

THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Autumn 2023
Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 13,000
Also available online on www.porty.org.uk

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

BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS

WE'RE looking forward to the 15th Portobello Book Festival, which runs from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th October. The Festival has attracted yet another galaxy of local and national stars to Portobello Library. There's the usual fantastic variety of the written and spoken word: events about disability rights, local connections to the Spanish Civil war, travelling across the world on a motorbike, crime fiction, conversations about memoirs, whisky, punk rock, historical thrillers, cold water swimming and exploring the waters of Scotland by paddleboard. In addition there will be a Women of Portobello Herstory walk and a writing workshop which is open to all.

Festival events are carrying on into the evening. Friday night is going to be something different – a Trial by Jury, when

you, the audience, become the jury with a prize for the winner. On Saturday night local poet Michael Pederson will present a fantastic line up of big names in the world of literature, poetry and music.

Most events will take place in the Library, with the support of Portobello Library's ever reliable and superb staff. The Festival is delighted that the Wash House, Jameson Gate and Portobello Book Shop are also hosting events. Contributors' books will be on sale in the library. Get along early for your tickets which, as usual, are free. Tickets and programmes will be available only from Portobello Library from 4th September.

See www.portobellobookfestival.com and twitter [@portybookfest](https://twitter.com/portybookfest) for the full programme and further details.

Christine Hoy

TOILET TALK

TEMPORARY toilets were installed at Straiton Place by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) in July, but were not usable until 10th August for want of a generator. The toilets at Pipe Lane serve the west end of the beach and, in recent summers, desperate beachgoers elsewhere have resorted to using alleyways and even local gardens.

Tommy Sheppard MP, who had urged CEC to take action, said: "I'm pleased that, at last, the Council have listened to my calls and the demands of local people for additional toilet provision



The temporary toilets in Straiton Place

on the promenade. It's so needed. But let's not pretend that these temporary toilets, with their lack of disabled access and reliance on a generator, are somehow an ideal solution.

"We need more accessible,

permanent public toilets in Portobello, and the common-sense answer is opening up the loos in the Baths to everyone. The Council now needs to take this up with its subsidiary, Edinburgh Leisure."

ART WALK PORTY

THE Art Walk Porty Festival takes place this year from 1st-10th September, with an eclectic programme planned and more than 70 artists taking part across its VESSEL theme. Focused on subjects of coastal ecologies, water scarcity, and climate resilience, the festival will see a range of artist commissions featuring place-specific and participatory interdisciplinary artworks and installations, led walks and discussions. Portobello's 1909 kiln is open to a sculptural sound installation, and films

are screened outdoors on the 9th September on the Promenade. The Art Houses and Art in Shops programmes involve 39 locations, across Portobello and Joppa, open over the two weekends of the festival with many exhibitions featuring work relating to VESSEL. The full programme is detailed at www.artwalkporty.co.uk and most events are free. The Art Walk Hub is open at Portobello Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High Street on 1st-3rd and 8th-10th September from 11am-5pm.

Rosy Naylor

BRUNSTANE ROAD & COILLESDENES CONSULTATION

THE City Council is holding a further consultation on the closure of Brunstane Road at the railway bridge and traffic management in the Coillesdenes, to decide whether these measures, under the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO), in place since December 2021, should become permanent. For details see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roads-pavements/view-comment-traffic-orders-new/4

The four-week consultation ends on Friday 15th September and a decision will be made by the Licensing Sub-committee and by councillors who have had no previous involvement. Submissions can be sent to Traffic Orders, City of Edinburgh Council, 3.3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, EH8 8BG, or by e-mail to TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk quoting TRO/23/14, and giving your full name and address, email address, and your reasons for objecting/commenting.

BRUNSTANE SCHOOL REMAINS CLOSED

AFTER a hole was discovered in the playground at Brunstane School, the decision was taken to close the school in July and it will remain closed until declared safe.

PORTY PROFILE No. 85

**KATE
GILLWOOD**



PHOTO: KATE GILLWOOD

WHEN Kate Gillwood moved from London to Portobello with her wife Caroline in 2015, the beach was definitely a draw. “I’ve always swum,” she says. “From the age of three I was taught at my local swimming pool in Galashiels, and when we moved to Yorkshire we swam in the rivers. No one called it wild swimming then. It was just swimming to us.”

