

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: AUTUMN 2014

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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper  
produced by local people since 1980.

## PLAQUE HONOURS “RAILWAY MAN”



**ERIC LOMAX**, the prisoner of war whose story was told in the film *The Railway Man*, has been honoured with a commemorative plaque at the house in Bedford Terrace where he was born and lived until he joined up in 1939, at the start of WW2. He was captured by the Japanese while serving as a signals officer with the Royal Artillery, put to work on the building of the Burma Railway and severely tortured.

The plaque to Mr Lomax, who died aged 93 in 2012, was unveiled at a ceremony on 14th June by Charmaine, his daughter from his first marriage, and local man Nick Stroud who organised the project with the aid of generous sponsorship from ScotRail. The plaque reads: Eric Sutherland Lomax, 1919-2012, “The Railway Man”, Lived here 1919-1939.

Charmaine said: “It’s a great honour to be here to see my father commemorated in this way, and it was a precious moment for me to see the house where he grew up and the view that he saw from his bedroom window”.

Nick Stroud says: “After decades of suffering as a result of the torture, Eric Lomax found it within himself to forgive and befriend Takashi Nagase, the Japanese interpreter who had come to symbolise his torment because, he said: “Sometime the hating has to stop”. I thought this remarkable man should be commemorated at the place where he was born and grew up”.

The film, starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, was based on Eric Lomax’s autobiography *The Railway Man*, published in 1995.

## VILLAGE SHOW - HONOUR IN CAKE

**THE** bunting is out, the knitters are frantic and the brewers are brewing ready for the Portobello Village Show, which takes place on Sunday 7th September from 2-5pm in Rosefield Park.

This year there will be some new competitions, including the Charles William Schulze Commemorative Chocolate Cake Award. In 1906, when Charles built his factory to make luxury chocolate products in the Belgian style, it was a first for Scotland. As part of the WW1 commemorations

POD has devised this competition in honour of the owner of Portobello’s historic chocolate factory and his two sons who were killed during the war.

Many local people have been surprised to learn the history of the building on Portobello Road that later became the WM Ramsay Technical Institute and has now been converted to flats.

Now it’s down to you to get your teeth into creating a chocolate delight in the hope of winning a medal and a luxury chocolate hamper. There will

also be old favourites like home brew, handicrafts and jam, and the children’s competitions have had a revamp, with the library holding some workshop sessions to help them get off to a grand start.

The Newtongrange Brass Band will entertain us along with the Spurtle Ceilidh Band and a host of other surprise contributors. Stalls, food, duck races, dog parades and lots of activities will also help keep everyone happy.

Jane Hogg (POD)

## WORK TO START ON NEW SCHOOL

**THE** City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Act 2014 came into force on Monday 4th August, following Royal Assent on Friday 1st. The Act will allow work to begin on building the new Portobello High School on Portobello Park.

Welcoming the news, Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of Education, Children and Families at the Council said: “Now that Royal Assent has been received, it will be full steam ahead with our plans to replace Portobello High School. Over the last few weeks, since the Parliament approved the legislation, officers have been preparing to appropriate the park and sign the building contract with Balfour Beatty, and both will now take place over the next few days. In a few weeks work will start on Portobello Park as Balfour Beatty start to prepare the site for the construction works. I look forward to the opening of the new school in August 2016.”

## PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL

**THE** programme for the sixth Portobello Book Festival on the weekend of 3rd-5th October features a raft of lively sessions, including books on Edinburgh, castle culture, mental health, uses of science, writing and publishing, walking, and the politics of post-referendum Scotland. There are also workshops on writing, reminiscence and knitting.

This year we welcome to Portobello Scottish novelists Isla Dewar, Meaghan Delahunt and Jenni Fagan, among others, including new up-and-coming writers.

Meanwhile, there’s a special place for you at the festival. The opening event on Friday 3rd October at Portobello Library will focus on ‘A Sense of Place’ - physical, spiritual, fictional, scientific, political are just some of

the ways of thinking about place covered in this year’s festival. If you would like to make your own contribution to the opening event by writing a short piece on what ‘place’ means to you, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please leave your contribution along with your contact details at the library before the end of September and we’ll get back to you. The more the merrier.

The full programme and tickets, will be available from the library from mid-September. All events are free as usual.

In an exciting new development, Portobello High School are holding their own ‘fringe’ festival this year, with a week of events leading up to our main book festival, with authors, workshops and outings.

Mae Shaw

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED ?

