

# THE Portobello REPORTER

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

## 'PITZ' SITE DEVELOPMENT

**EVALUATION** by city council officers of the bids received from developers for the purchase of the Power League ('Pitz') site took place on 7th December 2017. It had been intended to report to the Finance and Resources Committee on 23rd January, but at the request of local councillors and community members, the report was deferred to its meeting on 27th March.

The Scottish Government awarded Action Porty £12,000 to carry out a 'Making Places' exercise for the site and a Community-Led Design Weekend took place at the Town Hall on 3rd and 4th March. Input was invited from local residents, businesses and others with an interest in how the Pitz/Tumbles site might realistically be developed for maximum community benefit.

Through a series of open discussions, design sessions and presentations, and led by a team of experienced local architects and designers, the Design Weekend focused on creating three possible designs for the Westbank Street site, contributing to a Design Brief that will be



Photo by Peter E. Ross

submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council ahead of the Finance and Resources Committee's March meeting. At this meeting, councillors will decide whether to sell the site to Cala Homes, identified as their 'preferred bidder' in January, or to take on board Action Porty's design brief, with a view to developing the site in a way that is more aligned with the community's needs and aspirations.

The results of the Design

Weekend will also be compiled into a report for the Scottish Government, whose 'Making Places' initiative seeks to encourage communities to positively and actively contribute to the development of their local area, and tackle inequality and disadvantage to achieve development that benefits everyone, not just private interests. It remains to be seen whether the council will take heed of the community's

wishes, or will go ahead with selling the land to Cala Homes.

Action Porty is now encouraging the wider community to contact their local councillors to make their feelings known ahead of the council's final decision on the matter, due on 27th March.

For further information, please email [westactionporty@gmail.com](mailto:westactionporty@gmail.com)

Olivia Furness, Action Porty

## REPRIEVE FOR GEORGE CINEMA

**THE** councillors on the city council's development management sub-committee unanimously rejected the most recent planning application for the Art Deco C-listed former George cinema, then Bingo Hall, on Bath Street on 21st February. The application would have involved retaining the facade but demolishing the rest and replacing it with 20 flats. (A previous application in July 2017 would have demolished the whole building and replaced it with 21 flats.) Council officials had recommended approval, on the grounds that the building, which contains asbestos, was incapable of being restored. The building's reprieve has been welcomed by all four Portobello and Craigmillar councillors and by the Friends of the George. The Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust has now expressed an interest in developing the building as a community cinema and cultural venue. The developer, Liam Buckley, is believed to be considering an appeal to the Scottish Government.



Photo by Margaret Munro

Excavations at Baileyfield Crescent have revealed the foundations of the former Baileyfield Glass Works which closed in 1968. The site has been exposed by the AOC Archaeology Group in partnership with Barrat Homes and the City Council prior to the next phase of house building on this site.

## ACTION PORTY EXPANDS BOUNDARY

AT a well-attended meeting held on 18th January, it was agreed that the original Friends of Bellfield group, set up to initiate the campaign to save Bellfield, be formally wound up with the remaining monies being transferred to Action Porty, the successor organisation.

A second resolution, also passed overwhelmingly, was to extend the boundaries of Action Porty. It was explained that the company was established with a restricted boundary to assist the community right to buy process, but with Bellfield now safely in community ownership, Action Porty was taking the opportunity to expand their boundary as follows: southwards from Kings Road, up Baileyfield Road and Duddingston Park to the junction with Milton Road, and eastwards along Milton Road to the Eastfield junction. This opens up membership to more local people and means that some associate members may now be eligible to become ordinary members.

Meanwhile, under the direction of Development Manager Emma Griffiths, headway is being made on essential repairs to Bellfield to make the building safe for public use once again. For detailed updates and photos of the repairs, follow Save Bellfield on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/savebellfield). There is now a telephone number for Bellfield: 0131 281 2942.

