Portobello Qua Delivere Also ava Delivere Also a

Quarterly: Autumn 2025

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

1906 Bottle kiln P5
Pipe Street toilets P7

P4

• Rowing triumph P8

The independent voice of Portobello

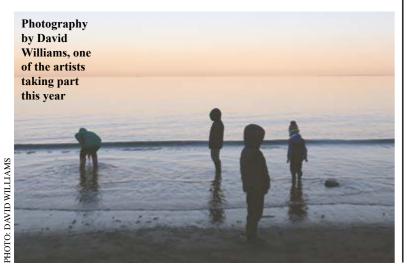
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ART WALK

THIS September the Art Walk Porty Festival celebrates its tenth anniversary! As usual, this very popular event offers the opportunity to view the work of numerous local and Scottish artists both in the 'Art Houses' and in local shops. Have a great day wandering around Portobello seeing lovely things on view in the artists' own homes, with an opportunity to meet the artists and talk about their work. The Festival is always based around a theme, and this year we honour Portobello's heritage with a selection of curated events focusing on 'Showground'. In addition, this year visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite front garden out of 40 competitors in the 'Grow Porty' gardening competition. The Festival runs from Saturday September 6th to Sunday September 14th, with the 'Art Houses' programme open for both weekends: a great (and free!) day out for the family. Detailed maps are available – the Festival Hub is at Annan's Estate Agents on Portobello High Street.

Cameron Wyllie





RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES THREATEN TO SUE COUNCIL OVER PARKING PLANS

RESIDENTS and businesses in Portobello and Joppa have condemned the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) for failing to respond to their formal legal objection to the proposed Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ).

On 22nd July, a joint submission was made to CEC outlining what campaigners say are serious legal, democratic and economic flaws in the CPZ process. Despite assurances that concerns would be addressed, no reply has been received.

Campaigners describe this silence as "arrogant" and "a dereliction of duty", warning it shows contempt for local residents and businesses, who have already gathered more than 1,300 petition signatures against the scheme and packed out Portobello Town Hall with more than 500 attendees at a public meeting earlier this summer.

The Chair of the Portobello Traders Association, which represents more than 50 local businesses, said: "We have engaged constructively at every stage. CEC promised to respond but has chosen instead to ignore us. This isn't consultation – it's a box-ticking exercise. Local livelihoods are at risk and CEC's silence is reckless."

The campaign group – Portobello & Joppa Residents & Businesses Against CPZ – confirmed that preparations are now under way to escalate the fight, including further political engagement, wider coalition-building with community organisations, and the possibility of legal action if necessary.

BOOK FESTIVAL

THE 17th Portobello Book Festival will run from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th October featuring many talented local and national writers in an exciting line-up. There's our usual fantastic variety of events with themes including music, poetry, unheard voices, travel, the natural world, memoirs, food and culture, politics, conserving Edinburgh and more. For younger readers, there's a graphic novel workshop.

Fiction readers can look forward to events featuring scandalous behaviour in Portobello, strong women, witch trials, Scottish mythology, art creeping into fiction and the challenges of incorporating facts into crime novels. Our writing workshop will take place in Tribe Porty and be led by The Scottish Poetry Library.

Portobello Library will be the main venue, thanks to the ever-valued support of the library's wonderful staff. Portobello 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 Saturday 13th September.

Visit www.portobellobookfestival.com

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PORTY PROFILE No. 93

TALAT YAQOOB

TALAT Yaqoob was brought up in Mountcastle near Portobello after her parents immigrated to Scotland from Pakistan in the early 1960s. It was a busy household. The youngest of eight sisters, Talat also initially

BHOTTO-THALKT VADOOB

shared the property with her aunt, uncle, and their children. Her dad worked long hours as a grocer, but often on a Sunday the family would make a pilgrimage to Portobello to buy ice cream and sit on the Promenade wall.

Portobello Library was a haven for Talat. "We didn't have a lot of books in the house growing up," she says. "But the library gave me the space and stories to develop a deep love of reading and learning. Libraries give all children and families these chances, that's why they're so important."

Another early memory for Talat was her sister's wedding reception at Portobello Town Hall in 1988. "It was the first Muslim wedding to be held there – it was magical."

