

The Portobello REPORTER

The independent voice of Portobello

CEILIDH ON THE PROM



Photo by Peter Ross

THE Portobello-based Belle Star Band held a very successful ceilidh at the band-stand on Portobello Prom on the afternoon of 3rd May. A good crowd of adults and children danced or tapped their feet to the music and enjoyed an interval performance by our local clown, Tip Top Tim. This free event was timed to coincide with a 'Ceilidh Culture' season organised by the City Council and publicity material was sponsored by Portobello Community Council. Electric power was kindly supplied by the Seabeach Nursery.

DOG FOULING ON BEACH

DOG walkers on Portobello beach are being urged to act responsibly to ensure it meets this year's Bathing Waters Standards. Locals are concerned that dog fouling has reached epidemic levels and responsible owners are furious with those who come from outwith the area and do not clean up.

Scottish Water has spent £100m upgrading sewers in the area to help bring the beach up to European standards, but spokesperson Barbara Barbarito says this must be backed up by the actions of the public: "Dog fouling can lead to an increase in bacterial levels in water and this could prevent Portobello's beaches from reaching Bathing Waters Standards", she said.

Huw Thomas, local Environment Protection Officer for SEPA agrees: "We are asking dog owners to be responsible and think of other beach users. By using a poop scoop or a bag to clean up mess they are contributing more positively to the environment."

Mike Drewry, Director of the City's Environmental and Consumer Services, says: "There are more than 50 litter bins along Portobello promenade for disposal, or dog owners can take waste home. Although at present fixed penalties cannot be issued for fouling on beaches, from November the new Dog Fouling Bill will require dog owners to clear up their dog's mess by law."

SEE US ON-LINE

AN on-line version of your community newspaper can now be seen on Portobello's Community website. So tell all your ex-Portobello friends and relations overseas to log on to www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk and click on Local News, then they can send us their news and comments direct by email to portobelloreporter@talk21.com

PUBLIC PRAISE FOR CABs

SCOTLAND's frontline Citizens Advice Bureaux have received an overwhelming vote of confidence from the public, according to a new MORI survey of users and non-users of the service. Joyce Boyd, manager of the Portobello CAB, one of 70 taking part in the survey said: "People still turn to CABs as a first stop for help. As society becomes more complex, the need for independent and impartial advice is more pressing than ever. Here at Portobello we now have a dedicated Money Advice Worker who will be available to see clients with debt and money problems, a huge and growing part of the Bureau's workload."

"Every CAB is a charity that has to raise its own funding. Given that 90% of advisers are trained volunteers, CABs offer fantastic value for money".

ALLOTMENTS 80th ANNIVERSARY



MARCH 2003 marked the 80th Anniversary of the Craigentiny Garden Allotment Association, which was celebrated with a get-together on April 3rd. It was also a celebration of their successful campaign to stop the Telferton site from being developed for housing, which is well documented in the press cuttings book and TV video clips that were on display.

Retiring Association secretary Susan Burns, who was a driving force in the campaign, is seen here cutting the anniversary cake.

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Your Community Newspaper produced by local people.

GoldenDays

BUILDING on the success of last year's pilot event, and after talks with local people, this year's Golden Days Festival will take place on Portobello Prom and Beach on Saturday 14 June from 12.30 till 4.30pm. Events and activities will be based around the 'Golden Era' of family beach holidays from the 30s to the 60s:-

- Children's entertainers and pony rides between Funpark and Bath Street.
- Solo musicians and film footage of music from the 50s and 60s, at The Old Pier, at the foot of Bath Street.
- A stage at Straiton Place, featuring performances from local groups; jive/swing dance demos by top teachers, compered by local crooner Craig McMurdo.
- A retro collectables show at the Swim Centre, and old records, bric-a-brac or clothes for sale.
- A collection of classic vehicles by the old John Street paddling pool, including huge American cars.
- A live music stage presenting country, rockabilly and blues bands at The Bedford House Hotel.
- A team sandcastle competition - maximum collective age 100!
- Forth 2 will present a live broadcast from 2.00 till 4.00 pm and a range of additional beach activities are planned.
- The day will be rounded off with an evening show in the Town Hall featuring one of the top swing bands in Europe - Maria Vincent & The Millionaires. Tickets are only £6.00, with OAP and under 18s free of charge.

The main sponsor of the event is the Millennium Commission's 'You and Your Community' awards scheme, and publicity material is being sponsored by the City Council. This will be a marvellous opportunity to invite your friends and family to the beach for the day.
Gordon Mackay

THE BEAT GOES ON

AFTER more than 20 years service in Portobello, PC Graham Jeffery has moved to the South Queensferry police area, under the new policing arrangements for Edinburgh, introduced on April 1st.

Graham came to Portobello in 1979 and worked first in cars before going on foot patrol. After a short spell in Leith as a crime prevention officer, it was good to see him back on the beat here in the mid-1980s. He was always happy, too, to lend a reassuring presence and enter into the spirit of things at community events of the time, such as the Joppa Kids fireworks nights, the Victorian Splash and Community Festival. More recently he was part of the local Community Team and helped organise 'Crucial Crew', a programme of realistic sets in which local primary pupils learn how to deal with emergency situations.

Graham now lives in Dunfermline so he will have a much easier journey to work each day, but he was really sorry to leave Portobello: 'I've been here so long, it will be quite a break', he told us before he left, 'and I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation and friendship over the years. It made my job so much easier'. Graham inspired that friendship with a ready smile, and help and advice when needed. He will certainly be missed.
B.M.



'LOCAL LAD' BREAKS INTO FILM

LOCAL Deli owner Graham Kitchener has been trying to get into film making for some time. He has now set up High Point Films Ltd and his first documentary will be screened at the Film House, Lothian Road on Saturday June 14. Entitled 'A Hell on Earth' this is a moving interview with a Tibetan monk now living in exile in India, who tells of his ordeal of wrongful imprisonment and torture by the occupying Chinese, and a three-month journey across the Himalayas, that almost cost him his life. Further information from Filmhouse.

