

THE FORMER STRATHBUNGO RAILWAY STATION UNDER THREAT OF DEMOLITION



For over thirty years Susie's store was housed in the former Strathbungo railway station – one of the landmark buildings in Strathbungo - which opened on 1 December 1877 and closed on 28 May 1962.

This historic building still has the same shape and frame as the original station and forms part of our local history. It was therefore a shock that in the midst of lockdown Network Rail announced out of the blue in July that the building was to be demolished two weeks from their statement - with no warning and consultation.

This declaration, in the style we have become accustomed to from Network Rail, was challenged by local residents with a petition being quickly established, questions asked by councillors and parliamentarians, and a drop-in session held outside the station organised by Paula Khan (who also set up the petition) on the future of the building.

Network Rail postponed the demolition – calling it 'paused' for now – to allow for consultation with the Society and local residents but as we go to press, there has been no sign or news

of this consultation. They say it is not economically viable to repair the building to a lettable standard and have already removed internal fittings from the building.

The official reasoning for this is rail electrification – a logic which threatens the recently refurbished railway bridge. The society are pursuing alternatives: a feasibility study, the lowering of the track thus avoiding the need for demolition, and the building being listed with Historic Scotland.

Niall Murphy of Glasgow City Heritage Trust said of the building: 'It straddles the gap between the Strathbungo and East Pollokshields Conservation Areas and sits next to Moray Place - an 'A' listed building' with Network Rail's actions making a mockery of this'.

This is a part of our heritage, a connection back to the origins of Strathbungo as the community it became. Network Rail's continual cavalier attitude invites us to ask how do they plan to preserve and protect railway heritage? And to the residents what would we like to see this building and space used for? Let us know your thoughts and we will keep you posted.

BUNGO (NOT) IN THE BACK LANES

Could the future be online marketplaces?

Every year for over 20 years the Strathbungo Society has run Bungo in the Back Lanes in the Strathbungo lanes. It is much loved by the local Southside community, as well as welcoming visitors from further afield. Bungo in the Back Lanes is about the people, the atmosphere, the stalls, the bars and the music, but the Coronavirus pandemic meant that this year, it would have to be cancelled or we would have to do something different. The Society opted for the different! We brought the essence of the day to people virtually.

The Strathbungo Society launched Bungo (NOT) in the Back Lanes on Saturday 20th June. It was a chance for the community to celebrate the day in their own way. Whether it was in their garden or in their home, we asked residents to raise a glass! Have a dance! Sing from your window! Anything as long as it wasn't in the back lanes! We had a couple of firsts for the Society. One was live streamed music for everyone to watch and listen to via Facebook. It came courtesy of a collaboration with the ever brilliant, Crawford Smith, with his Southside Sessions, who gathered together a set of very talented musicians who would have normally sung/played in the lanes.



The other first was our very own tailor-made online marketplace on the Bungo Blog. We had over 2.5k visits to the marketplace on the day, which is an amazing achievement. It was so popular that we decided to extend it into Sunday to give folk time to peruse the stalls further.

The Southside is a wonderfully creative community and the Society wanted to celebrate it by putting out a call to the brilliant local makers, local shops, artisans, charities, bakers, toy sellers, crafters selling their wares. It wasn't only established sellers, we had locals selling kids toys, bric-a-brac, second-hand clothes and baking muffins. It meant that we could still have the diverse and colourful stalls we usually see in the lanes but online.



A lot of people saw their livelihoods lost and have struggled during lockdown, including live musicians and makers/local shops. Buying local through the online market and donating to musicians brought a very welcome boost to our community.

The online marketplace, all the posters and artwork were created by, the Strathbungo based and fantastically talented, Mark and Mandy Reid-Foster of Submarine Studio. We are already talking about another Bungo online marketplace, maybe in time for Christmas. Watch this space!

Jane Carolan, Chair of the Strathbungo Society commented on the day: "While we can't have traditional celebrations, we can innovate and try new ways to bring Strathbungo together and recognise the fantastic talents we have in our area. Enjoy our virtual day out!"

