

A NEW BRIDGE FOR STRATHBUNGO

By Jane Carolan



There has been a bridge at this point since the line was opened well over 150 years ago. It was refurbished at considerable cost in 2019, after a renovation period in which the dialogue between the Society and Network Rail was excellent. To be then informed within 2 years of the completion of that project, that it would have to be removed to allow for the new electricity pylons for the new line was a disappointment to say the least.

This news was not well received in the community, and the initial view was that the Society should investigate ways of preserving the original on this site and lobby Network Rail for this option. For various technical reasons, this was simply not possible, and Network Rail then started a wide consultation over three possible designs for a replacement. The option for moving the pedestrian bridge to Marywood Square rather than Regent Park (site of a footbridge till the late 1990's) was rejected out of hand. At this point the Society's objectives became focused on a design that was sympathetic to the conservation area into which the bridge was to be situated on Moray Place and a design that would provide users with a safe experience. One major consideration was that our old footbridge had enabled generations of children to watch the trains. Many of those who corresponded with the Society emphasised that as it was one of the few places in the area where that was possible, we should endeavour to have a bridge designed with that in mind.

The end of summer saw the opening of our new pedestrian bridge between Moray Place and Darnley Rd. This represents the culmination of the efforts of the Society to ensure that a footbridge fit for purpose for the community was preserved in the aftermath of the electrification of the East Kilbride/Central line.

Well we emailed, we held talks, we negotiated. Our old bridge has found a new home at the Caledonian Railway's Brechin Station, a railway preservation charity. The community can judge for themselves as to how well the footbridge Mark 2 fits the objectives we set. But within hours of the opening, Strathbungo's children were back, waving to train drivers.



STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

The Strathbungo Society's AGM will be on 7th November at 7.30pm in the hall at Queens park Church, 170 Queens Drive. We will have speakers from the Communities Consultation for Queens Park. If you have any issues you wish to raise, or wish to become involved in the Society's work, email chair@strathbungo.co.uk. Or just come along.

BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES 2023

What a great day Bungo in the Back Lanes was in June this year. We managed to hold off on the rain until the last gasp! Thank you all for your support and many thanks to Alistair Fleming & Allie for their fantastic photos of the day.



BACK LANE IMPROVEMENTS

The Strathbungo Society applied for and received a £20,000 grant from Glasgow City Council's Private Lane Improvement Fund, and over the summer work was completed on two stretches of lane prone to flooding, with the aim of improving pedestrian access.

Work at the Vennard Gardens entrance was a mixture of recycled setts and gravel in a retaining mesh, with particular attention paid to drainage issues. This was a resounding success; shortly after completion Strathbungo was subject to two unprecedented deluges, sadly flooding homes and businesses, yet this lane remained bone dry. Further work in Marywood Square, while less dramatic, has also made the worst section passable after heavy rain.

There had been conflicting advice regarding further applications, but we are now in discussion with the council about a further £20,000 grant to continue the work, including the other Vennard Gardens lane entrance, which we had previously dropped from our plans. Grants are from £1,000 to £20,000 per lane, so if residents have ideas about improvements to other back lanes, contact the committee. More details on the Council website

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28001>



A FOND FAREWELL TO HEATHER

We are saying goodbye to a longstanding member of the Strathbungo Society in the coming weeks, Heather Alexander. So we thought we do a Q&A with her about the society and the area and wish her well!



How long have you lived in Strathbungo?

I moved in from a flat in Pollokshields over 17 years ago – in search of a garden so I could have a dog.

How long have you been with the Society?

I joined the committee in 2015.

What do you think is special about Strathbungo?

The sense of community.

Have you held any posts while at the society?
I've mostly been contributing to the website and social media, Bungo in the Back Lanes and campaigns.

What kept you with the society for so long?!

It was a great way to contribute to my local area and to get to know some of my neighbours.

What do you do in your spare time/hobbies?

Twiglet, my dog is a big part of that (we competed at agility for many years) but I also volunteer, e.g. I was webmaster for Victim Support Scotland for several years and am currently secretary of the new Glasgow Southside u3a.

What is it that you value most about the local area?

I love the sense of community, both in the Society but also that emerged in the “South Bungo” streets during the pandemic; and I love the parks, mostly!

What's the one thing you want to see to improve the area?

I know the council is strapped for cash but I think the state of Queens Park is a real shame, especially as much of the damage comes from poor design (paths in the wrong place or too narrow for the council vehicles that now use them) and poor water management.

Where are you moving to?

A village called Rosemarkie on the Black Isle (which of course is not an island) – it's a decades-long dream of mine to live in the Highlands...

A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR QUEEN'S PARK



Queen's Park is a vital green lung that serves three local council wards with a combined population of 82,000 people - which would make it Scotland's fifth largest town (larger than Paisley, East Kilbride or Cumbernauld) – where 85% of residents living in flats with little or no access to green space. That's why Queens Park is so important – and so well loved.

The recent community consultation asked folks what they liked about the park, how they used it and what would help them use it more. It generated over a thousand responses, something that landscape consultants Ironside Farrar said was unprecedented.

Kevin Kane who chairs the development study said “We will use the community consultation to identify significant and achievable improvements to the park that people want to see. The first stage of the work has identified zonal areas of the park and potential improvements; in the pond and play area closest to Strathbungo, the wildlife area, the formal park landscape up from Victoria Road and the flagpole area, which the consultation has confirmed is the community's favourite place in the park.”

“The second stage will identify the key improvement opportunities and identify sources of funding to help create an agreed ten to fifteen years development plan for Queen's Park that will ensure that Queen's Park and Recreation Ground continues to play a vital role in the life and wellbeing of its surrounding communities, including Strathbungo.”

A representative of Ironside Farrar will be speaking at the Strathbungo Society AGM on the 7th November 7.30pm

A Q&A WITH BAM



BAM opened in 2018 on Nithsdale Road and combine a vintage shopping experience with great coffee. With homewares and gifts over 2 floors, they wanted not only to sell vintage items, but support and sell stock from local, independent artists and makers. With a striking green shopfront and a warm and inviting interior.

They're open Thursday to Monday 11am-5pm for you to to have a browse.

How did you end up starting a business?

We wanted to bring something different to the neighbourhood! We love coffee and vintage and interiors and so we thought we'd try and share that with you all

What is that people like most about the business?

They love our coffee and vintage but mostly our good vibes and our playlist!

How hard has it been to stay afloat over the last few years?

Very hard, like all independent small businesses in the southside, we wouldn't still be here if it wasn't for our amazing customers

What are the main challenges small local firms face?

Too many to mention – it's just as well we love what we do! But we would encourage people to support those places you love

What are your plans for the next year?

Expansion or retirement! We haven't decided but a good Christmas could convince us to carry on.

We have created a mailing list for The Strathbungo Society.



If you would like to receive email notification of future meetings and events please just scan the QR code using the camera on your phone and enter your name and email address or email chair@strathbungo.co.uk

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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

Advertising enquiries welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30pm
Queen's Park Church Hall,
170 Queen's Drive

Doors open 7:15pm, Tea and Coffee available.

- Reports and accounts on the blog
- Have your say and meet your neighbours
- Opportunities for discussion
- Speakers on the Communities Consultation for Queens Park

WWW.BUNGOBLOG.COM