PORTY PROFILE No. 14 MARION KENNY

Marion is well known for her work in local schools, and is a seasoned performer and experienced teacher of creative arts. Originally from Birmingham, and a graduate of Exeter University with a Degree in Music and Drama, she came to Portobello nine years ago with her son Jamie, "I love the openness of Portobello and all the local shops and feeling that you're part of a community" she said of her adopted home.

A talented musician, circus performer, dancer and traditional story teller, she has been playing music since the age of four and teaching piano and flute since she was 19. She has performed extensively throughout the UK at festivals and special events such as for Mel Gibson, at the launch of 'Braveheart' at Stirling Castle, for Prince Charles and the Emir of Qatar.

Marion's love of music and story telling has been passed on to her son Jamie, a first year student at Portobello High, who is a talented musician studying traditional and classical violin and has told traditional stories at public performances.

In 1996 Marion studied the spear and sword 'Triumph Dances of the Woman Warrior' at the Peking Opera School in Beijing where she also studied Chinese flute and harp. The following year she studied the 'Baris Warrior Dances' which are the sacred inner temple dances at the Indonesian Academy of Music and Dance in Bali.

She has just returned from a tour of New Zealand. While there, and with a grant from the Scottish Arts Council, Marion was privileged to study traditional Maori stories with the tribal chief in the Whakatane region of the North Island, and hopes to perform some of these at this year's Story Telling Festival at the Netherbow. "It felt like a huge honour to be really welcomed by Poroto Ngawea and his family", said Marion of her experience of living in the Marae, the traditional meeting house of the tribe, with the family. Never one to take it easy, Marion also gave workshops to Toro Toro the leading Maori Pacific dance company, who will be performing at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

After reading the article in last autumn's *Reporter* Marion contacted Sherryl Charles in Portobello, NZ; this led to an exchange project between Portobello School and St. John's which Marion organised, where the children made audio CD's of music and stories to give to each other and learned something of each others lives and history.

Not unexpectedly Marion has a busy summer ahead with the release of an album with the Sanskrit Sound System called 'Original Language', performing at the Story Telling Festival and being Story Teller In Residence at the International Book Festival. PR



Photo by Peter Ross

YOUTH CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

ALTHOUGH these problems have been a regular cause for Police concern, under the new 'Single City Division' introduced on 1st April, Officers in the 'Portobello Sector' should have the time and resources to tackle them.

We are addressing the issues on two fronts, firstly by working with our partner agencies on alternative options for young people to 'hang about on the streets': we are working with Jacqui Morton, Council Community Safety Development Officer, with the backing and support of local Councillors, and with Elaine McCafferty, an Outreach Co-ordinator, who will seek the views of young people and enlist their participation.

Secondly, Officers have a duty to 'police' the area, to ensure that residents have a reasonable quality of life, and Community Beat Officers have been patrolling on foot, tackling youth issues along with their other duties.

The new Portobello Sector has introduced a two-fold policy of dealing with these problems. Where specific crimes or offences have been committed and there is evidence to substantiate this, offenders will be reported to the relevant authorities. Where youths congregate and engage in anti-social behaviour, such as drinking, smashing bottles and minor vandalism, and there is no evidence to report a specific offence, letters will be sent to parents/guardians, outlining the behaviour of the group, and highlighting the presence of the child, whether directly involved or not. If young people repeat this behaviour, they will be spoken to in the presence of parents/guardians and the circumstances reported to the appropriate authorities. To date 42 letters have been sent and a number of offences reported.

Anti-social behaviour by our local youths is not exclusively a police problem, however, and the encouragement, co-operation and active support of the local community is sought.

Inspector Bob Wardrop

FESTIVAL OF LEARNING 2003

ARE you involved in a voluntary sector organisation? Do you provide lifelong learning opportunities locally? Would you like the chance to promote your activities and recruit new members?

You are invited to take part in this annual event taking place on Saturday, September 6th in Portobello Town Hall. Stall holders have the chance to

inform local people about their services and to learn about what else is going on in the community. Last year over 300 people attended and found it interesting and informative.

If you would like to be involved, or want more information, please contact Gary Spence on 657 2607 or e-mail gary.spence@educ.edin.gov.uk.

MAKING A CLEAN SWEEP

THE recent re-introduction of a barrow beat in Portobello after many years has made a big difference to the tidiness of the area and has been very favourably commented on by local people. Now, thanks to additional Scottish Executive money under its 'Quality of Life' initiative, the man-with-a-barrow will be on our beat on a daily basis instead of just five days as before. Along with the containerisation of domestic waste and more litter bins, this should help make Portobello a clean and tidy place to live in and to visit - but that depends on everyone's co-operation.

An Environmental Enforcement Officer was also recently appointed to deal with eyesores such as abandoned cars, uncontained trade waste, shops' litter - and dog fouling. To be really effective he needs information from the public on registration numbers and locations of cars and reports of other problems. He can be contacted on 669 1389.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

H E Anderson, who now lives in England, was born and brought up in Portobello. He left in 1955 to do his National Service and would like to contact old friends Davie Wright, formerly

of Bellfield Street (then Melville St) and Rab Lane, of Ramsay Lane. He can be contacted c/o Melton Mowbray RFC, Burton Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 1DR (tel. 01664 563342).

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NEWS IN BRIEF

GET UP AND GO! The second edition of the Council's Get up and Go brochure details events, activities and clubs across the city for older people and particularly those who have difficulty getting out to participate.