Ian Cooke

**COUNCIL'S SETTS  
REPORT MEETING  
POSTPONED.  
SEE NEWS IN BRIEF  
ON PAGE 2**



## PORTY PROFILE No. 68

## EDWARD ROSS

**EDWARD** Ross is best known for his book *Filmish*, a graphic novel published in 2015. It's a rollercoaster journey through the history of film, with Edward taking centre stage as narrator and a character, appearing throughout the book. It has been published in six languages, and has taken him across the world to speak at book festivals.

"It all happened by accident," Edward tells me over coffee at the Skylark. He moved to Portobello

when he was eight, and began drawing and creating comics with his neighbour. Essentially, he was telling stories, and the comic books gave way to movie making when Edward reached his teens. It was never his ambition to go to art school to continue with art, or even film making – instead he studied the theory of film at Stirling University.

On graduating, Edward tried to write short film scripts while working at the Filmhouse cinema, but he kept coming back to comic books.

"I found it more exciting to get up in the morning and write a comic, so that's what I did", says Edward. He photocopied some of his early versions of what was to become *Filmish*, and asked the Filmhouse to sell them. The first 100 sold out quickly, and he realised he might be on to something.

He and his partner Mary, also from Portobello, moved back to the area, and although he misses the bustle of the city, he confesses that: "Mentally it's a great place to be. It has a slower pace, and if I need inspiration, I can go for a walk on the beach."

The couple now have two young children, and with both sets of grandparents living in Portobello too, it's a perfect place for them to grow up.

His next book focuses on the history of gaming – *Gamish* – and although it will mainly cover video games, Edward insists that "we have always had this desire to play." Many video games are now aimed at adults, and can take hundreds of hours to complete. "We're at a real turning point in the history of video games," he goes on, "and games like *That Dragon, Cancer* and *Depression Quest* offer affecting, emotional experiences a million miles from *Super Mario* or *Grand Theft Auto*."

Neil Braidwood



Courtesy of Edward Ross

## ON THE BEAT

**THE** Community Policing Team undertook a local initiative over the festive period targeting domestic abuse, acquisitive crime, drugs supply and road traffic offences. Amongst a number of arrests on warrant, static speed traps were set to target drivers exceeding the new 20mph speed limit.

A highlight was the recovery of a large cannabis cultivation, potentially worth £52,000, from an address on Portobello High Street. This would not have been possible without information received from the local community and we continue to encourage residents to report any similar concerns to help us disrupt organised crime.

Since the turn of the year we have noticed an increase in the number of graffiti tags, particularly 'MR SENO', appearing. We will investigate any report of vandalism thoroughly with the assistance of our Environmental Warden partners, and welcome any information anyone has on who may be responsible.

As always, PC McPherson and I are keen to attend any community groups or resident associations who feel they would benefit from a police input. We can be contacted at our Community Surgery held at Portobello Library on the last Friday of every month at 1.00pm, or through [David.Love@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:David.Love@Scotland.pnn.police.uk).

PC David Love

## TIME BANK EVENTS

**COME** along to our Community Chat Cafe at the Jaffle Joint on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and our Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th April at Portobello Baptist Church from 10am-noon.

Meet members of your community, discuss what matters to you, what you think about our community, or just the weather. Everyone welcome, all ages, abilities, friends, acquaintances, and those we have yet to share a yarn with.

After the huge success of last year's Repair Café, Portobello Timebank have booked a date for a re-run. On May 12th you'll be

able to bring your tools for sharpening, bikes to be fixed, jewellery and clothing for repairs and much more. Come down to Tribe Porty from 1-4pm.

Visitors will be able to chat to their fixers while enjoying a cuppa and homemade cake from the café, giving a real community vibe to the day. At the last event we estimated that the total replacement value of all items fixed was around £600, not to mention the amount of landfill we saved. If you have skills you'd like to share please contact the Timebank at [www.portbellotimebank.co.uk](http://www.portbellotimebank.co.uk).

Kirsty Carver

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Photo by Peter E Ross

Severe weather brought Edinburgh to a standstill.

**BRIGHTON PLACE SETTS :** After several delays, a city council report on setted streets in Edinburgh was finally expected to be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee on Thursday 1st March. The report Strategy for Setted Streets recommends that all setted streets within Edinburgh's World Heritage Site and conservation areas (the latter including Brighton Place) be protected. Due to the severe winter weather, however, the meeting was postponed.

