

POSTPONED - BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES

It will come as no surprise, with all that is happening – and all that is not happening – during these unprecedented times, that the Strathbungo Society has regrettably decided that we won't be able to hold Bungo in the Back Lanes on 20 June as planned.



The safety and health of our community and its visitors are paramount. We cannot put our community at risk by welcoming hundreds of people from far and wide to our summer community festival in 'Bungo's narrow back lanes.

We don't know what the Government's guidance will be over the next couple of months but, even if the rules were to be relaxed, we feel that people will still be nervous about attending a crowded public event in June. And - being purely practical - normally we'd be in full swing right now preparing for the event, lining up bars, music and stalls, but all of that has been put on hold and we wouldn't be able to organise the event in time.

We don't yet know if we can postpone this event to a later date this year. We will continue to monitor both government guidance and the public mood over the next few months. There is a risk that there will be no Bungo in the Back Lanes in 2020 (along with Wimbledon, the Olympics and many other events) but we will keep you posted on that, and on any alternatives that we might plan. However...

BUNGO (NOT) IN THE BACK LANES... GET INVOLVED IN A DIFFERENT WAY ON SATURDAY 20TH JUNE!

Plans are well underway for an Online Marketplace on the 20th June to mark what would have been - with some big efforts from locals to pull it together very quickly. Strathbungo is such a creative hub we couldn't let the day go unmarked and want to include everybody from kids selling cakes and toys, to local artists and causes – more details in usual social media places and a lamp-post near you very soon!

On the 20th June, the Society would also encourage residents to all have their own personal take on the usual event – Bungo in The Back Garden / In The Bay Window / On The BBQ etc ... - all within government restrictions please!



LOCAL CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT GROUPS

WhatsApp groups have been fundamental to keeping Strathbungo's community connected in these strange times, with additional leaflet drops for those not "connected". The Society is aware of various groups where the majority of the area is covered, and people are actively looking out for each other. Where family are not nearby, the support of friends and neighbours has been phenomenal.

Beyond Strathbungo there are wider Southside links to the Southside Self-Isolation Supporters' Group (SSIS) with over 6000 members and around 1000 volunteers, and our area is involved via their Street Champions network. They are working with a range of third party and charitable organisations, who have generously provided advice and guidance on how best to make sure the most vulnerable within our community are protected, and supporting local businesses with a range of signposting resources to help guide members to services such as mental health support and advice on benefits. Local residents have also been very active in collecting and delivering donations to Refuweege and the Queens Park food banks.

Additionally, the Society have reached out to the Oxton Care Home on Marywood Square - an important and valued part of our community. We spoke to their manager, Carole Cannell, who tells us that staff are working hard to keep everyone safe and well, taking every precaution and finding new ways to keep up morale while outings and visits are restricted. Our thoughts are with all residents and staff.



GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN THE AREA

Most of the electronic communication in the area began as a conduit for those both seeking and offering support, but has developed into something much bigger, with incredible acts of kindness and generosity from all. Practical offers of shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog-walking or just a comforting ear for coronavirus related challenges have spiralled into food, and recipe swaps (even online tutorials), resolving technology challenges and not least inside information on when Sainsbury's had flour.

The daily exercise has become a joy with lovely and positive art in windows and pavements inspiring us and our frontline workers from the NHS to our local posties, council workers and delivery drivers.

The community has been getting creative too, with socially distant street bingo, a Distant Disco, street pottery challenges, sunflower competitions, online murder mysteries, (Don't) Come Dine With Me, Cocktail Nights, impromptu musical jams, a Pal's Podcast, and even dancing to Whigfield's "Saturday Night" in support of Cerebral Palsy to

get the muscles moving and the heart pumping. Thursday nights at eight o'clock will never be the same again, and there'll be new friendships that last forever. Keep it up Strathbungo, you're doing good!



REMEMBERING LIFE BEFORE CORONAVIRUS - WINDOW WANDERLAND

This year's 4th Strathbungo Window Wanderland was, of course, another dazzling display of creativity, seeing the return of the Bungo Jukebox, a number of dance parties and vibrant pop art with themes from politics and climate change to Disney's Frozen and Irn Bru. Locals and visitors packed the streets to catch a glimpse of our kaleidoscopic outdoor gallery,

in celebration of connection and togetherness.

One window wanderer noted, 'There's a real sense of integration and, if you were someone who felt a wee bit isolated, this gives you a platform to have the power to feel that, if you put something in your window and come out into the street, you're no longer non-visible. What a wonderful thing to embed such a sense of community.'

Anne Callaham from the Campaign to End Loneliness in Scotland said 'Even small moments of connection, whether it's nodding to someone, saying hello or sharing opinions on the window displays, is a really easy way of making a connection.' Isn't it a lovely thing to see new displays appearing in the windows of Strathbungo just now, reaching out to missed loved ones and in gratitude to the wonderful work of the country's key workers.

