

BUNGO CHRISTMAS MARKET

Ho, Ho, Ho - Save the Date! The weekend of the 5th and 6th December will be the first Bungo Christmas Market!

A green poster for the Bungo Christmas Market. At the top right is the 'STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY' logo in a white box. The main title 'Bungo Christmas Market' is in large white letters. Below it are four colorful Christmas baubles: one with yellow polka dots on a green background, one with white polka dots on a red background, one with red and green concentric circles, and one with yellow and red concentric circles. The text 'ONLINE MARKET' is in white. Below it, smaller white text says 'To find out more about taking part, and to shop on the day, visit the Strathbungo Society Blog or our Instagram & Facebook pages.' At the bottom left is a QR code. To its right are the website 'www.bungoblog.com/XMASMARKET', Facebook handle '@strathbungosociety', Instagram handle '@strathbungosocietyglasgow', and hashtag '#BUNGOXMAS'. On the right side, the dates and times are listed: 'Sat 5th Dec 10am' and 'Sun 6th Dec 8pm'.

After the success of Bungo (Not) in the Back Lanes market in the summer, we will be holding our very own online Christmas market (www.bungoblog.com/XMASMARKET).

This year, most of us will be shopping online for Yuletide gifts for our nearest and dearest. We know it's easy to just go to the big online shops, but we are huge advocates of shopping local and our market is devoted to those in Strathbungo and the Southside. This way, we can support those local makers, artists, cooks, and designers as well as charities who are still finding this year to be a struggle.

With over 40 virtual stalls selling a lot of varied beautiful, tasty, and interesting items, there's sure to be something that catches your eye or to whet your palate. When you buy from the Bungo Christmas Market, you know that you will be buying a unique gift from your local area.

If you joined in with our Bungo (Not) in the Back Lanes market, you'll know how it works - quick and easy we'll just take you straight to the selling site of your chosen virtual shop and you can have a browse and buy something really special!

BUNGO AT THE BELLS DOORSTEP

Every year the Strathbungo Society organises a small gathering at the Moray Place end of either Marywood Square, or Queen Square that we call Bungo at the Bells. It is a great occasion for residents young and old to ring in “the Bells” every year.

For obvious reasons, it won't be happening this year, but we've seen the first Christmas trees and fairy lights giving the streets a sparkle.

With a vaccine on the horizon, let's wash away the 2020 blues with a celebratory drink on our doorsteps, or from our windows and gardens to wish in what we hope will be a better year in 2021.

With a slant to our weekly key worker claps, the Strathbungo Society encourages everyone to come out at midnight and pay tribute to each other to mark the passing of a year none of us will ever forget.

Let us see if some fairy lights and a shared chorus of Auld Lang Syne can warm up our spirits. A Happy New Year from all at the Strathbungo Society when it comes!



STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM 2020

It would be exciting to report that the AGM 2020 was a crucible of debate, argument and counter argument, witticisms and pithy put downs.

It would be exciting, but it would be fake news. AGM 2020 was held online, and was conducted in an orderly and friendly manner, meaning that the main business - the Trustees Report and the Accounts - was successfully concluded, as was the election of the office-bearers, namely :

Chair - Jane Carolan
Vice Chair - Paola Rezzilli
Treasurer - Steven Good
Secretary- Sharon Schweps

Despite press-ganging all previous committee members, and encouraging AGM attendees to volunteer, there are still vacancies on the organising committee, so please consider if you think you have a contribution to make by contacting chair@strathbungo.co.uk.

Moving online, the event was attended by well over thirty households, giving us a target to beat next year when hopefully we can be back in a real-world venue. The meeting went on to have presentations covering “Greening Strathbungo” issues, which are covered in a full-page article in this newsletter.

Copies of the aforementioned reports are available at www.bungoblog.com.

STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

AGM

• TUE 17TH NOVEMBER • 7.30PM
• ZOOM MEETING
ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED @ TINYURL.COM/5AN5C3JH

• DISCUSSION: GREENING STRATHBUNGO

SCAN HERE!

BUILDING A BETTER STRATHBUNGO

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, WhatsApp self-help groups sprang up all over the southside.

Out of these, there emerged in the southern half of Strathbungo a group of residents interested in building back better. Their aspirations were to improve the liveability of the area, improve the wildlife potential of our gardens and open spaces, and improve our homes by reducing carbon consumption. They have now formed three sub-groups to reflect these themes which are open to all residents of Strathbungo.