Kate left school in Yorkshire with no A levels. “I hated my time there,” she remembers. Kate came out as lesbian shortly afterwards and her family were very supportive. She then moved to London when she was 20. It was 1987. Section 28 had been introduced. “It was a terrible time, but it brought us together as a community. I worked in bars, as a bouncer in Soho, as a lifeguard – I even swept the streets for a living.” But it was after she got a job as a note taker at the criminal court when her interest in law took hold. “The work was fascinating,” she says, “and the solicitors and barristers that employed me suggested I take a law degree.”

Kate got her law degree and went on to do a masters in criminology. “My secondary school teacher said I’d never amount to much – and it makes it even more amazing as I was diagnosed with dyslexia in 2010.”

Kate had a flexible employer and this allowed her to transfer to Portobello with Caroline whom she met in London.

“When the Progress Pride flag at Passey’s Café was burned in 2021, I was outraged. Flag burning is symbolic of hatred. That’s when the seed of Porty Pride was sown. It was so impactful seeing the community get behind the idea of flying Progress Pride flags and turning it into a reality.”

Kate and six others formed the core of Porty Pride and in 2022, the first event was held in June. This year, among many other events a ball was held on the Saturday night in the reopened Town Hall. “It was such a great weekend,” she says. “And we’re already making plans for next year.”

Neil Braidwood

SAVE THE GEORGE CINEMA

HISTORIC Environment Scotland (HES) is considering an application from its current owner to remove the former George cinema from the List of buildings of special architectural and historic interest.

The submission is opposed by Friends of the George (FoTG), who support the retention and rejuvenation of the cinema. Chair Mikey Davidson says: “We are disappointed to learn that the developer is pursuing the removal of The George’s listed status while simultaneously marketing it for sale. We had hoped that they were committed to finding a restoring purchaser for the building”.

Friends of the George members, whose backgrounds include conservation architecture, arts management and acting and screenwriting, say they share a passion for the building, and for the art of the moving image. Mikey Davidsons says: “We continue to try and secure access to conduct a professional valuation with a view to making an offer to purchase so that we can progress our ambitious plan to restore and adapt the original Art Deco building and operate it as a community-driven, multi-purpose venue, focused on the art of the moving image.”

The developer previously failed to gain planning permission to demolish most of the building and construct 20 flats. Their view is that the building is ‘not fit for use, and is an anomalous ruin within the established streetscape and of no residual architectural or historic value’.

FoTG: www.thegeorge.org.uk



What’s On

KILT WALK EDINBURGH: Sun 17th Sept. www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/events/edinburgh

PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH: Guided tours, Sat 23rd Sept, noon-4.30pm; 4.30-5.30pm presentation on 120 years of the church. Free.

APPLE DAY: Sat 28th Oct, 2-4pm, Community Orchard, Apple pressing, baking, games.

VINTAGE FAIR: Sun 29th Oct, 11am-4pm, Bellfield. Clothing, jewellery, accessories, homeware, furniture, collectables. Vintage café. £2 on door; kids free.

CAR BOOT SALES: (Rotary Club of Portobello). Last Sun. of month, Newcraighall Station car park. Sellers arrive from 7.30am, buyers from 8.30am. Cars £12, large vans £18, no pre-booking. **07708 796737/07523 689839.**

PORTOBELLO MARKET: First Sat. of month, Brighton Park. portobello.market@live.co.uk

COMMUNITY FRIDGE: Sats, 10.30-11.30am, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. Surplus food from shops available, to combat waste.

PARKRUN: Sats, 9.30am, Figgate Park. 5K. Free. parkrun.org.uk/portobello

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Last year's Bikefest was a huge success

BIKEFEST IS BACK

BIKEFEST, organised by Porty Community Energy, with support from Action Porty, will celebrate and explore what Low Carbon Transport means for Portobello. On Saturday 16th September, Bath Street and Mentone Avenue will close to traffic (with access for disabled and emergency vehicles) and this free, local, street festival will unfold. There will be plenty

of fun family-friendly activities and information sharing on all things bike and active travel related. You could win a ScotRail family holiday ticket in the Slow Cycling Race! Get practising. Would you like to find out more or get involved? Please email us at portycommunityenergy@gmail.com

Jennifer Elliot

With the end of the Summer, we would like to say a big 'well done' to all of the children who took part in this year's Ready Set Read Summer Reading Challenge.

