

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Autumn 2024  
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**The independent voice of Portobello** Your Community Newspaper produced by local people since 1980

## BOOK FESTIVAL TURNS SIXTEEN

WE'RE looking forward to the 16th Portobello Book Festival, which will run from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th October. The festival has attracted many talented local and national writers to Portobello Library, promising an exciting line-up. There's our usual fantastic variety of written and spoken word with themes including nature, cycling adventures, mental and physical health, the lure of the sea, biographies, food and culture, creating a queer books archive, politics, stories from Scotland and more. This year we are thrilled that two events will be conducted in Scots.

Fiction readers are well catered for with events featuring women in historical fiction, Edinburgh in crime fiction, the victims of Burke and Hare, families and relationships, time travelling librarians and magical books. Our writing workshop, which is open to all, will focus on the beach groynes as our source of inspiration and will take place within sight of the sea.

Portobello Library will be the main venue, thanks to the ever-valued support of the wonderful staff, with events also being held at Portobello Swim Centre and Portobello Bookshop. Bookshop staff will be selling contributors' books from a pop-up shop in the library over the weekend. Programmes will be available in the library and local businesses from early September. Tickets, which are free as always, will be available to collect from Portobello Library from 9th September.

Visit [www.portobellobookfestival.com](http://www.portobellobookfestival.com) for the full programme. Find us on X/Twitter @portybookfest and Instagram @porty.bookfest.

Joanne and Grace Baird

## GROYNE GETS A MAKEOVER



Before and after – number 4 groyne which was badly damaged in last year's storms has been straightened out

PHOTOS: ANDREW MYLNE

## ART WALK PORTY FESTIVAL 2024

THE Art Walk Porty Festival takes place from 7th to 15th September, bringing together 65 artists across 46 venues arranged around four walks comprising Art Houses, Art in Shops and public realm spaces. This year's theme of 'UnderCurrent' focuses on marine health, coastal ecologies and food futures. The Festival Hub at Annan's, 268 Portobello High Street, features work from ongoing projects involving fungi, lichen and the mapping of local wild food.

A central part of the festival is *Thrift*, a series

of participatory art climate conversations on Porty Beach, near John Street. Take part in ecologically framed workshops, talks and events, or bring your own fruit, veg or herbs to try out the new Solar Dehydrator. *Thrift* is supported by an award from The Royal Society of Edinburgh and explores ways to improve access to healthy local food.

Visit [www.artwalkporty.co.uk](http://www.artwalkporty.co.uk) for the full programme. Art Houses and Hub are open both weekends, 10am to 6pm.

Rosy Naylor

## LAST BANK TO GO

LLOYDS Banking Group (LBG) has announced it will close the Portobello branch of the Bank of Scotland (BOS) including its cash machine on 22nd October 2024.

The LBG Closing Branch Review says that customer and business transactions at the BOS branch have fallen by over 40 per cent since 2019. The report says customers use online and telephone banking rather than visit local branches, and suggests that following the closure, customers can bank at the Post Office or at BOS, Musselburgh.

Portobello once had six banks: Clydesdale, RBS personal, RBS business, TSB, British Linen and BOS. Local resident Rosie Nimmo, who has started a petition on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org), said: "I can't imagine how Porty will cope with the loss of its last remaining bank given how many people shop at the local businesses and do their banking here. I believe the impact of the bank closing will be catastrophic for Porty."

## NEW MP FOR PORTOBELLO

PORTOBELLO, as part of the Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency, gained a new MP on 4th July in the shape of Labour's Chris Murray. He beat the previous MP, Tommy Sheppard of the SNP, into second place, followed by the Green, Conservative, Reform UK and Liberal Democrat candidates.

**PORTY PROFILE No. 89**  
**VE SCHWAB**



PHOTO: JENNA MAURICE

**VE SCHWAB**, the author of popular fantasy novels for adults, young adults and children, has chosen to make her home in Portobello. She was born in California, was brought up in Nashville, Tennessee and attended college in St Louis. She has lived in New York City and just outside Liverpool, where home was a converted garden shed. When VE first visited Edinburgh and stepped off the train at Waverley Station onto Scottish soil, she felt a sense of connection, she says. She then came to study for a Masters degree and lived in the New Town. Deciding to stay, she chose Portobello, “a small town in a city”, and loves that she knows so many people and that those in the local coffee shop know her order.