**IF** you will turn 16 by 18th September 2014 and haven’t registered to vote in the Independence Referendum, there may still be time. You can download a registration form from the website [www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk](http://www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk), pick one up at the local library, or request one from the Electoral Registration Office on 0131 344 2500. Forms must be completed and taken or posted to the Electoral Registration Officer at the address on the form by midnight on Tuesday 2nd September. Postal vote applications must be made by 3rd September; forms available as above.



## PORTY PROFILE No. 55 LIZ SUTHERLAND

**FORMER** athletics internationalist Liz Sutherland settled in Portobello with her husband, sports journalist Sandy, in 1972. They chose the town because they thought it would be "a lovely place to live," and because Liz was spending much of her time training at Meadowbank.

Born and brought up in Fife, Liz was the eldest of three girls. She attended Ladybank Primary and Bell Baxter High where she discovered her passion for sport, particularly the long jump. Her father, a keen rugby player, and her mother, a tennis enthusiast, encouraged her sporting abilities and she went on to study PE at Dunfermline College.

After graduation, National Athletics Coach Tom McNab suggested she move south so that he could coach her, which she did, combining training with a teaching post at Hatfield. After a year teaching PE and English she returned to Scotland to get married and continued to teach while pursuing her athletics career.

Training with Edinburgh Southern, Liz was given the opportunity to try 100m hurdles. She says she caused quite a stir on the day in 1967 when her first race resulted in a new Scottish record, one of the highlights of her career. She went on to represent Scotland at the 1970 Commonwealth Games in the 100 metres, reaching the final, but had to withdraw from the Games in Christchurch, NZ in 1974, as she was pregnant.

"I never got to the Olympics as I was injured in '72 and '76. I had been to South Africa training in '76, came back and was injured doing sprint hurdles. That was disappointing", she says.

In 1977, however, she changed to 400m hurdles and was named 1977 Scottish Sportswoman of the Year after setting a Commonwealth and Scottish record at Meadowbank, the latter standing for almost 20 years. "It was nice to be recognised for having worked damn hard," she says. "It was hard, as you were just an amateur. I would be running at Meadowbank at an International in the afternoon, having been out doing the shopping with my daughter Joanna in the pram in the morning." In 1978 she went to the European Championships in Prague where she sustained a serious injury, and decided to call it a day.

Liz began a new career when she returned to study at the University of Edinburgh. She graduated with an MA Hons in Scottish Literature and French and then began work at the University as a research assistant on *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* before becoming one of the project's editors, a job that she says suits her eye for detail.

Recently Liz was off accompanying Joanna, who was working at the World Basketball Championships in Spain and Turkey, this time to look after her seven-month-old grandchild Flora. "There's never a dull moment", she says.

Karen Combe



Photo by Brenda Molony

## ON THE BEAT

**DURING** May, Police Scotland in Edinburgh were engaged in Operation Wolf, aimed at tackling specific crimes affecting the city's communities. A targeted day of action took place involving plain-clothed and uniformed officers in East Edinburgh, with attention given particularly to drugs and anti-social behaviour. Officers also carried out high-visibility patrols during the evenings to crack down on anti-social behaviour, and to offer reassurance to the public.

The summer months have seen significant demands on Police Scotland, with major events taking place across the country, namely the Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup, Edinburgh Festival, International Military Tattoo, and many local events such as the Craigmillar 50th Festival.

On 14th June the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay visited Portobello, providing an additional spectacle to the Rowport Regatta scheduled for the same day. With many events and prolonged periods of hot weather, Portobello has had thousands of additional visitors, and the Community Policing Team have been busy on foot and bicycle to prevent and deter disorder and ensure we keep people safe.

We will continue to work with our partners to address your community concerns, to tackle anti-social behaviour, house-breaking and property crime, drug dealing and crimes of violence.

For information on the Multi-Member Ward Plan visit the Police Scotland website and click on '[Your Community](#)'. We also have a local community policing twitter account @Edin-EastPolice giving information on crime appeals, updates and matters affecting the local community.

To contact us in an emergency always dial 999. For non-urgent crime, contact your local police office by telephone on 101. Our Twitter and Facebook sites are not for reporting crime and are not monitored 24/7.

The Community Policing Team

## LIVING WITH DEMENTIA - Lets Talk About It ...

...on Saturday 25th October, from 2.00-6.30pm at the Community Centre, Adephi Grove, Portobello. Everyone is welcome to drop in to this innovative event which includes film, talks by people with dementia, open discussion, art exhibition, information displays, tea and cake. A *Hints and Tips* leaflet, funded by the Neighbourhood Partnership, will be launched. The event aims to create a dialogue within the community to increase understanding, reduce

stigma and explore how Portobello can better support people to live well with this distressing illness. Programmes will be available at the library in early September and posted on the Portobello Community Council website. Organised by the Dementia Friendly Portobello Steering Group, contact: Teresa Straczynski, Dementia Adviser, Alzheimer Scotland. Tel. 0131 662 1204 or [tstraczynski@alzscot.org](mailto:tstraczynski@alzscot.org)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**THE JUNE TROPHY:** This annual competition at Brunstane Bowling Club was held on Thursday 19th June and raised £412 for St Columba's Hospice.