After school, Talat went to Heriot-Watt University to study applied psychology, but while studying, became involved in politics and social justice, which led to a change in career path.

Since graduating, Talat Yaqoob's work has focused on social justice, including campaigning, public participation and policy-making. In 2020, Talat became self-employed, working as a consultant for anti-poverty and equality organisations. In 2019, Talat also launched 'Pass the Mic', a non-profit initiative for women of colour and migrant women, to increase their representation in media commentary and decision-making. The list has now grown to more than 300 women, some of whom live in Portobello.

"I still live in the family home," Talat says. "I am a carer for my parents now. One of my siblings still lives in the area too, and although my dad's mobility is not as good as it used to be, we have managed to get him on the beach with the help of the beach wheelchairs. It's such a great initiative."

Neil Braidwood

WHERE AM I?









Where in Portobello can these playparks be found? Answers on page eight.

GOOD FOR GARDENS

TWO local gardens were open for charities this year under Scotland's Gardens Scheme (SGS). At 14 East Brighton Crescent in June, £528 was raised, 60 per cent for the Trussell Trust and the rest for SGS.

The event at 39 Nantwich Drive in August, raised £440, 60 per cent for Garden Organic and 40 per cent for SGS.

What's On

CAR BOOT SALES:
Portobello Rotary Club, last
Sun of month. Newcraighall
Park & Ride. Sellers from
7.30am, £12/car, £18/van.
Buyers 8.30am. Proceeds
to charities and community
projects.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: 1st Sat of the month, 9.30-1.30. 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 free to all, to combat waste. Donations for food bank from 11.30am.

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

WALKING FOR HEALTH:

One hour low-level walks — free, social and open to all. 1pm Mondays. Start and finish at Chest, Heart & Stroke shop, 113 Portobello High St. Before attending, call Fearghas on 07821 681982 or email walking@chss.org.uk

COMMUNITY CHOIR: Wed evenings, 7.30-9.15pm, small hall at Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High St. See www. portobellocommunitychoir. org

CHAMBER MUSIC
GROUP: Sundays, 2pm,
Baptist Church Hall. For
details see www.meetup.com/
portobello-music-group

TINDERBOX MUSIC CLUB: Weds 4.30-6pm for ages P5-S1, Portobello Library. For all young musicians who can confidently play four notes or more on any instrument and those who'd like to learn.

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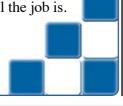
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GARDENING CLUB

I HAVE always been a gardener, but due to mobility issues, I can now only do it from a plastic deck chair. The Grow Porty Facebook page allowed me to post a request for people in similar situations to get together to create an informal gardening club in Portobello.

The club stands at six members, and we hope the idea will blossom (pun intended). We have lots of ideas, enthusiasm and several projects underway.

Anyone interested in joining in, please email me on zena88@ virginmedia.com

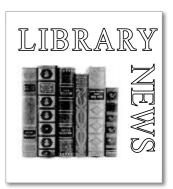
Angela Downie

PORTY COMMUNITY ENERGY

WE ARE starting an exciting new Sea Health project supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. The project aims to promote community engagement in improving the water quality and biodiversity of the beach and marine environment in Portobello. We are working with other organisations and individuals to coordinate new and existing work on sea health that includes Porty Surf Lifesaving Club, Porty Water Collective and others. Let us know if you want to be involved in this or our other work. We also run the Cargo Bike Library and Porty Active Travel Hub on the Promenade, work on community solar and heat projects, promote accessibility and have a cycling programme aimed at carers. Contact us at: portycommunityenergy@gmail.com or visit: www.portycommunityenergy.wordpress.com

Ellen Grunewald

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



We are once again delighted to provide the main

venue and box office for the Portobello Book Festival taking place from 3rd to 5th October. Programmes will be available in the library from early September and tickets from 13th September. More information at www.portobellobookfestival.com

We will be starting a new teenage book group in September. This group is for children from S1 to S3 and will meet monthly on Wednesdays after school. We would love to welcome any young people who have, or want to develop, an interest in reading to our group. Contact a member of library staff if you would like to sign up.