The Strathbungo Society has agreed to support this work and Eco-Group leads gave interesting presentations to our AGM. The slides can be viewed at <https://bungoblog.com/greening-strathbungo/>. The Strathbungo Society has agreed to support this work and Eco-Group leads gave interesting presentations to our AGM. The slides can be viewed at <https://bungoblog.com/greening-strathbungo/>.

The first group, co-ordinated by Daniel Thomas, is trying to re-imagine Titwood Rd for people. At over 12 metres wide between the kerbs, right now it mostly encourages speeding cars.

There have been lots of ideas, from creating electric vehicle charging and car club spaces to mini-parklets for people congregate. Interestingly, some of the ideas are similar to those floated for Nithsdale Road during the Pollokshields Charrette four years ago.



The second group, co-ordinated by Gareth Johnson, is looking at making our homes greener, a must with government now setting out a timetable for phasing out gas boilers. The general consensus is that for this to work it needs to be from the bottom up. That means us! Tom Nockolds drew our attention to the very interesting demonstration project on Niddrie Road to create an energy-neutral tenement block.



The third group, co-ordinated by Julie MacRae, is looking at what we could do to further improve the wildlife that has proved such a solace during lockdown. Did you know about the Thorncliffe Gardens hedgehogs? Julie challenged us to start thinking about leaving our gardens and the back lanes a bit scruffier and less manicured for the sake of wildlife. This could be a win-win. Slug pellets, for example, kill hedgehogs but, if you enable hedgehogs to access your garden, they will kill the slugs for you.



The challenges of the Climate Emergency and Nature Emergency are so great that it can be difficult to know what to do. The eco-group is developing plans for taking these ideas forward, based on people sharing their experiences and undertaking small practical actions. What better place to start than Strathbungo?

To get involved or find out more contact strathbungoecogroup@gmail.com.

NETWORK RAIL, THE RAILWAYS AND STRATHBUNGO RAILWAY STATION

Some things change in Strathbungo and some things come around as regular as clockwork: one being the fixation that Network Rail seem to have with our neighbourhood and especially the vegetation on either side of the Barrhead railway line which runs parallel with Moray Place.

Network Rail have had a near two-decade obsession with the trees and growth on the railway line and many of us feared the worst when this year they indicated that yet again shrubs and greenery were in their sights. This time things have been a little different and Network Rail have been more prepared to consult and listen. The result is that so far the culling of trees and growth on both sides of the railway has so far been conducted with more nuance and subtlety, creating two narrow lanes each side of the railway line which have been cleared and tidied.

This has not been the sole focus of Network Rail activity with the future of the former Strathbungo Railway Station, known as Susie's, being in the balance. This building was a railway station from 1877 to 1962 and then for 35 years served the local community as a neighbourhood shop until the summer of last year. Now the existence of the building is in doubt, with Network Rail announcing their intent to demolish it with no consultation, then pausing for consultation, and



plans for demolish now pending at a date to be announced. After extensive discussions with the Strathbungo Society, Network Rail are legally within their rights to demolish this historic building and part of the community, but ethically this is another question and issue.

NEW FUTURE FOR LANGSIDE HALLS

Following Niall Murphy's Bygone Bungo article on the history of Langside Halls, the Strathbungo News is delighted to report that Langside Halls Trust (LHT), a locally based charity with 400+ members, has appointed Glasgow-based Hoskins Architects to produce a costed design and conservation proposal and Business Plan to enable the Trust to seek capital funding to refurbish the Halls.

Langside Halls have lain vacant since April 2017 due to the failure of the Halls' boiler and though now fully replaced the Halls they remain closed due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Strathbungo resident (and former Strathbungo Society Chair), Kevin Kane, the Chair of Langside Halls Trust said: "We want to breathe new life into Langside Halls and give it a financially and environmentally sustainable future.

Working with our partners Glad Café, Southside Festival, Southside Film and others our vision is that Langside Halls stage a regular cultural and social programme, be a platform for existing / new organisations in the Southside and continue as a community-venue-for-hire."

The Trust secured funding for the Feasibility Study from Glasgow City Council Area Partnerships (Southside Central, Langside and Pollokshields), Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Architectural Heritage Fund Scotland.

Kevin added "The Trustees are all local volunteers and we're very keen to attract new Trustees with professional experience in building, construction, legal and accountancy to help us realise our vision." If you think you fit the bill or just want to investigate the opportunity, contact Kevin at info@langsidehalls.com or via the Strathbungo News.



