

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Winter 2018

Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500  
Also available online on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk)

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

## BRIGHTON PLACE OPEN OVER FESTIVE PERIOD

**BRIGHTON** Place will be open over the Christmas period, from Saturday 1st December until Monday 7th January and Lothian Buses will run all their diverted services on normal routes.

A late-night shopping event is planned to support local businesses on Thursday 6th December from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, with music, lights, entertainment, Santa and his sleigh, a raffle, shopping deals, food and seasonal family fun. There will be a Christmas tree this year, provided by Mackenzie Construction, the contractor working on Brighton Place, as part of their Community Benefits commitment within their contract.

Bus and traffic diversions have resulted in a noticeable reduction in the number of people coming to Portobello to shop. Billy Hoy, at Findlay's butchers says: "The high street is much quieter and we have seen a big drop in customers. Others I've spoken to say the same. I hope people get the message that Portobello is open for Christmas and that things will pick up, or the high street could be badly affected." Adam Rankine



Local butcher, Billy Hoy, is hoping that the Christmas period will see an increase in trade on the high street.

at The Fine Wine Co is also concerned. "It's our twelfth Christmas in Portobello and we love being part of the high street", he says, "but this is the third time we have had upset over the festive period, with the removal of the roundabout, re-laying of the pavements and now this. And with the press reporting 14 shops closing each month on high streets, we just don't know what's ahead."

The original estimate of 60 weeks for the road closure included the Christmas open period and roads officers are confident the work will take much less time, as the

contractors have experience of setts work elsewhere in Edinburgh. Mackenzie's bid of £698,000 was considerably less than the Council Capital Programme allowance of £1.2 million, a figure that provoked a lot of controversy.

For any issues relating to the setts renewal work, the liaison officer can be contacted at: [Richard.Cobb@capita.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Cobb@capita.co.uk) or 07713 352 847.

For information on bus diversions from 7th January see [www.bit.ly/busdivert](http://www.bit.ly/busdivert) or call 0131 555 6363.

Brenda Molony

## HEART SAFE

**THE** importance of publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) was highlighted recently when Scotmid's defibrillator was successfully used by a member of the public to help a man who had a sudden cardiac arrest near to the store.

As well as the defibrillator in Scotmid, there are devices at Tumbles, Portobello Swim Centre, Portobello High School, Portobello Surgery at 265 Portobello High Street, and mydentist at 216 Portobello High Street.

St John Scotland, who run the 'StJohn and the City' project with the aim of increasing access to defibrillators, are currently working with local organisations who are keen to install one. Project lead Lynn Cleal says: "When someone has a cardiac arrest, every second counts, so when you're waiting for the

ambulance, it's important to start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use a defibrillator. The 999 call handler will tell you where the nearest defibrillator is, so you can retrieve it while someone carries on doing CPR." For this reason, the charity says, the Scottish Ambulance Service is encouraging businesses to register their AEDs with them, so that no time is lost in locating a defibrillator in an emergency.

"No prior training is required to use a defibrillator, as all you do is turn it on and it will verbally give you clear instructions, and will only give an electric shock if one is needed", says Lynn. "If any individuals or businesses in Portobello would like to support the project and help provide one of these life-saving devices locally, we'd love to hear from them at [edinburgh@stjohnscotland.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@stjohnscotland.org.uk)."

Karen Combe

## REPRIEVE FOR 'THE GEORGE'

**THE** 'Save the George' Campaign received a boost in October from a decision by the Scottish Government Reporter. The original application, to retain only the facade of the former cinema in Bath Street and build 20 flats behind, was refused by the planning committee in February; the Reporter has now dismissed the developer's appeal against this decision. The reason given was that it has not been demonstrated that this C-listed building is beyond repair, and planning policy therefore dictates that it cannot be demolished.

Friends of the George say they plan to build on their feasibility work and continue to collaborate with a range of strategic partners. Their vision for the building is as an independent cinema with work spaces, a café, and a diverse programme of events to attract locals and visitors.

## PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL



L-R - Karine Polwart, Jane Meagher (Chair) and Kate Leiper at the launch of *A Wee Bird Was Watching*, Karine Polwart and Kate Leiper's children's book.

**THE** launch of *Postcards from Portobello* featured in the opening event of the tenth Portobello Book Festival, a most enjoyable evening

featuring words and music from those living in and connected to Portobello. Free copies of the book, funded by a grant from Creative Scotland, can be picked up in Portobello library.