To find the latest information on what's going on in the library you can visit us and have a chat with library staff, or you can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary

Paul Hudson





Autumn 2025



NOW is the time to harvest apples and pears to store over winter. Only take perfect ones and wrap them individually in paper. Leaves are a harvest too; rake them up, put them in black plastic bags and pierce a few holes in the bags. Keep them for a year then add them to compost for sowing seeds. Weeds are also a harvest to be added to the compost heap to mulch the garden and increase its microbiome.

Seed collection is yet another harvest. Last year I successfully saved sweetcorn seeds, all of which germinated. Wait until the seed capsules are dry, then store them in airtight containers, such as envelopes, in the fridge and don't forget to label and date them. I use junk mail envelopes and pop in a silica gel sachet to reduce humidity.

Don't be too hasty to clear the borders. Leave anything that looks good, but clear out anything that may go wet and slimy or that may collapse and smother other plants.

Remember to plant bulbs now, especially scented ones such as hyacinths or paper white narcissus to brighten drab January days.

IT HAS been more than 20 years since planning permission for a large superstore in Portobello was refused after local opposition. The town centre traders were part of the opposition as this



was a threat to them. Now, in common with many other town centres, there has been a shift away from convenience shopping in the high street, especially with the instant online gratification of the internet. Portobello now has a slightly bougie feel to it as demographics have changed over the years but thankfully, we still retain a mixture of excellent everyday shops, those with a more specialist offering, as well as many cafés and restaurants.

A Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) is to be introduced, against the wishes of the majority of those who responded to the consultation. This will affect shoppers and workers in Portobello with the removal of existing half hour free parking bays in the high street and the introduction of paid parking on other streets. There is an argument that the CPZ will reduce car usage, but if there is a better chance of residents finding a parking spot at any time of day, does this not incentivise car ownership? Will City of Edinburgh Council listen to local opinion? Well, it didn't with Brunstane Road.

POLICE STATION PLANS UPDATE

IN JULY, upstairs in the library, Action Porty outlined its draft architectural and business plans for the police station building, as we try to not lose this public building to unaffordable housing. The packed meeting was strongly supportive.

feedback Community shaped both the vision and phased development approach. The Phase 1 plans reflect local demand for affordable creative studios and community organisation workspaces. Phase 2 reflects longer-term aspirations - including youth space and inclusive community facilities.

Police Scotland should officially agree to the Asset Transfer this month. In November, we hope the Scottish Land Fund will agree to provide the bulk of the funds needed to purchase it.

Justin Kenrick

PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL FRINGE FIRST

WE BEGAN working on Something Blue in June 2024, developing it over the summer as part of our Advanced Higher Drama project at Portobello High School. Our teacher, Anna Beynon, challenged us to watch a selection of classic plays and choose a character we each wanted to portray. The task was to create a short play in which these characters could meet and interact in a way that felt natural and true to their original stories.

In September, we performed the piece for the first time to an audience of family, friends and teachers. The response was incredibly positive, one comment even read: "Please take this to the Fringe!" So we did.

Opportunities like this don't come around often at a state school and we were overjoyed and extremely grateful when our Headteacher enthusiastically agreed to fund the

production. Even more generously, it was agreed that all earnings would go into the school's Inclusion Fund ensuring every pupil has access to equal opportunities.

Looking ahead, we hope that through the creation of the Forth Wall Theatre Company we can inspire and support future students to represent our school and community on the Festival stage.

Jasper and Fraser (former PHS S6 pupils)







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COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOLDS

COMMUNITY Councils (CCs) were established in 1973, as the most local tier of elected representation in Scotland. This year, eight CCs in Edinburgh, including Portobello CC, folded because not enough candidates put their names forward for election.

Kate Campbell, one of Portobello's Councillors. commented that members in general are "a fantastic, hard working and committed group of people" but the "system isn't really working at the moment". She added: "We need to rethink what real local democracy looks like."

In the meantime, there is now a gap in the chain of local democracy between Portobello residents and the CEC.

