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# STRATHBUNGO NEWS

The Strathbungo Society  
A quarterly newsletter  
SPRING 2025

## STRATHBUNGO WINDOW WANDERLAND

*Saturday 1st March 2025, 6pm - 9pm*



With the advent of spring nearly upon us, it is time again for Strathbungo to show its creative side with the return of **Window Wanderland**. Arguably Glasgow's largest outdoor gallery, Window Wanderland is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the Strathbungo events calendar, drawing thousands of visitors from across the city and further afield to come and marvel at the creative talents of our residents.

2024 proved once again how magical an event this is, as our energetic community came together creating a vibrant display of light, colour and imagination to brighten our dark winter nights. Let's make 2025 even better and ensure Strathbungo's Windows remains the best decorated in Glasgow.

Taking place on **Saturday 1st March**, 6-9pm, there is plenty of time to put your ideas into action. However, if you are new to Strathbungo or feel overwhelmed at the prospect, we shall be running another **Windows Workshop at The Point on Queens Drive** on the **15th February**, from 2-4pm. Here, we will try to inspire you and help with the practicalities of putting your ideas into action, showcasing previous displays, and demonstrating different techniques that can be used to create your display.

We have not set a theme as other WW's do, as we feel this can be too restrictive for some people and we aim to encourage inclusion. We are open to suggestions also, and are always on the lookout for people to assist with the running and set-up or to provide additional entertainment alongside the visual spectacle.

The Govanhill choir will again be performing for us across the night bringing their beautiful voices back to Strathbungo once more.

Remember, all you need is a window and an idea!

Further information and inspiration can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages - @bungowindows

Also, please scan the QR to join our Community WhatsApp group where you can join in and connect with other WW'ers.



# NITHSDALE DRIVE DEVELOPMENT

*Plans for the Arnold Clark site have changed again*



Arnold Clark may have left their Nithsdale Drive building a long time ago but the building plans for a replacement have been evolving since the original 2023 planning application (23/01956/FUL). There were a variety of comments and objections from residents and the Society. A whole year later in November 2024 a very different set of plans was uploaded, despite comments being closed since July 2023. Below you can read a summary of the Society's response to the Planning Department:

The planning application was originally validated in August 2023. More than a year later in November 2024 another set of documents were submitted but the Society are not aware of any notifications being sent to previous objectors or notifiable neighbours. The new documents radically change the design, layout, setting and provisions of the development. This amounts to a new application and so should be treated as such.

The Society have positive comments on the new application. The design changes to the prominent end of the block on the Nithsdale Road roundabout are welcome and the pulling back of the extensions to the rear elevation goes some way to improve the view across the railway from East Pollokshields Conservation Area. The sloping roof treatment which makes more of an effort to echo the dormers of Salisbury Quadrant is also an improvement, although the proposal still feels too tall.

The change of use from Arnold Clark garage and headquarters to residential is welcomed. However, the Glasgow Urban Design Panel report, included with the 2023 documents, notes that the proposal represents an over-development of the site. This is also felt by many of those who made comments on the original design.

It had been hoped that this would be addressed in the new plan but the number of flats has only reduced by three; from one hundred and four to one hundred and one.

The tenements facing the proposed development comprise fewer than forty homes but have a similar size of street frontage. This includes the whole of Salisbury Quadrant which curves around into Nithsdale Street, the continuing block of tenements in Nithsdale Drive and the more recent tenemental flats which curve around into March Street from Nithsdale Drive.

The allocated parking has been reduced to about seventy spaces but there is a concern that more cars will be introduced to the area contributing to an already taxed road system. The location is in one of the most well-connected areas for public transport in the city. There are numerous buses within yards and three train stations within ten minutes' walk. The social housing currently being built at the end of Nithsdale Drive has no parking and the redevelopment of the adjacent Mission Hall into flats has no parking either. This development could have taken a similar decision or at least radically reduced the percentage of the site given over to parking. This would allow far more vital amenity green space for the people living in the building when the adjacent area has very little public green space.

The planned development will affect two conservation areas (Strathbungo and Pollokshields East) and will be of very large scale. This is effectively a new application and there should be proper opportunity for scrutiny and comment by neighbours, local groups and anyone interested in protecting and enhancing our neighbourhoods.

# BYGONE BUNGO: ARCHAEOLOGY

## *The Camphill Stones*



I'm no Indiana Jones. And I'm not an archaeologist either. But I think I've solved an archaeological mystery.

The Camphill fort is a large circular earthwork atop Queen's Park, almost 100m in diameter. The rampart is now much eroded, and the surrounding ditch has been filled in for a path, but it would have been a substantial structure in its day. For years archaeologists have pondered its origins.

