

THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: SPRING 2022
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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper produced by local people since 1980.

NEW ELECTRIC CHARGING BAYS



Photo courtesy of The City of Edinburgh Council

An example of the charging points to be installed at King's Road.

FOUR dual head 22kW fast Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, able to serve eight vehicles at a time, are being installed in King's Road. Approved supplier, BP pulse, was awarded the project which is worth £2.4m. Funding for the installation is via Transport Scotland's 'Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge' fund set up to support the use of plug-in EVs. There will be no initial

usage charge by the City of Edinburgh Council. However, an Enforcement and Tariff regime, managed by ChargePlace Scotland, is planned from April 2022, along with maximum stay periods on all chargers. Charging times will differ depending on the vehicle type and energy usage. The new EV bays will cover a 49.2m area removing nine parking bays. Users, whether visitors or residents, can remain with their vehicle while charging or leave and return later, which may cause parking problems for residents. The road is not yet subject to any parking controls.

WGM Engineering began groundworks on 31st January, and Scottish Power is set to commence electrical work from 14th March. The road will remain open throughout.

Annette Gann

WATERSPORTS HUB ON THE HORIZON



Photo: Annette Gann

ACTIVITIES at Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club (PSKC) have bounced back from the restrictions of the pandemic with renewed vigour; active membership is over 360 people and many new joiners have come to the club over the past two years, having discovered the range of activities offered close to home.

The next exciting stage for the club is construction of a Watersports Hub building

to replace the long-serving garage. This will provide secure and dry changing areas, storage for the rescue boat, an undercover meeting and briefing area as well as an accessible toilet, essential for extending the club's offering to local schools and community groups.

SportScotland has already pledged £78,000 to match the club's fundraising, and other donors and club members have contributed towards a further £37,000 already raised, but another £100,000 is likely to be needed.

For more information on the fundraising or PSKC in general, please contact chair@pskc.org.uk

BRUNSTANE ROAD CLOSED



Photo: Andrew Mylne

BRUNSTANE Road was closed to through traffic at the railway bridge on 15th February 2022 along with one-way restrictions in the Coillesdenes, for an 18-month trial period. During this time, ongoing monitoring by council officers will be carried out, as well as traffic surveys and further public consultations. The findings will enable a decision on whether to make these changes permanent. For further information go to <https://bit.ly/brunstaneeclosed>

REPORTER TEAM EXPANDS

THE Reporter has recently welcomed five new volunteers: Annette Gann, Stewart Kirkpatrick, David Lyons, Colin Reilly and Patricia Scotland. They will take the place of Nigel Archdale, who left in 2021, and Peter Ross, who leaves after this issue (having contributed to the paper for more than 20 years). The rest of the team consists of Neil Braidwood, Karen Combe, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro and Andrew Mylne.

LATEST SETBACK FOR GEORGE DEVELOPMENT

FOR the third time in 10 years the City of Edinburgh Council have refused the planning application, by owners Buckley Building, for the proposed development of the George cinema in Bath Street into 21, one to three bedroom apartments, complete with parking, landscaping and EV charging points.

The application was deemed to have failed to demonstrate that the building was incapable of significant repair, nor that all avenues had been fully explored to restore the George back to full use as a cinema. The site owners have committed to explore with planning officers additional options for the conservation of further original, interior design features.



Photo: Alastair Hearn

PORTY PROFILE No. 79

CATHERINE HEYMANNS

CATHERINE Heymans loves living in Portobello, but it's just not dark enough, she tells me.

The first female Astronomer Royal in history, Catherine loves stargazing through a telescope, but the light pollution in Portobello makes it difficult. "For work, I have a telescope in Chile," she explains, "and I have a personal telescope at my partner's mum's house in East Lothian, where the skies are darker than Porty."

Born in Hitchin in Hertfordshire, Catherine moved to Edinburgh when she was 18 to study physics at the University of Edinburgh. "That's when I discovered Portobello – we used to come and swim in the sea," she laughs, "something I am still doing funnily enough."