VE couldn't sit still as a child and played soccer for 10 years. She walks eight to 10 miles round Portobello with her dog every day and loves that she can walk into town for any appointments she has. She has always been a writer or storyteller and finds it addictive that you can write a story and hand it to others as a gift. VE believes that there is more fantasy writing than we think, “as it encompasses anything that extends beyond our known concept of reality”. She asks: “what if” and believes that reading is a form of escapism that fosters the imagination at all ages. She thinks her job is to make you doubt your reality. Reading is how we learn and she likes to challenge readers, she says. The themes for her children's books are different, but she thinks that children are brave and discerning and have the control to put down a book if it discomfits them.

The George cinema is one of her deep passions. She thinks that cinemas appeal to all, providing a place for the community to gather for entertainment, and she is keen to resurrect the George as a place for this.

Although VE tours two or three times a year, she says: “Portobello is my home and I feel most creative there.”

*Margaret Munro*

**PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS**

**AS THE** headteacher of Portobello High School (PHS), I am delighted to share the latest developments within our school community. Since arriving at PHS in May, I have been overwhelmed by the remarkable support from parents, carers and the wider community all working together to enhance the outcomes and experiences of our young people.

This term, we are introducing a range of exciting new programmes designed to benefit all young people. These initiatives encompass creative and innovative ideas across sports, technology, the arts and sciences, ensuring every young person has the opportunity to succeed and excel in their learning journey.

Our development areas for this school year are ambitious and centered on raising attainment and achievement, with a strong emphasis on equity. We are in the process of refreshing our learning and teaching policy to ensure that our approaches are cutting-edge, providing students with high quality learning experiences. Additionally, we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that values the voice of every young person as they shape their future. In June, we proudly appointed our new pupil leadership team, (pictured), who will play a pivotal role in engaging with our young people and primary schools, and collaborating closely with the community. We are excited about the positive impact they will undoubtedly make.

*Greg McDowall*



The pupil leadership team at PHS

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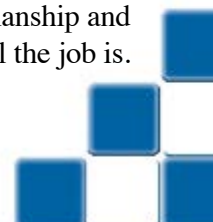
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**What's On**

**KILT WALK:** Edinburgh, Sun. 15th Sept. Register now at [www.thekiltwalk.co.uk](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk)

**PORTY LIGHT BOX EXHIBITION:** Wifie, a women's photographic collective, will have an installation in October as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2024.

**BLOOD DONATIONS:** Portobello Town Hall, Thursday 7th November 2-4pm/5.30-7.30pm. Book appointments on 0345 90 90 999 (Mon-Fri-, 9-5pm); online, up to 14hrs before session; or by email [nss.snbtsenquiry@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.snbtsenquiry@nhs.scot) by 5pm the previous day.

**CAR BOOT SALES** (Rotary Club of Portobello): Last Sun. of each month until Oct, Newcraighall Station car park. Sellers arrive from 7.30am, buyers from 8.30am. Cars £12, large vans £18. Enquiries to 07708 796737/ 07523 689839.

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** 1st Sat. of month, Brighton Park. For details see [portobello.market@live.co.uk](mailto:portobello.market@live.co.uk)

**COMMUNITY FRIDGE:** Sats. 10.30-11.30am, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. Surplus food from shops free to all, to combat waste. Donations to food bank from 11.30am.

**WALKING FOR HEALTH:** A Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland project. One hour low-level walks – free, social and open to all. 1pm Mondays. Start and finish at CHSS shop, 113 Portobello High St. Before attending, call Jacq on 07388 378 605 or email [walking@chss.org.uk](mailto:walking@chss.org.uk)

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Wed. evenings, 7.30-9.15pm in the small hall at the Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High Street. See [www.portobellocommunitychoir.org](http://www.portobellocommunitychoir.org)

**PORTOBELLO CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP:** Sundays, 2pm, Baptist Church Hall. See [www.meetup.com/portobello-music-group](http://www.meetup.com/portobello-music-group)

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT VITAL FOR ST MARK'S UPCOMING RENOVATION PROJECT

FOR nearly 200 years, St Mark's has been a landmark in the heart of Portobello. Now this unique historic church is moving into the next stage of its life. Repairs and improvements are about to start, thanks to £134,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This supplements existing grants from the National Churches Trust (£100,000), other smaller grants, and a large amount of fundraising by the congregation.

Costs have greatly increased since 2019, and we have not raised all £700,000 estimated to be needed for this phase. However, the congregation will be vacating the church in September so work can begin on the improvements that are possible with the grants so far received. We are very grateful to other local churches for providing us with a home during this time.

The building will be more environmentally friendly – with insulation, secondary glazing, draught proofing and efficient lighting. There will be a new floor, as well as a new toilet and kitchen.

