

# THE Portobello REPORTER

The independent voice of Portobello

## LAUNCH OF THE JENNY SKYLARK



Photo by Peter Ross

ON a hot and sunny 17th April, a large crowd gathered on the promenade and beach for the launch of Rowporty's newly-built racing skiff *Jenny Skylark*.

After speeches on the 'cakestand' by the three Rowporty founders, the Royal West of Scotland amateur boat club presented them with a racing prize cup from their own trophy cabinet. It had belonged to the original Portobello rowing clubs and will be competed for again at the new club's regatta in July.

Then, in front of the Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club at the bottom of Bath Street, the skiff headed down to the water. She was formally named *Jenny Skylark*, blessed with rum, and launched into a flat calm sea, where her sister skiff *Icebreaker* and others were waiting for her. *Jenny Skylark* was named after Portobello's old *Skylark*, the local pleasure boat which many local residents still remember fondly.

Skiffs from Cockenzie, Port Seton and Newhaven were also out on the water,

alongside a 100 year old, but still seaworthy, jolly boat, gifted to Rowporty by Broughty Ferry Rowing club the week before; the historic currach from Tollcross; and a sailing skiff called *Scratch*, built single-handedly by another Rowporty member.

A race was held for all the boats for the prize of a large handmade Easter egg, gifted to Rowporty by The Chocolate Tree in Brunstfield. The pace was fast and furious and it seemed only fair that *Jenny Skylark* won her first ever race.

Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club will host Rowporty's second Rowing Regatta on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July. Entry is free, and there will be entertainment and food stalls. Bring a picnic, camera and bucket and spade, and cheer the competitors to victory, especially our own *Icebreaker* and *Jenny Skylark*.

Teams from all over Scotland will be competing: from Achiltibuie, North Berwick, Port Seton and Cockenzie, who took part last year, but also new skiffs recently completed by their community groups.

Races will start at noon on Saturday, with prize-giving at 5pm, and Sunday morning will be for fun races. For more information, photos and footage visit [www.rowporty.org.uk](http://www.rowporty.org.uk)

Morag Edward

## BIG BEACH BUSK IS BACK

**BUSKERS** will be back in August for another day of music and entertainment on Portobello Prom. There's no need for tickets or booking; anyone who wants to take part should just turn up. There are no Headliners. Everyone's top of

the bill and everyone's welcome, whether they're a fire eating juggler, guitar player or a full brass band.

Last year more than 100 buskers entertained over 1000 people. If you missed it, make a point of being

down on the Prom from lunchtime on 27th August for some fantastic music and performance.

For more information look up The Edinburgh Big Beach Busk on Facebook.

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Also available online on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk)

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## PORTOBELLO ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE TRAIL

PORTOBELLO Heritage Trust and Portobello Amenity Society have just published a revised edition of the *Portobello Architecture Heritage Trail*, first published by PAS in 1992.

The revised 12-sided leaflet, double the size of the original, guides you on a walking tour, indicating places of architectural and/or historical interest. It contains a brief history of Portobello, a map of the route, and many colour photographs alongside a paragraph detailing each place of interest. New places have been included, such as the Adelphi area and the Coade Stone Pillars in the community garden on the Promenade. The trail itself is about 1.7 miles in length and should take about 1-1½ hours to complete.

The leaflet, which is free, was funded by Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership Community



Grants Fund and by Portobello Amenity Society. Photographs and design are by Colin Warwick and text by John Stewart of PAS. Hopefully it will encourage more visitors to Edinburgh to venture down to Portobello and discover what an attractive place it is.

The leaflet is available from the Tourist Information Centre in Princes Street and from local stockists, including Portobello Library, Portobello Swim Centre, the Beach House Cafe, Artisan Gifts and McAlpine Jewellers.

## STORM-RAVAGED BEACH RESTORED



Photo by Peter Ross

AN operation to move thousands of tons of sand from the west and middle of Portobello beach eastwards was completed on 9th April, just in time for hundreds of people to enjoy the two hot and sunny weekends that followed.

The beach is a vital part of our sea defences and the sand at the east end which was severely depleted in the March storms last year, is now back to something approaching 1988 levels.

Local residents' next priority will be the rebuilding of the eastern-most gabion groyne which was partly demolished in the storm. Cllr Maureen Child tells us that the work could possibly be done in this financial year.



## PORTY PROFILE No. 43 CHRISTEEN WINFORD

**CREATING** a platform for people who are discriminated against or misunderstood is the motivation for Portobello based film maker Christeen Winford.

In her early career she worked for the council in the housing department supporting disabled people as they moved from long term institutional care into community living. This led to her first involvement in film making as she set up a project with her clients to show the benefits of moving into the community.