**A SINGING GROUP** for people with dementia will meet at St Christopher's Church, Craigminty Road on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from 2pm-4pm, starting on 22nd September 2014. People with dementia should be accompanied by a carer. For further information call Sheila Hardie on 551 1229 or Kate Walker 554 4940.

**CROSSING NEEDED:** Residents of Milton Court in Hope Lane have sent a petition with 67 signatures to City of Edinburgh Council, requesting a pedestrian crossing. Many of them are elderly and infirm, and facing difficulties crossing the lane to get to Milton Road to catch a bus. The lane is used as a rat-run and and they fear things will get worse when the new school is built on Portobello Park.

**PIANO MAN** Ben Treuhaft, who lived in a tent on Portobello beach for nearly five months, was forced to pack up his tent, piano and other belongings on 6th August after losing his appeal against eviction by the City of Edinburgh Council. Council officials said the tent breached the city's management rules which prohibit camping within one mile of a public road.

### The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 35 local people. If you have something you would like to see

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THE library is delighted to be helping children prepare their entries for the craft competition at the Portobello Village Show on Sunday 7th September. We will be hosting two activity sessions on the Friday and Saturday afternoons before the show, which will give children the perfect opportunity to make some fantastic competition entries for the Sunday.

We are also delighted to be hosting a number of events organised by the Portobello Book Festival which is back in the first weekend of October for its sixth year. A full programme of events will be available from the library in mid-September.

If you are looking for something for the kids to do over the October week holiday, we will be running craft activities with an autumnal feel. In addition, Zoolab will be visiting us on Tuesday 14th October with their Commonwealth Creatures. Ask in the library for more information on these activities nearer the time, or check [our Facebook page](#).

Exhibitions in the library over the autumn will include a display of fascinating old photographs of the Edinburgh railways by Archie Foley of the Portobello Heritage Trust in October, and some of the work of the St James Art Group in November.

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 you 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 call on 529 5558 and ask about our Library Link and Housebound services.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month, when we will be discussing the following books:

7th October: *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Twang Eng Tan

4th November: *Toby's Room* by Pat Barker

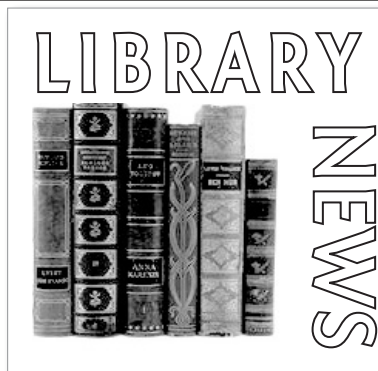
2nd December: *The Color Purple* Alice Walker

All books will be available from the library.

We also have a Teenage Book Group that meets on the last Thursday of every month and a Chatterbooks children's book group that meets on the first Saturday of every month; ask staff for details.

For up-to-date information on what is happening in the library, check our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary)

Paul Hudson



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

THE June meeting of Portobello Community Council included the AGM, with the election of office bearers. Geoff Lynn, Lee Kindness and Mark Cameron continue as Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer respectively and Clare Slifer was elected as the new Secretary.

The key function of a community council is to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies. Over the past year we have set up, or improved, ways to enable us to do that effectively. Our website has been refreshed and tied into updates on Facebook and Twitter. We have also set up a new email list, which is a helpful digest of local items of interest. For those not online, we're in the process of refreshing our area in the library and have a network of four notice boards locally to share information.

Our consultation on 'dog zones' on the beach generated a lot of interest and was completed by over 600 people. The results showed support for the status-quo, rather than the proposed dog-free areas. We have shared the report and the many insightful comments received with Edinburgh Council and hope to do further work on a positive campaign encouraging good behaviour from all users of the beach and prom.

Future or current consultations include proposed 20mph speed limits across Edinburgh and the Cruden Homes/Aldi planning application for the Baileyfield site.

You can find us in Scotmid from 10:30am-12:30pm on the second Saturday of every month. Stop and chat and let us know what's important to you in Portobello.

([facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil) ; email @portobelloc; [www.portobelloc.org](http://www.portobelloc.org) )

Lee Kindness

## THE DEMARCO LECTURE

IN celebration of his contribution to the cultural life of Edinburgh, Portobello Community Council will host a lecture by Richard Demarco on Thursday 11th September at Edinburgh College, Milton Road.

