

Well hello my Dearies,

My, the election's looming and guess what, just like Joan Bakewell down South I have been approached to represent the over 80s for Scotland! I was so honoured I had to sit down and have a wee sherry. The letter came from 10 Downing Street and said that the Prime Minister was so impressed by my column in the GOW newsletter. Apparently he gets it delivered to his house in Scotland every few months and can clearly identify with me. You see, he is a middle class lad and in a different life he and Sarah may well live in the GOW, and if things do not work out next month he may be here even sooner!

I also see that the wives of the prospective leaders are now getting out helping their husbands, is there a governmental name for wags? However there has been no sign of Alec Salmond's wife; she'll be back home baking the pies I suspect.

In my new role I have been thinking what I should campaign on. We do have free care for the elderly but I am sure the service could be better! I would be keen to hear your views. Perhaps meals on wheels from Greggs the bakers would be a good start? There must be a good few residents in the GOW of my age and I ask for your support. Come on oldies, lift up your sticks, throw off your scarves, be rid of your zimmers and let's make these young people's life hell! Open the windows, have T dances at full blast, through off your thermals and let the wrinkles fly. I urge you all to help me in my campaign.

Who knows I could be representing you very soon (here's hoping).

May your party go with you.

**Spinster of this Parish**

## School developments

As everyone will have seen the new school has been coming along swiftly and the full height of the structure can now be seen. The first part of the bridge that is to join the school building and the community building at the back was delivered on Monday 12th April and required a police escort due to the wide load coming from the other side of the country!



Apologies from the construction team for any late night noise on Wednesday 14th April. This was due to the pouring of concrete on the community building top floor and so required some polishing to be carried out a bit later into the evening.

## GOW Dates

Back-court Clean up:  
Sun, 2nd May ~ 2:00 PM

Meeting @ Offshore:  
Mon 3rd May ~ 6:30 PM

Sun, 6th June ~ 2:00 PM

Mon, 7th June ~ 6:30 PM



## CONTACTS

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**Graffiti - Fly Tipping**  
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# GOW Community Newsletter May 2010

## Flowers, pretty flowers, lovely flowers everywhere!

There were four volunteers for this month's Clean Up and gardening activities in the back court. The main task was planting the large tubs at the backcourt entrance in time for the lovely weather to arrive. They did a great job as anyone walking along Westbank Quadrant may have noticed. For anyone wanting to get involved in next month's Clean Up and help keep our lovely garden tip top for our enjoyment in the summer then join us out back at 2.00pm on Sunday 2nd May.



## Gala News

Gibson St Gala will be held on 20 June 2010 from 12.00 till 6.00pm.

The planning group for the Gala (which comprises a mix of Traders, residents and West End Festival organisers) have had four meetings to date. At the time of writing, the road closure, logo for this year's gala and advertising have been organised. There has also been some success in obtaining a grant to allow for free children's activities on the day with more applications undergoing consideration. GOW will provide a repeat of last year, working with Tchai Ovna and using our own backcourt to host a mini festival with acoustic events only. There will also be art along the Westbank railings. Anyone interested in applying for an art space should contact Marianne Vosloo at [mariannesmith298@msn.com](mailto:mariannesmith298@msn.com). Get involved and join hands in a circle and hope for sun (or at least not rain).

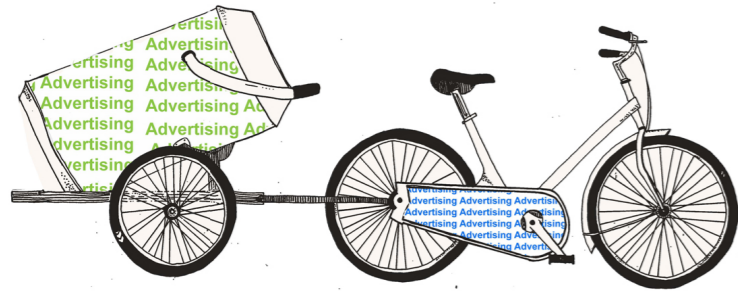
In addition, the Gibson Street Gala intends to team up with Glasgow Mela who are also having their festival on Sunday the 20th of June in Kelvingrove Park (in the area between Kelvin Way and Kelvingrove St). Glasgow Mela is a multi-cultural family festival based on the traditions of the Indian sub-continent and the Gala and Mela intend to share some workshops at both of the events. For more information on Glasgow Mela see: [www2.seeglasgow.com/glasgowmela/mela](http://www2.seeglasgow.com/glasgowmela/mela)