The bubbly and vivacious grandmother of five is a natural story-teller, as anyone who knows her will confirm. She talks with passion about the many people and causes she has made films about and how her films can challenge discrimination and stereotyping by encouraging people to tell their own stories on film. She now dedicates herself to 'people's voice', making films with the homeless, sufferers of dementia and the disabled.

In the late eighties she went to South America to document the work of Scottish Medical Aid to Nicaragua. She was shocked at what she found: "It made you really angry. It was disgusting what happened to the people", she said as she described the way the US-backed Contras targetted health workers to undermine the Sandinistas. The film was shown in two parts on Channel 4 and got "great reviews". This led to more commissioned documentary and drama work for the BBC and Channel 4.

Her empathy and respect for people informs not only the subjects of her films but also how she makes them. She works closely with the subjects of her films to ensure an authentic representation of their experience and uses a 'populist narrative' to get a particular point across. In her BBC feature drama *Tickets For The Zoo* she collaborated with a group of young people to develop the film, most of whom appeared in the final cut as extras or with small acting parts.

These days Christeen concentrates her efforts on working with voluntary sector organisations like People First, raising awareness and campaigning with people with learning difficulties. She is also currently working with the Scottish Government making films about citizen leadership.

She moved to Portobello from Bruntsfield over 25 years ago. "I thought this was a brilliant place even though Portobello was very unfashionable then", she said. "I thought if this was in London then people would value it far more". Her family agreed and one of her sons has stayed in Portobello and brought his own family up here.

"I think there is a sense of community in Portobello which I really like. There is a great sense of involvement and there is a sense of idealism. I spend a lot of time working away, but it's a really nice place to come back to" she said with a giggle and a smile.

Peter Ross



Photo by Peter Ross

## ON THE BEAT

AS THE summer fast approaches and with it the school holidays, lighter evenings and better weather, we tend to see a rise in certain types of crime, especially anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

The increase in youth related calls is often the result of underage drinking. The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officers are only too aware of this and have begun working with off-sales staff to remind them of their responsibilities with regard to the sale of alcohol, with a focus on 'proxy buying' by adults, in an attempt to combat such incidents.

As usual, where appropriate officers will be stopping and searching youths believed to be in possession of tobacco or alcohol. When found, such items will be confiscated and, when appropriate, persons may be reported.

The annual summer Promenade initiative, which commenced on the 3rd June, will also focus on anti-social behaviour, to allow local residents and visitors to enjoy the amenity of the Promenade and beach throughout the summer.

Identity bracelets will again be available in an attempt to keep young children safe and reunite them quickly with their parent, guardian, carer or friends, should they become separated.

Crimestoppers and Lothian and Borders Police have joined forces to promote a service for 11-16 year olds, called Fearless, which aims to fight crime by encouraging more young people to come forward and share information about crime in their area. The information received is taken seriously and can be given anonymously. Lothian and Borders Police area is the first in Scotland to promote Fearless, which has been a great success in other areas. Information can be found on the Fearless.org website.

PC Sarah Potter



## PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY

PAS will hold its AGM on Wednesday 22nd June at 7.30 pm, in the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street (opposite Boots). Please note the change of venue this year.

After the official business, Robert Gatliff from the Brit-

ish Geological Survey will give an illustrated talk on Portobello Geology: A billion year adventure of climate change, coal, earthquakes and tsunamis. This is an open meeting to which all are welcome.

## SEEKING INFORMATION

**PETER SMALL**, an agricultural historian, is looking for information on Alex Strang, who was an agricultural machinery dealer in Pipe Street. Alex had a franchise for Nuffield Tractors and Allis Chalmers Tractors and machinery. It is believed he ceased trading in the early 1980s.

Peter would also welcome information on any similar dealers in Portobello. If you can help, please contact Margaret Munro on 657 2866 or email: [munroporto@hotmail.com](mailto:munroporto@hotmail.com)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**THE VILLAGE SHOW** is planned for earlier this year, on Sunday 4th September, again in Rosefield Park. Plans are under way but POD are looking for new ideas to make this year's event even better. If you would like to get involved, please email [info@the-pod.org](mailto:info@the-pod.org)

**PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL:** Another exciting and varied programme is being planned for the next Portobello Book Festival which will run from Friday 7th October to Sunday 9th. It will feature talks and discussions with locally-based authors as well invited writers, plus a range of events for all ages. Details in our next issue.

**BE A FRIEND:** Bield Housing Association's sheltered housing at Milton Court is looking for volunteers to visit tenants for a chat and a cup of tea, or take them out to local activities. If you can spare a couple of hours during the day, each week or fortnight, enjoy working with older people, and are over 16 years of age, contact Patricia Donnan on 657 4567 for more information. Training and support are given and out-of-pocket expenses paid.