After graduating, Catherine did a DPhil in astrophysics at Oxford, and then went on a world tour with her partner Rory, taking up research positions in France, Germany and eventually Vancouver in Canada.

After landing a job teaching physics back at the University of Edinburgh, the couple returned to Scotland in 2008, settling in Portobello to raise their three children.

Catherine was appointed Astronomer Royal for Scotland in May 2021, and she is the 11th person in the post, which was created in 1834.

"I want to use this important role to encourage others – especially young people – to get the space bug. My kids all went to Towerbank, and I am working with the school to get telescopes installed at the outdoor learning centres, Ben More and Lagganlia.

"The skies are darker there, and there is nothing so exciting as seeing your first planet through the lens of a telescope. If I can encourage young people to get interested in space, then I will be happy.

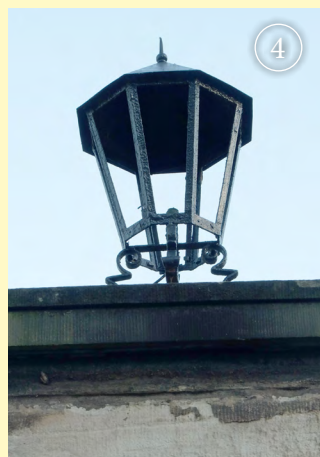
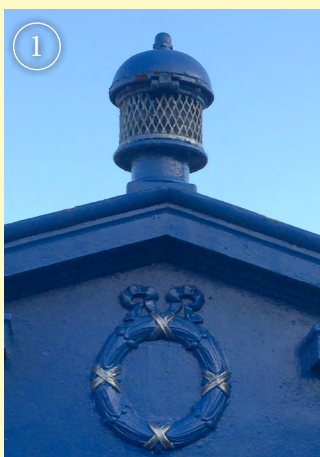
"I love living in Portobello", says Catherine. "There is a real sense of community here, from the beach to the high street. I still go swimming, and there are so many parks. The Figgy is our favourite."

Neil Braidwood



Photo: Courtesy Catherine Heymans

WHERE AM I?



Try to identify each of these places. Answers on page eight.

What's On

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: To 20th March, Summerhall, by ex Head of Photography at Edinburgh College of Art and Portobello resident, David Williams, entitled: Flow ... (Extracts) From The Project Series, One Taste: (N)ever-Changing (2003-2009).

Details at www.summerhall.co.uk/visual-arts/flow-david-williams

CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sun 27th March, 24th Apr, 29th May, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am. Double pitch £10 – all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220 583.

PORTOBELLO COMEDY NIGHTS: 8th April, starring Joe Heenan; 13th May, starring Vittorio Angelone, both 8.30pm at Beach Lane Social Club. Tickets £14 from Cove on Porty High Street and at brownpapertickets.com

MOONWALK 2022: 11th June, raising money to combat breast cancer, takes place overnight. Various routes starting from Holyrood Park, including Portobello Prom. Details from: <https://walkthewalk.org/challenges/the-moonwalk-scotland>

PORTOBELLO MARKET: First Sat. of the month, Brighton Park. Organic fruit/veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks. For details: portobello.market@live.co.uk

CROSS WITH CARE

THERE is still a vacancy for a Crossing Patrol Guide (the new name for Lollipop Ladies/Men) at the Portobello High Street and Brighton Place junction. If you have the time and want to help your community, apply online at www.bit.ly/crossingpatrolguidejob or call Paul Murrell on 0131 458 8041.

BONNIE UPDATE

JOPPA resident Rosie McGlyn, who helped arrange the rescue of Bonnie the swan from Figgate Park in 2021 after attacks by a rival swan, has continued to visit Bonnie ever since at her new home in Musselburgh. In January, she was commended for her efforts in reporting a pollution incident and then organising special feeding for the swans that had been affected.

