

STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society
A quarterly newsletter

AUTUMN 2024

THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY AGM

Tuesday 12th November, 7.30pm - 9pm



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm
Queen's Park Govanhill Church
170 Queen's Drive

Doors open at 7.15pm, Tea and coffee available

- Reports and account on the blog
- Have your say and met your neighbours
- Opportunities for discussion
- Speakers on the Communities

WWW.BUNGOBLOG.COM

If you weren't aware "tiny-but-mighty" Strathbungo was recently declared one of the coolest neighbourhoods on the planet, where have you been?

Apart from the local shops and bars, one of the key factors in this recognition is our strong sense of local community. It hasn't happened by chance. The Society has been working to make Strathbungo cool for over 50 years now, and our campaigning and our events such as Bungo in the Back Lanes and Window Wanderland have helped us punch above our weight.

But to continue this way, we need your support, your ideas and your input. So please come to our AGM.

The AGM of the Strathbungo Society will be on **Tuesday 12th November**. The event is in the **Queen's Park Church of Scotland Hall** over on Queens Drive, and will begin at **7.30pm**. Doors will be open from 7.15pm, with tea, coffee and biscuits available beforehand and wine afterwards.

Once the principal business of the evening is out of the way we will also welcome guest speakers from the Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan.

As noted in our last newsletter, this is a collaborative initiative by the neighbouring Community Councils for Shawlands & Strathbungo and Langside, Camphill & Battlefield that kicked off its work in May 2024, and you can hear of public consultation and survey results and progress to date.

Details are on **bungoblog.com**

Hope to see you there. Stay cool.



Want to know more about the Neighbourhood Plan?

Visit **qpn.org.uk** for more information. Or scan the code to complete their latest survey.



BYGONE BUNGO: A TALE OF TWO BUILDERS

The happy tale of William Stevenson

Bygone Bungo continues to investigate Strathbungo's past, and has identified many of the builders who first put up our houses. Here's a couple of contrasting tales.

While the architect of the second terrace in Moray Place, 11-13, is unknown, the builders were once again John MacIntyre and William Stevenson, and William took No 13.

William was the 35-year old quarrymaster of Baird & Stevenson, who, with MacIntyre, had bought the land of Strathbungo from Sir John Maxwell of Pollok.

Born on a farm near Stewarton, as an enterprising teenager he operated the toll bar at Eglinton Toll (now the Star Bar). Moving into quarrying in Giffnock, he came to dominate the stone industry in Scotland.

No one person can claim to have made a greater mark on Victorian Glasgow's architecture and appearance than William Stevenson; Glasgow University, the City Chambers, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and countless others were built from Baird & Stevenson stone. Yet he remains unknown.

Unknown, maybe, but certainly rich. He progressed from Moray Place to Househill (which he later rented to Mrs Cranston) and then to Hawkhead House, a grand pile formerly home to the Earl of Glasgow



His seven sons all trained as masons, and took over the business. Eldest son Hugh remained at 13 Moray Place for his entire life, and he and his siblings continued to own many Strathbungo houses.



The whole story is told on Bygone Bungo; there are biographies of 18 builders and architects to date. However if anyone is willing to share old deeds of any Bungo properties, I would love to see what other secrets they might reveal.

Andrew Downie, adownie@doctors.org.uk

The sad tale of Robert Weir

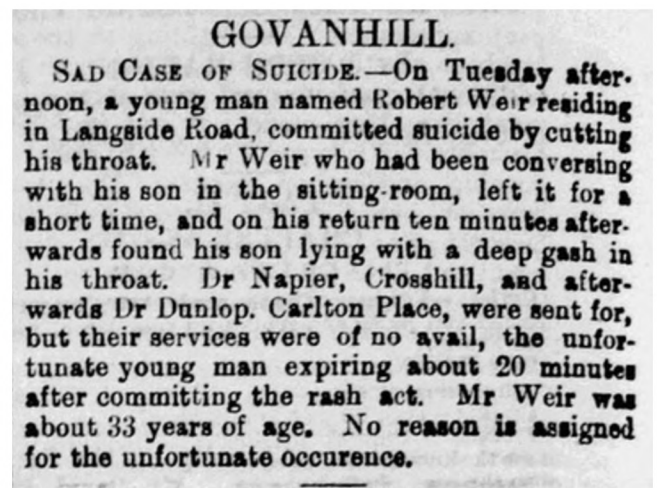
Robert Weir's tale is one of the more recent discoveries, but it does not end so well.

Robert Weir was the son of William, himself a builder who erected tenements in Kinning Park, including Pollok Street with its formal gardens, but which were all swept away by the M8.

Robert followed his father in the business, and his first big project was Princes Square (the even numbers of what is now Marywood Square). These were built in 1877-78 when Robert was 33. Few buyers emerged however, and most houses were let. The 1879 City of Glasgow Bank crash ruined the city's finances, and may have been a factor in Robert's struggles.

On 30th August 1880, William left his son in his sitting room for a few minutes, but on his return found his son lying with a deep gash in his throat. Despite the attentions of local doctors Robert perished on the floor. His death certificate recorded that he "had suffered for some weeks from embarrassed circumstances and melancholia".