The city council had carried out a consultation of Edinburgh residents, which has informed the report. The responses, the report states, have indicated overwhelming support for the retention and protection of setts, rather than replacement with asphalt.

**NEW GARDENING GROUP:** Would you be interested in taking part in a regular weekly drop-in gardening group in Figgate Park? The group would meet for a couple of hours on the same day/time slot every week and undertake some light gardening/conservation tasks, mainly around the newly-established Fruity Corner and the nearby borders. Whether you are a novice gardener wishing to learn skills or a seasoned gardener happy to share skills, please contact Friends of Figgate Park at [volunteer@figgatepark.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@figgatepark.org.uk).

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**EASTER** holidays start on 30th March this year and we are hard at work planning our Easter activities for children. For more information on what we are doing in the library over Easter ask a member of staff or check us on [Facebook](#).

One of our fortnightly Library Link services has moved to Thursday afternoons and there are spaces available for new members. This service will bus disabled and frail elderly members into the library for books, a cup of tea and a chat. If you are interested, give us a call on 529 5558. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Catherine Gay, one of our long-standing members, who turns 100 on 19th April.

Our Inclusive Storytime runs on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. This Storytime has been specially tailored to children with additional needs, by taking a slower pace and using visual aids and sensory tools to provide half an hour of fun for all.

The Macmillan information and support drop in service is now up and running. A trained volunteer is available every Monday and Wednesday from 2-4pm, offering a listening ear and help and information to people affected by cancer.

Whodunit fans will love our murder mystery night on Tuesday 17th April when five crime authors will act out a murder mystery and give readings from their books. There will be a prize for whoever guesses the murderer. Guest authors will include Caroline Dunford, Mac Logan and Wendy H Jones. Tickets costing £3 will be available from the library; profits in aid of the Portobello Book Festival.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Monday of every month; over the next three months we will be discussing the following:

2nd April: *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

7th May: *Leaving the Atocha Station* by Ben Lerner

4th June: *Pure* by Andrew Miller

All books will be available from the library. If you are interested, ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson



## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### WHY A COMMUNITY COUNCIL?

**THE** official explanation is that a community council's "primary purpose is to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies." Ascertaining the views of the community on an issue that matters to Portobello is something which Portobello Community Council is renowned for doing, and doing well. These include online surveys, hustings, and Town Hall meetings, as well as discussion at the monthly community council meetings which are open to the public and happen on the last Monday of every month (except July and December) at 7.30pm in the hall behind the Baptist Church.

But is there a way our community council can speak up for us more strongly?

We are lucky that our four local city councillors regularly attend our meetings and hear our concerns, but when the views of the community are clear and may be challenging for those councillors to champion, is it the job of the community council to champion them instead, or to create space for others in the community to do so?

Perhaps the Westbank/Pitz situation provides a good example of how we try to respond. Here we initially put in a participation request so we could give our views on the developers' designs. Meanwhile, our concern both about what was on offer and about Edinburgh Council's consultation, led us to organise our own much more open-ended consultation, and we followed up by organising a Town Hall meeting, where the push by Action Porty for an alternative vision for the site really took off.

Perhaps key is for the community council to be encouraging of all those initiatives that seek to improve Portobello, even - or especially - when those initiatives are challenging to those who hold more power.

PCC

## SUCCESS FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

**TWO** Portobello High School pupils were winners in the area competition of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2018, hosted by the Rotary Club of Portobello and held at Holy Rood High School on 8th February.

Guitarist Lucy Thomas won the instrumental section, playing *Danza del Altiplano* by Leo Brouwer. Eilidh Riddell won the voice section, singing *Many a New Day* by Rogers and Hammerstein. She went on to take second place in her section in the district final on 14th February and will now compete in the regional final on 11th March, both held at Heriot-Watt University.

This year's Grand Final, to be organised by the Rotary Club of Currie Balerno, will also be held at Heriot-Watt University, on Saturday 19th May.