Activities include social, educational, cultural, sport and leisure events: learn to meditate, do Egyptian Belly Dancing at Portobello Swim Centre, try creative writing or have a go at woodwork. For more info. visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/getupandgo

LOCAL 'FRINGE' EVENT PLANNED:

For the first time, a local venue in Portobello will be presenting a variety of shows and performances during the Festival Fringe, under the umbrella 'Portobello Open Door', from 7-19 August. The main venue will be the Old Pier Pub at the foot of Bath Street on the Prom. The event will be listed in the Fringe programme - Look out also for local publicity.

There will be an evening of entertainment, to raise funds for POD, in Portobello Town Hall on Friday 27th June from 8.00pm until late. For tickets, call 07905 535 391.

WELL DONE POSTIE!

A letter from England addressed to: The Editor, Portobello Advertiser, Portobello, Midlothian, EH15 arrived at the Bedford Terrace address of The Portobello Reporter in April, the next day after posting. We must be well known at the local sorting office.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION,

which celebrates its 60th birthday this year, is a leading Service membership charity whose aim is to care for the whole Air Force family. Membership is open to serving and ex-service RAF and ex-Royal Observer Corps personnel, and family and friends can apply for Associate Membership. The Edinburgh Branch is looking for new members; if you are eligible, please write to Royal Air Forces Association, 20 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JX, or call 225 5221.

WHAT'S ON

SILENT AUCTION: Monday 16th June, 7pm, in Old Parish Church Halls, Bellfield St.

THE CAFÉ LOUNGE in the Old Parish Church, Bellfield St, celebrates its first five years and the organisers thank all volunteers and regular customers for their support. A selection of food is served on weekdays from 10am-2pm and there are facilities and ramp access for disabled people.

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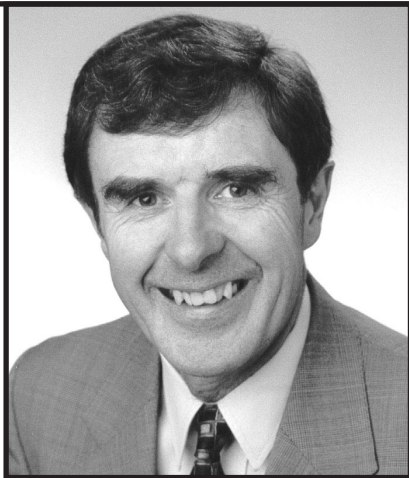
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GAVIN STRANG,
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sessions:



On the 2nd Friday in the month;
between 11.00am and 12noon in the YWCA, 198 Restalrig Road South,
or between 7.30pm and 8.30 pm in the Portobello Town Hall.

On the last Saturday in the month
between 9.00 am and 10.00 am in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh,
or between 10.30 am and 11.30 am in the Craigmillar Community
Centre, 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace.

You may also make an appointment to discuss a problem or raise an issue with Gavin Strang: Please phone 669 6002 or write to

Gavin Strang MP
Constituency Office
54 Portobello High Street,
Edinburgh EH15 1DA

or e-mail him at: gillana@parliament.uk

You can also visit his website: www.gavinstrangmp.co.uk

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IMPROVING PORTOBELLO

A WORKING Group has been in place for two years now, with representatives from various Council departments and members of the Community Council and Amenity Society, with the aim of identifying and seeing through improvements around Portobello.

So far, new seats and litter bins have been placed along the Prom and bollards have replaced rusty railings at road ends from Bellfield Street to Bath Street; this will be continued along the rest of the Prom this summer. Much of the sea-wall railings are in poor condition, but the wall itself requires repair first and this is expected to be done in the next financial year. The large wooden tubs near Bath Street have been taken way for renovation and planting and will soon be returned. The area at Pipe Street toilets is to be improved.

The proposed application for a Seaside Award has been postponed, though not abandoned, partly because of the difficulties in funding lifeguards/beach patrol.

Information boards have been installed on the Prom and the three large Scottish Water boards, with inaccurate maps, will be removed. Finger posts have been placed on the High Street and Prom, 13 in all, to point visitors to the Beach, Post Office, Swim Centre, Tennis Courts and so on.

The Shop Front Initiative has had a good response from shop owners on the High Street who want to restore their premises to the original with the aid of a Council grant.

CHEERIO AND THANKS

“We would like to thank our customers for all their support during our 30 years at 266 Portobello High Street. We have had many good wishes for the future. It is nice to know that our services were appreciated - We will miss you, also.

John & Bill Thomson

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET

KRISTOFFERSEN Carpets are celebrating ten years in business. In 1993 Norrie Kristoffersen opened the first branch on Portobello High Street, just round the corner from his home in Marlborough Street, and in 1997 the company won the Start-Up category in the Lothian Business Excellence Awards. Ten years on, this ‘home grown’ enterprise has four branches and an At Home service.

Although Norrie and his family have moved elsewhere, he misses Portobello and enjoys the occasional day in his first shop. He says: “I’d like to thank all my local customers and friends for their great support”, and we appreciate his support of this newspaper by placing regular adverts.

PROMOTING LOCAL BUSINESS

THE City of Edinburgh Council has recently been assisting the retailers in Portobello to promote themselves. Following on from the pilot marketing project when a commercial ran on Radio Forth One and Two for two weeks during the Easter holidays, a marketing strategy has now been prepared. This focuses on a number of initiatives that Portobello retailers could adopt in order to promote their businesses, either as a group or individually. Copies of the strategy are available from Sarah Bryson at City of Edinburgh Council, Tel: 529 3468.

FAREWELL TESS

MANY readers will remember the sound of a horse’s hooves and the sight of a bonny black mare around their streets during the last 10 years. Tess of the Fairfield, who spent several winters at her stable at Fairfield Cottage, Windsor Place, became well kent to young and old as she walked out for her daily exercise along Mount Lodge, Argyle Crescent, the Coillesdenes and on the beach, where she enjoyed a splash along the shoreline and a canter on the sands.

