



# Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

## WELCOME, ALL NEW RESIDENTS!

From all of us at GOW, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new Gibson St, Otago St and Westbank Quadrant residents.

This little corner of the West End is a haven with a diverse community of families, students, professionals and business owners. Situated right in the heart of the University Campus, you'll benefit from many local amenities; Kelvingrove Park, Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, The Botanics, Byres and Great Western Roads and the many unique shops and restaurants that have come to stand out in this area of Glasgow. But let us not forget our own beautifully landscaped backcourt, open for all residents to enjoy year-round!

GOW isn't just a community association for members only. GOW is here for you, as this is now *your* community. As part of our efforts, we not only schedule area clean ups and backcourt garden days, we listen when there are concerns or troubles relating to your experience in the tenements, trying to facilitate resolutions to issues you may have. GOW works side by side with community representatives, building relationships and expanding its knowledge of tenants' rights for us all.

Our hope is to bring more **HEART** back into tenement living, where we can say 'hello' to our neighbors, gather for fun local events and offer support when needed.

Throughout the year, GOW hosts an array of backcourt entertainment and each year assists in the organisation of the festive Gibson Street Gala.

The purpose of GOW's bi-monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of GOW and local events, area news, community meetings, and articles about special interests/people, all which affect you as a resident.



Become involved! Write in to the newsletter if you have something special you'd like to share with the community - an event, show or cause you'd like your neighbours to attend. Do you have news, recycling or gardening tips/ideas? We encourage you to share your voice. We want to hear from you.

Come to our next open meeting at Offshore. Take the chance to get to know other interesting people on your block. We look forward to meeting you.

### GOW'S UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MONTHLY CLEAN UPS:

SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2-4PM

SUNDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2-4PM

#### GOW OPEN MEETINGS at OFFSHORE:

MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 6:30PM

MONDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 6:30PM

#### GARDENING WORKSHOP

With guest gardener, Janet Molloy  
Taking place one Saturday in October

Flyers will be posted close to the date

## A SAD FAREWELL

*I have just heard that the lovely John, who has been our Founding Editor of the GOW newsletter, is stepping down after over four years of unstinting work. He has always been able to cheer me up. I will badly miss our times together.*

*When I have been down in the dumps because Edna, my home help, has been helping herself to my sherry, John always was able to bring a smile to my face. (Never an easy task)*

*When I look back over these years, he has been there at all the important occasions. He reported on the terrible time I had with my crippling bunions and brought the plight of bunion sufferers to the nation. Now that I think about it, Alex Salmond's face has done much the same thing!*

*He reported on the renovation of the backcourt and all the hard work that lovely old Eric and young Sandra have put in. Sandra is such a wee gem. I often think she was destined for the big screen. She could be a stand in for Hairy Pottery, the wizard thing.*

*Well I understand that they have recruited some American Editor from New York to fill his shoes, and very big shoes they are! I will wait to see how it turns out, after all what have the Americans ever given us? McDonalds and now some new fashionable thing called credit crunch. I think I will stick to my porridge.*

*There seems to be a lot of new faces appearing in the GOW, and some old ones returned. No Nan, I'm not saying you have an old face. So pleased to see that you returned from the continent with the babies growing so fast.*

*Well it's been a bit of a quiet time looking out of my window. There's not a lot happening and that's sad for an old dearie like me. I used to love seeing the young boys working on the scaffolding on the back of Gibson Street and dreamt of how different things could have been if I was many years younger.*

*So a sad farewell to dear John and let's see what the new modern miss editor brings to us. Americans never had any culture, just stockings and cigarettes and now this new "credit crunch" breakfast. But bless her, I'm told by Edna that she is a very attractive, sprightly young thing. I wish her well.*

*~Spinster of this Parish*

## GIBSON STREET GALA, 2008 RETROSPECTIVE



This June's annual Gibson Street Gala was a huge success, despite come and go Scotland summer rain. One highlight was the popular drumming band, Samba Ya Bamba, marching the soggy, happy crowd toward centre stage in a rhythmic festival trance. With the neighbouring Mela in Kelvingrove Park, fun and culture were in the air. Our own backcourt entertained with massages, fire dancers, henna, capoeira, exotic teas in the Tchai-Ovna tent and highland dancing. Gibson Street and Westbank Quadrant played host to an array of food stalls from local vendors, restaurants and independent foodies. From fresh baked breads and sweets to Scottish burgers, sausages and Italian fare, there was not a starving soul in sight. Dancing to an eclectic selection of bands, such as The Viragoes, kicked up a thirst, and thanks to The Left Bank and Stravaign we could all enjoy our pints outside or in marquees, swaying to music, socialising with friends and acquaintances...enjoying what was truly a fabulous day!



Did you check out the Gibson Street Gala display in the former Abacus store window to view some of the pics?

Were you there?

Do you want to share your own photos on the GOW website?