The annual competition is organised by the Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland to promote excellence in young music making UK wide. Some 8,000 young musicians took part last year.

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### IT'S A DOG'S LIFE!

**TWO** four-legged friends have joined our family and have been keeping us all very busy over the last few months. After years of procrastinating about getting a dog, and a year of looking for suitable dogs to rehome, we struck lucky and ended up with two real characters, not unlike their *Still Game* namesakes Jack and Bobby. Resembling cuddly teddy bears, they possess the super-power of luring teenagers to leave their rooms and go outside for walks.

Like most dogs they love to scavenge, and on one particular walk in the woods at Meadowfield Park, we came across the aftermath of a party. Jack and Bobby were in a sniffing frenzy and we had a lot of trouble stopping them from licking the beer bottles and crisp packets. We decided to do a mini clean-up before they became too inebriated. We gathered all the rubbish into a plastic bag and I dutifully headed off to look for the nearest bin on Arthur's Seat. The bag, full of rattling empties, made an almighty clang as I dropped it into the bin and I looked round to find that I had attracted the attention of a passing couple who shot me a funny look. "Disgusting what rubbish people will leave behind them", I muttered, but I could see they weren't convinced. I caught up with the others feeling strangely guilty, and when I told the children what had happened they cackled like Isa. "Oh Mum, we can't take you anywhere", they said. How times have changed!

### SOMETIMES

connections arise that bring home a point. The increased reporting of plastic polluting the oceans comes at the same time as the sad news of Earthy closing with the loss of another independent trader. Earthy produce was loose, with paper bags provided if required. The vast majority of fresh produce in the supermarkets comes in plastic packaging which can find its way into water courses and then to the sea. It is estimated that there are five trillion pieces of plastic in the oceans, including in the guts of sea life. We can do something about it, no matter how small, by buying loose fruit and vegetables whenever possible, rather than the pre-packaged items that are often more expensive.

Reduce, re-use, recycle is still a useful slogan and whilst recycling is good, re-using is even better. What about a system where milk is delivered in bottles with the empty ones being collected for re-use? This service exists at the moment in Portobello but how many of us make use of it?

One thing arising from the loss of Earthy is renewed interest in a community shop. A well-attended meeting at the beginning of February has resulted in a steering group being formed to emulate similar ventures in other communities. This idea is something that I have written about before to complement the monthly Portobello Market and maybe there will now be sufficient enthusiasm to take it forward. Anyone who wishes to help can contact [info@pedal-porty.org.uk](mailto:info@pedal-porty.org.uk)

• • •

Our own small effort in local food production, the trees at the community orchard, were wassailed in January as an encouragement for a bountiful harvest this coming autumn. The Community Choir was in excellent voice and over 50 of us joined in the usual celebration around the fire and enjoying spiced apple juice and home-baking.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL



Photo by PNigel Archdale

The Marine Conservation Society organised a spring beach clean under the direction of Catherine Gemmell. 100 volunteers gathered 50kg of litter including significant quantities of plastic. The majority of volunteers were children who are determined to purge plastic from our sands.

## SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



**AFTER** the winter some plants may have died, and it is difficult to know whether they are going to revive. Wait until growth starts and, if in doubt, scratch a small area at the base of the plant to see if there is green; any shade of brown means it is dead. This is a great time to divide grasses or herbaceous perennials. Bulbs will be looking great, but any that have been in a long time and have no flowers (called blindness, in daffodils) need digging up, splitting and replanting. A blind clump split last year resulted in nearly 50 bulbs, now planted along path edges.

Orders of plantlets or plug plants will arrive just as the growing season starts. As a night frost in early May could kill them, harden them off before planting out, with one week in a cool room, one in a cold frame or protected area such as against a house wall, and an extra one if frost is forecast, covered with fleece. Clothes pegs are good for keeping coverings in place if wind follows frost. Individual plants, like tree ferns, can be wrapped in fleece. By the end of May we are usually frost-free, so pumpkins, squashes or sweetcorn can be planted out.