Children came running to clap her, overjoyed to see such a lovely large animal virtually on their doorstep, and babies were held at windows for a glimpse of her when parents and grandparents heard the sound of iron on stone, so familiar until the 1960s when horses disappeared from our streets. Tess brought back memories to some, and introduced many youngsters to the beauty of horses and the special relationship we have with them.

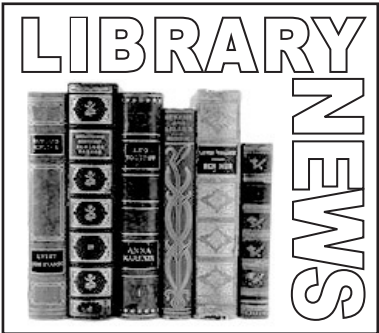
Her breeding was mainly from the Fell pony and, although larger than the pure Fell, she had the characteristic black colouring, long flowing mane and tail and silky ‘feathers’ at the back of her heels.

Sadly, Tess died on April 16th aged 14, after a lengthy incurable lameness, but in her time she brought pleasure to many and made a special contribution to the community.

Geraldine Gould

TOO GOOD TO MYTH

THE good news for children everywhere is that the Summer Holidays start on Friday 27th June. After the novelty wears off, what to do? Easy - come to the Library – we will register you for our prize-winning Summer Reading Promotion and invite you to enjoy the holidays with a book in your hand! The library is planning some fun events to tie in with the promotion (which, as usual, will encourage reading at least six books over the holidays, with an award at the end.) This year, the theme is ‘The Reading Maze’. After puzzling for ages, we realised it was a ‘golden’ excuse to read lovely Greek myths like ‘Jason and the Argonauts’ and ‘The Minotaur’, as inspiration for some crafty events, such as dressing up, eating Greek snacks, making a ‘Classical Frieze’ and learning ‘Zorba the Greek’! Look out for the invitation forms coming to your schools at the end of this term. Kalispera!



POP UP TO OUR DROP-IN...

FAST, free Internet access is available in the library now, but what if you don’t feel quite confident to fly a computer on your own? The library staff have all had computer training up to European Computer Driving Licence standard, and we enjoy helping customers with computers. The main library is often too busy to allow for much time, but if you can come on Monday afternoons or Friday mornings to the ‘Drop-In’ sessions in the upstairs room, you can try taster sessions with staff assistance on hand, and return every week until you feel confident. To book in, please ask at the library counter.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD

LIBRARY fines increased to 15p per day per item from 23rd April, as part of the Council Budget, so mark the return date on your kitchen calendar, and if you cannot return items on that day, phone or visit the library to renew – this is quickly done (remember you need your library card!) If there are other circumstances, or books are damaged, please don’t worry – just let us know as soon as possible.

Some charges reduced in April – floppy disks are now on sale at 50p, and photocopying charges are down to 15p a sheet for 1-9 copies, 10p for 10-50 copies, and 5p for 51 or more.

CHANGING ROOMS

BY spring 2004 the library is due to have automatic entrance doors, a lift to the first floor, and improved toilet facilities. Plans are in preparation to move the library counter into the hallway area, improve the shelving layout, and provide extra computer facilities on the main floor. The building will also get an external facelift. Detailed plans will be displayed as soon as they are available

Joyce Campbell

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20 STATION ROAD, NEWTONGRANGE 0131 660 9799

3

AN ADDRESS TO PORTOBELLO PEOPLE

THIS address is of a practical kind, and bears on the vital question of the health of Portobello. It is the address of a Portobello resident, and may prove of infinitely more value to Portobello people than a hundred addresses by a world-renowned politician.

Mr F Donnelly, of 16 High Street, Portobello says:-

“For the past 20 years I have been a great sufferer from pains across the small of my back and loins that troubled me a good deal, and were at times so severe that they interfered with my business. There were some days when I was so bad that I hardly knew how to hold up at all.

I have also suffered from loss of appetite, bad memory, fitful and broken rest, and I would often rise in the morning more tired than when I went to bed at night.

My kidneys have been in a very bad state and have given me no end of trouble. I have tried everything to get cured, but without success, and as for doctors I think I must have consulted 100 at least in different parts of the country, and none of them could do anything for me.

It was about this time that we began to hear of — Backache and Kidney Pills in Portobello and the great good they were doing Portobello people, so I went to Mr Findlay, the chemist, and obtained a box from him and as soon as I began to take them I felt relieved.

I have continued to take the pills, and I am pleased to say I feel quite a different man. I am quite free from pain, my kidneys seem to act naturally and more freely, and I can honestly recommend ——— Backache Kidney Pills to any who suffer as I did.

(Signed) F. Donnelly”

Before similarly afflicted readers write and telephone *The Reporter* for details of this wonderful medicament we have to point out that the above is an example of the personal testimony type of advertisement that would have been a common feature in the pages of our predecessor *The Portobello Advertiser*. It is in fact one of a collection of press cuttings dating from the late 1890s to the early 1900s from that journal contained in a small scrapbook given to the local history society by a descendant of two

members of the old Portobello Town Council, Baillie Douglas and Cllr. Smart. They are a record of mainly council, golf club, church, and political items concerning Portobello, Musselburgh and Edinburgh, and one can only speculate as to why Mr. Donnelly’s kidney problems were considered to be worth preserving for posterity.