NEWS IN BRIEF

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



LIBRARIES UPDATE

Last issue we wrote about the continued closure of our local libraries, there is still no clear message as to when and if the libraries are re-opening, but it's been really heartening to see Saturday morning read-ins at Pollokshields Library 11:00-12:00 and community effort to "Save Our Libraries"



SAFE, INNOVATIVE BOOK BUYING AT CATEGORY IS BOOKS

Our local independent queer bookshop, Category Is Books, has found a way to trade safely and to cater for customers' reading needs in a friendly and creative way. Fionn and Charlotte Dutty-Scott have arranged their books on shelves in their shop windows with the spines facing outwards and are serving people at a new counter at the side of the shop. You can browse the selection, choose the book you'd like and Fionn or Charlotte will pick it out for you. If you have a particular book in mind or spot something in the window after hours, you can email them at: categoryisbooks@gmail.com. They are very happy to help.



BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Since Lockdown 1, back in March, we have all got used to keeping our distance from others in all aspects of life. On Strathbungo's railway bridge, this has been marked by treating it virtually as one way - if others are using the bridge, they can cross. Then when it's clear, it's the turn of those waiting. It's simple and it works - most of the time! Unfortunately, several unfortunate incidents have been brought to our attention when standing at one end for a very few minutes has been too long for some and being asked to wait has led to very aggressive responses. To ensure that the message is understood, we have erected a couple of banners that politely ask bridge users to remember to keep safe and leave space. Hopefully, they won't need to be up for long, but in these times we all know a little patience and respect for others is invaluable.



HALLOUMI SOUTHSIDE

Halloumi Southside has expanded its existing menu to offer Greek breakfast options until noon including eggs cooked Greek style with either feta or halloumi and watermelon, fresh mint and grilled halloumi. Opening hours have changed to meet COVID-19 restrictions, with sit in so you can now enjoy sit in and take away food on Thu-Sun. There's less tables available to accommodate space, walk-ins are

accepted, but it's best to book a table. None of this detracts from this small corner of Greece in Strathbungo, and you'll get a warm welcome a beautifully constructed and decorated room. Food is served in tapas sized portions and customers usually order around two to three plates per person. The food is cooked in good quality olive oil and there are plenty of vegetarian and gluten free options. Mamma Mia, you'll definitely want to go back!



QUEENS PARK GLASSHOUSE UPDATE

Work began in August to dismantle the dome to "preserve" it amongst safety concerns. There are several fundraising schemes, but as yet there's no clear word on the future. Watch this space!



REMADE NETWORK

The Remade Network aims to build a repair economy from the bottom up, offering a handy and safe drop off service for the repair and donation of essential items (Mon to Sat from 12-2pm at The Deep End, Nithsdale Street) There is no fee if items cannot be fixed, and sewing, patching, upholstery, and technology services, are all charged affordably at £5 (small repairs), or £10 (regular repairs). Longer repairs require assessment. Through refurbishing IT equipment, they help families in social or digital isolation, improving connectivity to online support services and learning. If you're not sure if your item can be fixed or have items you would like to donate, please email repair@remade.network for information.

SCOTLAND AFTER THE VIRUS: BUNGO BOOK AND COMPETITION

'Scotland After the Virus' is the latest book produced by Bungo resident Gerry Hassan in association with Simon Barrow from Edinburgh.

The book contains forty contributions examining the state of Scotland, the impact of COVID-19 and assessing the condition we might be in when we eventually come out of the pandemic. It has within its pages an array of different genres and styles: fiction, poetry and non-fiction, and a range of award-winning authors and emerging voices and talents.

This includes short stories from the likes of Kirstin Innes, Alan Bissett and Julie Bertagna, poetry from Janette Ayachi and Hugh McMillan, and non-fiction from Dani Garavelli, Kapka Kassabova, Katherine Trebeck and Pat Kane. The aim of the book according to Gerry was to offer 'a sense of hope, imagination and even provocation, to aid debate on the kind of values and choices we want as a society as we come out of the pandemic'. Common threads running through the book are how we individually and collectively nurture and support relationships, connectedness and solidarity, and do not allow the effect of COVID-19 to harm those most vulnerable and already disadvantaged.

'Scotland After the Virus' is published by Luath Press £14.99 and available from bookshops and www.luath.co.uk. The Strathbungo News have a copy to give away as a Christmas present. Answer the following question by December 11th - Who was the Chief Medical Officer of Scotland who resigned during the COVID-19 pandemic? - and send to: news@strathbungo.co.uk



STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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Editorial team: James Spooner, Gerry Hassan,
Vivienne Wilson, Katherine Cory

Distribution Imelda Devlin

Additional Contributors Paolo Rezzilli, Kevin Kane,
Jane Carolan, Nick Kempe

Send letters and brief articles of general interest
to: news@strathbungo.co.uk