Any donations to help us to save this vital resource for the community will be very welcome: [www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/towards200years](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/towards200years).

*Reverend Canon Dr Sophia Marriage, Rector of St Mark's Portobello*

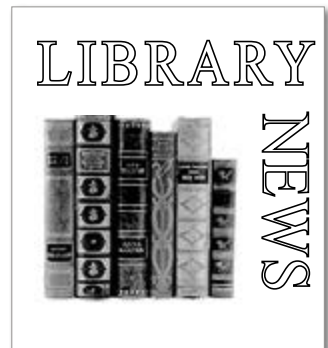
WITH the end of the summer holidays, we would like to say a big congratulations to all the Marvellous Makers who took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This encourages children to read six books over the holiday period and everyone who beat the challenge did very well. It's not always easy to read six books over the holidays, with so many other things going on.

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) now hold a monthly drop-in at the library to provide support and advice to those suffering from hearing loss. Examples of the support available include information on hearing loss, how to do a hearing check and the maintenance and basic repair of hearing aids. If you are looking for advice on hearing loss, visit the library on the third Thursday of the month between 10.30am and 12.30pm and have a chat with one of the RNID's friendly volunteers.

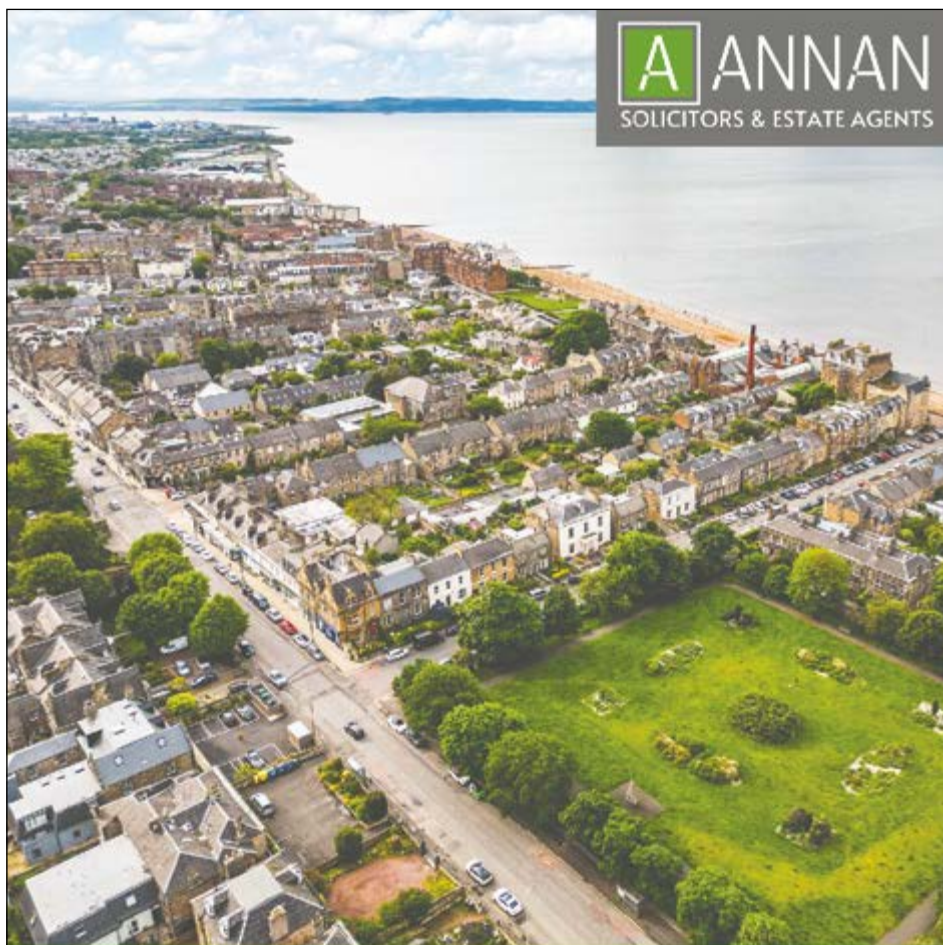
The library now owns a PS5 games console and a number of games including Minecraft and FIFA 23. They are available for children and teenagers to play during out of school hours and can be booked by the hour.

Following the General Election in the summer, Portobello is represented by new MP Chris Murray who holds drop-in advice surgeries at the library on the first Friday of the month from 3pm.