The houses passed to his family, but continued to be a financial drain, and some were repossessed by the Weirs' financial backers.

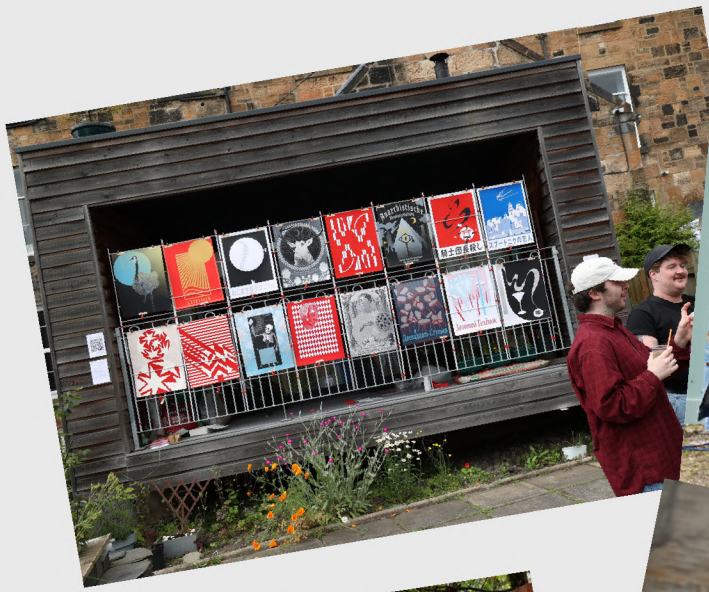


The long terrace on the south side of Marywood Square was built several years after the other sandstone terraces of Strathbungo, c.1884-5. In the 1885 valuation roll the entire terrace was listed as belonging to James Robertson, a mason and builder living in Pollokshields. He first advertised the houses for sale or let in the spring/summer of 1884. Yet in the early 1890s he too went bankrupt, and by 1895 the entire terrace had fallen back into the possession of none other than William Stevenson. Win some, lose some.

BUNGO IN THE BACK LANES 2024

Did you enjoy it as much as we did?

Photos: Alistair Fleming



BRIGHTER BUNGO CLEAN-UP

Do your bit, Sunday 10th November, 11-1

There was such a great turn out for our June Brighter Bungo, with enthusiastic adults and children wielding their litter pickers and making a huge difference to our back lanes. There were even a couple of volunteers from outside Strathbungo who saw the posters and liked the idea so much they decided to join in. It was a Sunday morning full of sunshine and good cheer.

We can't be sure of the weather for November, other than to guarantee that it will be colder, but that makes it all the more important to have a good sized group to get through the work in less time. The pick up point will be covered from 11 - 1, but you don't need to be there for the duration, you can make quite an impact in half an hour. You'll find us outside Bossa (same venue, different name every time, it seems!)

Please come along and do your bit. This is the kind of thing that really makes Strathbungo the 22nd coolest neighbourhood in the world.

THE BINS, THE BINS

I'll always remember the day the grey bins arrived. We were sitting in a cafe outside Bayonne Cathedral when I became aware of activity on the street's WhatsApp. The new grey bins had been unceremoniously unloaded and while Strathbungo may be currently the 22nd best place to live, it is not immune to a bit of bin bedlam. A kind neighbour rescued one for us and so our journey into more streamlined recycling began.

Glasgow aims to be a zero-waste city, and carbon neutral by 2030. To help achieve this goal, Glasgow's recycling services are falling in line with Scottish guidance and changes made by other councils.

The new grey bin is essentially for recycling pots, tubs, food trays, plastic wrapping, carrier bags, food and drink cartons, empty aerosols, plastic bottles, metal and plastic biscuit tins and film lids – all washed of course. The blue bin is now only for paper, card and cardboard. Collected every four weeks, the new bin should ensure more recycling opportunities.

GCC has published a very useful leaflet but there is a slightly ominous warning lurking in its pages. A Contamination Amnesty will only last four weeks - so it's already over! From now, wrong items in the wrong bin will not be emptied, the bin will be tagged and you will receive a letter or maybe even a visit to explain what you've done wrong. I'm not sure how the random dropping of items into bins by passers-by will be treated by the Council or quite where the can of worms this opens up will eventually be recycled.

However the first collection of grey bins was made this morning and so far, so good. If only the same could happen with the glass collection...

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Thanks from the team!

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Published quarterly by
The Strathbungo Society
Registered Charity No.SC038276
Website www.bungoblog.com

Layout & Editing: Andrew Downie

Distribution: Imelda Devlin

We'd like to take a moment to thank the contributors and volunteers who make the Strathbungo Society newsletter possible this quarter, including: Paola Rezilli, Imelda Devlin, Marianne Harper, Andrew Downie.

Would you like to get involved? Please reach out if you have a story idea or creative piece to feature in our next issue.

If you're interested in contributing, please send your story to news@strathbungo.co.uk with your name and contact information.

Advertising enquiries welcome.