I grow lots of plants from seed in the greenhouse. They don't take up much room, but the next stage of pricking-out and hardening-off needs a lot of flat space. I use anything that can provide frost protection, such as some bricks with glass on top. As plants grow taller you can increase the height of this cold frame with more bricks, and it has the advantage that it can be dismantled and stored somewhere else.

If you have well-drained sandy soil you can plant chitted (seed) potatoes or dahlias in March, but if you're on clay wait until April. Raised beds on my clay mean I get a month extra growing at both ends of the season. Last year my pumpkins did well almost into November.

## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

**PORTOBELLO'S** recently established Friends of the Prom group is holding a public meeting at St John's Church in Brighton Place on Saturday 10th March, from 1-3 pm. The aim of the meeting is to identify the most popular

ideas for how to improve the promenade. Discussion will be structured into six themes: sport, art and culture, children and families, amenity accessibility, and general, with everyone able to contribute to each in turn.

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SNP

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Next Issue June 2018



# PORTOBELLO LOVE STORIES

A most enjoyable and very successful reminiscence event was held in Bellfield on Saturday, 10th February, for some of the older members of our community. It was decided to call the event Portobello Love Stories, as Valentine's Day was fast approaching, and a red and white theme was used to decorate the tables. Afternoon tea was provided for around 60 guests, with volunteers producing lots of delicious home-bakes. The event was sponsored by Action Porty, Portobello Heritage Trust and Tribe Porty Youth Theatre.

Members of Portobello Older Peoples Project and residents of Spring Gardens Care Home, with their carers and helpers, and members of the congregation from the former Portobello Old Parish Church were invited along to reminisce about their lives. Sarah Laing sang songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s and



Sharing stories, from left to right, Archie, Margaret, Ruby, Pat, Max and Lexi.

many sang along, with occasional spontaneous dancing. An illustrated slide-show of a day-trip to Portobello was given by Dr Margaret Munro of Portobello Heritage Trust. This helped trigger many happy memories of days spent on Portobello beach. Memory boxes on loan from the Living Memory Association proved very popular, providing articles to handle and discuss

around various themes, including school days, days out and shopping.

Members of the youth theatre helped serve afternoon tea, with older volunteers pouring the hot drinks. Then, note-books and pens in hand, the youngsters spoke to their guests about their reminiscences. There was a buzz in the hall as different generations chatted and laughed about the stories that were being

shared. The youngsters were later 'de-briefed' and recorded the stories they had been told and their own thoughts on the day.

Everyone agreed it had been a most successful event, with new memories created, providing something to talk about in the days ahead. We would like to thank everyone who gave their time to help make this a day to remember.

## HEALTH MATTERS

AS the NHS celebrates its 70th birthday this year, it's time to consider the issues raised by the increasing demands made on it. Its inception was "... the climax of a hugely ambitious plan to bring good health care to all", and Anneria Thomas, the first baby to be born within the NHS, says that health care was previously something only "the privileged few could enjoy". There was concern at the time that people would treat the service as a right, about the cost, and the Victorian buildings the new service inherited.

Our NHS is very precious and now feels threatened and, although the issues are complex, it is time to involve us all in the much-welcomed debate about what we want from health care. The '3 before GP' campaign would like us to ask ourselves three questions before visiting a GP surgery. Can we self-care? Can we find an answer to our problem on NHS Inform or other reputable website? Can we get advice and treatment from a pharmacist? This would protect the GPs' time for when we all have more complex health issues needing investigation.

Dr Portia Bella

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JUNE DEADLINE 6TH APRIL.



## What's On

**CEILIDH:** Friday 23rd March, 7.30pm, Willowbrae Bowling Club - a fundraiser for Portobello Monday Centre. Tickets £10, incl. a hot supper, from Portobello Baptist Church Hall on Mondays from 9am-1pm. There will be a raffle and prize donations are welcome.

**CAR BOOT SALES:** (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sun 25th March, 29th April, 27th May. 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

**LOCAL AMNESTY GROUP** Coffee Morning and Book Sale: Sat 14th April, 10am-noon, Baptist Church Hall. Donations of saleable books, baking and bric-a-brac appreciated.