HISTORY OF PORTOBELLO BY DR MARGARET MUNRO



CITY of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has been given by permission Environment Scotland (HES) to install a temporary roof on the 1906 kiln in Bridge Street for a maximum of three years. This is to allow CEC to raise the necessary funding to rebuild the kiln, notwithstanding that this was promised in 2019. Maintenance and repair work to the adjacent 1909 kiln will also be undertaken, including the bonts (iron bands). It is expected that all work will begin in September 2025.

Directors of Portobello Heritage Trust are unhappy about a temporary roof being installed as they fear that this may become a permanent solution. What although funding for the kiln is proving difficult to find, funding for monuments in the city centre appears to be available when requested.

repair to the time ball on the Nelson Monument on Calton Historic Hill. Councillor Margaret Graham and Karl Chapman, who is involved in the repair of the 1906 kiln, recently appeared on BBC Scotland News, on television and radio, regarding the completion of this work. Councillor Graham commented that the £500,000 spent on this project was not a lot of money for a monument that is important to Edinburgh's history and heritage. As Trust chair, I emailed in June asking why, given this statement, it is proving so difficult to find funding to rebuild the kiln which is important to the industrial heritage not only of Edinburgh but the whole of Scotland.

This email was not they find most galling is that responded to. Meanwhile Karl Chapman had a further conversation with Mark Stephen on Scotland Outdoors where he stated: "Heritage is important to our One recent example is the city" and "... part of our social

cohesion." I emailed again two weeks later, after hearing this conversation, this time including Paul Lawrence, council chief executive, and Jane Meagher, council leader and Portobello councillor, again querying the funding issue and asking whether only the heritage monuments in the city centre are important. This email has also gone unanswered. It is totally unacceptable that emails from Edinburgh citizens should be so blatantly ignored.

The kilns are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and deserve the same care and attention as the monuments elsewhere in the city. Portobello has many visitors and the kilns and information board are points of interest for them. It seems CEC is keen for community members to be involved in the care of their monuments, but this is impossible when efforts at communication are so consistently ignored.







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WE ARE seeking a new treasurer and want to hear from anyone with the relevant experience and a solid understanding of financial reporting, forecasting,

management, policies and procedures. Contact us at www.thewashhouse.org/contact-us

Our new vibey and informative e-newsletter 'The Washing Line', is available to all at www.thewashhouse. org/subscribe.

As a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) we need more members, so please consider signing up here: www.thewashhouse.org/become-a-member.

Lindsay Perth

PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL

THERE'S lots going on at your local Town Hall this Autumn. Weekends are especially busy with markets, wrestling, boxing, the return of Edinburgh Dub Club and Karen Dunbar, as well as live music from the Scottish Pink Floyd and a unique concert from Su-A Lee and Hamish Napier. We're also very excited to be the chosen venue for two literary events: An Evening with Nicola Sturgeon hosted by the Portobello Bookshop, and the launch of poet and author Hollie McNish's new book. For more information on all these events please go to our website. www.portobellotownhall.org.

Can you help? Portobello Town Hall is looking to co-opt individuals with skills and experience to join our board of voluntary trustees. See our website on how to apply.

Sybil Bacica

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AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

ONE Sunday in July walkers on the Promenade were greeted by a tent sporting the Palestinian flag. Outside, kites were flying, despite inclement weather. As the human catastrophe in Gaza continues to escalate beyond belief, this 'twin tent' - reflecting the only accommodation for thousands of beleaguered Palestinians - was erected by Porty Pals of Palestine, the kites flown by Progressive Jews for Justice in Israel-Palestine in solidarity with kite-flyers in Burin, in Palestine's West Bank.

Members of Amnesty International's (AI) Portobello Group also attended the gathering, while representatives from Porty Pals of Palestine supported the AI group's monthly stall at August's Portobello Market, which garnered 161 signatures petitioning local MP Chris Murray, asking him to call on the UK Government to abstain from economic dealings with Israel pertaining to the Occupied Palestinian territory and to prevent other trade or investment relations which help maintain Israeli settlers' occupation of the territory; also to ban importing of goods from these settlements, condemned internationally as illegal.

The petition further called for the Government to condemn unequivocally the Israeli government's withholding of food and water to the people of Gaza.