The range of topics over the weekend encompassed both fiction and fact and several events featured music, which was an added bonus. During *A Wee Bird Was Watching*, Karine Polwart entranced her audience with her singing and encouraged them to join in the choruses. A taxi driver's book of photographs of 100 of his passengers illustrated the diversity of local and international fares. Two other sessions addressed domestic abuse and world-wide human rights abuses.

The closing event discussed the ways in which the world had changed since the first festival, focusing on digital technology, veterinary medicine and world-wide events. Organisers said they would review what they had achieved and consider how to take the festival forward.

All events are free and are organised and run by volunteers who give a lot of their time and energy, with great support by Portobello Library and its staff. None of the participants are paid and donations from those attending go towards running costs. The success and popularity of the book festival was evident from the large audiences at most sessions.

Margaret Munro



## PORTY PROFILE No. 70

## SHONA BLACK

**SHONA BLACK** grew up near Meadowbank and attended Portobello High School before working first for the Dental Estimates Board and then in publishing. This led her to a job as a typesetter in Fort William for a few years until deteriorating vision prompted a return to Edinburgh. For a while she was told she might have multiple sclerosis, but was eventually diagnosed with a condition known as Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. Having no central vision and only limited peripheral vision, getting a guide-dog was, as she puts it, a no-brainer. She already liked dogs, and it enables her to get around more quickly than she could manage using a cane.

Sight-loss seems only to have heightened Shona's determination to enjoy an active lifestyle. Although she has tried various sports, including running, skiing and sailing, her main passion is tandem cycling. Initial excursions, organised by Guide Dogs and Talking Tandems, included Glasgow to Edinburgh and the 5-ferries route that includes Arran, Bute and parts of Argyll. Last year, having acquired a tandem of her own, she approached local club Portovelo seeking a new sighted pilot. Club member David Shand stepped up, and within a few weeks they were turning out regularly on Sunday rides. This year, Shona has completed 'Ride the North', a two-day 170-mile route round the northern Highlands, and the four-day 'Lakes and Dales Loop' in Cumbria and Yorkshire. She is now involved in starting a new club, VIE-Velo, for visually-impaired cyclists in Edinburgh, which she hopes will be up and running in the spring.

Shona had been a regular visitor to Portobello to visit friends before she moved here from Leith three years ago. She likes the "lovely community feel" and the friendliness of local people. Living close to the beach is also a great asset for exercising her current guide-dog, a golden labrador/retriever cross called Woody – although she jokes that her next dog will need to be a black lab so she has more chance of seeing him against the sand!

Andrew Mylne



Photo by Andrew Mylne

## ON THE BEAT

**THE** Christmas and New Year holidays will soon be upon us. There has been a decreasing trend in the housebreakings reported over the past few years, although this should be no reason for complacency. Please continue to report any suspicious circumstances or behaviour, consider the use of an alarm, CCTV and robust locks on windows and doors.

Recently PC Matt McPherson and I charged youths with stealing bicycles from the Portobello area. Please use a good D lock (two if possible) when securing your bicycle and if convenient please take them inside your home for safe-keeping. Feel free to come into Portobello Police Station to get your bike marked with a UV pen.

If you have issues requiring Police attention in your area please feel free to come along to one of our surgeries which are held on the last Friday of every month at Portobello Library from 1pm and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

Also, please take extra care when driving in bad weather and prepare your vehicle well in advance for the cold, winter months. If you need any advice please contact us at the Police Station. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year 2019 from all of the Community Policing Team.

PC David Love



Photo by Andrew Mylne

Around 6,500 poppies, knitted by church and community members, were displayed at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church in November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice at the end of WW1. The moving display was organised by Elize Rutherford.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



**WELL-KNOWN** Portobello based actress Shauna MacDonald was awarded Best Film Actress at the Scottish Baftas [British Academy of Film and Television Arts] on 4th November for her role in the sci-fi thriller *White Chamber*.

**SIR TOM DEVINE**, the eminent historian, has intervened in support of a local campaign to save the old St John's RC primary school from demolition. The City of Edinburgh Council insists, however, that the process of redeveloping the site is too far advanced, and Historic Environment Scotland has also declined to intervene. A 38 Degrees petition can be found here: [bit.ly/StJohnsPet](http://bit.ly/StJohnsPet)

**TWO BEACH WHEELCHAIRS** are available for hire from the corner of Tumbles car park. To book, call 0300 666 0990. For more information see [www.bit.ly/beachmobility](http://www.bit.ly/beachmobility)

**STREET SOCCER FREE** provides football for 10-16s of all abilities, on Thursdays at 5pm at Brunstane Primary School playing fields.

