

A NEW BRIDGE...BUT WHERE?

Updates on the bridge following the public consultation with Network Rail



Network Rail has announced that the public consultation on the new footbridge for Strathbungo has been decided in favour of design A. This design is a nod to the current bridge and allows Strathbungo residents to maintain the fine old tradition of waving at the trains. It is thought that the bridge may be repositioned to the end of Marywood Square, where a bridge previously existed until the end of the 1990s. However, where the bridge will be situated is still unknown.

The Society met with Network Rail (NR) in early August to discuss this and the associated issues of the road bridge on Nithsdale Road, where Susie's still stands (although not for much longer, demolition is due to begin in early 2022). Moving the footbridge was raised and the NR engineering spokesperson stated that a site visit had been carried out at Queen Square, but no investigation had been made into the original site of the Marywood bridge.

Network Rail posed little resistance to the idea of re-locating the new footbridge in principle. However, they felt it was not feasible as there was no safe pedestrian access to it on a semi-chicane T junction with narrow pavements on the Moray Place side

at Queen Square. NR believes the same would apply at top of Marywood Square. However, it is uncertain as to whether this is the case. The location of the previous bridge at Marywood Square still has the infrastructure intact, the pavement is as wide as the existing bridge, but considerably longer and with the advantage of overhead lighting. It also provides safer access to Pollokshields, in that this site is beside the pedestrian crossing.

Questions were also asked about the bridge on Nithsdale Rd. Given the state of the bridge, it is not surprising that it is to be replaced but the new road bridge will replace the deck only - not the superstructure at either end that holds it up. Also, it will remove the 'temporary' props under the bridge. The new deck will be thinner from top to bottom than the existing deck to raise the clearance. There was also discussion about the replacement parapets, and ensuring that they are suitable in a conservation area.

Network Rail are working towards a deadline of 2023 to get electric trains on the tracks. This means all timescales are tight but it seems much has still to be determined.

25 YEARS OF LIVING IN THE BRIGHTER BUNGO

After 20 years with the newsletter, Gerry Hassan pens a farewell piece to Strathbungo

Strathbungo wasn't always the hip, happening place it is now. Twenty-five years ago I moved with my partner Rosie to Moray Place – after four years in Kenmure Street – to a place that many in the city had not heard of.

Glasgow taxi drivers used to claim never to have heard of Strathbungo (and even less Moray Place), the number of eateries and cool places were limited, and the main local topic of discussion seemed to be the fate of wheelie bins. In the past 25 years the Bungo has gone from one of Glasgow's best-kept secrets – 1 Moray Place, home of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson notwithstanding – to one of the hot stops and destinations in the city. It is true that part of this is a wider set of trends about city life, the decline of Glasgow city centre, and the neighbourhood effect – where people like to eat and shop local. But it is also about the efforts of the good citizens of the Bungo over this period.

Rosie and I first moved in May 1996 to 29 Moray Place – the fourth terrace – the top two floors of a conversion. This was a great home, had a striking, working Victorian needle-point shower and had been owned by Glasgow property mover Roy Slater. Legend has it this is where he conceived of Slater, Hogg and Howison – who became one of the big local property companies.



Nearly a decade later in January 2006 we moved fourteen doors down to 15 Moray Place on the second terrace and have lived in this townhouse until our current move. This felt like a real, grown-up house and became one filled with great memories, discussions and even events - with a bunch of folksingers doing a gig in our garden and one launching into an impromptu tribute to our two cats, 'The Ballad of Salt and Pepper'. Subsequently Salt got lost, but his brother Pepper survived and prospered, adapting to the arrival this year of our first dog Lena from Romania (Transylvania to be specific).

Over our quarter-century, the area has transformed before our eyes. When we arrived in 1996 it was a bit drab, colourless and feeling uncelebrated. Then came 'Bungo in the Lanes' which went from a small event, like a local car boot sale, to something

vibrant and fun that people came miles for; and a host of other local activities - from the 'Spring Fling' to the joy and light of 'Window Wanderland' – pre-COVID which put the Bungo on the national map.

At the same time new eateries, bars and shops opened adding to this changing vibe. The too brief 'Cookie' on Nithsdale Road (where Niven's now are), The Bungo on the same street, and The Glad Café off Pollokshaws Road, all added to the choice and buzz. Younger folk started moving into the area and even more interesting places arrived such as Rum Shack, while older establishments such as Heraghty's and the Allison Arms kept their uniqueness but catered for new folk. New craft and artistic endeavours opened, as did an LGBTQ+ bookshop, while nearby Govanhill became a focus for a rich mix of cultures and people in a way unimaginable a few years back. Running alongside this was the perennial struggle with Network Rail which saw a peaceful campaign of civil disobedience in 2004 over savagely culling trees by the railway line; then there was the fence battle of Moray Place, followed by the current tussle over the forthcoming electrification.