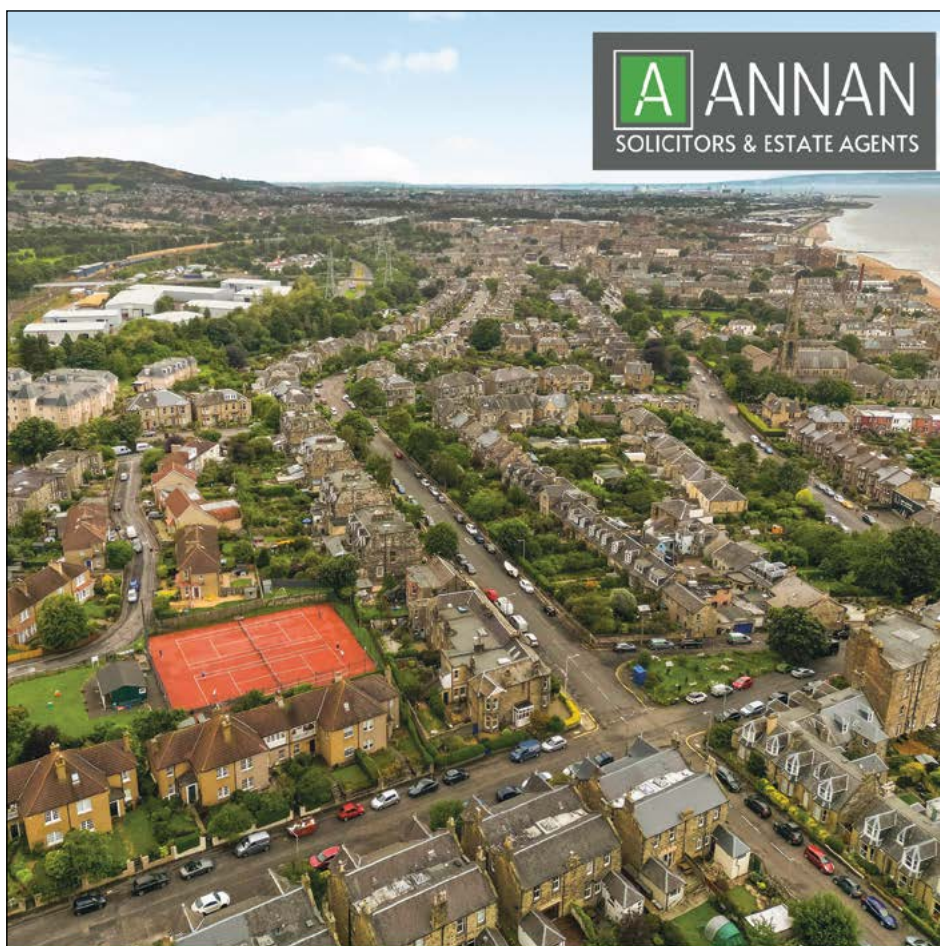
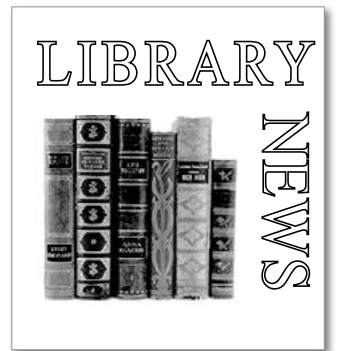
We are delighted that the library will be the main venue for the 15th Portobello Book Festival. The Festival will run from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th October. A full programme of events will be available from 4th September, and you can get your free tickets for every event from the library.

We began a new fortnightly Library Link afternoon service which started on August 14th. Our morning service is still being run every alternate Monday. If you struggle to visit the library, the bus will pick you up from your home and take you back after you have selected some books and enjoyed some tea and biscuits. Phone us on 529 5558 to sign up.

With the end of the school holidays our monthly Chatterbooks reading group for 8-10 year-olds returns on the fourth Saturday of the month, starting 23rd September at 1pm. For more information ask for Emily or Lesley in the library or phone us on 529 5558.

For any up-to-date information on what is happening in the library, check our Twitter [@PortyLibrary](https://twitter.com/PortyLibrary) and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary

Paul Hudson



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	- Conquer Gravity	(Baptist Church Hall-Live)	- 19:45 - 20:35hrs
Wednesdays	- Mat Class	(The Original - Live)	- 18:15 - 19:25hrs
	- Mat Pilates	(The Original - Virtual)	- 20:00 - 21:00hrs
Thursdays	- Mat Pilates	(The Original - Virtual)	- 09:30 - 10:15hrs

Magic Circle Pilates (Virtual) 2023:

Fridays	- 9:30-10:15am	- 15th Sept.	13th Oct.	10th Nov.	8th Dec.
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Trigger Point Pilates (Virtual/Live) 2023:

Saturday	- 9:30-10:30am	- 30th Sept.	28th Oct.	25th Nov.
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WORK in the garden tends to lessen in autumn, but there are still plenty of things to do, such as picking sweet peas and dahlias to keep them coming, or taking in the produce your hard work has generated. Perhaps sow more salad greens for winter: even a windowsill can produce a lot of baby lettuce, radish, kale and so on.