**A SPOKES PORTY** group has been set up to campaign for improved cycling infrastructure in and around the area. See #SpokesPorty on twitter. If you want to get involved, contact [Kirstylewin@hotmail.com](mailto:Kirstylewin@hotmail.com). Meetings will probably be held every couple of months, in the evening at the Dalriada. The next one will be before Christmas. For more information on Spokes see [www.spokes.org.uk/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/)

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**THE** 10th Portobello Book Festival was a real triumph and we would like to pass on our thanks to the organisers for all their hard work in delivering this fabulous weekend. We love participating in the festival and are proud to be the main venue. Copies of *Postcards from Portobello*, the book produced to celebrate the 10th anniversary, will shortly be available to borrow from the library.

Copies of *Portobello – A Book of Paintings* are currently for sale in the library. This delightful collection of paintings by Peter Jones costs just £6.00. We are also still selling *Footprints in the Sand – Local History from the Portobello Reporter*, and *My Early Years: Growing up in Craightinny, Portobello during World War II* by Stuart Edmond. Any of these would make an ideal Christmas present.

We are currently investigating setting up an Audio Book group, making use of Edinburgh Libraries' downloadable audiobook collection, and feel that such a group would appeal most to readers who are visually impaired. If you might be interested in joining, please contact me at the library.

We run only one Wednesday Bookbug session during holiday periods, at 10.30am. Saturday sessions are unchanged. For those new to Bookbugs, sessions are free, fun and friendly events for babies, toddlers and their carers to enjoy songs and rhymes together. All 0-5 year olds and their parents/carers are welcome.

Macmillan Cancer Support's currently run an information and support drop-in service in the library on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm. Trained volunteers are on hand to offer a listening ear and help you find the information you need. All services are free for people affected by cancer.

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

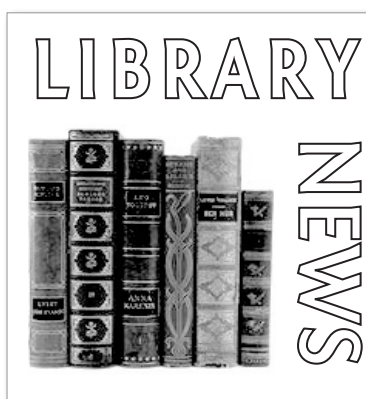
3rd December: *Perfect Lives* by Polly Samson

7th January: *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink

4th February: *Stoner* by John Williams

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

Paul Hudson



## DEMOCRACY MATTERS PORTOBELLO

AN open community meeting on local democracy - attended by members of the Portobello Community Council (PCC) and many other groups and individuals - was held at Bellfield on 10th November. Organised by a group of local people, it discussed recent council decisions affecting Portobello (e.g. the setts, Westbank, The George and St Johns school), and reflected on what decision making powers and processes Portobello needs.

This feeds into Scottish Government local democracy consultations which end on 30th November.

People arrived to tea, coffee and cake, and noted what makes Portobello unique – in an ABC of local distinctiveness. Eva Schonveld, Simon Bateson, David Francis and Anne-Marte Bergseng took us through discussions that were typed and projected as people spoke.

Instead of reacting to imposed developments, we discussed the need to ensure locally-determined development through something like the PCC but empowered, dynamic and inclusive (a Portobello Peoples Council?) Ideas included:

1. Portobello Peoples Assembly (including PCC, councillors, voluntary groups, and all interested) to develop a community charter and citizen's led local place plan to guide such a council, and ask our city council candidates to sign up to it ahead of the next local election.

2. Scotland-wide Citizens' Jury to decide what powers/processes are needed to enable such community level councils to exercise real decision-making over local services/ plans, and decide how to resource this (e.g. portion of council tax, community-set Airbnb tax, etc.)

3. Employing a community facilitator/manager to enable community-generated planning/actioning, and to highlight opportunities and threats.

4. Using novel consultation methods (e.g. mapping places and services that require development/attention) to include everyone in developing/actioning plans.