For more information on the Gala please visit the website at: [www.gibsonstgala.co.uk](http://www.gibsonstgala.co.uk)



## Hooray! Mobile Can Crusher!

GOW (thanks to Craig Walker) has been successful in the application to Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS) for the funding of £4840 to obtain a mobile can crusher which will be attached to a bicycle. The funds also provide for the cost of secure storage in GOW and for the hire of operators to take recycling to local events. Also, once established, advertising revenue will be sought and there may be a small income from recycled drinks cans which can be ploughed back into our community. If anyone is interested in applying as an operator when the trailer arrives (around early May!) and taking recycling to the people then please get in touch via the usual GOW contact details on the back page of the newsletter. Get fit and earn some pocket money during the summer!



## New Arrivals!

The first of our new arrivals is wee Mila Coco born 10th March 2010! A new resident of Westbank Quadrant, little Mila is a welcomed joy to our neighbourhood and apparently all is well "apart from lack of sleep, stinking of nappies, and a lifetime of responsibility!" Good luck mummy and daddy!



Whilst Mila has been settling in for over a month now, our next new arrival is still on its way but should be with us in the next few weeks. The premises formerly known as iCafe at no 15 Gibson St is undergoing a change which will see it transformed into an up market coffee house which roasts its own beans in-house. The new establishment is to be named Artisan Roast and will soon be enticing everyone in with its freshly roasted aromas, mmm...



## Vaisakhi

Anyone out in Otago St/Gibson St on the morning of Sunday 11th April will have been lucky to see the wonderfully colourful parade to celebrate the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi which takes place on the 13/14th of April every year. This Gurburb, as it is called in Punjabi, celebrates the day in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the order of the Khalsa, the community of baptised Sikhs.



## Mosaic Workshop

We are having a GOW Mosaic Workshop on **Tuesday July 6th** free to participants

## Witte Fietsenplan (White Bike Plan)

As part of the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art, NVA re-enacted the infamous Witte Fietsenplan (White Bike Plan) for Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art 2010.



*"The White Bicycle Plan proposes to create bicycles for public use that cannot be locked. The white bicycle symbolizes simplicity and healthy living, as opposed to the gaudiness and filth of the authoritarian automobile."* Provo manifesto

### THE ORIGINAL PROVO PLAN

The original Witte Fietsenplan (White Bike plan) was an anarchic free transport programme and the most famous manifesto of the Provos, the Dutch counter culture movement of the 1960's. They released 50 or so, free to use, specially painted white bikes which were scattered across the city of Amsterdam. This was done as a statement against the rise of consumerism, pollution and congestion caused by the privately owned vehicle. Although the action was short-lived due to theft and vandalism, Provo members used seats on the local council to propose further large-scale white bike plans. The initiative stands as the source inspiration for the Public Use Bicycle (PUB) systems which have been updated and 'officially' replicated in cities worldwide.

### NVA's WHITE BIKE PLAN

NVA's White Bike Plan is a reference to, and reinvigoration of, a key legacy from the political, philosophical and ecological directives of the Dutch Provo movement. NVA have released 50 white bikes across the city. There was a Ride Out to launch our White Bikes on Thursday 15th April. Our very own Joe of GEAR, the bike shop on Gibson St, has been involved with the White Bike plan. Riders met at Kelvingrove Park at 11.30am. All 50 bikes then rode en masse from Kelvingrove Park to George Square where at 12.30 there was an action and proclamation of the original manifesto. Anyone nicking a bike could expect to have it nicked straight back from them and put back into circulation! The Glasgow International audience was free to use these bikes to travel around town and between venues for the duration of the festival, which runs from 16th April – 3rd May 2010. Following the festival period, the remaining bikes will be donated for further public use around Glasgow especially to small local schemes where bike provision would be useful.

## Scaffolding – Yes we're still talking about scaffolding!

The refurbishment of No1 Westbank Quadrant and the removal of the scaffolding will be complete by May. Substantial repairs schemes involving scaffolding are expected to take place at No 99 and at No103 Otago Street later this year. This will involve scaffolding at the front and back of the buildings.