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

Jim Gilchrist

TRIBE Porty is a coworking space that offers both one-day passes and flexible membership options giving access to hot desking, bottomless tea and coffee, Wi-Fi, and call booths. We also run free Tribe Talks bringing together bright minds, and interesting topics.

To celebrate 10 years of Tribe Porty our next series covers our mantra, Work, Make, Share:

- Thursday 18th September, Work with Doctor Jane Booth, The Art of Crafting Effective Boundaries
- Thursday 16th October, Make with Tribe Porty Art Club, Pieces of You
- Thursday 20th November, Share with The Wonder Concierge, What's Your Wonder?

Loretta Dunn will be back from September for a series of interactive talks at the Dead Curious Café, a safe and nurturing environment, where we can explore our attitudes towards death. Tickets are 'pay what you can'. For information and bookings www.tribeporty.org or linktr.ee/tribeporty

Alice Hudson

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ACTION PORTY

FOLLOWING

the tremendous success of the community share issue Foundation Scotland purchased £20k worth of shares to take the total to £188k – we now have all the funding in place for the first phase of the re-development of Bellfield. We currently awaiting building warrant approval and are initiating the process to select a building contractor, with a provisional start date of early October.

The Celebration Hall will be closed for the duration of the work and during this time our popular Community Café will be relocated in the Small Hall and continue to run on Friday mornings between 10.30 and 12.30. Action Porty has recently received a small grant from Hubbub to enable us to pilot the delivery of community meals and we are working towards this happening in the autumn.

Ian Cooke

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BREEHA

BRIGHTON and Rosefield Energy Efficient Homes Association (BREEHA), set up in 2023 by local residents, aims to inspire others to work collectively to maintain our homes, reduce our carbon footprint and reduce costs by bulk buying.

In April 2024, six households obtained comprehensive 'building passports' from EALA Impacts, not-for-profit built environment consultants, who take information from a full house survey and recommend a five-year maintenance programme. They also suggest possible community initiatives such as local heating schemes and shared works.

Our current priorities are solar panels and making sure we are ready for local and district heat schemes.

If you are interested in setting up a similar project, contact jane@gn.apc.org

Jane Lewis

PIPE DREAM?

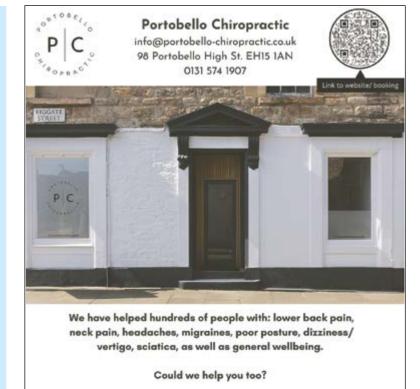
A COMMUNITY-LED concept design competition is underway to create a new social space in the area around the Pipe Street toilets. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of five judges, with architectural/design backgrounds, some of whom are from Portobello. The deadline for concept submissions is 8th September, with a public exhibition w/c 15th September. For more information see www.communitycompetitions.org/portobello competition

PURR-FECT

EDINBURGH and Cat Home (EDCH) supporter Jenni has loved many cats in her life – from her first childhood cat, Sooty, and Blackie, her faithful companion of 18 years, to her current love, Tara, and many precious pets in between. She said: "All of my cats have been friends to me. They're so important, particularly when you're older or living alone." Jenni has chosen to honour the animals who've shaped her life by remembering the EDCH in her will.

Gifts in wills make up at least a third of all donations we rely on. Without this kindness, we simply couldn't continue our work. To learn more visit www.edch.org.uk/ gifts-in-wills

Betty Henderson











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IN THE SADDLE

THE 2025 Portovelo weekender in June saw 35 people – the biggest attendance yet - converge on Oban for two days of cycling. I drove up, but others took a train to Helensburgh and rode from there; one even cycled the whole way. Our plan had been to get everyone across to Mull on the Saturday – until we discovered that CalMac now limits the number of cycle spaces on its ferries. So in the end, only two groups made it across, while the other two did mainland routes instead. For me, that involved riding south to Lochgilphead then back up on a beautiful road beside Loch Awe. On the Sunday, my group rode north over the Connel Bridge to Port Appin, with views of Castle Stalker.