Get involved! – [evaschonveld@gmail.com](mailto:evaschonveld@gmail.com)

Justin Kendrick

## ALLOTMENTS NEEDED

THERE are over 65 community gardens across the city, and 44 allotment sites with 1,552 plots. The council aims to provide 1,300 more plots, by subdividing existing large ones and supporting communities to fundraise to create allotments or community food-growing gardens. Anyone interested in taking over a bit of council greenspace in Portobello for a community garden or allotment should contact [darren.ryan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:darren.ryan@edinburgh.gov.uk).

## ARMISTICE DAY CENTENARY

AN event to mark the Armistice Day centenary was held at Bellfield on Sunday 11th November. The Ladies Guerilla String Quartet performed *Armistice*, special composition, as part of a world-wide event, Play4Peace, during which musicians played the same piece of music together. Archie Foley, local historian and co-author with Margaret Munro of *Portobello and the Great War*, gave a talk on the subject, and spoke about some of the men whose names are inscribed on local war memorials.

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## TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE

IT felt like the end of an era when my youngest son turned 16 last week. Now, all my children could legally marry and vote if they wanted to, and two could drive. So, I wonder why there is still a gigantic and shabby trampoline, minus its safety nets and ladder, in the garden. It will probably be the last sign that children live here; maybe that's why I have procrastinated about packing it up.

Luckily, the trampoline did not cause any injuries or disputes with the neighbours, or become airborne in a storm. It just shortened my life by a few years when the children performed backward front flips in the air, and when one bright spark decided it might be fun to ride a bike on it while the others bounced up and down.

Next week the trampoline will be disassembled and freecycled. In its place, I am planning a garden inspired by Susan Burns' column and her beautiful planting schemes. I don't really anticipate any local campaigning about the trampoline's removal, as initial feedback to the proposal was: "Not now mum. I'm busy". But you never can tell!

IN unfortunately having to cancel the November Portobello Market due to a warning about high winds, I was reminded of a recent article in *Scientific American* by Kate Marvel where she wondered if this year the world will finally wake up to climate change. Sometimes it is necessary to remember that weather is not climate but, having said that, weather is affected by climate.

The forecast high winds exceeded our wind management plan but are not by themselves evidence of climate change; after all, we've always had storms and high winds. However, around the world we are experiencing the effects of climate change in that rainfall is heavier and dry hot spells are more severe and longer lasting. The trend is that these exceptional weather events are increasing. Sometimes it seems overwhelming and beyond our control, but small steps do add up and make a difference.

One thing we car users can do is reduce our reliance on car travel within the city, be it by using the buses more, walking to the shops or by using the new bikes stationed at the Tumbles site (see back page). The City of Edinburgh Council has recently consulted on the future of transport connections across the city with the view to increasing walking and cycling that will improve the streets and other places – let's work towards this.

One event not affected by the high winds was the annual Apple Day at the Donkeyfield Community Orchard. A wonderful enjoyable afternoon, with the highlight being apple juice pressing, something that always delights the youngsters. I'm sorry to say that we have suffered major graffiti on one section of the retaining wall. As always one or two idiots spoil things for the vast majority of the community who visit the orchard.

We encourage everyone to make use of the orchard, which is always open, opposite Brunstane railway station.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

## SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



WINTER is a time for getting ready for spring gardening. Ordering seeds is a nice job for a miserable day, but beware of ordering too many unless you can swap some with friends. A pinch of some varieties may be all you need; half a dozen plants of a new perennial may be enough. A whole packet of lettuce seeds, however, sown in regular batches, will last through a season. Remember to store seeds somewhere cool and dry, such as an airtight container in the fridge.

Once snowdrops start to appear above ground you can dig up a clump and split them. I've done this in batches over the seasons and now have them along the edge of every border. Plant them in twos and threes, about 10cm deep, and they'll bulk up well.

Emptying the compost heap is important to keep soil healthy as compost is full of microbial life. Keep the rough stuff for mulching and put the finer grade around plants you feel are precious. It works well for holding onto moisture in sandy soils and helping to break up clay soils. I grow tomatoes in it with no additions or treatment, but I move it into the greenhouse for a few weeks first, to warm through.

Seed heads have done their work, looking good and feeding the birds, and borders will be looking tatty now, so clear the old plants to make way for the fresh growth of spring.

A quick guide to going green in the garden: for fertilizer, use seaweed extract or comfrey tea for fruit and flowering plants. For pest control, squash pests such as greenfly with your fingers, and there are now nematodes for all sorts of pests, including slugs and caterpillars, but remember that you could be killing a future moth or butterfly. Herbicides should never be used; problem areas can be put down to lawn and regular mowing will control even horsetail. Fungicides should also never be used. If you enjoy gardening you will find your own sustainable ways.

## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

THE stretch of grassland at the west end of the Promenade, near the Dog and Cat Home, is undergoing a facelift. Native species of coastal plants, paid for by Portobello Amenity Society and grown at Granton Hub, were planted on Sunday 16th September by local

people and members of the Edinburgh Shoreline Project. The initiative was instigated by local resident, Emily O'Brien.

This is the first phase in the restoration of plant biodiversity along the shoreline of the Forth Estuary to create an attractive habitat

for smaller animals such as butterflies and bees. Earth banking will eventually also be provided where solitary bees can build their underground nests.

Native trees and shrubs will be planted on other parts of the coastline, using seed from the many

local species that have taken root on derelict land such, as Granton Harbour, before they are lost through development.

For more information about this, or future events, see [www.edinburghshoreline.org.uk](http://www.edinburghshoreline.org.uk).

Hester Naïf

**Cllr Kate Campbell**  
SNP SURGERIES  
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# INDUSTRY IN PORTOBELLO

PEOPLE are often intrigued by the two pottery kilns in Bridge Street. These are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the remnants of a major industry that supported two pottery firms producing a variety of domestic and industrial stoneware. This helped establish Portobello as a major pottery town.

The potteries, on adjacent sites, struggled throughout the Depression of the 1930s and only the family concern of A.W. Buchan & Co remained in production throughout and after the Second World War. Buchan's produced an extensive and innovative range, which included stoneware bottles, butter crocks, jam jars, demi-johns, ginger beer bottles, hot water bottles and graveyard urns.

After the war, glass replaced pottery in many bottle and jar products and Buchan had to look for new ideas to remain viable. The coal-fired kilns were expensive to run and required continuous attention, with about 16 hours of firing and around the same time to cool. Electrically-fired kilns provided an alternative option and two were installed in the factory in



Clockwise from above: Reusable stoneware gingerbeer bottles made in Portobello, an early example of the Thistle design, a decorative jug.

1956. The kiln loads were smaller and could be better organised to give almost continuous production and more product consistency. Shortly after, a further pair of kilns were installed to increase output.

Single-glazed coloured ware was initially the basis of production during post-war austerity, but it was soon recognised that new and original items were needed to maintain sales. A chemist was employed to produce attractive pastel glazes for the domestic market. Demand for new shapes and designs led to a move into decorative ware.

In 1949, a decorating shop was established. This

became a workshop for women with an aptitude for painting. Around 30 were employed at its peak, many previously students at Edinburgh College of Art. They were encouraged to submit their own ideas and more than 300 designs were recorded in a bound volume of watercolour drawings, with some becoming major production items. Each design was given a number, and the decorators were encouraged to add their own mark on the base, which acted as a form of quality control. The numbering system created was unique amongst potteries.

The design that attracted the most attention was

'Thistle', a single thistle surrounded by purple heather and bluebells. This proved very popular in the home and export markets. It outlasted all the other designs and was the only one being painted when the Portobello factory closed in 1972.

The pottery had fallen into disrepair and the company was unable to secure a government improvement grant. It was encouraged to look elsewhere and relocated to Crieff, Perthshire, where it continued production for around 20 years. It never, however, matched the excitement and innovation achieved in Portobello.

Mike Brown

## HEALTH MATTERS

### OVERPRESCRIBING: A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROBLEM

THE science of pharmacology began in the 20th century. We all know of examples of medication that can transform lives: inhalers for asthma and bronchitis, insulin for diabetes and blood pressure tablets to help prevent strokes and heart attacks.

However, polypharmacy, the overprescribing of medication, has become a new problem for the 21st century. This becomes inappropriate when the risks of medication begin to outweigh the benefits for an individual patient. NHS Scotland's Realistic Medicine agenda says that individual patients need to be on safe and effective medication that suits their changing needs and preferences.

Until the last century there were few effective drugs beyond opium and quinine. My many times great-grandmother Catherine, who in 1782 was a young widow with a family to support, sold Juniper's Patent Essence of Peppermint for stomach complaints and Pectoral Drops for coughs and asthma in the Lawnmarket. Unlike Catherine, I have a choice of many well-tested very effective drugs that I can prescribe. The challenge for us all, is to choose the ones that help and suit us best.