Demarco, artist, promoter of the arts and co-founder of The Traverse Theatre, was presented with the annual Edinburgh Award in March 2014 and made European Citizen of the Year in August 2013. He grew up in Portobello, where his family ran a café on the Promenade at the beginning of the 20th century. He will speak about the changes in Edinburgh during his lifetime and the effects of the Festival, and also about his childhood.

The lecture starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are free and can be booked online at <https://goo.gl/LyaU2u>. If you don't have a computer you can log in at Portobello Library.

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## MUM ON THE RUN

### Carry On Camping?

SUMMER holidays seem like a distant memory so why, I wonder, am I still tripping over camping gear? Maybe we are reluctant to put it away, as doing so marks the end of the summer and perhaps of family camping holidays, as our older children may have their own plans next year.

This summer we went camping in Cornwall for the first time. We packed up the car, the trailer, and every available space with all our kit and headed off. With three not so small children in the back of the car or, as often happens, one of them in the front and me in the back separating warring factions, we broke the journey with overnight stops at hotels to make it more tolerable.

After such a long trip, we were so relieved to reach the camp site nestled on a stunning beach, we failed to notice that our pitch was probably in the worst possible position. It was in front of a pylon that emitted a constant buzzing noise, beside the site's main road, near the toilet block and on an ants' nest. After three sleepless nights and days of battling ants, we asked to move. We were given a lovely secluded spot, but it took the whole day to re-pitch.

Now I am beginning to think that what I really remember about the holiday was the overnight stays in the hotels. My youngest son confirmed this when he said: "Mum, when can we go back and stay at the service station. I could live there you know." Maybe it is time to put all that kit away!

MANY people still think PEDAL is a cycling organisation, but the acronym comes from Portobello Energy Descent and Land reform group. Our local initiative came at the same time as the transition town concept, formulated in Totnes by Rob Hopkins.

The Transition movement is not just another energy-saving initiative distributed downwards by government or power companies to show how green they are. It is a response to the question of how we might cope with modern living while reducing our dependency on fossil fuels which, despite new methods of extraction, are not a sustainable source of energy and other products.

The drive comes from local people coming up with initiatives, no matter how small, that help reduce this reliance on dwindling reserves. This is why PEDAL started the market in Brighton Park, to help promote quality local producers and attract shoppers to Portobello. In the workshops we have held over the years about what people want in Portobello, a vibrant diverse high street with useful shops has always been a priority. A functioning high street and the beach are the things most remarked on by visitors and new residents.

Recently a small group of our members went to West Kilbride to see what they had done to promote their high street. The situation was dire, with 29 closed or boarded-up shops, the result of shoppers travelling out of the town to retail centres. The decline seen all over Britain has come about because of shoppers switching just a small amount of money from local traders, making some businesses unviable. As more shops closed there was less reason to use the high street, which led to more closures.

What they did in West Kilbride by creating a 'Craft Town', sometimes buying shops to let at reasonable rents, is possibly not right for Portobello. But it did show what can be done at a local level by local people. It also highlighted the consequences of not using local facilities, with the adage "use them or lose them" ringing in the mind.

Stephen Hawkins

## SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



THE cool days of autumn are the best time for planting, when the soil still retains some heat, so this is the time when I split plants that have started to go bare in the middle of the clump, replanting some and giving some away to friends. Herbaceous perennials like asters, phlox and Shasta daisies can be split in situ; just dig out a few pieces roughly a spade's width, on opposite sides of the clump and replant, or dig out the whole clump, discard the woody centre and divide by chopping through with a spade. I transplant them to a different part of the garden or make the clump bigger by covering a larger area, then water well before mulching around with wet newspaper and covering with a sprinkling of earth, our own compost, or grass clippings

Another way to give away plants is by collecting seed. Verbena bonariensis, that lovely tall, wispy purple flower beloved of bees, is easily grown from seed and comes true (i.e. it doesn't cross-pollinate and produce other variations). Collect seeds on a dry day in paper envelopes (those sent with junk mail are ideal) or bags, label and date.

Finally, I give away 'sticks' - shrub hardwood cuttings, bundles of elderflower (especially the dark one which makes lovely pink champagne) or philadelphus for its gorgeous scent. Finger-thick 60 cm lengths, wrapped in wet newspaper can last about 24 hours if they have to be transported far, without losing too much moisture. They can then be pushed about 15cm into cleared ground and left for about a year before moving. I do this around the kitchen garden where they take up no room.