All of this dramatic and positive change is welcome. It has meant that whereas in the late 1990s I phoned a London political person and when I gave my address as 'Strathbungo' they burst out laughing and said 'like something from the Wombles' in the last few years it has carried a cachet. When once surfing Twitter (for research for the Strathbungo Newsletter!) I came across what the person thought was an insult towards myself – calling me 'the Bard of Strathbungo'. I was well chuffed and thought it definitely a compliment.

So, myself, Rosie, Lena and Pepper leave the Bungo after 25 years. Part of us will always remain in the Bungo – with the great neighbours and friends we have made. We will be back to visit – and lots of you will be coming to see us in the sunny climes of Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway, an area that already accommodates other Bungo ex-pats.

Thank you everyone for making Strathbungo somewhere that is special, unique, treasured - and even a bit magical. We know that its future will be safe in your hands.

BRIGHTER BUNGO NO MORE??

An update on Brighter Bungo

As many of you will know, Brighter Bungo is the quarterly clean-up by residents of the lanes in the Bungo. It has taken place for many years, organised by the Society in cooperation with Cleansing officers from Glasgow City Council. The aim is to keep the environment in Strathbungo cleaner, brighter and enjoyable for all.

One crucial element has been that volunteers are covered by the Council's Public Liability Insurance (PLI). Public liability Insurance protects the Society against compensation claims and legal costs if volunteers are injured or property is damaged. This has never been used during the cleaning efforts over the years, however, like all insurance, it needs to be there.

However, recent correspondence states that the Council will not provide this insurance and their position is seen as contradictory by Brighter Bungo. The Council asks that volunteers play their part to "Make Glasgow Greener," but has now made it harder for Brighter Bungo to do by withdrawing the insurance that makes it possible. Many groups all over the city are finding that they are in the same position.



The irony is that community groups who now need to take out PLI policies do so by applying to the Council for grants to pay the insurance premiums. Will the group be financed to make payments, and would that be more than the Council would pay for an overall policy? This is still unknown and Brighter Bungo is in correspondence with the Council about this.

50 YEARS AT OXTON HOUSE

Honouring Carol Cannell who has been the manager at Oxtton House for 50 years

Oxtton House is a residential care home that opened in the late 1950s in Queen Square. The residential care home offers both long-term and short-term residential care for the elderly. The care home is truly a family business, opened by Carol's mother and father-in-law originally, the business then still has several family members involved with its running. In the mid-1960s Carol married her husband James, and a year later they welcomed their son James into the world. James, their son, is also involved in the running of Oxtton House.

The care home now resides in Marywood Square, in a house that has been kept in its original state. It contained many of the house's original features such as marble fireplaces in all the rooms and a kitchen situated on the lower ground with the original black range. In addition, there was a laundry room that had a stone boiler, which, in the past, would have been lit. In the 1990s Oxtton House acquired another house to add maximise the capacity of their care. The residence has always been complimented on its homeliness with residents reporting that they feel as if it is their home. This has been attributed to the skilled and caring staff, who go the extra mile to ensure the residents' comfort and happiness. This is also due to the efforts of manager Carol Cannell, who is celebrating 50 years as the manager at Oxtton House.

The Cannell family visit Oxtton House daily basis and have been incredibly touched by the support they receive from the community. Particularly during the festive period, as this made Christmas feel extra special for residents considering the unfortunate circumstances of Covid-19. The pandemic has made it hard to carry out regular activities such as their tombola stall at Bungo in the Lanes, through which the donations and funds have supported outings for the residence. However, Oxtton House is hopeful regular activities can begin again to ensure a brighter future for the residence as well as the community.



SAVE THE DATE!

A 50th anniversary celebration and the annual general meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 7pm

Location: Queen's Park Church of Scotland

170 Queens Drive

Glasgow

G42 8QZ

BOOK LAUNCH with Cheese & Wine Reception

Come and celebrate the Strathbungo Society's 50th Anniversary! This fresh-off-the-press Strathbungo Handbook is your guide to our small corner of Glasgow. With lots about its unique history and architectural heritage, plus everything you need to know about living here today— and in the future. We'll have a special guest to launch the Handbook and a short & snappy 50th AGM, followed by an informal get together with friends and neighbours.