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## What's On

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** Sat 1st Dec, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Usual stalls. Details from [portobello.market@live.co.uk](mailto:portobello.market@live.co.uk). Next date, 3rd Feb.

**FUN FIDDLE CEILIDH:** Sun 2nd Dec, 3pm, The Wash House. Tickets £8/£6conc, Family £25, from Favers.

**A PORTY PANTO:** Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, 14th-16th Dec, Bellfield, Bellfield St. Fri 14th, 2.30/7pm; Sat 15th, 12pm/5pm; Sun 16th, 10am/2.30pm. Tickets from [www.bit.ly/portypanto](http://www.bit.ly/portypanto), Cove and The Skylark. Adults £12 (conc.£8), Family £36, under-5s free.

**CEILIDH:** 29th Dec 7.30-11.30pm, Bellfield, Bellfield St, with the Da Hooley Ceilidh Band. Tickets £12 (£10 conc.) from Skylark and Velvet Easel. A fundraiser for Portobello Timebank.

**CEILIDH:** 19th Jan, 7.30-11.30pm, details as above. A fundraiser for Towerbank Primary.

**BURNS SUPPER** for Christian Aid: Sat 19th Jan, 7pm, Portobello & Joppa Parish Church hall. Immortal Memory by Calum Wyllie, former Headteacher at Heriot's. Tickets £15 from 4th Jan. Call 657 3401

**PAMOJA FASHION:** Quality Clothes and Accessories, first Sat of the month, 10am-1pm, St John's Hall, Brighton Place. Supporting partnerships between schools and communities in Scotland and Tanzania.

**SING IN THE CITY** rock'n'pop choir, The Wash House, Thursdays, 10am-noon. For a free trial contact [hello@singinthecity.com](mailto:hello@singinthecity.com). No audition required.

**THE BRIDGE CLUB** in Portobello, Mondays, 9.30am would welcome two new players with some experience. For details call Bert on 669 8040.

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## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

### LOCAL AMNESTY GROUP FIT AT FORTY

**THE** group's 40th anniversary was celebrated on 17th October in The Dalriada, with a large turnout of past and present members and supporters. We were delighted to welcome Ian Fisher, founder member, and former MP Gavin Strang and Brenda Molony of *The Portobello Reporter*, both patrons of the group. A resumé was given of the many group activities and achievements over the years, and we go forward, addressing challenges to human rights worldwide, confident of the continuing support of the Portobello community.

In a first for the group, three members gave presentations at the Portobello Book Festival on: a brief history of the work of members over 40 years, the current massive violations of human rights in Turkey with Amnesty's responses, and the Amnesty campaign on keeping refugee families together.

The theme of our stall at the Village Show this year was 'refugees welcome', and 160 members of the public signed a petition to the UK Government appealing for refugee families to be kept together.

Group meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. Visitors are welcomed, with no obligation. For details email [theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com) or call 0131 669 0295.

David Turner



### CHRISTMAS AT TRIBE PARTY

**WE** are looking forward to sharing our popular annual Christmas Makers Market with the local community on Saturday 8th December from 1-5pm at Tribe Party. We will have 25 local makers exhibiting and selling their Christmas goodies in our bigger and newly-refurbished building.

Festive drinks and food will be provided by Sly Fox Foods, a vegan street food enterprise, with some outside music from DJ Dynamite and sets by Oi Musica's Brass Blast. We are also pleased to let you know that, in addition, we will be running a Vintage Flea Market upstairs in the White Hall from 2-6pm. Join us for some special festive maker fun.

Find us at 19-21 Windsor Place - look for the big TRIBE PARTY sign. For more information about events and co-working, visit [www.tribeparty.org](http://www.tribeparty.org)

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## BELLFIELD EVENTS

SINCE re-opening in June, Bellfield has been at the centre of Porty's cultural life, becoming a venue for the Fringe, the Big Beach Busk and ArtWalk Porty. We're hosting a variety of classes - everything from Tai chi to after-school cricket as well as hiring out the hall for numerous community celebrations.

We've also provided much-needed space for civic life in Portobello, hosting talks with local traders concerning the Brighton Place closure, as well as a training event for 160 Council staff. We were particularly touched by praise for the venue from one participant who had been both christened and married at Bellfield.