It is thought likely to be an iron-age fort of some type, but other suggestions include a Roman fort, a medieval castle and a grain-drying kiln.

Also puzzling are the large stones or boulders that lie somewhat incongruously within the fort. There are twenty or more of them, with the largest forming a small ring, these days used as an informal fireplace. Suggestions for these have included a stone circle, a military position in the Battle of Langside, or just a 19th century "landscape gardening craze".

In 1867 the family of the late Neale Thomson of Camphill House decided to investigate the camp, and instructed the estate overseer, Mr Hamilton, to explore; thus began the first dig. A second dig took place in 1951, while further investigations were undertaken in 1973, 1996 and 1999.

Photographs from the 1890s and 1920s suggest the earthworks were fenced off for protection in the park's early years.

So what type of fort was it? I have no idea. But I have discovered the origin of the boulders within it, and can now reveal all.

They were dumped there by the council.

Glasgow Corporation were undertaking a road-widening scheme by the Langside Monument in 1895, around the time Skirving's Langside Hill Church (Church On The Hill) was constructed.

A letter to The Southern Press in April 1895 suggesting improvements to the proposed Govanhill Park noted that "the authorities have carted up from Langside Monument, where the street is widened, some five immense boulders to Camphill top as a memorial of stones perhaps of the ice age..." and suggests they do something similar in Govanhill.

Subsequent letters were even more surreal,, suggesting placing the trunk of a recently felled giant Crossmyloof willow in the fort, or excavating and installing the recently discovered underground house in Minard Road. Yes, you read that right, when clearing an older house for tenements secret underground chambers were found in the garden, just opposite Frankfort Street, their purpose unknown.



*A section through the ditch and rampart during excavations in 1951.*



The whole story is told on Bygone Bungo. There are also new house histories for 52 & 50 Marywood Square. Whose house would you like me to look at next? Do you have old photos, old deeds, or old stories to tell?

Andrew Downie, [adownie@doctors.org.uk](mailto:adownie@doctors.org.uk)

# BINS

## *What has two wheels and flies?*

At the beginning of January, the Strathbungo Society created a Google survey to gauge what's happening with the bin collections in the community. It was shared around the streets' WhatsApp groups, the Bungoblog & Facebook for the month of January. We had results from 25 households, and these were generally positive. We intend doing this at different times of the year, the next one being 13th February for the purple glass bin collection. We're keen to include folk from Pollokshaws Road too so if you missed this survey, please contact [chair@strathbungo.co.uk](mailto:chair@strathbungo.co.uk) to be included in the next survey.

Meanwhile, the online bin collection calendar has seemed somewhat flaky recently, so we have posted what we believe is the correct 2025 calendar on Bungoblog, along with the January survey link.

Complaints have also been raised about commercial premises leaving their bins on the street during the week, causing obstructions and attracting litter, especially around Nithsdale Road. Where possible, could businesses please remember to take your bins in after collection.

## UPDATES

### PAVEMENT PARKING

Glasgow Council will enforce the new pavement parking regulations from Wednesday 29th January. There are £100 fines for parking on pavements, over dropped kerbs or double parking. Strathbungo's streets remain exempt from pavement parking fines for now, pending review.

### NETWORK RAIL

The Society continues to press Network Rail on the future of their "temporary" depot opposite Moray Place. There seems no end to its use, but Network Rail have so far refused to engage with us, or provide a date when it might close.

### CROSSMYLOOF RESOURCE CENTRE

The next consultation on Westpoint's proposals for the site on Titwood Road on 5th February has been postponed while they review your feedback and discuss with the council. A new date will be announced once they have more detailed plans to share.

### WANT TO RUN A BAR?

Local watering hole Marchtown is up for sale if you are interested. And The Bungo is still on the market. Or if you want to get involved in efforts to re-open Tusk & Waverley Tea Rooms as a community hub, email [sam.amdjadi@gmail.com](mailto:sam.amdjadi@gmail.com) of Godshot Studio.

But you're too late with The Shed - it is re-opening under the "new" name, The Marlborough!

## SUPPORT US



Want to support our work?

Make a single donation, or give monthly or annually with PayPal or a credit/debit card. Scan the code for our PayPal portal.

Thanks from the team!

### STRATHBUNGO NEWS

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We'd like to take a moment to thank the contributors and volunteers who make the Strathbungo Society newsletter possible this quarter, including: Duncan Gammie, Paola Rezilli, Fiona MacKinnon, 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](mailto:news@strathbungo.co.uk) with your name and contact information.

Advertising enquiries welcome.