If grown in light soil potatoes can be left in the ground, but in heavy soil they are better lifted and stored, ensuring no light can get to them. I layer them between sheets of newspapers in wooden boxes, kindly given to me by my Asian grocer friends. These boxes are great for storing all sorts of things, including keeping all those plastic pots in order, as they stack neatly and are light to lift. I dream of having garden essentials and useful bits and pieces all in order; it never happens, but I do try! Leave leeks, beetroot, carrots, parsnips in the ground until needed.

Autumn means harvesting of seeds and crops, and storing and preserving whether by juicing, freezing or making wine/cider. It also means planting bulbs, especially hyacinths for Christmas presents to fill rooms with that lovely scent in January.

## ST MARK'S CHURCH WALL

RESTORATION work is taking place on the boundary wall around the graveyard at St. Mark's Church. The pavement on St Mark's Place has been closed and the leaning walls shored up. The work is funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and donations from the Dunderdale (Scottish Episcopal Church) Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, and All Churches Trust. Small excavations by trained archaeologists will take place, as required, for the construction of new foundations, but it is not anticipated that any burials will be disturbed. A survey of all memorials will be undertaken and information leaflets and interpretation boards will be produced. The work is expected to take a year.

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# CELEBRATING WILLIAM HAY

ON Sunday 1st May a plaque to William Hay, architect, was unveiled at 18 Brunstane Road North, better known to many as Rabbit Hall. The plaque was funded by a Scotmid Community Grant and unveiled by Graham Philip, then manager of Scotmid, Portobello. Hay was probably better known for his buildings outside Scotland, with his most significant work here a major restoration of St. Giles' Cathedral.

Hay was born in Peterhead in 1818 and became an apprentice joiner, but after breaking his leg studied architecture. He married in 1844 and moved to St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1847; the British Government had asked him to design government buildings there and in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They lived here for several years, although there seems to have been a brief return visit to Peterhead in the early 1850s, when he designed St John's Episcopal Church. They then settled in Toronto. Many of the buildings he designed there have been demolished, but St Basil's Church, in downtown

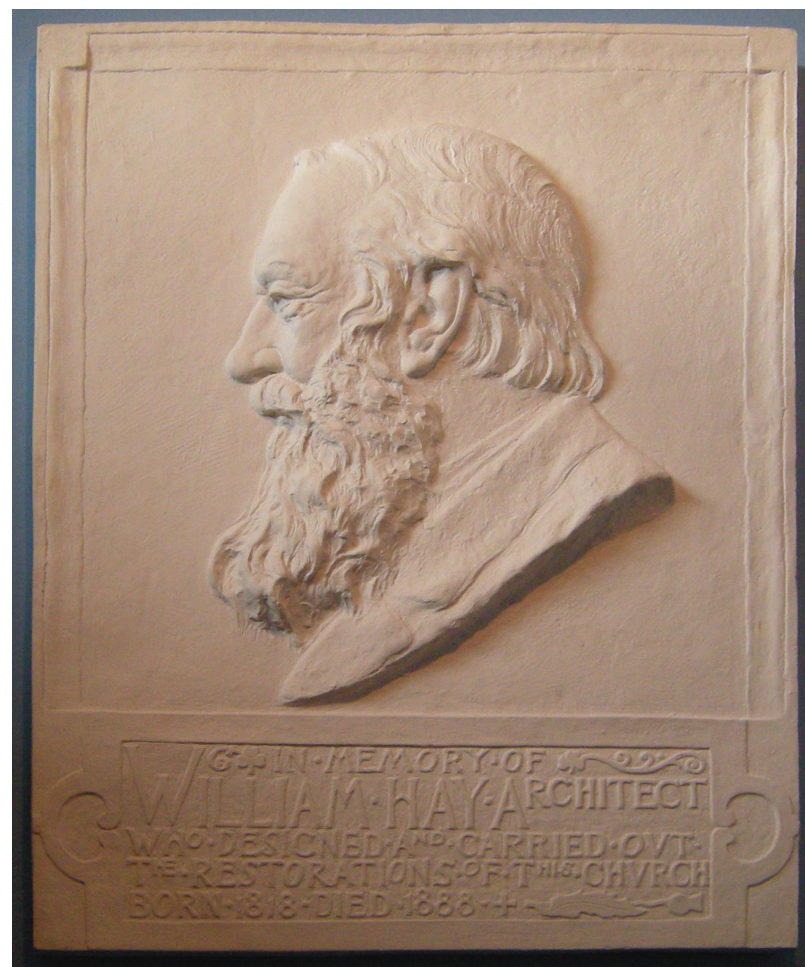


Toronto, remains. The City Hall and Court House in Kingston, Ontario, also remain as fine examples of his classical gothic designs.

