

# STRATHBUNGO



## NEWS



December 2007

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## BUNGO at the BELLS

### A new year, a new venue

This year's community Hogmanay celebrations will be held outside 23 Moray Place, in the block between Queen Square and Regent Park Square. As ever there'll be music, the big countdown and a real community atmosphere. Bring the kids, pets and friends! The event will kick off at 11.30pm with a procession to rouse the neighbourhood. To take part bring yourself and a noise-making instrument (anything goes – from a tambourine to a saucepan and spoon!) to Nithsdale Rd, outside Grianach, and prepare to march the squares.

The event will only be cancelled if the big Glasgow and Edinburgh street parties are called off due to the weather.

# The Last Post?

**Kildrostan St Post office is under threat. The branch, which has operated for more than 100 years, is one of 2,500 earmarked for closure as part of the Royal Mail's latest cost-cutting regime. In the last series of closures, Strathbungo suffered the loss of the branch on Pollokshaws Road.**

Many branches in urban areas have been struggling financially with too few customers and rises in running costs. Since the introduction of Direct Payment, whereby benefits and pensions are paid directly into claimants' accounts rather than collected from the post office, some sub-postmasters have reported a loss of up to 75% of their income.

Councillor David Meikle has come out strongly against the proposed closure, arguing that shutting the branch will cause particular problems for the elderly and disabled, and for anyone with restricted mobility, such as mothers with young children, who may experience difficulty travelling to branches further away.

As anyone who uses the Victoria Road branch will know, closures can also cause longer queues, poorer services and increase the



pressure put on nearby branches. Closure could also have damaging repercussions for local businesses as its presence draws people to the shops on Nithsdale Rd and Kildrostan St. Many residents can also take cash out of their bank accounts at Post Office branches,

meaning that should it close residents will have to go to Govanhill or Shawlands to withdraw cash for free.

Consultation on the proposed closure ended on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the decision should be announced by the end of the year.



# RESTORING STRATHBUNGO'S RAILINGS

*Some time ago, the Strathbungo Society developed an interest in the cast iron railings*

**in Strathbungo.** Those on the front steps to properties are in varying degrees of decay, and in many cases absent, while those at the street boundary were almost all removed during the 1940s as part of Lord Beaverbrook's campaign to recycle them into Spitfires

Using rarely-seen historical photographs of Strathbungo, research was undertaken to determine the pattern of the railings in each street.

## **Regent Park Square**

Photographic evidence from 1906 clearly shows the design of the railings on the steps and a different, and much plainer, design on the street boundary. It also shows very ornate double lamp standards which stood in the roadway. Many examples of the front step railings remain, to a spear design, but the railings at the street boundary have been removed. The only remaining examples of this design are the property boundary separating 1 & 2 Moray Place and a gate, and badly buckled section of fence, hidden in a hedge at 12 Queen Square.

## **Moray Place**

Evidence from old photographs of Moray Place show the same railing pattern as that in Regent Park Square. Images of 1-10 Moray Place show hedges at the front, but also suggest the remains of the same railing pattern in the base of the hedge. Lamp standards also existed atop the stone bases immediately in front of the doors of 1-10. Examples of the lamp standards still exist, albeit in a dilapidated state, and some hidden inside trees in Marywood Square.

## **Queen Square**

### *North Side*

Examples of the front step railings still exist on many properties on the north side of Queen Square. These are a



spear design, as in Regent Park Square. A photograph of 13 & 14 Queen Square in the Mitchell Library shows both the front step railings, and the plain street railings we have already seen in Moray Place and Regent Park Square.

Recently a section of street railing has been reinstated in Queen Square using the pattern on the front steps. Although not strictly historically accurate, this makes for a more pleasing and uniform appearance than the original design.

#### *South Side*

The south side of Queen Square was the first with a more ornate design. The step railings still exist on many properties, and were also used on the steps of 18-25 Moray Place, and on buildings in Queen's Drive. The end posts are more ornate than those on Moray Place, with a square design that is then reproduced on the gate posts at the street boundary. The railings themselves are simpler, with closely spaced vertical rods of alternating height. A short section still exists to the side of the front garden at 51 Queen Square, at the boundary of the back lane entrance. A double hoop pattern of railing is visible between the properties, but the age of this is unknown. A lamp standard can also be seen just inside the railings on one property.