**PORTOBELLO HERITAGE TRUST'S AGM:** Mon 16th April, 7.30pm, Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St, followed by a talk by Gavin Willshaw titled Portobello: People & Places Wikipedia Editathon.

**SING IN THE CITY** have started a new day-time rock'n'pop choir in The Wash House on Thursdays, from 12th April, 10am-noon. To book your free trial contact [hello@singinthecity.com](mailto:hello@singinthecity.com) No audition required.

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** First Saturday of the month, Brighton Park, for organic fruit & veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks. For details or to book a stall contact [portobello.market@live.co.uk](mailto:portobello.market@live.co.uk)

**DANCING:** Ballroom, sequence, line. Beach Lane Social Club, Wed/Fri 1.00-3.30pm; Thurs 2-4pm. £3 incl. refreshments.

**PORTY NETBALL:** Holy Rood High School, Mondays, 7:30-8:45pm, £4 a session. A fun recreational group for adults of all ages. All levels welcome. See [Facebook](#) page for details.

**PORTOBELLO parkrun:** 5km timed run, Saturdays, 9.30am, Figgate Park. For details see [www.parkrun.org.uk/portobello](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/portobello)

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

IN late 2017, under the heading 'Write for Rights', the group focused on raising awareness of the risks run and abuses experienced by human rights defenders in repressive regimes. Members are also contacting female politicians at Council, Scottish Parliament and Westminster levels to gain support for Amnesty's longstanding campaign to gain information about, and hopefully the release of Aster Fissiehatson, a prominent Eritrean politician. She "disappeared" in 2001 and has not been heard of since.

Our pub quiz in February raised over £200. It was well attended and helped to put Amnesty and its human rights work on the map. Many thanks to all who gave their time and talents.

A talk is planned by people who visited Palestine in 2017 to show solidarity for those seeking justice, to which Tommy Sheppard MP will be invited; and by the local group of The Welcoming, which provides a place where refugees and asylum seekers are made to feel at home.

Group meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Church at 7.30pm and are open to everyone, without commitment. For more details see our Facebook page, email [theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com) or call Theresa on 0131 669 0295.

David Turner

## HAIR TODAY...

**LOCAL** man Dugald Campbell had his long hair and beard cropped in January, raising £2,200 for research into the untreatable and incurable polycystic kidney disease. His granddaughter Caris Wraight, who is in P2 at Towerbank Primary School, has the condition.

"The beard had grown to over six inches, but was cut on my 65th birthday to my family's great delight", Dugald says. "Not many people get to be a year older and look 20 years younger on the same day. Wendy Sinclair of Buddies salon donated her skills and time to do the deed, and we are both extremely grateful to all who contributed".



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**PORTY Wash House**, built in the early twentieth century, is one of only three surviving 'steamies' in Edinburgh. Constructed across the city to tackle the public health crisis and terrible infant mortality, wash houses provided laundry facilities for disadvantaged families, many of whom didn't have access to running water. Women could scrub, mangle and sort the household's clothing, without the risk of their children getting scalded. No call for Zumba or running shoes to keep you fit!



Porty Wash House stands as witness to massive social change over the last century, and provides a vital public space for the health and wellbeing of our community now. The Wash House will continue to be a central resource for old and new generations as Portobello changes and grows.

Find out more about what we offer and how you can get involved, at our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. For more details on all groups and activities see [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org), or get in touch with Facilities Coordinator Val Stokes, on 669 8275, on Tuesday and Wednesday 8am-5pm.

Gica Loening



**TRIBE** Porty is expanding its reach, with new classes to add to the schedule.

On Tuesdays from 11am-noon, Lokeshvarii offers Chair Yoga - an easy and gentle yoga class. Kundalini Chair Yoga gives a variation for each pose, so that whether on a chair or a mat, no one is excluded.

On Wednesdays from 1-2pm, Alison Hughes offers a gentle yoga class. This class would suit anyone wanting a gentle practice and modifications can be made to suit all abilities. The style is Dru Yoga which works on body, mind, spirit, improving strength and flexibility, while creating core stability. She also runs our new children and parent yoga on Fridays from 1.30pm for 3-6 year olds, and Saturdays at 12.30pm for 7-10 year olds.