We're looking forward to staging the Porty Panto, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, from 14th to 16th December (see What's On). This classic fairytale features a cast of comedy talent and over 40 local young people. On 6th December there will also be a Panto Parade, culminating in a Christmas light switch-on at Bellfield, and a Christmas Fair on 15th December, so make sure you visit us over the festive season. Visit [www.bellfield.scot](http://www.bellfield.scot) for more details.

Sarah Cockburn

**THE Wash House held its 27th AGM in October and we welcomed on board four young people from Porty Youth Club. In this 'Year of Young People' it's fantastic to have their participation and voice. We also welcome Alli Abernethy, youth development worker for East Edinburgh. Her support and presence in the building will be a great asset to us.**



**We are on the lookout for a secretary and treasurer, so if you think you could help, we would love to hear from you. And new trustee members are welcome too. Barbara Middleton, local artist and trustee member, has made a lovely hand-painted sign to go on the front of the building, which will give us a better public front. Onwards and upwards!**

**Check out [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org) or find Porty Wash House on Facebook. For more information phone Val Stokes, facilities coordinator at 0131 669 8275 on Tuesday and Wednesday from 11.15am-3.45pm.**

Gica Loening

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## TOMMY'S TALES

IT'S almost the end of 2018. Everyone has something to celebrate whether it be Halloween, Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah or Hogmanay. We also have special events happening here in Portobello High School. In our assemblies we have been focussing on acts of kindness to everyone, Remembrance Day, Children in Need, our Christmas Concert, the first year Christmas Disco and 'Porty Does Strictly'.

This dance show is like *Strictly Come Dancing*, and is performed by sixth year pupils and teachers. The couples are made up of our amazing teachers and pupils, any of whom could be mistaken for professionals. We have the talented Jazz Band that plays the theme tune and other melodies, while the Media class make our amusing 'couples in training' videos. The Fashion department make the beautiful costumes. The Art department make the stunning posters, first year English classes write the programmes, and senior pupils do the sound, light and stage-management. A lot of time and hard work goes into this event, and every pupil can attest to the fun that we all have. The proceeds all go to our school inclusion fund to help support less privileged children.

From everyone here at PHS, we hope you have a great holiday and a Happy New Year!

Tommy Hurrell S2

The **Portobello Reporter** wishes

**a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

to all our Readers,  
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## BRUNSTANE PUPIL PARLIAMENT



**THE** Pupil Parliament is in its third year at Brunstane Primary School. Its aim is the development of a culture whereby all the children have a voice and the opportunity to play an active role in decisions that affect their learning and well-being.

The Parliament consists of 10 groups of pupils, staff and other volunteers who share an interest in bringing about positive change in a particular area, such as the environment. Each group is assigned a challenge that involves developing skills in leadership, problem solving, collaboration and communication.

One of last year's groups, the 'Friendly Bunch', was aiming to make Brunstane the kindest school in the country. Kindness is at the heart of the work of our school and is reflected in our values of respect and community. Holly, in this year's P6, tells us more: "We made a film about bullying and created posters with 10 things you should say more often. They are displayed around the school now to remind everyone to be kind and respectful".

Planning is under way for the next sitting of the Pupil Parliament in January 2019. Staff and children are eagerly anticipating how they will make a positive difference and live out the values of the school in their new groups.

Mhairi Ritchie,  
Lead Teacher  
for Pupil Parliament

## NEWS FROM TOWERBANK

P6 and our P2 buddies did an autumn beach clean-up. It was a beautiful sunny day. There were 160 pupils in 40 groups. Each group collected approximately 100 nurdles (tiny plastic pellets), so we think we collected around 4,000 nurdles in just one hour! Each group had one bag, two litter pickers and a check list. We are surveying all the different types of litter we found with the Marine Conservation Society. We were all very shocked to see how much litter we collected. We are Towerbank and we want to stop pollution!

Eilidh and Daniella P6

**TOWERBANK** is building a new school library. It now has 33 comfy bean bags and is gratefully receiving donations of books from publishers. The school is very appreciative of a local joinery company which constructed the shelves and oversaw the carpeting and décor, and of all the trades involved that donated their time. P5 and P3 pupils had the idea of using small figures to hold up letters of the alphabet to guide readers to their new books. Everyone in the Towerbank community agrees that the Library project is an excellent example of the whole school family identifying an improvement needed and working together to make it happen.