Dinners and soirees feature pretty often and included is a report of the speech made by Ex-Provost Wood at the dinner to

celebrate the merger of Portobello and Edinburgh in 1896. After recounting the achievements of the Portobello Burgh Council in housing provision, public health and other areas he went on to say, “This was a memorable day in connection with Portobello. It was an epoch making day...He had himself great expectations. He looked forward to the time when Edinburgh would improve their beautiful beach, which all of them were proud of. That beach, they knew, was second to none in the

empire. Bathing could be carried out with the greatest safety and satisfaction. He was satisfied Edinburgh would take advantage of this, and would do all it could to improve the burgh. By doing so it was enhancing its own prosperity.” Our aspirations may not have changed a lot over the 100 years or so since the amalgamation but perhaps our expectation level is set a trifle lower.

Archie Foley

Warners

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DIG OUT THOSE OLD PHOTOS

I HAD always wondered about the sepia photograph cards, passed down to me, of family members I scarcely knew. The names on the back meant little and many of the photographic businesses had long since gone. Then I was recommended a website www.edinphoto.org.uk - a jewel of a site that gives more than just information about Edinburgh photography. I was able to track the studios and photographers of my cards, see other examples of their work and pore over Edinburgh’s photography history since 1839. I smiled at the Photographic Society’s picnics and outings and marvelled at descriptions of its Magic Lantern Slide shows.

Peter Stubbs has created over 3000 pages on his site, with many old photos and engravings and information on early photographic processes.

Included among the professional photographers is a local man, William T Bashford, a miniature painter and photographer who, with his wife, made Portobello his home between 1878 and 1930 and brought up four children. His studio had several different addresses and was described on the back of his photographs and cards as being in ‘NB’ rather than Scotland –NB referring to North Britain, as well as ‘precisely at the tramway terminus.’

This site is definitely worth a visit. Look out your old sepia photographs and if you need help, you can contact Peter through his guestbook.
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LOOKING BACK - PAST ISSUES

JULY/AUG.1982: ‘Film Feast in Portobello’: ‘Chariots of Fire, Gregory’s Girl, Time Bandits ... just a few of the goodies showing in the 1982-3 season of Portobello High School Film Society which, for the first time, was open to the community.

JUNE/JULY 1985: ‘Fringe at the Seaside’: A full page with details of the fun and games planned on the Prom in August – Remember that?

SUMMER 1992: ‘Designer Plan for Portobello Prom’: Details of the report produced for Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise by Peter McGowan Associates on Promenade improvements. They suggested new street furniture, improved signs, more appropriate lighting, new bollards and barriers at street ends, replacement of old sections of sea wall, and new railings.

SUMMER 1993: ‘Sports Centre Bowled Out’: Report on Edinburgh District Council’s decision to replace the Sports and Leisure Complex, long promised for the former Pool site, with an Indoor Bowls Centre. Plans had been submitted for rapid processing and work could start by November. The director of recreation of the time suggested that the main area could be covered in the summer to allow for other sporting activities, and our then councilor said that if there was ‘overwhelming opposition’, the Council would revert to the original plan.

ST MARK’S - 175 NOT OUT

ST MARK’S Episcopal Church celebrated the 175th anniversary of its consecration with a Festival of Music and Flowers from 12 to 17th May. In 1828 Bishop Sandford also consecrated the churchyard so that it could be used as a burial ground despite strenuous opposition from the Kirk-Session of Duddingston. After litigation, the decision went in favour of St Mark’s, which is fortunate as the graveyard and burial registers are invaluable resources for local historians. The following extract is taken from an article written in 1975 by the then Secretary to the Vestry, Gordon Cooper, “The first recorded interment was that of Miss Frances Nicholson aged 80, donor of the first communion vessels. All sorts and conditions of men are buried in our churchyard. To read the early registers is to realise that behind each interment lies a bereavement that was just as real for those who lived and died more than 100 years ago as it would be for us today. -

Margaret Douglas, daughter of Lt. Colonel Douglas, died of “a decline” on 16th August 1834, her father “died of old age and grief” on the 21st.

Lady General McGregor, widow of the late General James Murray McGregor of the Bengal Cavalry.

Rice Forsyth, proprietor of the popular line of stage coaches to Edinburgh, and all his family.

Samuel Johnston, aged 28, died from the effects of injuries received on the Leith and Dalkeith Railway, 1845.

Clementina Wemyss Dewar aged 27, relict of the late Hon. Sir James Dewar, Chief Justice of Bombay.

John Henderson, of Glasgow, workman in search of employment, died of consumption in 1837, interred by the Glassmakers Guild.

Emma Gooding, from Bristol, died aged 34, in childbirth, “Interred free as her husband is perfectly destitute with six young children.”

Widow McKenzie, aged 80, from “the house” a parish pauper

Charles Neelson, Post Boy to his uncle, Postmaster Edinburgh, drowned by the sea on the night of February 12th, returning from Prestonpans.

The seven children of Robert Farmer, labourer, Easter Duddingston, born with monotonous regularity at 12 to 18 month intervals and all dead within a few months of birth, and the three sad little children of “Captain and Mrs. Wright, at present in India, from Mrs. Pine’s lodgings.” All three aged between 4 and 12 years died within 2 years.

All these: — Lady General McGregor, the masons, miniature makers, glass makers, potters, gilders, straw hat makers, labourers and paupers, deserve a decent and seemly setting for their earthly remains.”

PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

AT the time of writing we are coming up to the last monthly meeting of our session on 11th June. This will be our AGM followed by a general knowledge Quiz, which if past experience is a guide will be fought in a highly competitive manner.

This has been an active and successful year for the society with a small but not insignificant increase in membership, continuing the experience of the previous year. We were very much involved in the build up to the unveiling of the Hugh Miller plaque and the associated exhibition in Portobello Library. This was very highly praised and all credit for its success must go to the library staff. The society was very pleased to make a contribution to the cost of a Miller plaque erected by the Cromarty Arts Trust on the wall of the City Chambers in the Royal Mile.