Holly grows

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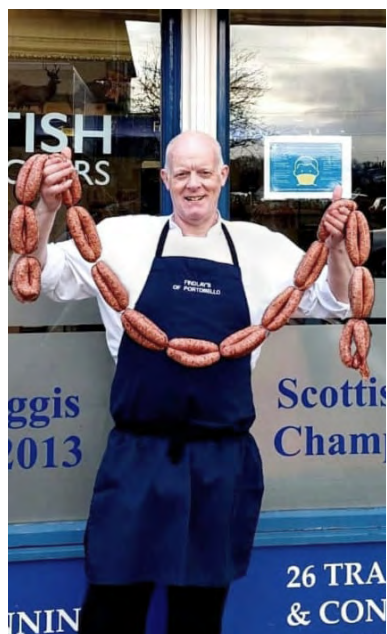
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FINDLAY'S Natural Meat Company, in Portobello High Street, won the South East Scotland Championship for their beef link sausages in the Scottish Craft Butchers Awards 2022. Billy Hoy, owner, said: "We are very pleased and happy. It shows great teamwork from Roman and Grant at the factory."

MORE PORTY LIMERICKS

THE booklet *Life and other distractions in and around Portobello present and past in 200 Limericks*, self-published last summer, proved very popular and raised £1,109 for the foodbank charity the Trussell Trust. A second version with 400 limericks, even more local art and a spectacular sunrise-over-the beach cover, is now available. It costs £5 per copy, again for the Trussell Trust. Enquiries to jimporty@gmail.com

NEW ENERGY COSTS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

SUPPORT for Edinburgh residents struggling with rising energy costs is now available from the City of Edinburgh Council working in partnership with Changeworks and Home Energy Scotland (the latter funded by the Scottish Government).

For those experiencing or at risk from fuel poverty, resulting from increasing energy prices, practical support is provided through funding or grants for energy-efficient home improvements or help with settling fuel debt.

Home owners or private tenants can call Home Energy Scotland free of charge on 0808 808 2282. Council tenants can call Energy Advice for support free of charge on 0800 870 8800 and visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/energyadvice.

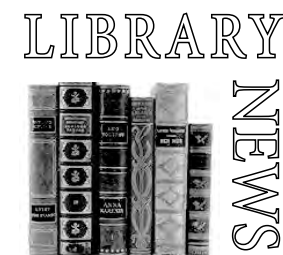
WE are so pleased that we are back to our full pre-Covid opening hours, which are Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 8pm and on Thursday to Saturday 10am to 5pm. In addition, no-one needs to book to come into the library now. As long as we get Test and Protect details at the door anyone can come into the library.

We have reintroduced a number of our regular activities and plan to reintroduce more in the future. In the library Bookbug sessions for under 5s and their parents/carers have returned on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am. These are ticket only, with tickets available on Eventbrite.com. If you want to attend, we would recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

We have also reintroduced activities for adults. These include the library Book Group on the first Monday of the month at 6.30pm, the library Storytellers Group on the second Monday of the month at 6.30pm, and the library Writer's Group on the 4th Monday of the month at 6.30pm. All groups are currently welcoming new members.

MacMillan @ Edinburgh libraries has also returned to the library on Mondays, an excellent service offering advice and support to people affected by cancer. For the latest updates on what we have going on, check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary or our [Twitter@PortyLibrary](https://twitter.com/PortyLibrary).

Paul Hudson



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	- Conquer Gravity	- 19:45 - 20:35hrs....
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Wednesdays	- Mat Class (The Original)	- 18:30 - 19:30hrs....
Now back in the Studio with social distancing measures in place!	
	- Mat Pilates (The Original)	- 20:00 - 21:00hrs
Thursdays	- Mat Pilates (The Original)	- 09:30 - 10:15hrs
	- Post-Natal Mother & Baby	- 14:00 - 14:55hrs

Trigger Point Workshop 2021:

Saturdays - 9:30 - 10:30hrs - 30th April, 28th May, & 25th June 2022

Address: Tribe Porty, 19, Windsor Place, Portobello

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GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



If you haven't done so already, remove the brown stems from dead perennials, trying not to damage new perennial green shoots or emerging bulbs.