Starting in March, we will offer Qigong sessions with Helen and Bobby on Tuesdays from 1-2pm. This class is open to everyone and is suitable for beginners. Qigong teaches us how to tune in to our own natural self-healing potential. It helps us to get well, keep well and live longer with no negative side effects. It is a powerful tool for life and personal transformation.

Spaces are available in all the above classes, so get in touch via our website: [www.tribeporty.org/events](http://www.tribeporty.org/events)

Dani Trudeau  
Tribe Porty

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## TOWERBANK SCHOOL NEWS



Msufini pupils learn about Scotland

**TOWERBANK** is one of 22 primary schools linked with Msufini Primary School in Tanzania through the Twende Pamoja Trust. In February 2018 two Towerbank teachers, Ms Bicheno and Mrs McGroarty, visited Msufini Primary School. They have kept everyone informed about their trip through their blog.

From Towerbank Newsletters

**Charlie, P1, helped the Portobello Timebank conduct a litter survey in Magdalene Glen with a fellow young Timebanker Leonardo. Litter picking was great fun, helped by great weather and the nearby zip wire. A big litter clean of this area will be on Saturday 24th April at 2pm. All helpers welcome and refreshments will be provided.**

## AMAZING P5 AND SCOTTISH OPERA



**P5** and Scottish Opera performed *Dragons of the Western Sea* to all the P4 and P3 classes and to invited friends and family. The children had worked for weeks learning the songs and music with their teachers. They learnt all their moves that morning. The

performances from all the children were brimming with confidence and enjoyment. Many thanks to Towerbank Parent Group for raising the funds for this amazing project. We will be repeating this for P5 with a new opera next year!

## PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



**WELL** done to former pupil Kyle Jiminez, who has been selected to represent Scotland in basketball at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, and to Craig Nicol, one of the school's basketball coaches, who has been named as Scotland's Assistant Coach for the Games. This is an amazing achievement for both Kyle and Craig. Portobello wishes you both the best of luck in Australia.

## CAPTAIN'S RUGBY SHIRT DONATION

A huge thank you to former pupil and Women's Scottish Rugby Captain Lisa Martin who kindly donated a signed jersey worn at last year's Six Nations game against England to the school. Lisa has been a key player in Scotland's success, earning 37 caps and captaining the side for the past two seasons, including the two wins against Wales and Italy in the 2017 Women's Six Nations.

From Portobello High School Weekly Updates



**PORTOBELLO** High School pupil Holly Aitchison (14) has represented Scotland's U16 team v Northern Ireland at a match in Belfast. Her sporting inspiration is Lisa Evans who has represented Scotland and also played in top football leagues across the world including Bayern Munich and Arsenal.

By Gregor Turner



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## SWIMMING CLUB NEWS

WE had our annual prize giving in January at Duddingston Golf Club, where all the 24 trophies, some almost 100 years old, and medals were presented. The swimmers and their families also enjoyed a great buffet and an excellent ceilidh.

On the competitive front, our best swimmers competed at the East District Championships at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in early February. They produced some fantastic swims and Portobello had swimmers in five different finals. Four swimmers recorded fast enough times to allow them to enter the Scottish National Championships - a great achievement, as that competition has a very high standard for entry.

On 17th and 18th March we will host our annual gala at Prestonpans Pool. Called the Mad March Meet, it is now in its 13th year and attracts swimmers from all over Scotland.

John MacDougall, Swim Convener

## GOING FOR GOLDCOAST

AFTER all the hard work we have put in on the sands of Portobello Beach, it was amazing to hear that we have qualified for next month's Commonwealth Games in Australia. We have had a long wait, but we trusted in the hard work we put in, on and off the court, and now it has been absolutely worth it to be confirmed as the first ever women's team to represent Scotland in beach volleyball. We always believed that if we could qualify for the Games then we would have a really good chance of winning a medal.

