



## A YEAR OF CHANGE: 2008

**We bring in the New Year with GOW's final 2008 newsletter.** This has been a year of many changes and developments within the community. Two major construction projects were given the green light: a student residence building in progress, and the planning of a new primary school, to be sited where the car park currently is.

We look forward to welcoming an Italian speciality deli, soon to be located at the corner of Gibson Street and Park Road. I foresee parma ham and salami-filled shopping lists in our future...

This wee area of the West End has become quite the place for culinary finds, seeing the arrival of Amici's Italian Restaurant, the well-reviewed Tattie Mac's and more recently a Persian restaurant. As always, our local favourite staples: the left bank, Stravaigin, Louis' Grill et al. set a standard hard to beat. Let's support our independent traders. I don't need to convince you. The truth most definitely *is* in the pudding.

Along with newcomers to the business community, we've also witnessed our fair share of departures: Pizzaz, Bar Bola, Satchmo's and Abacus.

And that's just what's happening along Otago and Gibson Streets!



*Gibson Street construction*



## FACE TO FACE

**By knowing our neighbours,** we open up to experiences unlike our own, or find a common thread. You'd be surprised by who your neighbours are, where they've been, what they've seen and accomplished.

In a society of growing celebrity interest, perhaps we should look closer to home for our own local 'celebs'. I recently discovered one of our long-standing residents had lived in India for two years, and drove a Studebaker across Canada - camping out in the wilderness...by herself! Read more about this fabulous lady in the 'Tales from West End Days Gone By' section of the newsletter.

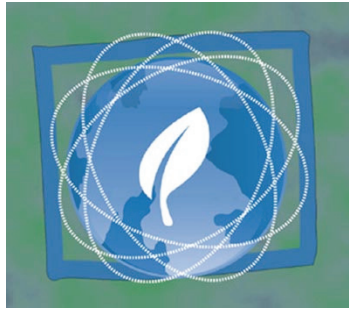
Have you had experiences at home or abroad, taken part in something you feel was important, adventurous or interesting? Let us know. We want to learn more about you, our neighbours.

Join us at one of the upcoming garden clean ups or a GOW meeting for a tea and chat.

### GOW UPCOMING EVENTS

GARDEN CLEAN UP: SUN, 7<sup>TH</sup> DEC. 2PM

GOW MEETING AT OFFSHORE CAFE:  
 MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC



## Contact Us

**0141 589 6609**

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## Useful Numbers

**Anti Social Behaviour**  
**0800 027 3901**

**Graffiti - Fly Tipping**  
**0800 027 7027**

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**Keep checking our new website** for events and local news. If any GOW residents are interested in contributing articles, reviews, photographs, trips or news, we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

For new residents, we've included a helpful section with information on how to settle into GOW. Check it out under 'GOW Living'.

We're also on **facebook**, so join us for automatic updates through the facebook page. (Search for GOW Community) The website had hits from France, the US, Canada and all over the UK!

## GARDEN DAYS

Jane Molloy, our garden advisor, visited the backcourt on Saturday, 1st November. Sharing her extensive knowledge, we gained insight on how to better care for the plants growing in the backcourt, how to compost and what spring bulbs to plant.

Thank you to all who attended and to Jane for sharing her time to support us. Full notes from the event are listed on the GOW website.

**Our next garden clean up will take place on Sunday, 7th of December at 2pm.** We'll be raking leaves, weeding and picking up any rubbish that has blown into the backcourt. There will be **mulled wine and mince pies** for those who come out to help as we toast the end of 2008.



The apple tree has produced a bumper crop of apples this year! Reminds me of my childhood in Oregon, nicking apples off the neighbour's tree on the way to school. Tummy aches most always followed but they were just too scrumptious not to eat!

The wee garden patch has been composted and ready for new veggie growth. Do you have anything you'd like to grow in the garden?

Has anyone noticed anything new, gorgeous and **green** on Otago Street?

Glasgow Community Safety Services, through the Kelvingrove Parks Depot, supplied a planter for the area just outside the entrance to 97 Otago Street. A laurel and azelea were transplanted from the backcourt and primroses, pansies and conifers have since been added to bring a bit of colour to a rather bare spot. If all goes well, we may be able to request a second planter, creating a more inviting entrance to our area and, we hope, discourage dumping.

Are there any volunteers from Otago Street who want to help keep the planter healthy and free from litter? Let us know on 0141 339 6609 or [gowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:gowcommunity@gmail.com).

# WHO'S WHO, FOR YOU...

By Eric Kay

**Martha Wardrop** does not fit the traditional fast talking stereotype of a Glasgow City Councillor. First impression is of quiet calm and of someone with a real ability to listen. In action, she shows a determination and assertiveness backed by attention to detail of someone who makes every effort to find out the facts.