Get organised for sowing seeds. A heated pad can make a big difference to getting a bit ahead, but you will need more time and space to harden the plants off. I sort seeds into greenhouse/heatpad sowing for tomatoes, etc., hardy annuals to sow outside in April if the soil is warm, and May for half-hardy annuals such as courgettes and morning glories.

Once germinated, plants need to be hardened off, ideally over two or three weeks. Putting them under a hedge or against a house wall with a bit of fleece for frost protection will work if you have no cold frame.

If buying bedding plants, try to avoid those grown in peat, which will soon be banned. Be aware of the different watering needs of the various peat-free composts, and remember the plants also need hardening off from their nursery environment.

Buy and plant a fruit tree. My success last year growing a persimmon tree (Sharon fruit) in a pot was such a joy; even though I only got two fruits, the flowers alone were lovely.

IT was so disappointing to have to cancel the Wassailing in January and also February's market because of gusting winds and the risk they pose to stalls overturning. At least we were able to rearrange

the Wassailing at the community orchard, where we had a wonderful time with the usual blessing of the trees for a fruitful harvest, aided by the mellifluous community choir. We were fortunate in having the Keeper of the Soil Cape with us; the cape celebrates Scotland's rich agricultural and food growing heritage by receiving gifted soil samples.

The unpredictable, unseasonal, unsettling weather we have is a product of the climate emergency and has an impact on all our lives. One counter-acting initiative is the twenty-minute neighbourhood to reduce the reliance on private cars by making it easier to access what we need by walking and cycling to the shops, cafés and social events. If we stopped, or greatly reduced, the volume of through traffic using Portobello High Street, excepting public transport, then the town centre could become a far pleasanter and safer environment for us. Look out for more on this subject soon.

Stephen Hawkins
PEDAL

Portobello Transition Town

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

HEALTH MATTERS

Immunisation

I had measles as a small child, before the measles vaccination programme was introduced, and remember being covered with spots and feeling quite unwell. As a five-year-old, I remember the excitement (but not the needle) as my school class queued up through the Wendy House for the smallpox vaccine. At the time, I took it all for granted.

Since I started work, meningitis and other infections have been massively reduced by immunisation. More recently, cervical cancer has been reduced by the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, another modern medical innovation. As a doctor, I have taken it all for granted.

In the 1970s, the World Health Organisation identified immunisation as one of only four key goals for its global "Health For All" campaign. Such an obvious ambition, which I took for granted.

As a young GP, I saw whooping cough, children scarred by neonatal German measles, and adults whose lives were blighted by polio.

Most of us know people in Edinburgh, in Portobello or in our own families who have died from Covid-19 before the vaccine was available to them. The impact of the pandemic has distracted us from some of the "routine immunisations". We must not take them for granted. We cannot have these infections coming back.

No wonder immunisation is a key goal to help achieve health for all. We all need to step forward for vaccination.

Dr Portia Bella, GP

PORTY CENTRAL - PORTY FOOD MAP

PORTY Food Map, The Traders' Story is a new book celebrating Portobello food shops and eateries. It brings together recipes, behind the scenes stories and fabulous photos of our local foodie heroes to raise funds for Portobello Town Hall. The book will be available to purchase for £15 at Portobello Town Hall on Saturday 26th March.

A passion project of local foodie Jo Turbitt, its immediate appeal was noted by Portobello Central trustee Jen Elliot, and between them Jo and Jen

hatched a plan to bring the book to reality. Their drive and enthusiasm encouraged other talented locals to offer photography and illustrations and to gather recipes and stories. This is a real community endeavour celebrating the food community, encouraging people to buy local produce, chat to traders and showcase what we have on our doorstep. The pride and buzz in Porty's thriving high street is so evident. Find out more at www.portobellocentral.org