Hay returned to Edinburgh shortly after the death of his wife in 1860. He set up a practice in Edinburgh and built Rabbit Hall in what was then Hamilton Street. He re-married in 1870 and had one daughter. He was employed by William Chambers, then Lord Provost, to create a single space from the subdivided spaces in St. Giles' Cathedral. Galleries and partition walls were removed and the building was

cleaned. Mr. Chambers commented: "From 1872 onward the restoration work had been done by the advice and under the personal superintendence of Mr. William Hay, Architect, Edinburgh, whose knowledge of ancient ecclesiastical architecture is only equalled by the refined taste and artistic skill which he brought to bear upon the work. By the Spring of 1883 the process of renovation was all but completed and with a success even more striking than had been anticipated."

Interestingly, although notes on Chambers can be found in St Giles', there



Photos by Margaret Munro

is no written information about Hay available there. A bronze plaque to Hay can be found, but is almost inaccessible at the unused north entrance. Miranda Gatcliffe, of Rabbit Hall, had a plaster cast of this fine plaque made which now hangs in her vestibule. This was also unveiled and can be seen above.

Hay designed the Cathedral of the Most

Holy Trinity in Hamilton, Bermuda, but due to failing health, the main work was overseen by his partner George Henderson. Hay died in 1888 after eight months' illness. He left a flourishing partnership and has been described as being of 'kindly and genial disposition'.

Margaret Munro

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## What's On

**BIG BEACH BUSK:** Sat 30th August from noon, Portobello Prom. See [Facebook](#) page for more info.

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** Sat 6th Sept, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Organic fruit, veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks etc. For more information or to book a stall, contact [portobello.market@live.co.uk](mailto:portobello.market@live.co.uk) Future dates: 4th Oct, 1st Nov.

**CHINAPainting CLASSES:** New session starts locally on Thurs 11th Sept, 6.30-9.30pm. For more information call 669 3975.

**CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello):** Sundays 28th Sept, 26th Oct, New-craighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220583 or see [www.portbellorotary.com](http://www.portbellorotary.com)

**PORTOBELLO COMEDY NIGHT:** Friday 7th November at the Dalriada 8.30pm, tickets available from [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) and the bar in advance as usual.

**ART EXHIBITION** by the St James Art Group, 10th-24th Nov, Portobello Library. For more information call 669 6731.

**TABLETOP SALE:** Sat. 29th Nov, 10am-12.30pm, Portobello & Joppa Parish Church Hall, organised by the church Guild, with a variety of stalls. To book a table or for more information, please call Caroline on 07522364785 or email [cigillies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cigillies@hotmail.co.uk)

**AFTERNOON DANCING:** ballroom, sequence, line dancing, to the sound of Duncan McBain, Weds/Fridays, 1.30-4pm, St James Church Hall, Rosefield St, £2.50 incl. Refreshments.

## COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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**Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:**  
Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or mob 07718666481 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 DAVID WALKER, Labour:**  
2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Magdalene Community Centre, 5.30-6.15pm  
Cllr Walker may also be contacted at: City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ, tel: 529 4972, or e-mail: [david.walker1@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.walker1@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

**THE** Group's annual street and pub collection on 30th/31st May raised £249.95, and £250.00 was sent to Amnesty for its work worldwide.

Letter-writing is at the heart of our work and from March to June over 30 appeals were sent to authorities in countries where there is repression and, in many cases, serious human rights violations with victims becoming prisoners of conscience or under threat. Letter-writing will resume on Wednesday 10th September in The Dalriada on the Prom at 7.30pm. Anyone who wants to help will be welcomed.

Amnesty's major campaign for 2014, Stop Torture, is well under way; after five cases were featured at our Market stall on 6th June, 119 appeal cards were sent off.

There will be another chance, for those who missed it in Portobello, to see the film *An echo of pain of the many* about the civil war in Guatemala and its victims, on Friday 10th October at the Augustine Church, George IV Bridge.

In the context of the World Cup in Brazil, Amnesty has highlighted the plight of those who were brutally attacked and at least two killed by police, at peaceful protests. Many were living in appalling poverty while vast sums were spent on sport, and many evicted to accommodate it. Our group has joined others in making representations for justice for victims to the authorities in Brazil.

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall. Visitors are very welcome, with no commitment required. For more information call 0131 669 1308.

David Turner

## POD FILM AUTUMN SEASON

**AFTER** a very successful first year POD Film returns for an autumn season of films.

Screenings take place at 7pm at the Wash House Community Centre, Adelphi Grove.