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



*Paul Hudson*



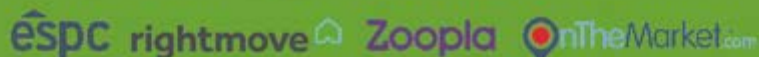
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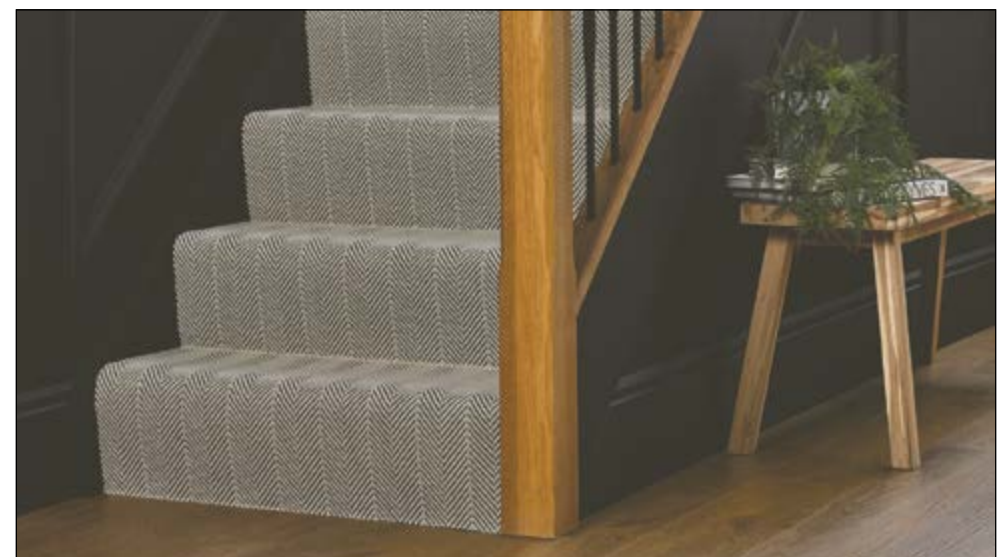
<b>Mondays</b>	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Virtual)	- 18:30 - 19:30
	- Conquer Gravity (Baptist Church Hall - In Person)	- 19:45 - 20:35
<b>Wednesdays</b>	- Mat Class (The Original - In Person)	- 18:15 - 19:25
	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Virtual)	- 20:00 - 21:00
<b>Thursdays</b>	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Virtual)	- 09:30 - 10:15

**Magic Circle Pilates (Virtual) 2024:**  
Fridays - 9:30-10:15am - 6<sup>th</sup> Sept'24 4<sup>th</sup> Oct'24 1<sup>st</sup> Nov'24 6<sup>th</sup> Dec'24

**Trigger Point Pilates (Virtual/In Person) 2024:**  
Saturday - 9:30-10:30am - 24<sup>th</sup> Aug'24 28<sup>th</sup> Sep'24 26<sup>th</sup> Oct'24 30<sup>th</sup> Nov'24

**THE PILATES STUDIO** Address: Tribe Porty, 19, Windsor Place, Portobello  
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**NOW** is the time to collect seeds, on a dry day, from annuals such as sweet peas, marigolds, cornflowers and dahlias, and from peas, beans and tomatoes. Put the seed heads straight into a paper bag and store somewhere dry and cool.

During the winter, remove the husks from the seeds. I then store them in an airtight container in the fridge. These seeds will grow better as they're used to your soil and weather conditions. It saves money too – last year I saved £50 on sweet pea seeds.

Harvest your fruit and vegetables, then make soups, chutneys and jams to enjoy over the winter. There are lots of suggestions on the Web.

I leave all borders to be trashed by the winter weather, so that stems and leaves will rot down and feed the soil, but I remove anything that is wet and soggy. If there is any bare soil, I sow a green manure such as phacelia, which can be dug in when grown.

Finally, it's now the time to pot up hyacinths for colour and scent. They make lovely Christmas gifts to brighten the winter months.

**IN 1987** the United Nations defined the term sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” PEDAL and other local groups have promoted transitioning from fossil fuels to try and minimise our contribution to the climate emergency.

Sustainability and localisation of food supply was the reason for creating the monthly market in Brighton Park, encouraging shopping in Portobello to complement the fine range of food and produce shops. These form the hub of the town centre where we can find most of our foodstuff within a short walk or cycle ride.

The idea of an accessible town centre has led the council belatedly, after years of allowing out of town shopping centres, to come up with the idea of 20 minute neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, other factors are working against this initiative as not only are we losing the police station, but also our one surviving bank where you can actually go in and speak to a human being if you have a problem. Footfall is again growing in the bank and it would be a loss to traders and others who need access to cash facilities. Help stop the closure – search for ‘Save our local bank in Portobello’ and sign the petition (see story on the front page).