With a background in Community Development, Martha has utilised these skills to encourage and galvanise community participation. This can be a daunting task in an age when voters are reportedly losing interest in politics and politicians but she has already seen success when local opposition to unpopular developments have prevailed, such as with Botanic Gardens.

Currently working full time as a City Councillor she is a member of the Executive Committee and of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

As well as her passionate commitment to environmental issues and to greenspace, Martha, as the only woman councillor for Hillhead, gives priority to ensuring that women's safety issues are addressed. This has included her support for the initiatives taken by Glasgow Community Safety Services.

She acknowledges that in her role as Councillor there is much to do and huge demands on her time, but is aware of the need to maintain a work life balance whilst admitting that striking that balance is a constant challenge.



*Martha Wardrop  
Scottish Green Party Councillor*

## SURGERY DETAILS

- *Woodside Library & Learning Centre, 343 St George's Road - 1st Wednesday of every month from 2.00-3.00pm.*
- *Willowbank Primary School, Willowbank Crescent, Woodlands Road - 1st Wednesday of every month from 7.00-8.00pm.*
- *Hillhead Library & Learning Centre, 348 Byres Road - 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2.00-3.00pm.*
- *Hyndland Secondary School 9 Lauderdale Gardens - 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 7.00-8.00pm.*
- *Surgeries start in libraries from July and in schools from September.*
- *No surgeries in schools during school hours or public holidays.*

Hillhead has four Councillors: Martha Wardrop, George Roberts, Hanzala Malik, and Kenneth Elder.



**Bolshie**  
Purveyors of organic, fairly traded  
and sustainable fashion, accessories  
and footwear for men and women.

**Redeem the token for 1 cup of tea  
or coffee.**



Well hello again,



## Tales from the Spinster!

Another Christmas is nearly upon us and I'm still tottering on this tiresome planet. It's been a mixed year with plenty of prosperity at the start of 2008 and now near poverty at the end of it.



I remember when I was a wee girl. I always woke up early on Christmas morning to see what Santa had brought me. As always a hand knitted grey sock hung at the foot of my bed. (Well, it wasn't just my bed, there was 4 of us sleeping in it.) The sock always had an orange at the bottom of it. One year in particular, there was also a wee doll made with a wooden clothes peg and a knitted dress. In fact, with the latest carry on about John Sergeant leaving that dance show, his dance partner quite resembles that wee doll. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying she was wooden. My home help, Edna, thinks it would be good for my hip replacement if I took up dance classes. I used to be well known in Glasgow for my tango, you know.

Anyway, poor Gordon Brown hasn't had an easy time either and oh my, sometimes he looks like someone has played football with his face! What a sight he is for a reasonably young man. And Mr. and Mrs. Bush will have to find a new house in January. I'll wager he deliberately let things get so bad that he could pick up a repossessed house on the cheap. It can't be easy moving from that great big house, but I dare say our tenement lifestyle wouldn't be for him.



I see we have a lovely wee plant tub at the corner of Otago St and Gibson St. I just hope it doesn't get vandalised as it fair brightens up the place. I haven't heard if there is going to be the annual Christmas B.B.Q with mulled wine and mince pies in the backcourt this year. Perhaps the credit crunch is even hitting the committee who look after the place. I think they should organise getting the place done up with Christmas lights to cheer us all up. I saw a couple of people out the other weekend planting bulbs, I think it was that lovely May O'Cardy and her older brother who was helping her. May and I go back a long way. Well, at our age it is a long way!

I hear there has been fresh painting in the close at No. 5 Westbank Quadrant. It took them so long because they kept repainting it until they'd all agreed on the colours!

Well, have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. Who knows, this time next year I could be used as fertiliser in the backcourt. We do like to recycle round these parts.

'Bye the noo,  
The Spinster of this Parish





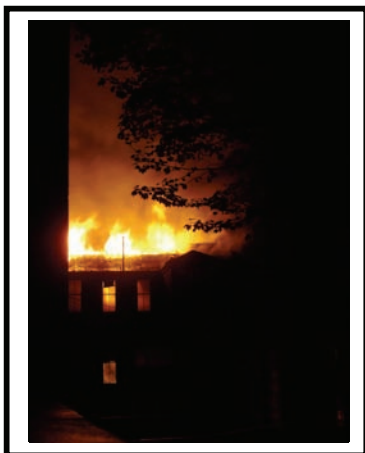
## GOW & LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