With warm soil and rain, it's a great time to plant anything from new trees to perennials, although if we do have dry spells new plants will need a soak. Last winter, I lost new plants for the first time due to drought, not drowning - bizarre! Changeable weather patterns mean that, as gardeners, we must adapt and not take the seasons for granted.

If you are asked about a Christmas present for a gardener I can recommend a hori-hori knife – a Japanese tool that is half-knife, half-trowel, although they are expensive. A friend gave me one years ago and I use it a lot. Any plant is also welcome of course, especially more expensive shrubs grown in pots such as rhododendrons. And finally, remember also to plant hyacinths in pots for a perfumed January.

MANY will remember the attempt by PEDAL (Portobello Transition Town) to build a wind turbine with the proceeds from generation returning to the community.

Unfortunately, after much hard work, this did not proceed. However, successful community tidal power projects have now been established, notably on Yell in Shetland. This is not a major scheme involving tidal barriers, but a submerged generator with blades similar to a wind turbine. We don't have the tidal currents of five to six knots that they have in Shetland, but the turbines can work down to half a knot. It is definitely worth exploring, maybe as a joint project between PEDAL and Porty Community Energy, with power connected to the public supply at Straiton Park or Bellfield.

In the meantime, PEDAL continues to support local initiatives such as the community orchard and the market, with the latter affected in both July and August by adverse weather conditions. Who now doesn't believe that we are experiencing the effects of global warming? After 16 months of being under PEDAL's wing, the Community Fridge is joining up with Action Porty for the long term and all wish the project success for the future.

Stephen Hawkins




PORTY PENNYPINCHER

A **GREAT** way to make some extra money is to sell some of your unwanted things. Online is ultimately easier than a car boot sale and doesn't need to take up too much time if you are organised.

Online auction sites such as ebay are an option, but there are other ways to sell. Vinted and depop both specialise in pre-loved clothing, while marketplace provider Shpock boasts zero fees.

Don't just upload and hope for the best though. It's worth spending time taking decent pictures, maybe even putting your clothing on a mannequin to make it look good. Get the lighting right and include an informative description. Point out any damage in advance to avoid disputes with buyers.

Postage and packing can take time, so make sure the price reflects it. Pack things well and despatch promptly and you will gain positive feedback, which can help your future sales. You can earn up to £1,000 from selling on ebay without having to pay tax as you are selling things you already owned, and unlikely to make a profit.



KILN BANNER

THE banner installed on the hoarding round the 1906 kiln in Bridge Street was officially unveiled on Friday, 7th July. City of Edinburgh Council funded the artwork which was created by five women who worked as decorators at A.W. Buchan & Co. Ltd. in the 1960s. Art Walk Porty led the project in collaboration with artist Nicky Bird, Portobello Heritage Trust and Eastern Exhibition and Display. The banner will remain in place until the Council have the necessary funding to complete the rebuild of the kiln. Art Walk Porty will lead a community outreach programme next year which will include working with local school children to explore, document and celebrate Scotland's past and current pottery industry.