## POLICE STATION TO BE SOLD

**THE** police station on Portobello High Street, which has not had officers stationed there since 2016, is to be sold off by Police Scotland.

A public consultation was launched in January 2024 and got 116 responses.

Superintendent Murray Tait said: “Some respondents to the consultation expressed concern about crime during busy summer periods when the town sees greater visitor numbers. As part of our policing plan, we have increased police resource throughout the summer in Portobello every year and I would reassure residents this will continue.”

## GEORGE CINEMA – LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**THE** Friends of the George group (FoTG) has commissioned the award-winning Glasgow-based architectural firm Loader Monteith to undertake a detailed study of the feasibility of a community cinema, supported by a grant from The Architectural Heritage Fund. This will dovetail with an in-depth commercial and operational assessment, being undertaken by independent cinema consultants Mustard Studios, funded by a grant from the Scottish Land Fund. These latest commissions will help FoTG develop and refine its plans to save the art deco building and restore it as a cinema for the local community.

VE Schwab, the subject of this edition's Porty Profile (see page 2), is a major benefactor. Last year she offered funds towards the purchase of the cinema, based on a valuation by a firm of professional surveyors. The offer was rejected by the current owners, who have tried and failed twice in recent years to develop the site as flats.

## EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME

**BEHIND** every pet who needs us is a person struggling and we're doing everything we can to help. According to the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) 2024 report, 26 per cent of dog owners say the cost of living crisis has affected how they care for their dog. This is something we've seen firsthand with the constant high demand for support from our pet food banks.

Our new pet care clinics are an in-person service, where volunteer vet experts support owners with basic behavioural queries, welfare advice, wellbeing checks and signposting to available services and support. The clinics are hosted monthly at a range of destinations. Find out more at [www.edch.org.uk/pet-care](http://www.edch.org.uk/pet-care).

Betty Henderson

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HISTORY OF PORTOBELLO BY MARGARET MUNRO

# SEA SWIMMING SHOCKER

SEA swimming has always been popular at Portobello, irrespective of the cleanliness of the water. In Victorian times modesty was probably of greater concern to swimmers than water quality and ladies in particular used bathing huts where they would change into their swimming costumes. The hut would then be taken down to the water's edge where the ladies could step directly into the sea, thereby preserving their modesty. Examples of these bathing huts can be seen in this image taken at the bottom of Marlborough Street (then Wellington Street). Others, however, were not so modest as this complaint from Alfred John Last, Procurator-Fiscal of the Burgh of Portobello, in July 1872 illustrates. It should be noted that Portobello was still an independent burgh in 1872, before it amalgamated with Edinburgh in 1896.



Bathing huts on the beach at the foot of Marlborough Street

“Alexander Johnstone, a maltman and David Bayne, a cabdriver both residing at Robertsons Land North Back of Cannongate in or near Edinburgh, have been guilty of a contravention of the existing Bye Laws with respect to public bathing in the Burgh of Portobello, article Eleventh thereof,

made by the Commissioners of Police and Improvement for Portobello, in virtue of the Act 13th and 14th Victoria, Cap 33, and duly allowed and confirmed by the Honourable the Sheriff of Mid Lothian, actors or actor or art and part, In so far as upon the Second day of July Eighteen hundred and Seventy two years or about that time, and on the Sea Beach or Shore, Situated between Bath Street and Ramsay Lane, within the Burgh of Portobello, the Said accused did both each or one or other of them, bathe without wearing drawers or other Bathing costume, after ten o'clock in the morning.

“It is therefore craved

that warrant for apprehending and bringing the said Accused into Court, to answer this Complaint, and for citing Witnesses for both parties; and that the said Accused be thereafter punished according to Law, or that such other judgement be given as the case may require.”

What punishment was meted out is unknown, but clearly such behaviour was deemed shocking and completely unacceptable. Whether bathing ‘without wearing drawers or other Bathing costume’ was allowed before ‘ten o'clock in the morning’ may never be known, but it does give one pause for thought.

PHOTO: PORTOBELLO HERITAGE TRUST



## DEBATE SUCCESS

Miya Turner (centre), a recent S6 leaver from Portobello High School, was part of the Scottish team that beat 67 other countries to win the World Schools Debating Championship held in Belgrade in July. The team has since been invited to a reception hosted by the First Minister at Bute House.