The society used one of its meeting nights to mount an exhibition of some Portobello photographs, documents and artefacts from the collection that it has accumulated since its inception. A very pleasing feature of this evening was the number of non-members who came along and it is something we will repeat before too long. The May meeting was an outing to the Bank of Scotland Head Office and Museum in Edinburgh and this followed the tribute in words and music to Richard Rodgers held in St. Mark’s Church on 2nd April. Over 120 persons turned up to enjoy the presentation by Annabelle Meredith, her husband Harry and pianist Robert Simans, not to mention the excellent buffet supper provided by the church social committee. Already we are being asked, “What are you doing next year?”

Once again members and visitors enjoyed a series of talks on a variety of subjects from first-class speakers to whom we owe a vote of thanks. Another session begins on Wednesday, 3rd September at 7 pm in St. John’s Hall in Brighton Place when we look forward to seeing existing members again and welcoming new ones. Non-members are welcome at all meetings but a donation to our funds will be appreciated.

Archie Foley

PROGRAMME

Wed. 3rd Sept.: John Hackland, *St. Giles’ - Scotland’s Crowning Glory*, [An illustrated talk about the Cathedral and its history].

Wed. 1st Oct.: Ian Campbell, *A Modern Survey of Hugh Miller’s Shrub Mount*. [A report of the findings from a recent examination of the building]

Wed. 5th Nov.: Carmen Demarco, *An Immigrant’s Story*. [How a family from Italy became established in Scotland]

Wed. 3rd Dec.: Geoff Swinney, *William Speirs Bruce – Joppa to Antarctica*. [The remarkable achievements of Scotland’s polar hero (illustrated)]

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FOCUS ON GROUPS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, PORTOBELLO

THE Memorial Club of the Portobello Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland first opened in October 1951 in Tower Street (now Figgate Street) in an Adam style house, once owned by the Rankin family. Due to the club's popularity, however, larger premises were acquired in 1968 at Clifton House in Baileyfield Road, where Portobello's War Memorial stone is now lodged. Facilities there consist of a large function room, lounge, dining room and games room.

There are various sections within the club: Entertainments, providing a full social programme, Women's Section, Over-60s, Charities and Sports. The Sports Section provides indoor and outdoor competitions at local and national level in golf, bowling, angling, snooker, billiards, pool, darts, dominoes and cribbage. Regular car-boot sales at the club are some of the Charity Sections fund-raising activities.

The club is run by an annually elected Management Committee and appointed Board of Trustees; the current President is Mr George Thorburn and Chairman Mr Tom Bauld, BEM. There are currently some 1500 members, with membership open to any man or woman who has served in HM Forces, Merchant Navy, Territorial Army, or the Reserve Forces; there is also limited Associate membership. Further information can be obtained from Mrs A Adams, Secretary, RBLs Portobello Branch, Clifton House, Baileyfield Road, Edinburgh 15.

Walter Herriot

NEW MINISTER FOR ST PHILIP'S

ST PHILIP'S Church, Joppa, recently welcomed its new minister, Rev. Dr Stewart G. Weaver. Stewart grew up near Buffalo, New York, and after studying history for four years at William's College in Massachusetts, worked in a variety of posts: he worked with the homeless in Portland, Oregon, taught English in China for two years, and worked with refugees in Buffalo.

While in China, Stewart met his British wife Katie and in 1992 they moved to Edinburgh. Stewart gained a Bachelor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh, and has a PhD in Hebrew and Old Testament. He has lectured and tutored in these subjects and received ministerial training at churches in South Leith, Winchburgh, Palmerston Place and Wardie. Prior to his call to St Philip's, he worked as a locum minister at St Ninian's-Craigmailen Church in Linlithgow.

Stewart and Katie have two boys, Nicholas (4) and Benjamin (2), and Katie works as a doctor at the Dean Terrace Family Planning and Well Woman Clinic.

So it is with delight, and anticipation that together they might serve the community of Portobello and Joppa, that Stewart comes to St Philip's.

Kenneth Anderson

SUSAN DEACON MSP

INTERVIEW SESSIONS



Susan Deacon will be available on the **last Monday of each month 6pm - 7pm in PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL** and on the **first Thursday of the month 6.30pm - 7.30pm in PIERSHILL LIBRARY**

She also holds monthly interview sessions at other locations in her constituency.

For details please contact **0131-669 6446**

PORTOBELLO AMNESTY

IN recent months the group took part, with local supporters, in vigils, awareness raising events, and lobbying our MP and MSP on the humanitarian and human rights aspects of the war against Iraq. They also further approached the Government on arms controls, specifically the loopholes by which arms brokers, denied a licence in the UK for an ethically dubious transaction, can do the deal from an overseas state.

The group was represented at conferences in Edinburgh on a Scottish Human Rights Commission, and Justice in Sentencing, and also sent a delegate to the Amnesty International Annual Conference in Belfast.

This year's agendas have included women's rights in Russia and in Turkish jails, where sexual torture is common, and persecution of minority groups in Ecuador and China.

Much interest was shown in the Amnesty display in the window of Portobello Library in April and we are grateful to the Library staff for the opportunity to highlight our work for human rights so prominently.

David Turner

CHRISTIAN AID



Moir Mackay with some of her companions.



Kitty Marshall (centre) at the bridge.

THE FORTH ROAD BRIDGE CROSS on 26th April included many representatives from Portobello churches but it is too early to say how much has been raised in total from their sponsorships. The others won't mind if special mention is made of two of their number. Kitty Marshall aged 86 of St. Mark's Episcopal Church once more completed the crossing and vowed to continue until she reaches 90. Her sponsors have promised £105. Moira Mackay of St. Philip's will be asking her sponsors for over £400 after her wheelchair cross in which she was aided by an enthusiastic group from the St Philip's Breakfast Club.

THE MUSIC QUIZ in St. James' Church Hall on 2nd May again proved to be a popular and enjoyable evening out and raised over £400.