PHOTO: COLIN WARWICK

Some of the decorators at the unveiling

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EDINBURGH EAST

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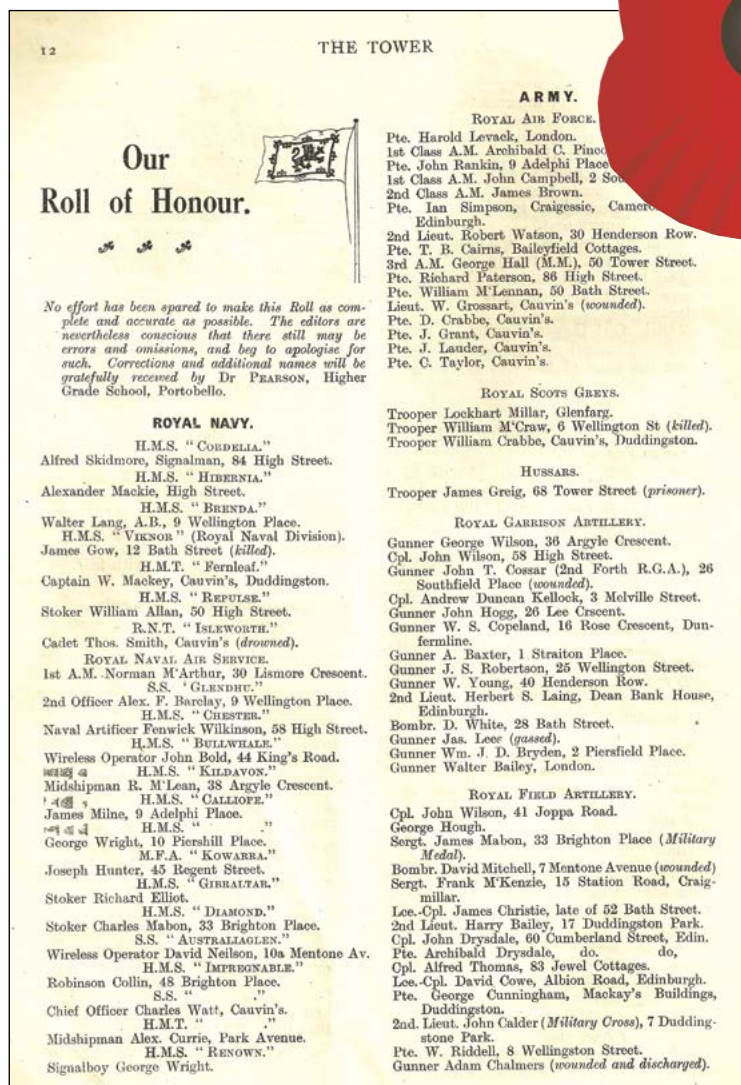
FROM THE ARCHIVE

LEST WE FORGET

THIS is the first page of a six-page Roll of Honour printed in the Summer 1918 edition of *The Tower, Magazine of Portobello Higher Grade School* [now Portobello High School].

In his foreword the Headmaster wrote: "Many of your former schoolfellows have made the supreme sacrifice, because they counted their lives as less than freedom, truth, and honour, and so, were it not for your merry laughter and joyous spirit, our sorrow would sometimes be almost overwhelming." On reading the roll, it becomes clear that for some families their sorrow must have been overwhelming as they had several family members in the forces and lost more than one. The Mabon family of 33 Brighton Place is one such family.

On the page illustrated here, under Royal Field Artillery, the name of Sergt. James Mabon, 33 Brighton Place (*Military Medal*) can be seen. Four other members of the Mabon family are listed on later pages: Sergt. John Mabon, 5th Royal Scots, who was killed;



Lieutenant Robert Mabon, 7th Cameron Highlanders, was also killed; John C.F. Mabon, Officers' Training Corps, and Jessie Mabon, Women Volunteers W.R.A.F. survived. It is almost impossible to imagine how such losses

must have affected this family. The website www.astreetnearyou.org gives some information about people who died during the conflict and both Mabon brothers are listed.

The Hunter family, of 45 Regent Street, had five sons

in active service. They lost one son, Archibald, who was in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The Borrowman family, of 60 Argyle Crescent, had three sons and one daughter serving. Fortunately, they all returned safely.

Several ex-pupils on this page have their address given as Cauvin's. Louis Cauvin established a hospital, or school, for the sons of teachers or farmers in the building still located on the corner of Willowbrae Road and Duddingston Road West, now part of a sheltered housing complex. It may well have supported other boys by the 20th century, resulting in the various names shown here.

These stark details of local losses exemplify the experience felt nationwide, with some families having many members in action. The anxiety and worry felt by those left behind must have been almost unbearable and it is difficult to imagine how they coped over four years of warfare.

Margaret Munro

EDINBURGH
DOG AND
CAT HOME

PET food banks are playing an increasingly important part in local pet care. In May and June, over 8,000 pets were supported across 85 locations. If even a fraction of these animals were surrendered into our care, demand would be too great to manage. Surrender requests are rising and food banks are an invaluable resource, helping pet owners affected by the cost-of-living crisis to keep their pets in loving homes. Donations of dog and cat food are urgently needed to help us meet an increasing demand. Find out how to access help or support us at www.edch.org.uk/community/pet-food-bank

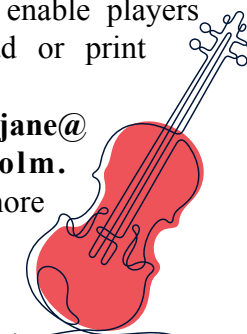
Betty Henderson

CHAMBER
MUSIC
GROUP

THE Portobello Chamber Music Group was set up a year ago to enable local musicians to play together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It is open to string and woodwind players aged over 18, of at least Grade 4 standard, with reasonable sight-reading skills. There are no auditions and no certificates need to be shown.