**BUSINESS ADVICE:** Edinburgh City Libraries has a range of online databases on starting or developing a business, free of charge, from <http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/business>

COBRA (Complete Business Reference Adviser), for example, has over 1,500 fact sheets and guides. Save on marketing, research potential customers with KOMPASS, a database of 200,000 UK businesses.

The Leith Business Hub, at McDonald Road Library runs workshops and advice sessions, and Central Library has printed resources.

You can join the libraries at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/joinourlibrary](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/joinourlibrary) Contact the Reference Library for more information on 242 8060 or at [reference@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:reference@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**AN IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER** caused an accident on Saturday 30th April when a 70-year-old lady slipped on dog dirt on the pavement at the corner of Brighton Place and Lee Crescent.

She fell and broke her hip and needed a hip replacement operation. Her son is understandably angry and asked *The Reporter* to give the incident some publicity.

"It would have taken a minute to clear up the mess instead of causing weeks, possibly months, of physiotherapy and discomfort", he says. "I hope the owner reads this and realises what they have done".

We couldn't agree more!

**Sheila Gilmore MP**

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WE would like to thank everyone who made our World Book Night event on 5th March such a resounding success. The live music was excellent and everyone, including a number of local authors who were specially invited, seemed to enjoy the informal atmosphere. While adults chatted about the books, children were kept entertained by a giant snakes and ladders set. Although we had planned to give away only 96 books, people arrived with their own and over 130 books were finally given away.

This summer's reading challenge is *Circus Stars*, which will bring the magic of the circus into Portobello Library. The challenge runs throughout the holidays and is open to children between the ages of 7 and 11. Read six books and win stickers and prizes, including a special medal. As usual we will be running loads of events with a circus theme to promote the reading challenge. We will be making clown puppets, creating our own mini circus, doing some clown face-painting and lots more. Staff will be visiting all local schools to tell everyone about what we are doing in the summer. If you need any more information ask staff for details or check the Portobello Library section of [www.fun.stufftodo.org.uk](http://www.fun.stufftodo.org.uk)

Our Gallery is fully booked over the summer. Amnesty International will be marking their 50th Anniversary with a display from 26th July, while Musselburgh Camera Club will display their work from 1st August. Contact us if you would like to take advantage of our free gallery space.

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to get into the library? Do you know someone who is? We might be able to help with this. We have a fortnightly service that will bus you into the library for books, a cup of tea, and a chat. We can also deliver books to your home. If you are interested, give us a ring on 529 5598.

Our Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6.30-8pm, and the next two books for discussion are:

On 5th July, *In a Dry Season* by Peter Robinson

On 2nd August, *A Tale Etched In Blood And Hard Black Pencil* by Christopher Brookmyre.

All are welcome. The books are available from the library. If you need any further information please ask our staff.

The Teenage Book Group meets on the last Thursday of every month, from 4-5pm. All are welcome between the ages of 12-18. Ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson



## SAVE WASTE, SAVE MONEY

A WASTE of food is a waste of money and bad for the environment. Yet, according to the campaign group Love Food Hate Waste, the average household in Scotland throws away food worth £480 each year, and this will increase as food prices rise, unless we all buy only as much as we will eat.

The Scottish Government has set a target to give all households a food waste collection for recycling and composting by 2013 and the City of Edinburgh Council introduced a pilot scheme in April to test the viability of such a service. Almost 15,000 households are receiving a weekly kerbside collection, while communal bins are being tested for 5,000 flats. Portobello is one of the areas taking part. Once the trial is evaluated, the service will be rolled out across the city.

The food waste collected will be transported to Cumbernauld to make biofertiliser and compost, and to generate biogas - a renewable fuel. This is a much better use of the waste than putting it into landfill, but the amount of food thrown out should be reduced first.

Wasting food is good only for the food industry, whose profits it helps to swell at the expense of household budgets. It also has an impact on the cost of food, because it creates unnecessary demand and pushes prices up, and it is the poorest in the world who suffer most from this.

It is bad for the environment, as oil-based fertilizers and pesticides, which produce green-house gases in their manufacture, are used in non-organic farming. Farm machinery used in ploughing, spraying and harvesting all depends on oil. Then there is the environmental cost of transporting, processing and packaging food - then disposing of the packing..

The Council say they work closely with organisations such as ZeroWaste Scotland to promote campaigns for reducing food waste, but they don't mention the need for reduction in the leaflet that accompanies the food recycling bins.