- ❖ **Climate Change March: Saturday, 6th December 2008**
- ❖ **GOW Clean Up: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008, 2PM** - Mulled wine, mince pies, brooms and spades.
- ❖ **Offshore: OMG! (Oh My God!) evening, January 2009** - Local gals share excerpts of their personal diaries (I know, I squirmed a little too). Loads of laughs and maybe even a wee greet or two. Check the GOW website for updated event information.
- ❖ **Uisge Beathe Folk Night: Every Thursday and Sunday** – Got a fiddle, flute, banjo or guitar? Jump in and jam with old and young in the cozy candle lit tavern space. Grab a spot at one of the long wooden tables and enjoy a dram, a pint and song! You may end up crooning with the folk...and it's a gem of a night for out of town visitors.
- ❖ **Otago Framers: "22 new small paintings", Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm**  
Fine artist, Jessica Wolfson, has a new exhibition with Lucy Ogg. Jessica, a former Glasgow School of Art student, lived at 97 Otago for over ten years and we're proud to support her. The exhibition is on to **13<sup>th</sup> December**, so take a short walk to view some great art.
- ❖ **YOUR EVENT CAN BE LISTED HERE! WE WANT TO KNOW...AND GO! DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH GOW RESIDENTS?**

PLEASE CONTACT US: [GOWCOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GOWCOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM)

**Bolshie**, our local independent ethically minded store, has teamed up with GOW to offer a **free cup of tea or coffee with the voucher in the insert**. Take the voucher to redeem. Bolshie can be found on Bank Street.

The clothing shop is stocking some fantastic Christmas gifts, including 'Pants to Poverty' underwear. Worn for a good cause! Pop along to sip, browse or buy...



*Fire at Lilybank Terrace,  
November 2008*

In a more recent and dire incident, a Lilybank Terrace building was gutted by fire. Prior to the accident, it was in the process of renovations to create residential apartments. At one time, this local treasure housed the private Laurel Bank School, for girls.

As the second listed building to be consumed by fire in a matter of two weeks, questions are being asked as to the cause of the damage. Visit [www.gowcommunity.com](http://www.gowcommunity.com) for a link to The Herald.



### PHOTOS ABOVE:

Mosaic Bees, Mosaic Workshop-  
Sept '08, The Viragoes performing  
and Gibson Street revellers at the  
June '08 Gala

### ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD:

Over the last few years, our lovely cleaning lady, Cathy, has been providing invaluable cleaning services (at an excellent rate!) to several GOW residents.

So, if you could do with a hand, give Cathy a call on 0141 945 0516.

-Trish Regan, Westbank Quadrant



# TALES FROM WEST END DAYS GONE BY

## *Once upon a time...*

**On Park Road in the 1950's**, there was a feisty young girl named May, who was employed by her father, Valerio, at the West End Park Café. Business was slow in Glasgow's West End but there was a steady stream of locals settling into the café's wooden booths - ornate with etched painted glass at the top of the partitions - warming up with a cup of coffee or for a meal of beans or pie. Youngsters were enticed by big jars of sweets located behind an old mahogany counter.

Valerio's very own homemade tablet was made in the back of the shop. An older lady scored it into squares while two young girls wrapped and packed it into boxes...well, what tablet was left after they nibbled away at it!

One day, while the ladies and May worked away at preparing the tablet, there was an instant and unexplainable explosion, sending a fiery blast up toward the shelves above the gas cooker. The older lady threw salt on the flames but poor May had panicked, shooting off through the shop, running like billy-o toward the red telephone pillar-box outside the primary school.

In the frenzy, a strap to her sandal broke, so there went May flopping across the road cursing the shop, the fire and the tablet!

With one sandal attached, and another dangling from her foot, she lifted the phone and yelled "999!" Soon the entire fire brigade was upon the shop, but the 'inferno' had seemingly fizzled out on it's own.

"Did you *really* have to call the fire brigade?!" Her father asked. Being an Italian, he probably would have handled the fire himself. The fire brigade assured May she had done the right thing. Eventually, and most understandably, her father moved their dessert-making to a small factory towards Alexandria. Suffice to say, May cannot bear to eat tablet to this day.

***Is there a lesson in this, you might ask? Of course...  
Always wear sensible shoes.***



*Valerio and May Occardi, circa 1954-55*

**The West End Park Café** ended its run on Park Road, reinventing itself as The Caledonian Café on Dumbarton Road in the mid 1950's. Today, the Shish Mahal stands on Park Rd where the West End Park Café used to be.

The building currently hosting Sonny and Vito's Deli on Park Road once boasted Arnold Clark's very first car showroom! Perhaps famished auto shoppers enjoyed a pie at Valerio's cafe.

The aforementioned red telephone pillar-box by the *primary school*? Yes, you guessed it...the former school building is now known as The Primary Bar.

May recalled some of their customers: school children who walked her up the road as she caught the bus home, and a glamorous, posh young couple- a well dressed gentleman and his beautiful, heavily made up wife (perhaps a model or actress) with her hair pulled back, wearing a fur stole.

As she tells me this I am transported, as if I too was with her in the café, watching the various interesting visitors and locals, imagining what life was like outside by observing those coming inside.



FROM ALL OF US AT GOW, HAVE A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ENJOY A LOVELY, WARM AND SAFE HOLIDAY...