They meet in Portobello Baptist Church Hall on Sundays from 2.00-4.00pm, and music is announced in advance to enable players to download or print their parts.

Contact jane@janechisholm.co.uk For more information



ROUND BRITAIN CYCLE

ON 23RD August, Xani Byrne (pictured), arrived back in Portobello after spending 87 days riding a tandem round the coast of mainland Britain to raise awareness of suicide and raise funds for charities supporting people bereaved in this way. Xani lost his sister, Alice, to suicide in January 2022. (Portobello residents may remember the missing person posters from that time.)

He left Portobello on 29th May and covered around 3,500 miles, roughly 50 miles a day (excluding rest days). Most days he found someone to share the pedalling, allowing him to have conversations with others who have been affected by suicide. He also had a lot of support along the way, with people giving him food and accommodation when they learned about the purpose of the trip.

Xani grew up in Portobello and retains many connections



with it: his parents still live here and he thinks of it as home. He says the trip was partly about testing the idea of grief as "a kind of black ball, a space in your life that never really gets any smaller, and the only way to make it proportionally smaller is to grow the other areas of your life by reaching out, taking risks and making connections and doing different things". The trip did that, he says, and he feels better than when he started; he also thinks there are up to 1,000 people he met on the trip who are now better prepared to have conversations about suicide and mental health. He was also delighted to explore Britain's coastline, finding many hidden beaches and woods, and the small communities of people who live there, including many wild-swimming groups.

Andrew Mylne



OUR AGM, held in August, signalled the end of our old charitable status and the start of our new one as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). We will be inviting local Portobello residents to become members. Watch this space for more information on how to join! Elaine Briggs stepped down as chair of the Wash House after six years. Elaine was the driver of the beautiful refurbishment of the centre. Huge thanks to her. We are looking for a new chair and new trustees to join us, so please do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Gica Loening

PORTOBELLO CENTRAL

OUR big news is that we received a grant of £90,000 from the UK Government's Community Ownership Fund. £75,000 is for capital expenditure and has to be matched by money from other sources. We are confident we can do it.

We are now up and running. Our first big event was the spectacular Porty Pride weekend. In August, the monthly Sunday Makers' Market brought in more than 700 people and there's more fun in the pipeline. In November, *Oliver!* the musical will be with us for a week. Then it is Panto season and we are very excited to see *Cinderella* and her sisters back on the Town Hall stage. Tickets available from www.stagedoorentertainment.co.uk.

Don't forget our AGM on 9th October at 7.00pm. The venue is Portobello Town Hall, of course.

Wendy Davies

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AMNESTY – LOCAL NEWS

THE Portobello group of Amnesty International recently donated the not inconsiderable sum of £1,000 to Amnesty International UK, more than £800 of it raised by our spring Book Sale and Coffee Morning and also including a generous donation from our local MP, Tommy Sheppard, who takes an interest in our work.

Our stall at the August Portobello Market, despite perfidious weather, still attracted 124 signatures for a petition calling for justice for the 'Saturday Mothers' of Istanbul, who have been gathering every Saturday, some of them for the past 40 years and enduring police harassment, demanding that the Turkish government investigate the disappearance of their loved ones during political turbulence.

In the meantime, the group is collaborating with Portobello Book Festival in arranging an event on 6th October, featuring *The Zekameron: One Hundred Tales from Behind Bars and Eyelashes* by Maxim Znak, a lawyer currently imprisoned in Belarus for investigating electoral violations. Representatives from the People's Consulate of Belarus in Scotland will attend, along with the publisher, to discuss the grim human rights situation in Belarus.

The group meets at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month in Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. All welcome. (Contact: theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com)

Jim Gilchrist



WE WANTED to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed and attended our Summer Party. What a blast! All funds raised on the day went directly to Jay's Innwalk fund. Donations for Jay's Innwalk are now closed as he has reached his fundraising target!