There are lots of useful tips, however, including recipes for using leftovers and other information, on the websites: [www.changeworks.org.uk/kitchencanny](http://www.changeworks.org.uk/kitchencanny) and on [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) which also explains the difference between 'Best before' and 'Use by' labels - click on the 'About food waste' tab.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

**PORTOBELLO** Community Council is aiming to increase its engagement with the public and, thanks to two grants from the Neighbourhood Partnership, has been able to set up important new sources of information about its activities: a dedicated area of Portobello Library and a website.

In the clearly marked library area you will find copies of the minutes and agendas as well as a correspondence file. Information about the community council and how to contact us is clearly displayed. City Council information, publications and information relating to any consultations or major planning applications will be displayed as they arise. You can leave comments or suggestions in the suggestions box.

The website also has contact details, a contact facility, copies of agendas, minutes and correspondence. There are links and contact details for community council member groups, other local groups, Police, the Council and many other organisations. See [www.portobellocc.org](http://www.portobellocc.org).

With these new resources, we hope most people will be able to learn more about who we are and what we do. Of course, one of the best ways is to come along to one of our monthly meetings, held on the last Monday of every month at 7.30 pm (July and December excepted) in the Baptist Church hall, 185 Portobello High Street. All members of the public are welcome.

Diana Cairns

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## TWO WEDDINGS AND A TENT

"KEEP calm and carry on" was my motto over recent weeks when the school calendar had groaned with an abundance of high-days and holidays, so much so that I had exhausted every children-friendly activity known to woman. Even I was asking "what shall we do now?" So an invitation to go camping on the weekend of the Royal Wedding for my daughter and me was welcomed with open arms.

We managed to catch glimpses of the wedding through armfuls of tent, sleeping bags, kettles and the kitchen sink as we packed, and oohed and aahed at 'The Dress' before jumping in the car for an hour's drive to Northumberland.

Our campsite overlooked Holy Island and was perfectly peaceful, with not a street party in sight and, after pitching our tent, we joined our fellow campers for a wedding day barbeque, a tin of curry with rice and a glass or three of red wine.

It might have been a lovely day and a balmy evening, but six layers of clothing and several blankets didn't cut it with the cold that night. We crawled out of our tents the next morning just as the sun had risen and eventually thawed out after several cups of hot chocolate.

It was a glorious day and a visit to the famous gardens at Alnwick Castle proved a hit with everybody. We had just started our picnic, when we heard the skirl o' the pipes and a bridal party appeared from behind the rose garden, complete with wedding guests in outrageous hats, with plenty of champagne. We settled down with our sandwiches to discretely watch the live action. Who needed a Royal Wedding?

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



AS SPRING moves into summer herbaceous borders become very full, so do two jobs at the same time. First, and especially before going on holiday, deadhead all annuals and tender perennials such as sweetpeas, marigolds and pelargoniums, and cut back perennials such as phlox and livingstone daisies by a third. Deadheading encourages new flowers and cutting back perennials means less staking is required. This is called the Chelsea Chop as it's done while the Show is on, but in Scotland we can do it a bit later, especially if we have good weather early on.

While going through the borders I place wetted, folded tabloids or quartered broadsheets, a few centimetres thick, as stepping stones. They are about the right size for stepping on, get dirty over the season and disappear under the foliage as they rot away. During the winter what's left can be composted.

Place an old blanket or towels on a flat area, put all containerised plants on it and keep it wetted. You then have all the pots in one place for watering, and any excess drains onto the blanket, acting as a reservoir. I've even had annuals in their containers, which otherwise may not have survived the odd warm spell, rooting into the blanket. Ask a gardening neighbour to keep it wet for you when you're away.

If your tomatoes are going a bit yellow between the veins, give them a solution of Epsom Salts (6 teaspoons in a 2 gallon bucket). For an organic feed during the summer, if you haven't got around to making comfrey/nettle tea, then place leaves of comfrey on the compost next to the tomatoes, potatoes, or anything that's greedy and needs a boost, and let it rot away.

Grass cuttings are too valuable to be binned. Use them as a mulch around new plants, or potatoes where they are believed to reduce eelworm damage.

If you indulge in a few new plants, whether tender perennials or a new shrub, try to take a few cuttings. A pot with some gritty sand, kept moist and in a warm place, will house a few cuttings of lavender, bacopa, box, etc., which will make big enough plants to plant out next year, after some protection over the winter.

We are opening our garden at 39 Nantwich Drive again this year, on Saturday and Sunday, 6th and 7th August, from 2-5pm. Entrance £1, concessions 50p. Teas, 20p. All proceeds to the charity Garden Organic.

DESPITE recent funding disappointments, PEDAL continues to go from strength to strength - progressing existing projects, initiating new ones and attracting more and more local people. The loss of core funding will impact on what we can do in the short term, but PEDAL continue to have ambitious plans to help Porty become more sustainable.