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**THERE'S** plenty going on for young people this autumn with a new homework club, sports coaching classes, kids knitting, and an after-school art school for 9-12-year-olds. The 6v2 soccer session restarts in October. If you are a dog or an adult, there's beginner dog training starting in September, and a Nature Painting with Plants class on a Monday afternoon (not for dogs!). As the nights draw in, we can look forward to more Screen Party extravaganzas with films at the end of September and October. Watch this space for the next jigsaw swap, after a success in June. [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org).

*Gica Loening*

## PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL

**AS AUTUMN** comes around it's AGM time of year. We look forward to seeing all our members at our AGM at the Town Hall on 9th October. If you're not yet a member and would like to be, there's a short form on our website [www.portbellotownhall.org](http://www.portbellotownhall.org). The more members we have the more representative we can be of our community. Membership is free and you get to have a say in the strategic running of the charity, the opportunity to share your expertise more closely by being a trustee and to find out what's going on at the Town Hall on a monthly basis.

By the time you're reading this, our summer refurbishment works will be complete. We'll have improved toilet facilities downstairs to accommodate the growing number of people who come to events.

*Sally Dyson*

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## AMNESTY – LOCAL NEWS

**THE** people of Portobello continue to give heart-warming support to the cases adopted by the local group of Amnesty International. At our Portobello Market stall on Saturday, 3rd August, sunshine brought out crowds and a rewarding 155 signatures for our petition calling for justice for Manahel al-Otaibi, a 29-year-old fitness instructor and women's rights activist, sentenced to 11 years in prison on a spurious charge of 'terrorist offences' by Saudi Arabia's notorious Specialised Criminal Court.

She was arrested in connection with her tweets in support of women's rights, and has since been held in solitary confinement and brutally beaten. A copy of the petition has been passed to David Lammy MP, Foreign Secretary, asking him to consider raising the case with Saudi leaders.

The weather was less than sunny on the evening of 20th July when, despite heavy rain, a full house turned up at Bellfield for the Amnesty group's showing of the film *Where Olive Trees Weep*, an insightful but heartbreaking inside account of life in Israeli-occupied Palestine, made before the current humanitarian catastrophe there.

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](mailto:theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com))

*Jim Gilchrist*



**SEPTEMBER** sees the relaunch of our free in-person series, Tribe Talks. Tribe Talks brings together bright minds and interesting topics that can help foster inspiration, provoke conversations that matter and help to educate our community to do and be better. This quarter's theme is Sustainability: 19th September: Boom Saloon, Adventures in democratising creativity for good; 3rd October: Adam McGibbon, How to elect an MP (When she's on-track to lose.); 21st September: Life Mosaic, Supporting indigenous peoples to defend their rights; 5th December: Wildfish, The biodiversity crisis and reversing the impact this has for wild fish in Scotland. Book at [www.tribeparty.org](http://www.tribeparty.org).

*Alice Hudson*

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## SCREEN PARTY

**SCREEN Party** kicks off its 24/25 Film programme with an avalanche (ha!) of great films starting with *Force Majeure*, directed by Ruben Östlund, on 21st September. Then on 26th October is horror comedy *Young Frankenstein* directed by Mel Brooks. Screen Party has a fresh new website too. See [www.screenparty.org](http://www.screenparty.org)

*Lindsay Perth*

## ACTION PARTY

**BELLFIELD** continues to flourish as a place for a diversity of spiritual celebrations. We have Quaker meetings, humanist life celebrations, Christian worship, community choirs, yoga and many other forms for appreciating that there is more to life than first meets the eye. Meanwhile, our big capital project to redevelop the Celebration Hall, to create a more flexible venue, has progressed more slowly than we had hoped because of unexpected delays in decisions by key funders. We still anticipate that our Community Share issue will be complemented by grant funding so that we can significantly develop the Celebration Hall. Meanwhile Bellfield, Washhouse, Town Hall, Keep Party Tidy and others are collaborating to prepare for the Christmas celebration kick-off on 5th December.

*Justin Kenrick*

# NATURE NOTES

**THERE** are a few pantomime villains in the natural world, but there can't be many with a reputation to match that of the grey squirrel. Vilified for pushing out our native red squirrel, the grey colonised our parks and gardens after being introduced from North America – initially into grand estates in the 1870s, followed by a further (planned) release in the 1920s by London Zoo.

Grey squirrels are now ubiquitous wherever there are trees and a ready food supply. They are supremely well-adapted for city life, more so than reds. Spending more time on the ground, they can supplement their usual diet of nuts, berries, seeds, mushrooms and tree bark with the food we throw away. They are also capable of amazing feats of

food caching, able to find up to a thousand buried food items through a combination of impressive memory and smell.

