesday at 7pm in the Daisy Street Community Centre, Govanhill. You can also keep an eye on events online at: www.govanhillbathscommunitytrust.com

Numerous residents have been in touch with the Strathbungo Society regarding an article in the Evening Times which states that an organisation described as the "Strathbungo Community Council" has requested the help of Glasgow Caledonian University to erect a 200ft community-owned wind turbine on the site of the flagpole in Queens Park.

The society currently has a poll for residents' views on this matter running on the website and will be keeping people updated through that. Do let us know what you think of the proposal.

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F R E E C Y C L I N G

Freecycling is a community scheme where people give (and get) items for free in their local area. Rather than consign your junk to the landfill, you offer it to the community.

The idea is there will be somebody out there who can make use of something that is cluttering up your house. That somebody could be a neighbour, a stranger or even a non-profit-making organisation.

The main rules, which must be stuck to rigidly, are: the item is free, meaning payment in cash or in kind is not allowed; the item must be legal; and the item must be appropriate for all ages. The giver makes the offer then, should the item be taken, arranges the method of passing the item on.

Recent items offered to the Glasgow Freecycle network have included a small folding yellow melamine-covered table, a large, brown sturdy table, a shower cabinet, a microwave, cameras and an espresso maker. Once you have made your first offer, you can also request items through the network in case someone has something they want to get rid of.

Membership is free. To sign up, visit the Glasgow site as mentioned below, where you can choose how you receive messages of items that are available. Freecycling is an international idea that originated in the USA. More information is available at the site that started it all (see below).

Visit Glasgow's group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glasgow-freecycle/>
The main site: www.freecycle.org

Community Chance

Life is about passion. We all have a passion for something, but did you ever think about using your passion to get involved in volunteering and bring something amazing to your community?

2005 has been designated the Year of the Volunteer and if you've ever felt the need to get the Good-Samaritan glow, what better way to start?

The Strathbungo Society is looking for new committee members and, at the June AGM, is hoping to elect new office holders so what better time can there be to get involved? Anyone can help.

We're looking for enthusiastic residents, young, old, and in-between, to attend committee meetings and/or help to organise our community events - from cooking up a storm for coffee mornings to helping to print and distribute this newsletter.

So how can you help? We hold committee meetings on the third Monday of every month. Call our secretary, Laura Jones, for more information on 0141 433 9238.

Or, if you're not a meeting kind of person, call anyway and let us know what you'd like to do to help.

The Society is also on hand to help YOU organise and publish your events via the newsletter and www.strathbungo.co.uk

We can also provide resources, for example the hire of a laminating machine for signs or bubble and smoke machines for children's parties.



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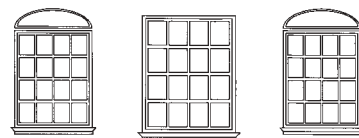
NEW Businesses

Barely a week seems to go by now without a shop re-opening on Pollokshaws Withsdale Rd. The latest additions to the area have been a mixture of small local business like butchers and building companies and new competitors to established businesses such as the many newsagents and letting agents that now dominate the parade of shops between Queens Park and Allison Street.

Pollokshaws Rd residents have commented how heartening it is to see storefronts which have lain empty for some time, such as the Sue Ryder shop, being turned into thriving local businesses.

"It's great to see a closing businesses like Masterson's butchers being replaced with a like-for-like shop." said one resident. Hanlon butchers, as well as supplying the needs of Strathbungo's residents, supply many of Glasgow's top restaurants and hotels. Likewise, Tony, the former head waiter of The New Anand is making a success of Indiatgate (formerly Saab G and Chilli 'N' Cream.)

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TALKBACK

The Strathbungo Society welcomes letters of up to 200 words – send them to Ann Carolan, 43 Regent Park Square G41 or email letters@strathbungo.co.uk

To the Editor

As a resident of Strathbungo, I am sick to the back teeth hearing about a few trees that are being chopped down. So for a massacre - get a life you sad, sad people! The twin towers, Dunblane etc, those were massacres. So please give it a rest! There are far more important things happening in Strathbungo. After all, it is only a few trees

A H, Nithsdale Road

Ed - We remain committed to ensuring a green screen is re-established along the railway embankment but do know the issue has become wearying for some residents. We're hoping future issues of the newsletter will be pruned of tree-related content. Let's hope that's because we get the kind of planting scheme the area needs.

STRATHBUNGO News

Published by
The Strathbungo Society
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of general interest to:
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In the News

Strathbungo has recently featured in a heated debate in the Metro's letters page, sparked by the following: "At work this morning, somebody was talking about a place called Strathbungo. I have serious reservations about whether a place with such a comical name actually exists. So I was wondering if anyone could enlighten me? Perhaps even a Strathbungonian, even?" Steve, Dunfermline
There's been a strong response from residents. Well done Gus, Young Bungo and others for your responses.

Putting Down Roots

Spring brings news of changes to our deforested railway embankment along Moray Place. According to Councillor Malcolm Cunning, Network Rail and Glasgow City Council (Land Services) shall visit the site with to agree a replanting scheme.

Meanwhile, the Depute Director of Land Services, Scott Rodgers, will write to NR to encourage them to meet with the Council to take the whole issue forward and has asked the Head of Parks to indicate what plant material the Council currently has.

£500 has been secured by GCC to contribute to the purchase of trees. It is not known how much NR will contribute nor, at this stage, what type of trees will be planted and when.

Consultation is expected and it would be useful for the Council and the Strathbungo Society to take the lead on this once a design or planting ideas are agreed by GCC and NR.

The planting season extends to the end March or early April, so we need to impress on the council the need to seize the opportunity, before it's too late.

DIARY DATES

AGM

The Strathbungo Society AGM. Yes, it's nearly that time of year again. So, grab a pencil and jot down the evening of Monday 13th June in your diaries.

Backlanes

"The annual midsummer madness that is Bungo In The Back Lanes will take place this year on the 18th of June. Anybody who'd like to book a spot or offer their services, please call Joanna

Curphy on 0141 423 56. Please note, we will not be supplying trestle tables this year."



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