Saturday Oct 11th - *Frozen* (Sing-A-Long version PG)

Saturday Nov 8th - *Boyhood* (15)

Saturday Dec 6th - *A Christmas Carol* (2009 version starring Jim Carrey PG)

To keep up to date on POD Film screenings follow [Portobello Open Door on Facebook](#) or check [www.the-pod.org](http://www.the-pod.org) If you are interested in getting involved with POD Film please email to: [info@the-pod.org](mailto:info@the-pod.org)

## THE TRAIN LEAVING IS LAST TRAIN FROM PORTOBELLO STATION



IT is 50 years since the last train left Portobello Station. Its destination was North Berwick and it left at 23.01 on 5th September 1964. (With thanks to John S. Wilson for the photograph and information).

## FROM STEAM TO DIESEL

**THIS** is an exhibition of photographs compiled by Archie Foley and Peter E Ross from a collection of old negatives shot by a British Railways engine driver in the mid-1950s to the early 1960s.

As a fellow railwayman the photographer was able to snap drivers, shunters, plate-layers, signalmen, cleaners and many others at work.

These photographs are

a unique behind the scenes record of the men and women who worked on the railway in and around Edinburgh and how the railway looked before diesel power replaced steam in 1968.

The exhibition will be held at Portobello Library, Rosefield Avenue from Monday, 20th October to Friday, 7th November.

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## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PARISH IN PORTOBELLO AND JOPPA

ON 15th June 2014 the congregations of Portobello Old (Bellfield St.), St. James' (Rosefield Place) and St. Philip's (Abercorn Terrace) voted to become one congregation named Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. The union took effect officially on 1st August and we will begin worshipping together at the church on Abercorn Terrace on 7th September.

Discussions regarding the future of the complexes in Bellfield Street and Rosefield Place are already under way, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh have asked us to make proposals by September 2015. We have been asked to retain some kind of presence in Portobello itself.

As things progress we will endeavour to care for those who use our halls and remember the needs of our community as we create a church relevant to the needs of 21st century Portobello and Joppa. If you have any questions or comments, please email to [stewartweaver@btinternet.com](mailto:stewartweaver@btinternet.com)

Rev. Stewart Weaver

## THE SCHOOL THAT WENT TO WAR



BBC RADIO Scotland has been working with pupils from Portobello High School to uncover the WW1 stories of former pupils for a five-part radio series. Through researching army records, school archives, newspaper articles and interviewing historians, the pupils discovered the stories behind the names on their school's Roll of Honour, including a 15-year old recruit who lied about his age to fight overseas, the brothers who signed up together to McCrae's battalion and the school friends who fought and died together at Gallipoli. One of the programmes focuses on the pupils' experiences during a recent visit to the battlefields of Ypres and the Somme. They are seen here at the 51st (Highland) Division Memorial at Beaumont Hamel, the Somme. *The School That Went to War* is on Mondays at 1.30 pm from 13th October until 10th November 2014.

HELLO Portobellians, and welcome back after the summer break! Your local community centre, The Wash House, continues to offer activities for all age groups. From gentle exercise to rugby tigers, fun fiddle to arts classes, Spanish to puppy training, baby PEEPs to youth clubs, and not forgetting our monthly cinema night hosted by POD! Or why not share a skill you have and start your own class, or run your own event?



If you're looking for hall hire our main space is big and bright with a stage, lights and sound system available, and has a capacity of up to 216 for seated events, or is perfect for celebrations, physical activities, presentations etc. Our smaller middle hall is more private and business-like, and our back room is equipped with tables, chairs and a sink for arts activities etc. We also have a large Community Noticeboard in the lobby where you can advertise or find out about what's going on in your area.

We are always on the lookout for new board members, volunteers and event staff to help move the Wash House forward, so if you are interested and have a little time to spare every now and again, or once a month for meetings, please drop your details to us.

Our office hours are Monday to Thursday 9am till 2pm and Friday 9am till 11.30am, and Val our facilities co-ordinator is available Mon-Thurs 9.30am till 2pm. Alternatively please contact us on 0131 669 8275 or email [admin@portobellocc.org.uk](mailto:admin@portobellocc.org.uk). Check out our website [portobellocc.org.uk](http://portobellocc.org.uk) or join us on our facebook page - [Porty Wash House](https://www.facebook.com/PortyWashHouse).