Grey squirrels can descend trees as swiftly as they climb, thanks to an ability to rotate their hind feet so the claws can grip just as they do when ascending. However, as with most urban species, life can be tough when seemingly easy. Only one in four kits (the name for young squirrels) makes it to a year old, and half of those don't make it to two.

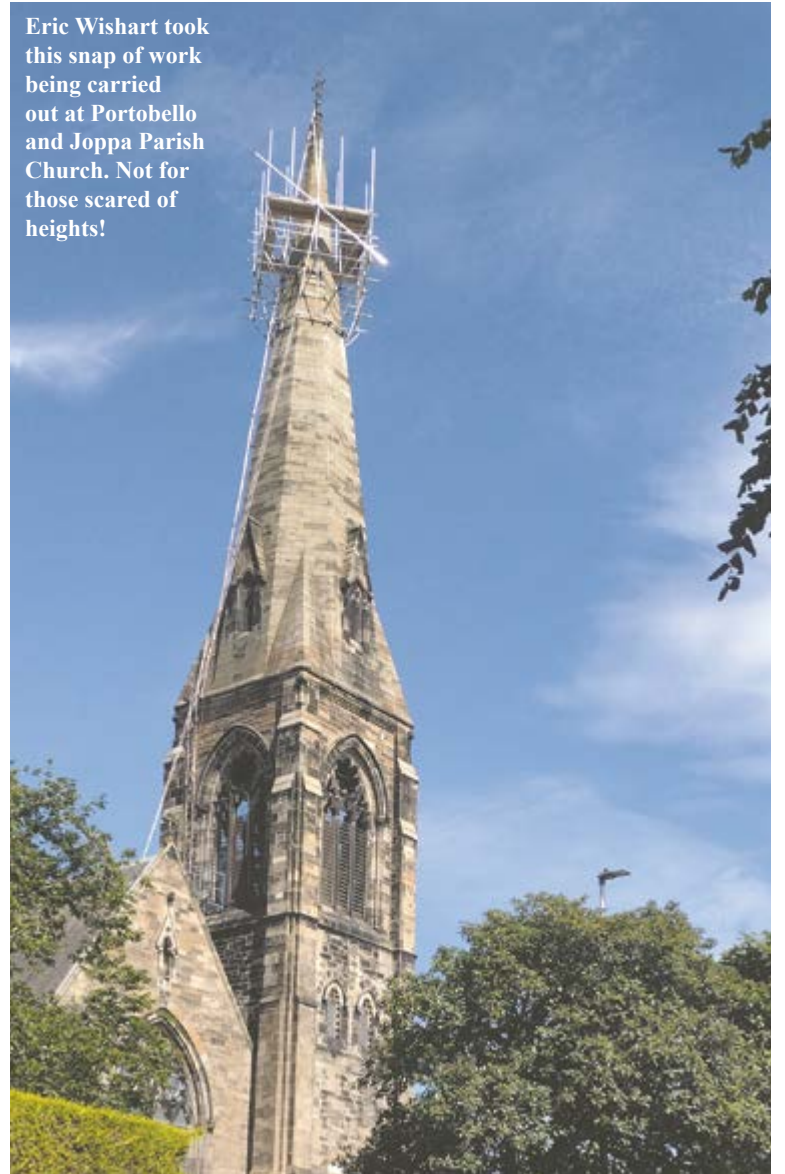
There may come a day when action to limit greys sees reds return to the city (Aberdeen was recently declared grey-free). But while they're here, we should remember they're just acting naturally, having been put here, unnaturally, by us.

*Anthony Robson*



PHOTO: ANTHONY ROBSON

Eric Wishart took this snap of work being carried out at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. Not for those scared of heights!



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## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

FROM weekly coaching lessons for club members to free Friday Open Play sessions available to all who would like to try volleyball, EBVC has had its busiest summer to date. We hosted our first UK Beach Tour Edinburgh Open. Teams from all over the UK competed on our Civerinos Centre Court.

The City of Edinburgh Council, along with local people and businesses, supported the event with equipment, prizes and court maintenance. Thank you to everyone who helped and to the hundreds of people who attended across the weekend. To get involved please email: [edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com).

*Lynne Marshall*

## ROW PORTY

THIS summer has been a busy one for PSKC rowers, kayakers and sailors on the water at Portobello and further afield (Forth islands of Inchkeith and Inchcolm, North Berwick, Ullapool and Lewis). Club members have been active off the water too with fundraising.