Hopefully, next year we will return to normal and Bungo in the Back Lanes will be back in their true home. But we hope we brought a bit of the soul of Bungo in the Back Lanes to Strathbungo in 2020!

STRATHBUNGO IN GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS DIGITAL FESTIVAL

Strathbungo and Glasgow's Southside feature strongly in 2020's Glasgow Doors Open Days Digital Festival from 14-20 September. For obvious reasons, this year's festival is an online one, including self-guided walks, videos, presentations, live talks, and discussions with Q & A sessions.

Our two contributions are:

- A guided tour of Strathbungo, 'gem of the Southside', by local resident Andrew Greg, is based on his own researches and on Andrew Downie's wonderful *Bygone Bungo* blog. The tour, which has been part of *Bungo in the Back Lanes*, is now augmented with archival photographs, and can and be done in your own time on the free Guidigo app. Andrew describes the history of the original village, once on the edge of Victorian Glasgow. Meandering through the formal plan, you will discover subtle changes in architectural design from the 1860s to the 1930s and hidden clues to now lost features of the streetscape.
- Andrew Greg has also prepared a richly illustrated account of his and Charlotte's ongoing repair and restoration work on 1 Moray Place, designed by and home of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. 1-10 Moray Place has been called 'the finest of all nineteenth-century terraces.' Built in 1859-60, Thomson

brought up his family there. It is now Grade A listed. Lots of revealing photos document the history and character of the house, 150 years of changes and its recent internal and external transformation.

The Glasgow Doors Open Days brochure is an interactive one this year, with links over a hundred activities and events. Find out more at <https://www.glasgowdoorsopendays.org.uk/>



THOMSON'S DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

Revealed in all its detail

The Alexander Thomson Society has published the first two of three books to be devoted to the decorative details of Thomson's Glasgow buildings: 'Tenement', 'Terrace' and 'Villa'. With a grant from the Glasgow City Heritage Trust, architect Zoë Herbert surveyed Thomson's surviving domestic architecture in the city. Her fine photographs, elegant digital line drawings and rendered images are a unique record of Thomson's distinctive decorative style. The colour renderings are particularly revealing, restoring exquisite crispness to the often sadly eroded blonde sandstone. Strathbungo-ites will not be surprised that of 33 buildings in the two books, 19 are on Southside. Indeed 13 are a stone's throw of Strathbungo itself and most will be instantly recognisable.

Less known, but of particular interest, are two easily ignored working-class tenements, 265-289 Allison Street and 600-614 Eglinton Street. The Allison Street block was begun by Thomson but completed by his partner Robert Turnbull. The contrast is instructive: like Salisbury Quadrant on the Strathbungo roundabout, Turnbull's less subtle use of Thomson's vocabulary is evident.

With hundreds of illustrations, we can compare the use of Thomson's motifs by him and his followers across the city and across the decades from the 1850s to the 1880s. But these are much more than picture books: excellent location maps, authoritative introductions by Mark Bain and histories and

descriptions of each building by Zoë Herbert make them invaluable additions to Gavin Stamp's two Thomson books. It is highly appropriate that these new volumes are dedicated to Gavin.

'Tenement' (101 pp, 2018) and 'Terrace' (153 pp, 2019) are obtainable from www.alexanderthomsonsociety.org.uk.



LANGSIDE HALLS – BYGONE BUNGO

Standing at the south-west corner of Queens Park, it is curious to think of a link between Langside Halls and the Palace of Westminster. The halls were built as the National Bank of Scotland at 57 Queen Street by Architect John Gibson (1817-92). Prior to winning the 1844 competition for the bank, Gibson was assistant to Charles Barry who, on 29 February 1836, won the commission to reconstruct the Palace of Westminster after the disastrous fire of 16 October 1834.