To keep up to date with Tribe Party, subscribe to our monthly newsletters at www.tribeparty.org. We offer off-peak passes for hot-desking on selected days, and £10 for half a day of co-working. If you are interested in joining us as a co-worker, or are looking for a space to host an event or workshop, get in touch.

Alice Hudson



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SCREEN PORTY

COMMUNITY cinema returned to Portobello on Saturday 5th August with the indie movie, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. A delightful and heartwarming coming of age comedy set in the wilds of New Zealand, it kept over 60 of Porty's residents charmed.

This was Screen Porty's second screening at the Wash House and fourth in Portobello. A volunteer-run project, Screen Porty will show an eclectic variety of indie, world, documentary and commercial cinema to the community.

The next screening is planned for October. To keep up to date with events and screenings, see screenporty.org/subscribe.

ACTION PORTY

ALL PORTY residents are welcome to join Action Porty (£1 for life membership) and attend our AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 25th October in Bellfield. We are restructuring as a community benefit society to raise funds to improve Bellfield, and to focus on our wider remit of community development. We are delighted to welcome Porty Community Fridge group to Action Porty. Two of its members are joining our board and it continues to operate out of Portobello Baptist Church. The Fridge had its origins at the Action Porty Heart Talk (Nov 2021) series of 14 community conversations, so it is lovely to welcome them back. Meanwhile, how we deal with predicted storm surges related to climate breakdown is an issue we need to urgently tackle as a community.

Justin Kenrick

NATURE NOTES

AUTUMN brings a dash of colour to the world, as leaves turn and evening light seems to feel richer. But it also brings a drop in temperature, which foretells the colder days to come, with breath visible in the morning air and the departure of summer migrants.

For those that stay, the choice is to either muddle through, or try to sleep through most of it. For our bumblebees (and there are around 25 species) the latter is the only option. Queens born this year will leave their colony to find a suitable spot to hibernate. This is usually a hole in the ground, a few inches deep, compact and bijoux. The colony they leave, including the old queen, cannot survive the winter (actually, usually the first frost) and will simply die out.

Come next spring the hibernating

queens will emerge to found their own colonies, laying eggs they'd been carrying over the winter, from which their workers, and the next year's queens, will gradually emerge.

With bumblebee numbers under pressure, it's important for us to give a helping hand, and autumn is one of the best times to do so.

Fortunately it's simple. Leave out a pile of old wood, stacked against a shed or fence or wall, and you can give a bee a chance to survive without having to seek out a hole. Or leave an area of lawn uncut, which entices mice which then leave holes that bumblebees can use: a nice multiple benefit.

If you're lucky, next year you'll find the gardens and parks full of a buzz that is one of the nicest sounds of summer.

Anthony Robson

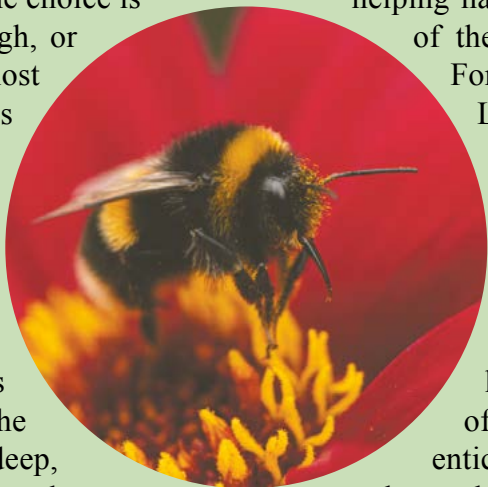


PHOTO: ANTHONY ROBSON

VOLUNTEERING IN PORTY

WILL Toms is a Volunteering Development Officer for North-East Edinburgh and part of a new team at Volunteer Edinburgh, aiming to increase participation in volunteering for as many people as possible. He can help you find or create your ideal volunteering opportunity, so that you can learn a new skill, give something back to your community, meet new people or teach others.

Based in Volunteer Edinburgh's main office, he will be regularly out and about in Porty. With so many great events happening here throughout the year, he is looking forward to getting involved and helping others enjoy all that this unique area has to offer. Will can be reached on 07387 090027 or email him at will.toms@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HOME-START Edinburgh is a charity that supports local families with young children. The earliest years make the biggest impact and at Home-Start, with help from highly trained volunteers, we help families thrive.

Volunteers visit families at home, once a week for a couple of hours, supporting parents in situations such as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support, and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope. For more information on becoming a Home-Start volunteer, email: nicolar@homestartedinburgh.org.uk.