We ran a bake sale at Porty's Big Beach Busk to fundraise for our facilities improvement project; to get us water, electricity, toilets and potentially changing rooms in the boatyard. We've raised nearly £1,000 for RNLI 'the fourth emergency service', including a Fish Friday event, 'turning a chippy tea into saving lives at sea'. 2024 is the 200th year of RNLI lifesaving, marking over 144,000 lives saved. Just as important as funds for them is raising awareness of water safety: Do you know how to 'Float to Live'? Find out more here: [www.rnli.org/safety/float](http://www.rnli.org/safety/float).

*Ali Jeffrey*

## IN THE SADDLE



IN MID-JUNE, 24 Portovelo members travelled to Helmsley, North Yorkshire, for the club's annual weekender. A tried and tested formula, it's a weekend away, based in a youth hostel, involving a big ride on the Saturday and a shorter one on the Sunday morning.

This year's highlights included stunning moorland scenery and a great meal in the local Italian restaurant, though we also had downpours on both days and multiple punctures. Also memorable was struggling to stay upright on the infamous 'chimney bank' climb from Rosedale Abbey, with gradients of up to 33 per cent.

This summer, as part of a concerted bid to attract new members, we're doing special 'taster' rides on the first Sunday of each month. Our normal Sunday rides typically last for more than four hours and cover at least 50 miles, and we recognise that this can be off-putting to first-timers. With a taster ride, you get the full club-ride experience without the same distance or time commitment, an ideal way to try out what the club has to offer. For more information, come along to one of our monthly social evenings or check out our website, [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

*Andrew Mylne*



Jo Dunnet presents the Chris Dunnet Trophy to the winner Ishbel MacKay

## LADIES GOLF CLUB

Portobello Ladies Golf Club tees off at 10am on Wednesdays and Fridays at Portobello 9-hole golf course in Stanley Street. The course is in great condition and the membership fee is £30.

Fees should be paid directly to Edinburgh Leisure (per play or buy a membership). You do not need an existing handicap to join and all levels above beginner are welcome. For further details of how to join, please contact club Secretary Yvonne Hooper [yvonnehooper@btinternet.com](mailto:yvonnehooper@btinternet.com)

*Susan Newlands, Vice Captain, Portobello Ladies Golf Club.*

## JOPPA TENNIS

TOO many used tennis balls end up in landfill, yet most could be re-used. To address this, we have teamed up with Recycaball, who offer clubs across the UK the chance to do so, and we have invested in a ball recycling bin.

Our junior teams have had great success in the East of Scotland leagues this year under the guidance of our coach Finn. Elise Thomas represented the East of Scotland in county cup play, winning all her singles matches. Her team went on to win the division against stiff competition from across the UK.

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye, temporarily, to our vice chair Chris Thomas who is moving to Dubai for two years. Chris, like his mother before him, has been a driving force in the development of the club. We will miss his enthusiasm, commitment and energy and wish them all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

*Marjorie Shepherd*

## SWIM CLUB

THE club was delighted to achieve AquaMark accreditation for being a well-governed, inclusive and welcoming club. Senior swimmers (including those returning from university) continued to record lifetime bests at the Scottish Open, and two weeks later some went faster again at the Scottish Summer Meet in Aberdeen with several finals achieved.

The club is working hard to set up an Open Water Section and we hope to have some try-out sessions for members towards the end of summer. We are looking forward to hosting our Super September Swim Meet on 1st September in Prestonpans.

In water polo, both the Senior Men and the U17 Boys took silver in the Scottish Cup, and Portobello High School won the Scottish Schools Open Championships. Joe Mathieson secured selection for Team GB U18 and was awarded Most Valuable Player and Top Goal Scorer at his first tournament in Hungary. For membership enquiries please contact [portyascmembership@gmail.com](mailto:portyascmembership@gmail.com).

*Lucy Scott-Watson*

## PORTOBELLO RUGBY

AFTER a successful end of year weekend to celebrate our 100th anniversary, plans are well underway for the start of the 24/25 season.

Preseason for our adult teams is now complete and you may have spotted a few training sessions on the beach if out for a Saturday morning walk. Adult fixtures begin on 31st August with our first home game on Saturday 7th September.

We have a few special event days including Ladies Day, Old Boys Day and Sponsors Days sprinkled around our home fixture schedule. Keep an eye on our social media channels for dates and details.

We are always looking for new players to join at Adult Level so if interested, please get in touch.

Our kid's rugby restarted on 20th August with a full schedule across the season of games and training as we grow the skills of our youngsters. Again, all welcome to join from P1 upwards.

*Darren Crowther*