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## IN THE SADDLE



Photo by JRoy Buchanan

**NOW** the days are so much shorter, Portovelo's Sunday rides are starting at the later time of 9 am. In order to get back for lunchtime, while still keeping aside time for a cafe stop, distances are reduced and the emphasis is more on steady miles to maintain fitness. This makes it a good time of year to try us out if you are new to group riding. Weather permitting, our rides continue throughout the winter.

While most of us were winding down during the autumn, Carol and Tim Jones, pictured, were scaling alpine peaks, including the famous Stelvio pass in northern Italy and the Col d'Izoard in France. This is only the latest such adventure for the intrepid

couple, who are taking full advantage of retirement to explore parts of Europe by a combination of motorhome and tandem. Back in Scotland, they regularly turn out for our Sunday intermediate rides, along with our other tandem duo David Shand and Shona Black, the latter featuring as this edition's Porty Profile.

On 7th December, you'll find most of us in The Espy for the club Christmas night out which, building on last year's success, will include a range of awards to celebrate the many achievements of our members. Full details of this and other activities on our website, [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

## PORTOBELLO SWIMMING CLUB

**THE** season is well under way and we have already competed in several galas across the East of Scotland, resulting in many new personal bests and a load of medals. The competitions now start getting more serious, with the Edinburgh Schools Championships, and the East District Age Group Championships continuing in late December for 50m sprints.

**O u r o w n C l u b** championships in November, at the Swim Centre, produced the following champions for 2018: Ages 8/9, Abby Blackstock and Daniel Nec; 10/11, Hanka Seabright and Finlay Blackstock; 12/13, Robyn McCarthy and Harry MacKintosh; 14/15, Louise Lock and Emil Morawski; 16+, Monika Venturova and Miko Sulek/Rory Campbell (joint winners).

At the start of the New Year we will be holding our annual prize-giving at Duddingston Golf Club, when all our 2018 champions will be presented with their trophies.

Linda Forrester

## PORTOBELLO CFA GETS SCOTTISH CUP FEVER



**THE** Youth Football Scottish Cup went national on the weekend of 3rd/4th November, with teams from across the country competing against each other in the 3rd round.

Portobello Community Football Academy's Under 13 and Under 14 sides were both drawn away from home in tricky ties. The Under 13s were playing Livingston FC Community Club in what was a fantastic performance, continuing their impressive form this season by winning the game 9-0. Our Under 14s were playing in Perth against Letham SC who sit top of the Perth and Kinross league. They secured a terrific 10-1 win to progress into the 4th round, where they will play Clydebank FC.

John Griffiths

## PROGRESS ON 'PITZ' SITE

**AT** a Town Hall meeting on 15th November 2017, the community opposed the city council's plan to sell off the Westbank ('Pitz') site to developers. In a Portobello Community Council consultation, 8% favoured the council's plan, 41% backed no change and 51% backed Action Westbank's alternative approach.

Since then a hectic year has included an extremely well-attended community design weekend in March and informal positive discussions with council officers. Our ward councillors worked to secure other councillors' backing for stopping the sale and building from the council's need for capital receipt and the community's needs and aspirations. On 11th October the Finance and Resources committee voted for this, and on 1st November we had a very positive meeting with council officers as we embarked on that process.

Action Westbank aims to ensure a vibrant site that benefits the community and delivers capital receipt for the council by providing a mixed-use development. We aim to include leisure (retaining or re-providing Tumbles on site, providing outdoor play/sports facilities, ideally including new uses), commercial (supporting the high street), housing (responding to local needs), a revitalised Prom, and connected open spaces including the Figgate Burn. Once the process becomes clear, we'll let everyone in the community know how to get involved: see [www.bellfield.scot/westbank-pitz](http://www.bellfield.scot/westbank-pitz).

Justin Kenrick, Action Westbank.

**THE** Promenade at Tumbles is the only Just Eat Cycles bike hire station in the east of the city. The scheme, which was launched in September, allows people with the Just Eat Cycles app to hire a bike from one of the 20 stations across the city, it costs £1.50 an hour or for £3 you can have unlimited individual one hour hires during a 24 hour period. They plan to have 1,000 regular bikes by the end of the year with 100 electric bikes being added in 2019. For more information go to [www.edinburghcyclehire.com](http://www.edinburghcyclehire.com).



Photo by Andrew Mylne

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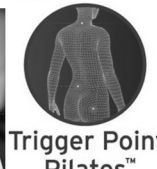


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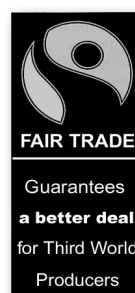
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