PEDAL's AGM will be held on Thursday 16 June from 7.30 to 9.30pm, in Portobello Baptist Church hall, 185 Portobello High Street. Please come along to hear about exciting projects you can get involved in and what other transition groups around the country have been up to. You can also join PEDAL as a member and put yourself forward for election to the Board. All welcome!

Portobello Organic Market will continue on the first Saturday of each month; please note the new times of 9.30 to 1.30. We hope to get power on site so that vendors can provide a wider range of hot snacks over the summer.

On 26th April, ten folk came together to discuss growing fruit and veg on local pieces of land PEDAL have been offered use of. The group aim to grow food on land at St Mark's Church, behind Carlo's Fish and Chip shop, and behind the Community Centre. To get involved email Eva at [growing@pedal-porty.org.uk](mailto:growing@pedal-porty.org.uk)

Our plans for a wind turbine adjacent to Seafield Sewage Works are getting closer to reality. We have completed initial noise and visual impact assessments. We'll soon be holding consultations to gather views from local people and outline plans for the way forward, and we'll be seeking your support as part of fundraising bids.

PEDAL has been involved in exciting discussions with other transition groups across the city, plus the City Council, regarding a local currency. This might be Edinburgh-wide but with a local version - The Porty Pound! - available. The aim is to strengthen the local economy by keeping more money circulating in Porty.

For more information visit [www.pedal-porty.org.uk](http://www.pedal-porty.org.uk)

Tom Black

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# FROM THE ARCHIVE:



There may be no Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade this year, but we can see here a float entered by Portobello in the 1980s. Taken under North Bridge, this photo shows what can be produced by hard-working community members.

## 'PORTY REBELS' circa 1950



Photo courtesy of Jim Smart

Jim Smart describes this group of young men as 'Porty Rebels'. This photograph from around 1950 was probably taken on a Sunday afternoon when the men promenaded in their suits from Bath Street to Joppa Rocks, then back along to Seafield before returning to Bath Street. The tide is in which, Jim says, meant they could not play their usual game of football on the beach. The 'Porty Rebels' are, left to right: Jim Smart, Tommy D'Arcy, Jacky Innes, Tommy Morgan and Billy Dempsey.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES

MANY thanks to all our readers who responded to the queries in our Spring Issue.

We now have almost all the names for the Towerbank School photograph from 1939. Several readers who contacted us recognised family members and requested a copy of the photograph. Jim Smart, who provided it, kindly agreed to these requests, which has given families an insight into the early lives of their relatives.

We learned that the fancy dress photograph was taken in 1949 and was of a party held for girls only. The party was held in the Thomson Hall, now demolished, in Regent Street. We were given most of the names of those in the photograph, with several people recognising family members.

## WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR?

CAN you help local historians and authors, Archie Foley and Margaret Munro, who are collecting material for a new book? The title is *Portobello and its people in two world wars* and the book will describe the impact of the wars on the Portobello community. Family life was disrupted as men and women left on wartime service, children were evacuated and duties with the Home Guard, ARP and other organisations took up the time of many people outside of their daily work.

The authors want to include as many personal and family experiences as possible. Some stories will be sad, but there may be humorous ones as well, perhaps of experiences in the early days of the Home Guard or as an inexperienced land girl, coping with being an evacuee to the country, and of course rationing and the black out.

The World War One generation has gone and after 70 years, that of World War Two is gradually disappearing, so it is essential to create a record for future generations. Contact Archie at 669 0184 or [alfoley21@sky.com](mailto:alfoley21@sky.com) and Margaret at 657 2866 or [munroporto@hotmail.com](mailto:munroporto@hotmail.com)

## PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

OUR programme of talks for 2010-2011 has now finished for the summer and we have been fortunate to have had many knowledgeable and stimulating speakers.

Not least of these was Peter Stubbs, who visited the society in April and spoke about a *History of Photography in Edinburgh*. Peter soon made it clear what a pivotal role Edinburgh photographers played in the development of photography. He brought along examples of the type of photographs produced and used his website to illustrate the developments in the photographic process and the cameras used. The widespread use of digital cameras today means that photography is now affordable to many more people.

On Wednesday 4th May, Dorothy Kelly made a welcome return visit to the society to talk about *Portobello's Parks*. Dorothy spent her formative years in Portobello and enjoyed the freedom provided in the open park spaces. She explored the creation of these spaces in her talk. She lamented the changes in Rosefield Park, with the loss of the tennis courts and putting green, but welcomed the improvements that have taken place in Figgate Park. Members were reminded how fortunate they are to have these green spaces to enjoy.