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Holds surgeries in Portobello Library every **Wednesday at 7pm** or by appointment.
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JOPPA TENNIS

IT'S been another exciting season for Joppa Tennis. Last year all three teams, two men's and one women's, were promoted after winning their division. All three have gone on to repeat that success this year, despite some very tough competition. It's beginning to get serious!

Earlier in the year, our newly appointed Head Coach, Finn, ran a series of sessions aimed at new members keen to develop

their skills and those 'rusty racquets' returning to tennis after a break. It was also an opportunity to meet other members to play with. These sessions were very popular and another six sessions are planned for early September. For more information on what's happening at Joppa Tennis including details on membership and coaching programmes, see our Joppa Community Tennis Facebook page.

Marjorie Shepherd

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

PORTOBELLO beach hosted four UK Beach Tour events this Summer, bringing together players of all levels and abilities from the nationwide beach volleyball community and providing a competition outlet for members. We also hosted some of our Junior Women's National Team training ahead of the Youth Commonwealth Games. The

girls then went to Trinidad and Tobago to compete for Team Scotland led by Club Coach and Committee member Mel Coutts, as the Head Coach for the team.

Adult Open Play sessions are available on Friday nights for everyone including non-members at no cost.

See edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com.

Lynne Beattie



ROWPORTY

ROWPORTY took part in a superb regatta held by Queensferry CRC in late July. All the races were mixed club races, medals were spread round all the clubs and much fun was had by all in challenging sea conditions in the most magnificent setting under the bridges. Our thanks go to Queensferry for their wonderful hosting and to all who took part in this joyful event!

During a recent row, a RowPorty team encountered

a rather unusual piece of marine rubbish at sea. Where possible teams always try to collect any debris they find, usually glass bottles or similar. However, they weren't expecting to find a floating mattress. Despite the awkward shape, they did manage to bring it ashore in readiness for waste collection to dispose of it.

An important reminder about keeping our waters clean and rubbish free.

Catherine Scott

IN THE SADDLE

FOR the Portovelo weekender in mid-June we took over the youth hostel in Tomintoul in the Cairngorms, accessible via the famous Lecht road, with gradients of up to 20 per cent. A few rode up this twice, the first time on the Friday, having taken the train to Dundee and cycled from there. Everyone then climbed it on Saturday afternoon, at the end of clockwise loops east that took us into Aberdeenshire and Deeside in glorious sunshine. On Sunday morning, we rode west into Speyside.

For the rest of the summer, we've been back on more familiar roads, with a choice of groups leaving every Sunday morning at 8am for rides into the Lothians, the Borders and Fife. On Wednesdays, there are leisurely morning rides, while every second Saturday there is a gravel ride that explores off-road routes by the Firth of Forth, over the Pentlands or quieter corners of East Lothian.

To find out more about the club's activities, go to www.porto-velo.com. All are welcome.

Andrew Mylne

MEDAL FOR OMAR



Sixteen-year-old Omar Bajo (right) with his coach and mentor Bill Walker, after winning bronze for the 400 metres in the schools home internationals at Grangemouth Stadium. Omar is a student at Portobello High School.

100 YEARS AT PORTOBELLO RUGBY!

THE world awaits the Rugby World Cup in France, but never fear, first-rate rugby is close at hand as Portobello Rugby embarks on an exciting new season amidst our club's centenary celebrations.

We had a strong finish to last year, and thanks to a sponsorship agreement with Civerinos, all kids have been kitted out for the season. Thank you to Michele and the team for their support.

Kids' training and games have restarted, and the adults' rugby pre-season is underway with the first game of the season on Saturday 2nd October. Adults' training is every Tuesday and Thursday 7-9pm.

Follow us on Facebook for information on our centenary celebration, and becoming a playing, or non-playing member. New children always welcome.

Darren Crowther (Mini Rugby Convenor)

DESTINY UNITED

DESTINY United was co-founded by The Destiny Project CEO Andrew Stevenson and former professional footballer Garry O'Connor and is sponsored by Belmont Group in Wallyford. We provide an opportunity to get professional football experience, challenge the stigma of mental health,



and benefit from an active, healthy lifestyle.

We are proud to call Power League Portobello home to our mental health football team. Through our fixtures we are keen to promote all things Portobello, and to work with local groups and schools. Our sessions take place on Friday evenings from 7-8.30pm. You can contact us via our website www.thedestinyproject.co.uk or visit Destiny United FC on Facebook.

Andrew Stevenson