Sally Dyson

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The Portobello Reporter

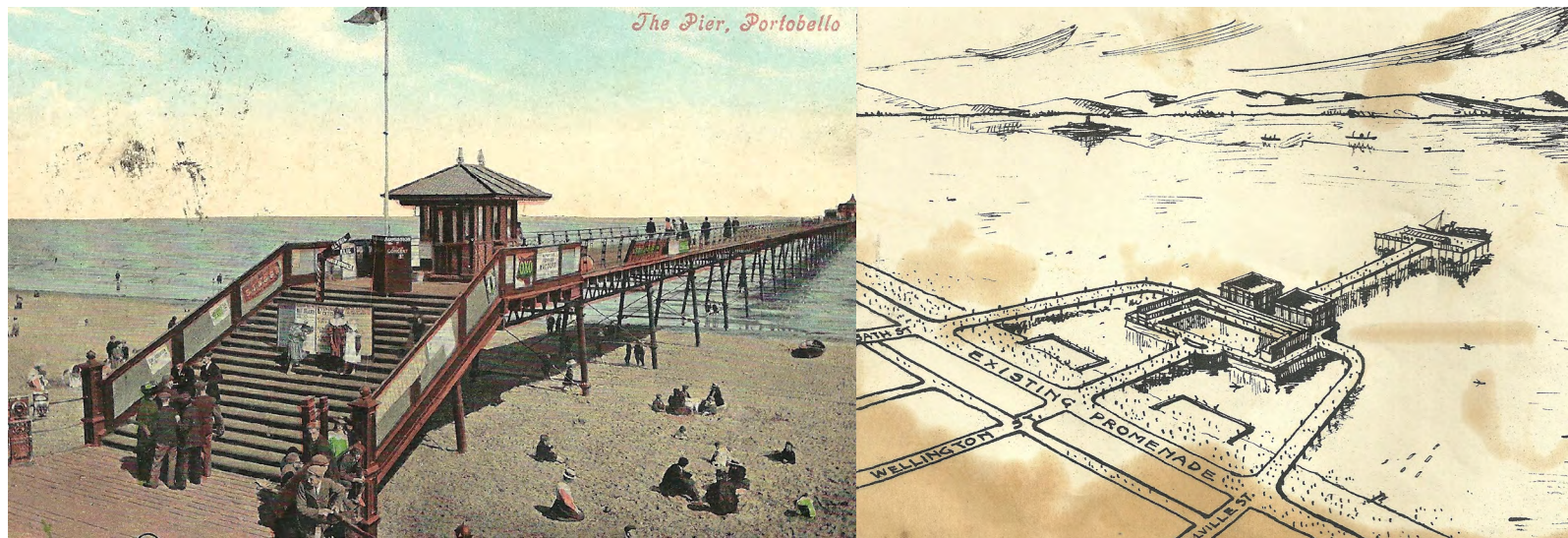
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FROM THE ARCHIVE

NEW PORTOBELLO PIER



Photos courtesy Portobello Heritage Trust

MANY readers will know about Portobello pier which was opened in 1871 and dismantled in 1917 after serious storm damage. Fewer, however, may know about the proposal to build a new pier in 1933.

The left-hand photograph shows the original pier. As you can see, it was a promenade pier, 1,250 feet long with a pavilion on the pier head with a restaurant, bar and bandstand. The proposed new pier was a very

different vision. The plan was drawn up by architect Peter Jefferies, who lived in Morton Street before moving to Windsor Place. As can be seen from the image above, it was an ambitious proposal which, it was suggested in an article in the *Evening News* in 1933, would increase Portobello's 'attractiveness as a holiday resort'. There was widespread interest in the plan which would have created a new outer promenade between Bath

Street and Melville Street (now Bellfield Street). An enclosed bathing pool was also included. The outer promenade would be connected to the existing promenade by three walkways, with the enclosed water used for boating.