At our AGM on Wednesday 1st June, the future of the society was to be discussed. As the meeting took place after this newspaper went to press, details of the outcome will be given in our Autumn Issue. Following the AGM, Margaret Munro was to give a slide show on *Portobello Gala Days* using photographs from the society's archive.

Margaret Munro

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SLEEPLESS ‘TIL SEATTLE



ON 15th May local man Graham Kitchener began filming a documentary on a cycle across the United States, starting just south of Boston at Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrim Fathers landed from The Mayflower in 1620, then cycling a varied route of almost 4,500 miles to Seattle, on the west coast.

Apart from recording the journey itself, the film will touch upon historic sites and events such as the Erie Canal, Niagara Falls, Mount Rushmore, the Rocky Mountains and one of the most famous battle grounds of the Native American, Little Big Horn.

The title of the film, *Sleepless ‘til Seattle*, came about through Graham’s inherent fear of sleeping wild in a tent in grizzly bear country, especially in Glacier National Park in Montana, the bear’s stronghold in the United States.

Graham is due back in Scotland, bears permitting, in October, when post production will start on the film which is due for release in summer 2012.

You can follow his progress on [www.sleeplesstilseattle.com](http://www.sleeplesstilseattle.com) which he hopes to update every few weeks, with occasional short film highlights, and register your interest in the film for future updates.

HELP FOR HEROES



FOUR close friends from Portobello and Musselburgh, Garreth Lodge, Ross Menzies, Michael Thomas and Gregg Maxwell, seen above, ran in the Edinburgh Marathon on 22nd May to help raise money for Help for Heroes, a charity that takes care of wounded service men and women when they return from active duty. Between them they raised over £2000.

Earlier, in March, when over 80 fitness enthusiasts took part in a two-hour Zumbathon for the charity at Portobello High School, a collection was made to persuade the Marathon men to give a special performance. “When we took to the stage, the skill level plummeted severely”, says Garreth. That event raised £425.

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mrs Cathy Whittaker celebrated her 100th birthday on 10th April. Cathy was born in Co Durham and has lived in Portobello for 75 years, first in Kings Road and then on the Promenade. She has a daughter, four grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Cathy was a member of the Salvation Army Home League for many years, and is seen here cutting her birthday cake at a special tea party organised by other members at the Army’s meeting hall in Bath Street.



Photo by Brenda Molony

AMNESTY LOCAL NEWS

THE Group’s involvement in ‘Amnesty at 50’ celebrations begins in June with three weeks of displays in Portobello Library featuring, in sequence: Women’s Rights are Human Rights; Heroes and Heroines; Burma Campaign. A special leaflet will be available.

A street stall on 25th June will highlight the case of Ferhat Gercek, a young Turkish man who was shot and seriously injured in 2008 while peacefully handing out leaflets. Ferhat’s case remains unresolved as nobody has been brought to justice. He is being supported by the Group in a long-term relationship. The stall is being held during Refugee Week and will also feature human rights abuses being experienced by those who have come to this country seeking sanctuary.

The Group welcomes the re-election of Kenny MacAskill, who has been supportive throughout his years as constituency MSP, and was the only candidate to respond to our letters about Scotland’s stance on human rights in the run-up to 5th May.

Our annual coffee morning and book sale in March raised around £300, and was outstandingly valuable in the resulting social interactions, with the Woodcraft Folk again contributing to the liveliness of the event.

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall at 7.30pm. Anyone may attend, without commitment. For further information call 669 1308.

David Turner

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From 1st April, except public or school holidays:  
1st Monday of month:  
Bingham Community Complex, 6pm  
Magdalene Community Centre, 7pm  
2nd Monday of month:  
Portobello Library, 6pm  
St Francis Primary School, 7:00pm  
OR call 529 4233 or email [michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:**  
Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or email [maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Receive regular Reports by email or view on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk)

**Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:**  
Portobello Library, each Wednesday, from 6pm.  
OR Tel. 529 3262 or email [stephen.hawkins@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.hawkins@edinburgh.gov.uk)

  
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0131 348 5012 (Parliament)  
[kenny.macaskill.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:kenny.macaskill.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

Constituents who have a problem or an issue they would like to raise with Kenny MacAskill are welcome to attend his ‘MSP Surgery’.  
Alternatively you can contact Kenny MacAskill using the address and details below.