Oban was also the venue of the 2015 weekender, which involved 14 riders in one group – a measure of how the club has grown and developed in a decade. In all that time, our club kit has stuck to its original, classic design, but this summer club members voted for a re-design. Look out for the new-look jerseys later in the year. For more information about the club, go to www.porto-velo.com.

Andrew Mylne

JOPPA TENNIS

IT'S BEEN a great summer for tennis, weather wise, and the courts have been well used, with members taking advantage of the long, light sunny evenings to play.

This year Joppa again entered three adult teams into the East of Scotland summer league. Fortunes were mixed in what turned out to be three very tough divisions and only our women's team managed to avoid relegation.

Head coach Finn and his team ran three five-day summer camps over the summer holidays, all fully subscribed, with around 90 children over the six weeks learning skills, techniques and tactics in a fun environment, aimed to instil confidence and a life-long love of the game.

Coaching sessions, both group and individual, are available all year round. To find out more, contact Finn at finnmcleantennis@gmail.com joppatc@hotmail.com

Marjie Shepherd

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

EDINBURGH Beach Volleyball Club (EBVC) has had a fantastic summer, hosting more than 15 competitive tournaments for all levels of players with participants from across the UK.

The most successful development for this season has been our Friday Night Open Play sessions where we open our courts for everyone who wants to try our amazing sport for free under the guidance of our coaches. We have had evenings where more than 50 people played across our three courts, and we have seen some of these people transition into more regular involvement in our sessions which is amazing.

See: www.edinburghbeachvolleyballclub.com

Lynne Beattie

RUGBY

PORTOBELLO Rugby Club is buzzing with excitement as the 2025/26 season gets underway. Kicking off with the first senior home game on Saturday 6th September, it's a huge day at Cavalry Park as it also marks Ladies Day. But the fun doesn't stop with the 1st XV. Our junior rugby season started on Sunday 17th August. From P1 to S4 players, everyone is welcome. Whether your child has never picked up a ball, or already thinks they're the next Finn Russell, our experienced coaches are ready to help them develop skills, and most importantly, have fun.

If you're looking to return to the game, or trying it for the first time, join the Porty family where rugby, respect and ridiculous post-match chat go hand in hand. See www.portobellorugby. co.uk

> Darren Crowther (Head of Mini Rugby)



ROWING SUCCESS

OVER the summer break, the Skiff Rowing World Championships (SkiffieWorlds) took place in Stranraer, with more than 2,000 individual rowers from 79 clubs competing in 101 races across six days of racing. Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club (EACRC) youth squad was well represented, with 11 Portobello High School pupils competing in eight very competitive races. All the crews did amazingly well against some stiff competition. They made a fantastic contribution to the overall success of the EACRC, which placed second overall and top in Scotland, amassing a total of 1,775 points (the most consistent overall performance). The Portobello based crews returned with two medals, the highlight being the U17 Men winning gold, which was an incredible achievement in an extremely competitive event and making them world champions! The U17 Mixed crew also secured bronze in an equally tough group with all other crews battling hard and doing themselves proud.

Joanna Allsop and Graham Elliot

PORTOBELLO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

IN WATER polo, the Senior Men and the U19 Boys teams won their respective Scottish Cup Finals in June this year. U19 player Joe Mathieson was selected to represent Great Britain in the U18 Boys European Championships in Portugal. In swimming, Harris Woodward flew the flag for Portobello at the Scottish Summer Meet in Aberdeen, with three swims and two finals. An excellent performance! Two swimmers attended the AP Race Clinic in July, getting some great tips from Olympian Adam Peaty. The club competed in a number of district open water championships this summer and had one winner at the Scottish National Open Water Championships.

Email: portyascmembership@gmail.com for membership enquiries.

Lucy Scott-Watson

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EDINBURGH SHUTTERS

Chris Murray MP Surgeries in Portobello

On the first Friday of every month, I hold an advice surgery at Portobello Library, 3pm-4pm.

If you would like to raise an issue, please make an appointment by emailing chris.murray.casework@parliament.uk or phoning 0131 574 9800



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ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?

- 1: Joppa Quarry Park.
- 2: Straiton Place Park
- 3: Rosefield Park.
- 4: Windsor Place Park.