The walkways were to be 120 yards (110 metres) long with a slight incline. The bathing pool's dimensions would have been 80 by 30 yards (73 by 27 metres). There was to

be an extension for boats to provide trips, with spaces for entertainments and shops. It was estimated that the cost would be about £60,000 (approximately £4.5 million today). Unfortunately, the plan was never acted upon and Portobello remains without a pier. There were plans more recently to build a pier, but funding applications to take these forward were unsuccessful. Is a new pier still a possibility for Portobello?

Margaret Munro

LEARN HOW TO SAVE YOUR DOG



EDINBURGH Dog and Cat Home (EDCH) has launched a new dog first-aid course that offers practical training for the many emergency situations that pets experience. These include choking, fractures, hypothermia and heat stroke.

It is important to know when emergency treatment should be given, and when a visit to the vet is appropriate.

Jamie Simpson, Director of Operations at EDCH, said: "Dogs are important members of the family and, just like humans, experience moments of crisis in their health and wellbeing. It is really important for owners to know what to do in those situations. Their actions could prevent further injury or illness to the dog, or indeed save its life.

For more information, see www.edch.org.uk/DogFirstAid

1906 BOTTLE KILN

EDINBURGH Council have allocated £60,000 in their budget towards rebuilding the 1906 bottle kiln in Bridge Street. The full amount required is £645,000 and the Council are making various grant applications towards this. Portobello Heritage

Trust and local Councillors are providing letters of support where required for these applications. The kilns are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the Council are legally required to preserve and maintain them.

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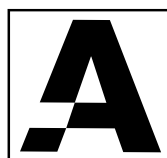
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COFFEE mornings are taking place again on the first Tuesday of every month. We have social lunches on Thursdays. We've also started a new series of Tribe Talks, where we invite a member to speak about their hobby, work or interest. It's a great way to get to know each other, learn something and find common interests. Check Facebook or Eventbrite for details. Events are open to non-members.

If you'd like to try co-working for a few days a month, we still have hot-desk spaces. Our hot-desking packages start at £30/month for two days per month up to £150/month for unlimited use. We have introduced £18 day passes for anyone who does not want a monthly package yet. All hot-desking options can be booked on our website www.tribeporty.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

Melissa McConnell
<https://tribeporty.org>

ACTION PORTY PLANS

OUR Extraordinary General Meeting on 1st February, unanimously voted to turn Action Porty from a limited company into a community benefit society with charitable status. This will enable us to hold a community shares issue to raise funds to transform Bellfield, including turning the Celebration Hall (Church building) into a flexible, heated, soundproofed community resource. Meanwhile our HeartTalk Porty conversations (www.hearttalkporty.land) helped advance some fantastic initiatives, including a

community fridge, input into Seafield, sustainable transport etc. Following on from this, Action Porty is restructuring to better support such initiatives. A good example was the Action Westbank campaign that helped save the pitches and Tumbles. Now Portobello is faced with trying to ensure Seafield develops into a thriving sister community rather than a monotonous density of unaffordable housing. If this matters to you, can you let those standing for election know?

Jennifer Elliot

FIGGATE STREET AND FIGGATE LANE FRIENDS

IN the summer of 2020, a chance meeting between neighbours Gillian Strang and Tracy Crawford (on the right in the photo), who both had the idea of creating a garden on a patch of desolate land on Figgate Street and Lane, has come to fruition and now the plot is filled with flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs.



People donated flowers and plants and planted them themselves. Tracy says: "We were gifted an apple tree as part of Annie Lord's Neighbouring Orchard Project, and were part of Art Walk Porty, as an apple orchard used to sit very close to this spot in the 1800s. We were surprised to be gifted wooden boats by the Portobello Robot Maker, which children marvel at. A neighbour who is a joiner helped us to repair a fence.

"We aim to encourage biodiversity, we leave most weeds, don't dig, let leaves and dead things mulch and thus protect the homes of insects. Six of us regularly meet on a Sunday and have become friends, meeting occasionally for coffee, cake and chat. Our biggest compliment so far was when someone had taken some kale leaves. That is our kind of 'street food'!

"Everyone is welcome to join the group, on the street or online."

See Facebook Figgate Street and Figgate Lane Friends.