  
The Scottish Parliament

**Councillor EWAN AITKEN**  
holds surgeries during school terms at 7.15-7.45pm in: Piershill Library  
1st Wednesday of each month.  
Craigentinny Community Centre  
2nd Wednesday of each month.  
Duddingston Primary School  
3rd Wednesday of each month.  
Ewan can be contacted on (0131) 529 3261 or at [ewan.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ewan.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 40 local people. If you have something to publicise or would like to advertise call 669 3466 or email us at [portyreporter@btinternet.com](mailto:portyreporter@btinternet.com)

**Sept. deadline**  
**8th Aug. 2011.**



## SCHOOLS VISIT LARGE HADRON COLLIDER



James Parr-Burman discusses the Atlas Project with a scientist at CERN, as Allison Dobson looks on.

**6TH YEAR** Portobello High School pupil James Parr-Burman, and deputy headteacher Allyson Dobson were among 10 Scottish pupils and teachers who went to Geneva in February to help raise awareness of Scotland's role in cutting-edge science and to promote careers in the field. They visited CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research), one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research, where they saw the Large Hadron Collider and experiments related to it.

The school was asked to send representatives as it has successfully presented pupils for the new Science Baccalaureate award. James has a keen interest in particle physics and hopes to study physics at university next year, so he was an obvious choice, and Allyson has been a science teacher for 25 years.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE HOLIDAYS

**ACTIVE SCHOOLS** has been working with Primary Schools in the Portobello High School (PHS) cluster to develop opportunities for physical activity in the holidays.

The following activities for Primary 1 to Primary 7 children will take place from Monday 11th - Friday 15th July:

**BASKETBALL** for Primary 3-6, from 10am-12noon in the PHS Games Hall (Cost - £15 for the full week).

**MINI-FOOTBALL** for Primary 1-3, from 1pm - 3pm in the PHS Games Hall and possibly outside on astro-turf, depending on the weather. (Cost-£15 for the full week).

Call 469 3065 or email [activeschools@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:activeschools@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## LAB IN A LORRY



MSPs and representatives from science-based industry and the Institute of Physics in Scotland were welcomed to Holy Rood High School in March by IOP Fellow Heather Reid, at an event to celebrate Lab in a Lorry's success over the last four years.

This mobile science lab for school students gives them hands-on opportunities to explore science through specially created interactive experiments.

Heather introduced the event by outlining the importance of science and engineering to the economy. Kenny MacAskill MSP congratulated Lab in a Lorry for carrying on the important work of encouraging youngsters to study the sciences at school.

## NEW YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTED

**TWO** local young people, Billy Foreman and Ryan Ross, were elected to represent Edinburgh East in the Scottish Youth Parliament elections in March. Billy is a pupil at Holy Rood High School and Ryan attends Portobello High School.

A total of 26 young people from all areas of Edinburgh stood for election and over 10,000 votes were cast for the

12 seats - double the number cast in the last elections held in 2009.

The new MSYPs will take up their role officially at the AGM in June. The new representatives were voted in on a range of manifesto promises, including scrapping plans for student fees, lowering the voting age to 16 and tackling youth unemployment.

## DUDDINGSTON PRIMARY NEWS

**OUR** Headteacher, Colin Wilson, is due to retire at the end of this session. Colin has worked at Duddingston for 22 years and has had some wonderful experiences working with pupils, parents and staff. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

**THE** school collaborated with Portobello Rotary last autumn, when pupils and Rotary members planted hundreds of crocuses as part of a project and fund raiser for eradicating polio across the world. In spring time, magically, hundreds of beautiful purple flowers appeared.

We raised £215 pounds and recently handed a cheque to Past President Malcolm McMillan, who gave us an interesting presentation on his trip to India in February, to take part in a National Immunisation Day for Polio. These days are organized about six times a year, with the Indian Government, WHO, Unicef and Rotary working together to help to eradicate polio from India. On this occasion 173 million children will have been immunized throughout India.

The school hopes to be involved in forthcoming Rotary events in the near future.

Dave Wright, Depute Head

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## BOWLED OVER BY LODGE GIFT



Photo by Colin Fanning

**FINLAY DOKEN**, a junior player at Jessfield Bowling Club, tries out the new bowls gifted to the club by the Portobello Lodge No. 266. The bowls which are specifically designed for use by disabled bowlers were presented to Mr Jim Robertson, President of Jessfield BC, by Right Worshipful Master Colin McCaldin as part of the annual Masters Charitable Awards.

Finlay said that he 'loves' the new bowls which were gifted specially for his use.

## COME BOWLING !

**THE** East Edinburgh Bowling Association competitions start on Sunday 7th August with the Belhaven Pairs at Portobello BC. The McKenzie and Millar sponsored EEBA finals will be played at Brunstane BC on Friday 19th and 26th August, and at Portobello BC on Tuesday 23rd August. Why not support your local club by attending

these games.

If you are interested in playing bowls, come along to Portobello BC in Lee Crescent and give it a go - you could enjoy the game and the company and you will be made very welcome. In addition to full membership, there is junior membership for 8 - 18 year olds.