Look out for details on posters, the Bungo Blog and social media— and make sure you join in the fun.

www.strathbungo.co.uk



BAWN TEXTILES

An insight into the new textile store

Bawn is a new shop on Pollokshaws Road. It specialises in selling sustainable fashion fabrics and a curated range of haberdashery including essential tools and patterns. It stocks fabrics such as organic cotton, linen, Tencel™, cupro, bamboo and more. They offer a swatch service as well as a scissor sharpening service. The website also offers detailed information on fabric sustainability, and introductory descriptions of fibres and weave structures.

Bawn was launched online in August 2020, but most people prefer to shop for fabrics in person so they can feel them and get a better sense of colour, texture, and drapes.

“When Libby Walker announced that she was closing her shop to move her artistic practice to greener pastures, I jumped at the opportunity.” Said Bevan O’Daly, founder and director, “Libby and I agreed that keeping the premises in the hands of another independent creative business would benefit other local businesses and help maintain the area as a special destination. My background is in textile conservation for museums. Bawn was founded in response to the challenges presented by the global textile industry. The current textile supply chain involves over-production and over-consumption that has serious negative ecological cultural, social, and economic consequences. With so many talented textile designers and makers in a growing community of environmentally conscious creatives, there was nowhere in Glasgow to source quality materials.

A long-term goal is for Bawn is to help promote local makers and designers by hosting pop-ups, workshops, talks and other events that would help to build a local textile hub.”

Watercolour is reproduced with the kind permission of Libby Walker



NEWS IN BRIEF

A round up of all things Strathbungo



GOODBYE TO MARTIN AND HIS COMMUNITY GARDEN BY THE BRIDGE

In September the community waved goodbye to Martin and his dedication to the community garden by the bridge. Martin, who has lived at 17 Moray Place for six months said:

"I started doing the garden for my well-being and found out that it aided the well-being of passers-by giving them a real pleasure and an opportunity to stop, reflect and have a chat. This, in turn, encouraged me to do more to the garden and it slowly became this focal point that is going to be taken over by other residents when I leave."

Martin is heading north to live in Cape Wrath Lighthouse – all the best Martin!



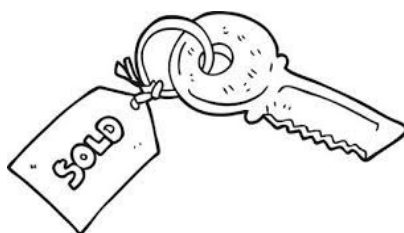
BUNGO NOT IN THE BACK LANES

It seems an age ago, in the heady days of the start of the summer that Bungo (NOT) in the Back Lanes went online again in 2021. With a wealth of local talent selling their artisan goods in the online market and amazing music courtesy of the Southside Sessions, it was a wonderful weekend. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the support of the local community. We know it can never replace the real thing, but here's hoping we'll be back in person along the back lanes for 2022.

BUNGO NOT IN THE BACK LANES

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

What have you been doing in Lockdown? Whilst most of us have been stuck at home, others have seen the opportunity to move out of or into Strathbungo the property market has been seemingly buoyant, and we'd like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to those who've moved onto Brighton, Dundee, Kirkcudbright and beyond, and a big Bungo bonjour to all the new residents (including a few new lockdown babies!)



WOT NO QUEEN'S CAFÉ

Just when you thought it was another lockdown business going under, up pops Ginesi's Artisan Gelato (aka Queens Café) who have moved in May from their iconic shop at 515 Victoria Road to their own premises at 455 Victoria Road. Best of luck to the family in their new premises and we hope there's a way to keep the iconic stained-glass façade as well as all those tried and tested flavours. For those who prefer beer, worry not the Queen's Park Café is still open across the road!



COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Ryan Moffat who correctly guessed the % of the New Zealand Pilsner as 5%. He wins 4 cans from The Bungo Brew Co.



SAYING GOODBYE TO DANNY MARTIN

The community pays their respects to former Heraghty's bar manager

A wonderful tribute was paid to Danny Martin, former bar manager of Heraghty's of almost 30 years. On Saturday 4th September residents and Heraghty's regulars gathered outside the pub to pay their respects. When the hearse arrived, the crowd broke into spontaneous applause for 3 mins, before cheering as it left. Danny will be missed by the entire community.



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