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

WITH Covid-related restrictions easing, the Portobello group of Amnesty International is delighted to announce that, for the first time since 2019, its ever popular Spring Book Sale and Coffee Morning will take place in Bellfield on Saturday 23rd April, 10am to 1pm.

In the meantime, the AI group has remained active campaigning for those across the world whose human rights are too often at risk, although turbulent weather cancelled February's Portobello Market, at which the AI group maintains a stall. In Belarus, for instance, where the principles of democracy and free speech are grimly imperilled, the group has "adopted" a seriously ill and impoverished former political prisoner, Aleksei Ramanau, helping provide some support while he undergoes cancer treatment.

The group continues its long-running letter-writing campaign concerning Eritrea, one of the largest sources of refugees to the UK, where many pro-democracy campaigners, journalists and other critics of the government have been arbitrarily detained since 2001, their whereabouts unknown. As an example, Archbishop Antonios, patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church and a vocal critic of the government, recently died after 16 years of house arrest.

AI Portobello meets at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month in Portobello Joppa Parish Church Hall (formerly St Phillips). All welcome.

Jim Gilchrist

IT'S great to welcome groups back and we can now start further classes and groups, so do get in touch. We have several great initiatives afoot this month. We took part in a bid for Tool Library support to build our Youth Garden raised beds and tree planters to green the space around the building. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, so ask any handy volunteers willing to help to get in touch as we still intend to make it happen.

We have emptied our freezers in preparation for supporting Porty Community Fridge food initiative and look forward to working with them. Thanks to a Sustrans grant, we have installed cargo bike racks outside the centre. We welcome new members to join our management team, or just give occasional help, so please do get in touch to find out more. www.thewashhouse.org

Gica Loening



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PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PORTOBELLO Community Council (PCC) represents Portobello on matters of community interest. If you want to find out more, PCC holds meetings (online at the moment) on the last Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Have your say, get involved. www.portobellocc.org

JOPPA TENNIS

WITH days getting longer and warmer and hopefully the risk of frost, ice and snow behind us, we are looking forward to the start of the new tennis season on 1st April. The exciting news is that we have worked with ETC Sports to install lighting at the courts to enable additional playing time after dark, allowing increased hours for matches, social play and coaching. The system is called Tweener and we will be the first tennis club in Scotland to install it. It uses LED strip lighting attached to the fence on either side of the courts and gives significantly less light spillage compared to traditional pylon-mounted floodlights. It was carefully chosen, as light spillage was a critical aspect for consideration, given the proximity of neighbouring houses and gardens. Other benefits include easier installation and lower running costs. We anticipate that it should be up and running by late Spring.

Marjie Shepherd

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NATURE NOTES - SPRING IS WORTH WADING FOR



Photos: Anthony Robson

IF I mention heading down to Portobello beach to check out the waders, you might think I mean those brave souls taking a dip in the icy cold North Sea as it laps the sand from Seafield to Joppa. But that intertidal area is the feeding ground of a number of birds that patrol the wet sands when the tide is out, prodding and poking for hidden prey.

Two of my favourites are year-round visitors to

our shores, but at different points on the size spectrum.

Everyone will know the oystercatcher. It is brash, some may say annoyingly loud, with its piercing, repeated 'pwee' call, and unmistakable in its monochromatic jacket punctuated by a bright orange bill that matches its eye ring. The name is actually a misnomer, as they eat cockles and mussels (and worms inland), and their bills will develop

to be either stronger or pointier, depending on their main food source. Even more remarkably, the bill can change between the two types if their main food source changes!

The altogether tiny ringed plover couldn't be as conspicuous as an oystercatcher if it tried. Somehow its little black face-band makes it look like a cartoon cat burglar trying to avoid detection. Scurrying about the sand,

chased higher by incoming dying waves, it startles easily. Unless, that is, it has young nearby. If that's the case, an adult will feign injury, often drooping a wing to suggest it is broken, and gradually lure you away from the young. I once let a ringed plover lead me a good 50 yards, knowing I wouldn't then disturb its young and stress the adults unnecessarily, before it (miraculously) took flight.