Send to:  
gowcommunity@gmail.com



## WHO'S WHO? FOR YOU

Local SNP Councillor, George Roberts (pictured), visited us on 27<sup>th</sup> August to learn about GOW and find out about our ideas to improve this part of Hillhead. Councillor Roberts, who is serving his first term as a Hillhead Councillor, lives in Hyndland, and understands the challenges and possibilities facing our communities. GOW endeavours to work with the City Council to ensure that services are effective and the whole area is cared for and improved, to help develop a greater sense of community.



**For Your information:  
Over the next few  
months, the other  
Glasgow City  
Councillors for  
Hillhead will be invited  
to GOW:  
Martha Wardrop  
(Green Party), Hanzala  
Malik (Labour) and  
Kenneth Elder (Liberal  
Democrats)**



## COMMUNITY WATCH

Who would have thought that our quiet little backwater would have attracted so much drama this summer??

First of all, we had squads of riot police and their dogs swarming over Westbank Quad and the backcourt, stopping people going in and around. We all waited with baited breath, nobody could say what was happening...

It was the very day Rangers played in the UEFA cup final. (Although some students just took advantage of the quiet to get on with their studying in the sunshine of the now deserted street.) It turned out to be an alleged property dispute, but none of the crowd, who gathered to watch, could know that at the time.

On June 21, in an unfortunate incident coinciding with the Orange Walk in Kelvingrove Park, our Gibson Street shop owners and workers were attacked by drunken 'eejits' worked up by booze and revelry of the not so happy kind. The result: racial slurs, physical attacks, chairs being flung across a busy Gibson Street, children looking on. These crimes are senseless and horrible for any neighbourhood and GOW has already made representations to try to make sure it is not repeated next year.

This was just one in three attacks on shopkeepers in our area this year. It's up to us all to look out for one another in the community. If you see a crime being committed, please call the police immediately (999) or contact the Community Police Team 0141 532 3507.



## BACKCOURT BULLETIN

Autumn has arrived, just after an all too brief summer. Despite the rain there were many backcourt BBQs enjoyed by the residents, and the gardens were wonderfully tended by GOW, volunteers and residents. Thanks to all of you who spent weekends and evenings with gloves and spades in hand, picking up rubbish, weeding, planting and watering.

In March, GOW invited university eco-student, Adam Weymouth, to establish the vegetable patch. That wee bit of earth harvested more than expected: peas, potatoes, shallots, rocket and many, many hungry slugs. Next season, we'll hopefully be able to share in a veggie feast, slug free of course.

Sad garden news...the big cherry tree seems to have succumbed to disease this year. But life does go on, so unless it rises from the dead; what new tree would you welcome in its place? Any suggestions?

Along with the backcourt, we ask you to help in whatever way you can with the cleanliness of your closes. Recycle, deposit rubbish in designated areas, don't litter or leave bulk items out unless on specified pick up day. (Tuesday morning at 11.00AM)



Our resident stray kitty, the pride of Miss May, lives in an empty basement next to Left Bank. May has lovingly put up hanging baskets of flowers outside to give kitty a proper home. A stray she may be, but her home is here with us. If she runs at the sight of you, don't take it to heart. She's simply a feline, preferring quiet days and prowling nights, and Miss May, her champion.



## GOW GOES ONLINE

The times, they are a changin'! And so shall GOW, with a new website. Morna Murdoch, GOW's resident Web and Development Officer, has created a dynamic, easy to navigate site, giving you the opportunity for easier access to more current information than provided in the newsletter alone.

The website will be available soon for you to explore, Join GOW's online community and stay informed on what matters in your area.

[www.gowcommunity.org.uk](http://www.gowcommunity.org.uk)

### CONTACT

**0141 589 6609**

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### USEFUL NUMBERS

**Anti Social Behaviour**  
0800 027 3901

**Graffiti - Fly Tipping**  
0800 027 7027

### GOW Contacts:

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## BUILDING, BLOCK BY BLOCK



Gibson Street is bringing in the New Year 2009 with the completion of a new 93 bed student residence on Gibson Street, due to open in January (artist's impression above). The building is ahead of schedule, and our neighbourhood will be glad when the scaffolding and debris is cleared away. Some residents are nervous about the impact of such an imposing building and we hope to foster positive relationships with this student block.

The car park on Otago St and the Parks Depot are due for closure later this year for building work to begin on the new Hillhead Primary School, which has received planning permission, to the major disappointment of many. The plans have still to be ratified by Scottish ministers so we will update you on when work is to begin on the site.

On a brighter note: Great news for Stravaigin. They've also received planning permission - to expand into the space currently occupied by Comerfords, which we understand will move across to the former Abacus store. Congrats to Stravaigin. Slainte! Cheers!

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

Beginning this autumn, a maintenance charge of £20 per flat per year is being introduced for the upkeep and re stocking of the backcourt. Owners will be asked to pay this sum. This contribution will surely go a long way to preserving all the hard voluntary work put into the garden, and growing its **GREEN** potential.

**RECYCLE \* RE-USE \* GROW YOUR OWN \* PLANT FLOWERS**