A Skirving

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

**THERE** are exciting times ahead at the Community Centre. Our stage area has been refurbished and, thanks to a grant from Awards for All and extra help from Colin Cuthbert of Northern Light, we have not only a new sound and light system, but also new trussing and drapes. The main hall is also to be redecorated and we then plan to stage our own productions as well as hiring out the hall to the general public.

Porty Youth Theatre, our drama group, performed *Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory* on our refurbished stage on 4th and 5th June, and will also perform it as part of the Edinburgh Fringe, from 8th-13th August at 12 noon at the Zoo Venue's Monkey House.

The Badminton club which meets on a Wednesday and Sunday evening are looking for a small number of experienced players to join them. Please call Beryl on 669 2588

Please call 669 8275 for more information or e-mail [admin@portobelloc.org.uk](mailto:admin@portobelloc.org.uk)

Gillian Dunn, Manager

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## A BIG PORTY WELCOME



**BIG THINGS** on the Beach is planning a Big Porty Tea Time Welcome on the Promenade on Sunday 24th July, as part of a UK wide Open Weekend to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad of 2012.

The Big Welcome will attract to Portobello the artists and visitors who will come to Edinburgh in the next two years to experience the cultural programmes that will accompany the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. We hope that the whole community of Portobello will participate - residents of all ages, businesses and service providers - as well as other Edinburgh residents.

We invite everyone to take part by decorating tablecloths to celebrate Portobello's international connections and to cover the entire sea wall. We also invite you to bring food and drink, music and dance to share on the afternoon of 24th July. A registration fee of £5 will be charged for each tablecloth, with half of the proceeds going to an international humanitarian cause and the other half to support Big Things on the Beach's ongoing programme. There will be Design Workshops led by artists during July to give you ideas for your tablecloth.

All the registered tablecloths will be photographed and shown on our website [www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk](http://www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk), along with details of the Big Welcome and how to join in.

Damian Killeen  
Chairperson

## ON THE COURTS

**JOPPA** Tennis invites you to play on our courts at Joppa Grove, just off Brunstane Road.

There will be supervised Pay and Play sessions for all during the summer holidays, at a modest cost, and our new coach, Andrew Haw, will hold coaching sessions for children and adults throughout the summer - details of these can be found on his website [spin@rollingballtennis.com](http://spin@rollingballtennis.com). We will be leafleting local schools with details of our summer programme.

We also offer individual membership at £35 for the year, and family membership at £65 for all family members within one household. Really great value, and right on our doorstep.

Joppa Tennis is run by volunteers and is a great advertisement for what is being done within our community, so if tennis is your sport or you just fancy trying out a new sport, come along and give it a go.

For more information call Elsie on 01875 811183.

Marjorie Thomas

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## WHAT'S ON in Portobello

**BEACH VOLLEYBALL**, at foot of Bellfield Street:

Sat.11th/Sun.12th June - Scottish Tour event.

Sun.7th Aug - Jets mixed event.

Sat.20th Aug -Scottish Tour, Jets Open.

**PORTOBELLOSWIMCENTRE**

**EVENTS** on Portobello Beach - A multi-sport activities summer programme for 8-14 year olds and team fitness programmes for 12-18 year olds. From 4th July - 12th August, with sessions from 2-5pm Monday to Friday and 11am-1pm Saturday and Sunday. For enquiries call 669 6888.

**SUMMER FAMILY PRO-**

**GRAMME**, 4th July-24th August, Magdalene Community Centre. Registration at Open Day, Sunday 19th June, 12noon-4pm. The day will include a car boot sale - £10 a pitch/£5 Centre members - contact Jacqui on 669 8760 or 468 2020 or email [jacqui@magdalene-communitycentre.co.uk](mailto:jacqui@magdalene-communitycentre.co.uk) For more information see [www.magdalene-communitycentre.co.uk](http://www.magdalene-communitycentre.co.uk)

**CRAFT FAIR:** Sat 6th August, 11am-4pm, Town Hall. For more info.call 0795 689 7095 or 0770 835 3575 or email: [lothianfairs@live.co.uk](mailto:lothianfairs@live.co.uk)

**PORTOBELLO ORGANIC**

**MARKET**, Brighton Park: First Saturday of each month, 9.30am-1.30pm. Organic fruit, veg, meat and more. For more info.or to book a stall contact [info@pedal-party.org.uk](mailto:info@pedal-party.org.uk) or call 258 4483.

**CAR BOOT SALES** (Porto-

bello Rotary Club): Sundays 26th June, 24th July, 28th August. Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am - double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 661 9570.

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