Anthony Robson

PORTY IN CUP FINAL FOR FOURTH SEASON



FOLLOWING on from their unbeaten season in 2021, and despite a number of players signing for professional clubs, the Portobello Community Football Academy 2006 age group has reached the South East Region Cup Final for the fourth season in a row. They have also reached the Colin Greenhill final. This means that the team have competed in every single cup final for its age group over the past three seasons. This is an unbelievable achievement and credit goes to the players and coaching staff who have developed and continually improved as a team.

John Griffiths

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IN THE SADDLE



Occasional PortoVelo rider Willie McColl took this selfie in Gran Canaria in January with former World Champion Peter Sagan - who stopped to help him fix a puncture..

PORTOVELO rounded off 2021 with a Christmas night out at the Espy together with an awards ceremony to recognise the achievements and contributions of members. Simon Shields took the coveted Club Member of the Year award for his sterling work organising club clothing.

Gravel rides, which began on a trial basis last autumn, are now an established feature of the club calendar, leaving at 9am every second Saturday, and involving a mixture of roads and off-road trails. They have proved popular, bringing together a wide range of people who enjoy getting away from the traffic and exploring quieter corners. Sunday rides have now shifted to an 8am start, with four groups providing options for a range of fitness levels. Wednesday intermediate rides remain at 9am.

In April, the club will be marking its tenth anniversary. In that time, we've held eight 'weekenders', and this year's will take place in June, when we will be exploring the Northumbrian countryside. Full details of this and other club activities are on our website www.porto-velo.com

Andrew Mylne

ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?
1: Light on top of police box, Dalkeith Street/
Morton Street. 2: Milestone beside Seaview Ter-
race. 3: Pyramid top of memorial fountain, Ab-
erncorn Park. 4: Lamp on gatepost, James Street.

OUTDOOR SWIMMING



OUTDOOR swimming at Portobello has seen a phenomenal growth during the Covid-19 pandemic. From sunrise to sunset, in good weather and bad, people have been meeting up on the Prom, donning their swimming gear and entering the chilly Forth. Some put on their neoprene and do laps up and down beside the beach while others enjoy a quick plunge followed by a warm drink and a chat.

The original group at Portobello is The Wild Ones, started 12 years ago, but there are now others, such as The Edinburgh Blue Tits and The Blue Balls. Each group has its own meeting time and place and preferred stretch of water.

According to Sarah Morton, one of the founders of The Wild Ones: "Outdoor swimming makes you feel so alive. It's like submerging yourself in nature". So if you're interested in dipping your toe in the water, you can contact most of the groups through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/portobellooutdoor).

Patricia Scotland

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

EDINBURGH Beach Volleyball Club has had its busiest winter season yet. It has been great to see the courts so busy at this time of year and we are planning a fantastic summer of activity to get even more people involved. There will be something for everyone.

We are excited about the installation of our new beach volleyball equipment after the last ones were damaged by the storms in November.

For information about how to get involved, please contact the club at edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com or via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/portobellooutdoor)

Lynne Beattie

BOWLING CLUB'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

PORTOBELLO Bowling Club this year celebrates being part of the community for 150 years. A friendly and welcoming club, it offers people of all ages and abilities the chance to enjoy bowls whether or not they wish to take part in formal competitions. With licensed bar facilities and a variety of social events, the club offers a variety of opportunities and interests.

A number of special events have been organised to mark this auspicious occasion, including an Open Day on Sunday 24th April from noon-4pm, when non-members are invited to view the facilities and try the game of bowls under the direction of the club's qualified Bowls Scotland Coach.

The Green and Clubhouse at 29 Lee Crescent are part of Portobello's history. The club has a strong bond with many local businesses and greatly appreciates the support shown in sponsorship for the coming season.

The club looks forward to the year ahead – why not be part of it?

James Thomson, Secretary

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