Barry's team included sculptor John Thomas (1813-1862) who had a rags to riches career. It was Barry who, having been impressed with his sculptures on King Edward VI Grammar School, gave Thomas his big break. By 1846 Thomas was the superintendent of the Palace's vast sculptural programme work on which did not finish until 1870.

As Gibson and Thomas knew each other, the sculptor was an obvious choice for the architect's first commission. Therefore, between 1847-9, Thomas carved the five keystone heads for the Palladian Bank each representing a British river. Above the entrance is Thomas's exquisitely observed Clyde, which is really St Mungo depicted with two Salmon, rings in their mouths, emerging from his wreath.



When threatened with demolition in 1902, the much admired bank was bought by Glasgow Corporation, carefully deconstructed by City Engineer, Alexander Beith McDonald, though the majority of the work was by Architect Robert William Horn, and over 70,000 of its stones were re-erected into the new hall opening in 1903 to serve the Southside.

REOPENING OF LIBRARIES

The Society emailed Nicola Sturgeon, as our MSP, and were advised by her office that the Council states the closure of Glasgow Life facilities has cost a sum expected to reach £14 million. In addition to this, the ongoing requirement to ensure that facilities are in keeping with social distancing and hygiene guidance for an unknown period to come will pose real challenges for the future delivery of services.

Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council and Cllr David McDonald, Chair of Glasgow Life, have both made it clear that while difficult choices may have to be made, these will not include the closure of libraries, stating "there are no plans to close any of Glasgow's libraries. And no libraries will remain closed for any longer than is absolutely necessary".



The first libraries opened provide additional services such as welfare support and have an important role in supporting the city's recovery priorities. In addition, we were advised there are some libraries where it is more difficult to put in place physical distancing, one-way systems and other measures required in order to keep both library users and staff safe and healthy. This is particularly true of older buildings such as Pollokshields and Govanhill Libraries. It has been considered "better to keep these venues closed a bit longer in order to get it right, rather than rushing to open them back up".

Let's hope we see these local facilities open soon!

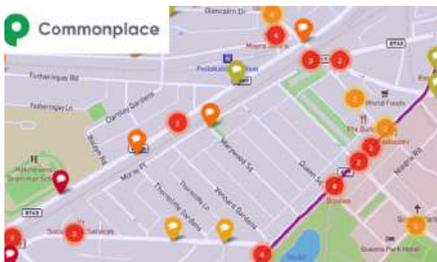
NEWS IN BRIEF

A round up of all things Strathbungo: this quarter's bite-sized Bungo business!



PURPLE BIN ENTREPRENEURS

With their parents' lockdown purple bins overflowing, local boys Jonathan and Ethan, prior to starting University, saw an opportunity to make some money out of local adults in lockdown. From Titwood Road to Regent Park Square, the boys have been wheeling purple bins from Strathbungo to the Kildrostan Street glass recycling bins and have made a tidy sum out of people's "empties" - Neighbours were initially reluctant, but with a photo on a Facebook post, the scheme spiralled and they've now done a number of customers more than once! Watch out for these two on Dragon's Den!



COMMONPLACE AND STRATHBUNGO

During lockdown, Commonplace was used to ask people across Glasgow to identify locations that could be improved for walking, cycling and physical distancing. The consultation closed in July and, while nothing has been done in our area, it's worth viewing the comments

<https://glasgowspacesforpeople.commonplace.is/comments>. Some repeat (and ask what has happened to) proposals that were made during the Pollokshields Charrette in 2016. Others are completely new. The cluster of proposals around the Nithsdale Rd Bridge are very relevant to our negotiations with Network Rail about its proposed changes (see above). Potential, online platforms like this could be a great way to share ideas in future.



QUEENS PARK GLASSHOUSE

You may have seen these notices popping up in Queens Park in recent weeks, asking for support to ensure that the glasshouse and dome can be preserved, refurbished, and restored. It is another iconic Southside structure at risk of not being sustainable long term, and Glasgow City Council have appealed for interested parties to contact info@friendsofqueensparkglasgow.org.uk to express interest. Keep an eye open for updates on next steps on saving the Glasshouse as we know it.