Sooz Glen, Chair

## DISCOVERING OUR NATIONAL LIBRARY

THIS year Portobello Heritage Trust's Annual Lecture features staff from the National Library of Scotland who will look at some types of material held there. Discussing *Collecting the National Published Archive*, Jennifer Giles, Curator, Scottish Communities and Organisations, will illustrate how the modern collections of print and digital material are developed. Andrew Martin,

Curator, Literature and the Arts, will look at *Scotland on Film* discussing how Scots and Scotland have appeared in feature films - from stars in tartan to urban grit - using stills from films. The lecture will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th November in St. Mark's Church, 287 Portobello High Street. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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## NORTH BERWICK FIRST WINNERS OF JONATHAN BENDIT CUP



Photo by Peter E Ross

**SARA CHRISTEY** presents North Berwick, relay winners at the Rowporty Regatta on 14th June, with the inaugural Jonathan Bendit Cup, named in honour of her late husband who founded Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club. The club is also the home of Rowporty.

## ON THE GREENS- BRUNSTANE LADIES MAKE NATIONAL BOWLS FINALS



Photo by Alison Anderson

June Casey, Marion Clark, Jeanette Scott, Irene Bannon, Sandra Gibson, Jessie Ramage and Helen Spence

**BOTH** the Ladies Triple and Ladies Rink at Brunstane Bowling Club played in the National Finals at Northfield, Ayr on 7th and 8th August.

The Rink - Jeanette Scott, Marion Clark, June Casey and Irene Bannon - played ladies from Bellshill & Mossend Club in Lanarkshire, but were unfortunately beaten 10:16.

The Triple - Jessie Ramage, Helen Spence and Sandra Gibson - played their first round against ladies from Methven in Perthshire and had a comfortable win 15:7; later the same day they faced a team from Busby, Glasgow and lost by just one shot, with a final score of 14:15. It's never easy to play two matches in one day, but it was a valiant effort.

Brunstane club is justifiably proud to have had seven of their lady members represent Bowls Scotland District 14 at this year's National Finals. For some of them this was their first chance to play at Ayr.

Sandra Williamson, Ladies Match Secretary

## IN THE SADDLE



Photo courtesy of Porto-Velo

**ALTHOUGH** local cycling club Porto-Velo has only been going for two years, it's already become a tradition to have a weekend trip away in the early part of the summer. This year, we based ourselves for two nights in simple but comfortable self-catering accommodation just outside Aviemore, giving us an ideal base for exploring some of Scotland's best scenery. Thanks to large plates of pasta the evening before, we managed a long ride on the Saturday which included the tough climb up to the Lecht ski centre, while Sunday's shorter and faster ride took us over the moorland to the north of Grantown-on-Spey.

The mainstay of the club continues to be the Sunday fitness rides involving a group of a dozen or so riders tackling routes of around 60 miles. These usually feature a few hills, the occasional (optional) sprint for a 30-sign, and always a café stop to refuel with cakes and scones. Café stops also feature on our shorter leisure rides at the beginning of each month, which are aimed more at novice riders and those who prefer a more relaxed pace. We are also planning at least one more family ride, for parents and children, during September. Full details of all the club's activities can be found on our website, [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com), or you can join us in The Dalriada on the last Thursday of the month.

Andrew Mylne

## JOPPA TENNIS

**THE** courts at Joppa Grove are open all year round, so there is still time to enjoy playing. Memberships are still available, and application forms can be obtained from outside the clubhouse or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/joppa-tennis). We still have a very healthy membership, particularly our family membership at only £65.

Our Pay and Play throughout the school holidays has been disappointing, however. The courts have been super-

vised and children and adults were able to play for as little as 50p for half an hour.

We are keen to make the courts as accessible as we can to everyone, in an effort to promote this great game, particularly to the young, and we will re-double our efforts to promote the Pay and Play next summer.

A big "thanks" to Elsie and Garry for looking after the courts this summer.

Marjorie Thomas

## Gemma's Gym

**MAKING** physical activity part of daily life can be a challenge, so I wanted to share a recent experience that inspired me, to show how being active and taking care of your body and mind is so beneficial.

With the great summer weather we have had so far, I decided to start a jogging group for members at the club. I encouraged people who had never jogged before and who initially thought they couldn't even run for the bus.

I was lucky to find a group that were all willing to try and give anything a go. We went out once a week and started with walking briskly and jogging, alternating between them. What became clear from the start was that the social side, with chatting and working together, really helped. The 30 to 45 minutes flew by, not only because we had worked hard, but because it was also fun.

Five weeks in and we had entered a 5km event. This came as a shock for some of the group, as they had never taken part in anything like it before, but we had covered a 5km distance in training, so everyone knew they could do it. The route was new to some, but it was flat. We all successfully completed it in great times, spirits were high, and it was a great experience to be a part of.

Gemma Hopewell,  
[gemma.hopewell@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.hopewell@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

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