Beach volleyball has never before featured in the Commonwealth Games, so we are delighted that it has been included, and that we are able to make history for our sport and our country at such an iconic beach volleyball location.

The Portobello community has been a fantastic support to us along the way. Passers-by cheer us on from the promenade wall, and others have



proved crucial to our plans to make the sport bigger and better for our players and for the Portobello community. Now we need to be at our physical best to be in with a chance of winning a medal.

We are running a fundraising campaign called Gold Club 100, where we are asking 100 businesses or individuals to donate £100. This will allow us to prepare properly for the games ahead. If anyone would like to donate, please email [beattiecoutts2018@gmail.com](mailto:beattiecoutts2018@gmail.com). You can also visit [www.goingforgoldcoast.com](http://www.goingforgoldcoast.com), or our Twitter page @[COUTTS\\_BEATSBVB](https://twitter.com/COUTTS_BEATSBVB)

Lynne Beattie

## IN THE SADDLE



Photo by Mike Muldoon

PORTOVELO, the Portobello-based cycling club, managed to keep its Sunday rides going throughout the worst of the winter weather. Even on the coldest days, numbers remained high, bolstered initially by New Year resolutions. The risk of ice, however, limited our route choice, so for some weeks we stuck mostly to the coast road and avoided minor roads and higher ground.

Now we're into spring, we've brought the start-time for our Sunday rides forward from 9am to 8am. It's an early start, but most people

appreciate getting home for lunchtime, and having the rest of the day to do other things.

Plans are already well advanced for our weekend excursion in June, which this year will be to the North Pennines. For the first time, this will involve a choice of routes on both the Saturday and Sunday, making the trip suitable for all regular club riders, whether they normally join our faster 'fitness' group or the slower 'intermediate' group.

Full details of all the club's activities are on our website [porto-velo.com](http://porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

## JOPPA TENNIS SET TO SERVE UP EXCITING TIMES

THERE are exciting times ahead for Joppa Tennis. For the first time in many years we are entering a team in the East of Scotland tennis league. This is a men's team, but in future years we will be looking to add a ladies' and a youth team. So if you like a challenge, get in touch and join in.

We have received a You Decide grant to provide a defibrillator in the pavillion and members will be given instructions on its use. We hope this will also benefit the local community and we are looking at ways of implementing this.

The AGM in March will consider a slight change of name, to Joppa Community Tennis Club, which seems to match our aspirations of making the club as inclusive as we can.

We will be holding an Open Day in May when there will be free coaching for children and adults and a chance to try out our tennis ball machine. See our Facebook page or our notice boards for the exact date.

Marjorie Thomas

## ROWING AWAY

REGULAR prom walkers will have seen our rowing boats out on the water most days of the week. The winter months have not put Rowporty off, but when the wind is blowing and the waves are up we stay put.

Over the winter we have also been doing repairs and renovations to one of the skiffs and now that it is back on the water we have time to give some tender loving care to the other boat.

The club has a committed group of rowers and this season, like last, we will have our regatta. On 23rd June, this inter-club racing competition will bring together up to 10 clubs, from near and far, for a day of friendly rivalry and banter with home-baking and hot food for participants, their families and friends.

We will be taking part in other regattas, from Arran to Ullapool and all around the Forth, as well as going on expeditions around the Western Isles. In July, we will make our annual trip to Lewis to support the growing local rowing community.

We are a community-based club - open and inclusive - that takes advantage of the wonderful resource we have on our doorstep. If you would like to join the club and take up rowing you will have to do at least two "novice" sessions before you can progress. These introductory sessions are held on Sundays. For more details visit the club's website at [www.rowporty.org.uk](http://www.rowporty.org.uk).

Bill Jameson

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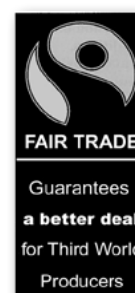
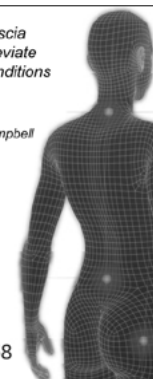
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