SUPER STREET FOOD HITS STRATHBUNGO

Freddy and Hicks, the female-led food collective which specialises in veggie burgers and loaded fries has opened in Nithsdale Road, replacing Pot Belly.

The freshly redesigned restaurant area contains a newly painted mural by GSA graduate, Molly Hankinson, featuring a woman holding two burgers, which is a larger version of her "Hands off my Burgers" piece.

Freddy and Hicks is run by Anna and Suzy Robertson and has come to Strathbungo via Borough Market, Swansea, and Platform under the arches at Central Station.

It is open Wednesday to Friday 4-8.30pm and Saturday 12-8.30pm for take-away, outdoor seating and delivery, and will extend opening hours once fully open indoors in September. You'll find a selection of handmade burgers and loaded fries, which always include tasty choices for vegetarians and vegans.



STRATHBUNGO NEIGHBOURS FORM ECO GROUP

Inspired by cleaner lockdown air and audible birdsong, a group of neighbours have formed an eco-group to organise ways of making our community more sustainable. They'd like to invite Strathbungo neighbours to join them in potential initiatives such as creating and supporting green space in our area to promote biodiversity, water drainage issues, and identifying opportunities to work with the community and the council. With the quieter streets of lockdown, there is an additional focus on promoting overall health and longer-term reduction of pollution. The group also hopes to share information and potentially create collective buying-power for things like solar panels and heat pumps. If you're interested, email strathbungoecogroup@gmail.com to request to join the WhatsApp group.

BUNGO PEOPLE - SARAH REID

Sarah Reid has always known Strathbungo from her earliest age - growing up just down the road in Kenmure Street. She says 'I always loved Strathbungo since being a child. We had always lived in tenements and we didn't know many people who lived in houses.'

Sarah's life and career took her to London where she worked in the Whitechapel Gallery and then nine years ago she and her partner moved back to Scotland - 'We wanted to live on the Southside and I wanted to live in Strathbungo, we flyered all the houses' - into Regent Park Square.

With four children - Islay, Keir, Sorley and Finn - life has always been hectic, and five years ago she decided to organise Window Wanderland in the Bungo. 'The idea', she says was that 'Strathbungo would be the perfect place for this. Everyone pulling together and creating something magical.' Sarah then went on to work for the Jupiter Artland sculpture park near Edinburgh - where she was the community curator working with young people 'aiding opportunities in the arts in careers and development'.

This year has seen her return to one of her major loves - taking over running the Glad Café - a place special to lots of us in bringing arts, culture, music, ideas, food and drink to the Southside - and which was set up by her mum Rachel and brother Joe in 2012.

The Glad has been shut during lockdown but reopened its doors on the first Friday of September with two new chefs,

the Glad having taken over the kitchen, and more space for the café.

What are Sarah's hopes and aspirations for the Glad which will soon have been a feature in our Southside lives for a decade? She wants 'to continue to build on the amazing and strong foundation we have, be a firm part of the community, and give people more access to brilliant discussions, music and culture', seeing the Glad as part of a cultural 'support structure' for artists and audiences in the Southside and beyond. Thanks to Sarah and her efforts and energies, Strathbungo is an even more interesting place to live and the future of the Glad will surely be even more vibrant.



'TO AGM OR NOT TO AGM' ... IS NOT THE QUESTION

While the path of Covid-19 continues to work through the world, uncertainty about the future continues. As of now, in the Autumn of 2020, it still remains very difficult to anticipate whether physical actual events will be able to take place or not. But at the same time democracy CAN'T stand still or we would not be democratic. The Strathbungo Society is bound by its constitution to have an AGM toward the of October or

beginning of November to approve the accounts and elect a new committee. Any volunteers will be welcome (contact chair@strathbungo.co.uk)

WATCH OUT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AND POSTERS - WE WILL MEET IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY BUT STRATHBUNGO WILL GO ON.

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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