### **Marywood Square**

A 1924 Mitchell Library photograph is the only evidence so far for this street. The step railings are still in evidence, but as elsewhere the street boundary railings were all removed during the second world war. The 1924 photo reveals a surprisingly ornate design of railing, one which is not seen elsewhere in Strathbungo, and which does not match the design on the steps. This complex ornate design can be found elsewhere, such as in Queen's Drive. One example is the Ewington Hotel, which dates from the mid 1890s.

Original lamp standards still exist in Marywood Square, apparently listed, but in a poor state of repair. There is also a large lamp standard with a Thomsonsque design; another to this design survives outside the Ewington Hotel.

### **The Gardens**

Photographs of Carswell Gardens and Thorncliffe Gardens from 1928-30, just after the houses were built, show a plain pattern of closely spaced vertical bars of uniform height.

There are railings that still exist in Vennard Gardens which match this pattern, yet have a central Art Deco feature; this is presumed to be an original variation.

Electric lamp standards with a curved lamp holder and downward facing shade appear in the gardens and on Moray Place.

### **Pollokshaws Road Tenements**

No pre-war photographs have been found depicting the tenements, but a postcard of Vennard Gardens does include detail of the railings, if not the building itself. This shows a spear design very similar to that on the steps on the north side of Queen Square, and this has been confirmed by a current resident, who can recall their removal during the war. Examples are also still present on some of the front steps, although the spear tips have been cut away in some cases.

The full report can be read on the [Strathbungo website](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk), [www.strathbungo.co.uk](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk). Research is ongoing into the issue of repair and reinstatement of railings, and further information will be added regarding grant assistance and suitable companies.

If you're planning to repair or reinstate railings, please contact the society for advice and assistance. If you can add or correct any information presented here, feel free to leave contact details or comments on the [Strathbungo Society website](http://www.strathbungo.co.uk).





## Round The Bend?

Glasgow City Council are pressing ahead with their plan to place advertising hoardings on the Nithsdale Rd roundabout, despite this flying in the face of city plan policies and the recent conservation area appraisal.

The Strathbungo Society and Shawlands and Strathbungo Community Council strongly objected to the plans, along with a number of local residents and councillor David Meikle. However, the planning panel voted along party lines 10-8 in favour of the plan.

There is no third party right to appeal, so the roundabout will soon be adorned with three 1.3

metre advertising hoardings. Scott Mackay, chair of the Strathbungo Society, expressed the Society's outrage at the decisions. "Advertising hoardings on the roundabout will make a section of the conservation area already singled out as in need of improvement much worse." Pollokshields Heritage also objected to the plans.

## BUNGO NEEDS YOU

### - Strathbungo Storage

Do you have an under-used garage, basement or shed that needs decluttering? The Strathbungo Society is looking for a place to store trestle tables and chairs for Bungo In The Back Lanes. We'll happily provide a team of volunteers to clear out any suitable space.

If you can help, contact Laura Moodie on 433 9238 or [info@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:info@strathbungo.co.uk)

## STRATHBUNGO NEWS

Published by  
**The Strathbungo Society;**  
[Charity Number SC038276]

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## BACK IN BLACK



The all-new Bungo bags are now in stock. The more practical colour choice was a big hit at Bungo In The Back Lanes. Unlike a lot of reusable bags, they fold up easily and can be carried about in a handbag or coat pocket for use when needed. With long handles, the bags are sturdy, washable and have at least 101 uses, as demonstrated this issue by the Chair of the Strathbungo Society, Scott.

If you missed out on getting hold of one at Bungo In The Back Lanes, you can order them from the Strathbungo Society. Just call 0141 423 0182.

The bags cost £4 each, or you can purchase three for £10. All proceeds go to the Strathbungo Society, registered charity number: SC038276.

## southside

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