HAVE TWINS? NEED SUPPORT?

A **NEW** group has been started locally for anyone who has, or is expecting twins. It is an opportunity to pick other parents' brains about dealing with some situations that are unique to raising twins and to gain invaluable support from people going through the same experience. There is also a health visitor on hand for advice. So come along and have a cup of coffee as well.

The group meets on the first Monday of the month at St Philips Church, Brunstane Road North; for more information contact Susan on 657 1550.

FRIENDS OF ORCADIA

A **FRIENDS** group has recently been set up at the Orcadia Creative Learning Centre in Windsor Place for anyone who would like to be involved with the Centre in some way. A Friends Evening will take place on Wednesday 18th June at 7.30pm and is open to all.

Orcadia is a registered charity that encourages communication through arts, drama and music for children and young people with special needs, learning disabilities and challenging behaviours. A new soft-play area has just been installed, funded by a business group in Glasgow.

Advertising in the Portobello Reporter is a cost effective way to reach a large local market. We distribute to 12,000 homes in the Portobello area. For more information call 669 3466. Next Issue Sept 2003.

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

PORTOBELLO Community Centre unveiled its website at its AGM in April - see it at www.portobello.cc It will have links to other local interest sites. Any feedback would be appreciated.

There are five public access computers, available free of charge - come and try them out! Other facilities at the Centre include photocopying and laminating.

The training sessions - Intro to Computers, How to get an e-mail account and How to use the Internet - have been very popular and successful. There will be more sessions during the Autumn, so register your interest.

Contact Maggie at Portobello Community Centre, 3 Adelphi Grove, EH15 1AP, tel: 669 8275, e-mail enquiries@portobello.cc

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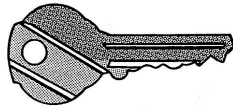
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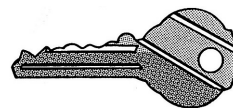
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Portobello Thistle Youth Club U-16 football team beat Dalmore Boys Club 3-2 in the final of the Harrison Cup on 11th May at Ferguson Park, Rosewell. The team are seen here before the kick off with Club Chairman John Ferrier. The cardboard cut out of Halley Berry wearing the number 8 strip, was a tribute to a boy who was unable to play. The team decided she was the next best thing, so they dressed her in his strip!

A HEAD START FOR HOLY ROOD

HOLY ROOD High School has a new headteacher. Lesley Carroll, the school's first female head, has been part of the senior management team for the last four years and says "it is a great honour to be given the opportunity to take the school forward to even greater successes". She is clear that the school's success is down to "high quality staff, who are fully committed to delivering the best for our pupils". Motivated young people and supportive parents are also high on her list. And success there has been aplenty! Whether it is basketball, football, dance, judo or volleyball, Holy Rood pupils have scaled the heights at local and national level. In basketball, the senior boys won the Scottish Schools Cup in Perth in April and the under-14 girls reached the national final. The under-14 boys' football team had a fantastic climax to another great season, winning the League and the Edinburgh Schools League Cup. Dazzling footwork of another kind was on display before Easter in the annual dance show 'Dance Crazy', when over 60 pupils performed amazing routines to a packed and enthusiastic house. Even the staff have joined the act by winning the Edinburgh Teachers Volleyball Tournament for the second year in a row. The trophy cabinet at Holy Rood is gleaming with silverware.

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PORTY YOUTH SCENE

WELL done all the young folk and adult helpers involved in the Portyouth Scene! As a result of the article and questionnaire in *The Reporter* in March, we are now in contact with well over 100 local young people.

The fortnightly Thursday night youth club is attracting an average of 35 young folk and we've recruited eight volunteer youth workers who are undergoing training. We have started an outdoor/camping group and an archery club, and will soon have the staff to run a youth club for younger kids. We've run trips to the Wallace Monument, Perth Swimming Pool and Livingston Skatepark. The behaviour of the young people taking part in all these activities has been excellent.

Portyouth Scene is communicating with the Community Council regarding local adults' concerns over young people – and vice versa! We also have two representatives on the Community Centre management committee and have developed good links with the High School.

If you, as a local youngster or helpful adult, wish to become involved in this new and exciting initiative, please contact me on 661 7463.

Over the coming months we plan to create a 'youth lounge' space, so people with practical skills, such as joiners, decorators, plasterers and electricians are particularly needed to help.

Brian Greatorex

WHAT'S ON IN THE HOLIDAYS

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB: The Church of Scotland Mission Team of young people returns to Old Parish Church Halls, Bellfield St, from 14th-16th July. Look out for information in schools and shops.

ENJOY-A-BALL will be holding its annual Ball Camp over the third and fourth weeks of July at the Community Centre, Adalphi Grove. Call 669 8275 for info.

GO FOR IT: See www.go4itedinburgh.com, or call 550 6824, for a full programme of summer events throughout Edinburgh.

PORTOBELLO SWIM CENTRE: Activator Camps for 5-12 year-olds. Short Course Swimming Lessons and other water-based activities. For information and bookings, call the Swim Centre on 669 6888.

TRAMPOLINE PARTIES: Orcadia in Windsor Place (formerly the Trampoline Centre) has been refurbished and Trampoline Parties have been re-introduced, by popular demand. Call 669 1075 for bookings.

WELL DONE TOWERBANK

ONCE again Towerbank Primary pupils have pulled out all the stops for charity, raising nearly £600 this year for Comic Relief. A great effort!

The School Fair takes place on Saturday 14th June, when everyone will be welcome to go along and spend their pennies. Hope to see you all there!



www.whatisthematrix.com
An extensive site for Matrix fans and best viewed for those of you with broadband. Check out behind the scenes photos, video clips, art department, screenshots and much, much more.

FILM CLUB SCOOPS AWARDS

PORTOBELLO High School Film Club is celebrating its success in the Annual Awards of the British Federation of Film Societies. Commended in the Best New Society category, it went one better by capturing the prize as Best Student Society in competition with universities and other schools. Two staff and two students were at the National Film Theatre on 10th May to receive their awards from Asif Kapadia, director of 'The Warrior'.

Now in its second season, the Film Club was set up by teachers and shows a programme of a dozen films to staff and senior pupils. This year a wide range of movies included 'Memento', 'Best in Show', 'La Veuve de Saint Pierre', 'Run Lola Run' and 'LA Confidential'.

The Club meets on Monday evenings in the staffroom, converted into a small cinema and films are shown by linking a DVD player to a data projector and cinema-surround sound system.

The secretary Derek Wilson, a teacher at the school, said: "We're very grateful to everyone involved: to the Head Teacher, David Wright, who provided the initial funding; to Filmbank, the distributors; and especially to Ooshla who have provided funding for film hire this year. Most of all we're really pleased by the enthusiasm of the committee and the interest of students. They've enjoyed many films that haven't been seen much in Edinburgh. We've a lot of real film enthusiasts here."

Mary Campbell



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PORTOBELLO SPRING AQUATHON 2003



Photo by Peter Ross

AN aquathon consists of a swim followed by a run and the first event of this year's Scottish series took place on Sunday 6th April at Portobello Baths and Prom, when more than 100 athletes took part, including over 60 juniors or youths.

Race distances varied for each age group and with participants aged from 8 to 70 years old, this was truly an event for all. All the youth events were hotly contested, with a large contingent from Bathgate ASC and good turnouts from local swimming clubs Portobello, Warrender and Hearts.

Kate McCullough-Young beat all her male competitors to win the 8-year age group, with her brother winning the 11-12 year category. An impressive performance from the 13-14-year-olds saw Graham Scobie take first place, with Lucy Ross from Livingston ASC second; the 15-16 year race was won by Rory Methven from Gala.

The adult male event was won by John Owen from Fauldhouse Penguins with a swim leg of 750m in 8:14, and the women's event was won by Rachel Cox with a very fast run split, pushing Stephanie Owen into second place. For full results see www.edinburghroadclub.co.uk

Bruce Kidd

THREE SCOTTISH CUPS IN ONE SEASON

PORTOBELLO-BASED City of Edinburgh Basketball Club have been doubly honoured with a civic reception for both the Kings men and Kool Kats women after the best season in their 15-year history, in which five out of six teams reached the Scottish Cup finals and three won.

Kings won the Scottish League for the first time and went down narrowly in the Cup final to Troon Tornadoes, while Kats won the Cup for only the second time, and first time for 10 years, beating favourites Midlothian Saints.

Kats junior women made it a double by upsetting favourites St Mirren in an overtime thriller, and Kings cadet men also won the Cup to complete a league and cup double with an unbeaten record, while Kings won the Lothian Cup with an all-junior team.

Coach Jim Wright is taking the juniors to Lyons in June for an invitation tournament involving teams from four other countries.

S. S.

NOW is the time to plant out the more tender plants such as dahlias, cannas etc, first pulling back any mulch (shreddings made from winter prunings) - I find this reduces slug/snail damage. If frost is forecast, throw net curtains over any plants of dubious hardiness. Listen to weather reports but get to know the mini climate in your own garden. I'm 100 yards from the beach and can still get frost at the beginning of June.

Grass needs cutting every week now; collect the trimmings to use as a mulch between rows of potatoes, under hedges or anywhere where you do not want weeds to grow. Hedges can also be given a trim, but leave the trimmings where they are and they will rot down quickly, as long as you're not cutting into any branches thicker than half a cm. If using canes as stakes, top them with used corks, which looks quite attractive and could save a trip to the hospital!

Sow a pinch of lettuce or radish seed every fortnight into 7 cm pots to ensure you always have salad to have with your pizza. Let children sow a few courgette or marrow seeds into a 7cm pot and put them on a sunny windowsill where they can check them; they grow very quickly - when 5-7 cm high, plant out into a sunny spot. At the end of August/ beginning of September encourage children to pick when very small, 7cm, wipe on t-shirt and eat - you know you haven't used anything artificial on them - but be careful about hygiene if you have animals around the garden!

Susan's organic garden at 39 Nantwich Drive is open on Saturday and Sunday, 12 and 13 July, 2 - 5pm. Entry is £1 and concessions 50p- All proceeds to the charity - HDRA, the organic association. (Wheelchairs - there is some gravel with access round the garden on grass. No toilet facilities).



with Susan Burns

OPEN WATER SPRINT TRIATHLON

FOLLOWING the success of the Portobello Aquathon, an open water sprint triathlon will take place in Portobello on Sunday 20th July. It will start at 9.00am with a 750m open water swim from Portobello Beach (at the foot of James Street), followed by a 20km cycle on the roads around Portobello and a 5km run on the Promenade. The Scottish Triathlon Association has classified this as a ranking event with points awarded to top performers, and it is also part of the Edinburgh Multisport Series.

The event is open to all, and it is hoped there will be over 100 competitors from all over Scotland and that local people will come along and support them.

The Triathlon is sponsored by Kidd's Chemist (Portobello High Street) and BAE Systems, and is organised by former Portobello High School pupils Bruce Kidd and Stuart Young.

For further information and an entry form, e-mail stuart_young@beeb.net or visit www.edinburghracingcoop.co.uk

Stuart Young

JOPPA TENNIS

THE newly refurbished Joppa Tennis Courts in Joppa Grove will be open to non-members during the school holidays, when a supervisor will be on duty.

Members can play at any time, but children must be supervised by an adult.

The deadline for your contributions to the Autumn Issue of *The Portobello Reporter* is **9th AUG 2003**

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