

# THE Portobello REPORTER

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

## COME ON IN - THE WATER'S LOVELY!



PHOTO: PATRICIA SCOTLAND

Over 70 intrepid swimmers braved the water on 9th October to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Edinburgh Blue Tits swimming club

## PORTOBELLO RESPONDS TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

**LIKE** other parts of the country, people in Portobello are facing the spiralling cost of living. Everyone is feeling the squeeze on household budgets, with some seriously worried about how they will feed their families, heat their homes, and keep a roof over their heads in the months ahead. The Edinburgh City Council website – [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving) – has comprehensive information on how people can get help, but local organisations are also providing support to people in need.

The nearest food bank for people in Portobello – called the Basics Bank – is at The Wilson Memorial Church on Moira Terrace, open every Tuesday from 10am-1pm. Clients are provided with fresh produce and cupboard staples, as well as a package of household and bathroom items, for up to six weeks, depending on individual circumstances. You need to be referred by local social services, such as a doctor or social worker, and your application is then assessed by the Edinburgh City Mission. The

Baptist Church in Portobello takes donations for the Basics Bank. For more information see [www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk](http://www.wilsonmemorial.org.uk).

Local churches are opening their doors to help people stay warm this autumn/winter, offering tea/coffee, Wi-Fi, books, games and friendly chat. The rota is Monday 10am-noon, Portobello and Joppa Parish Church; Tuesday 2-4pm, Portobello Baptist Church; Wednesday 10am-noon, St Mark's Episcopal Church and 2-4pm, Portobello Baptist Church; Thursday 2-4pm, Portobello Baptist Church. Friday 10am-12.30pm, Bellfield Community Hub. The Wash House, see page 6.

Always an inviting place during the cold months, Portobello Library is taking part in Edinburgh Council's 'Warm and Welcoming Places' winter initiative. A magazine swap box, colouring sheets and games will be available, with free hot drinks offered on Wednesdays from 6-7pm and Thursdays from 11am-12pm, even if you're not a library member.

The Portobello Citizens Advice Bureau in Bath Street can provide advice if you are struggling to make ends meet. At the moment there is no walk-in service, but the office is open Mondays and Thursdays, from 9.30am-4.30pm, to book an appointment, or you can phone for one (0131 510 5510). For more information see [www.citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk).

It's heartbreaking to have to give up your dog or cat because you're struggling financially and can't look after them properly. The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home (EDCH) on Seafield Road East launched a pet food bank in 2019 for owners facing financial or personal crises. Not only food, but also pet accessories and bedding can be provided and staff are on hand to give advice or support. Donations for the pet food bank can be made to EDCH or one of its donation stations across Edinburgh. For more information see [www.edch.org.uk](http://www.edch.org.uk).

*Patricia Scotland*

**PORTY PROFILE No. 82**

**CHRIS COWIE**



PHOTO: CHRIS COWIE

**HAVING** moved to Portobello when he was 12 years old, Chris Cowie has been living in the area for more than 50 years. In 1976, he was Head Boy at Portobello High School, after which he trained as a primary school teacher at Jordanhill College in Glasgow. He spent seven years teaching in Craigmillar Primary School and another 29 years at Gracemount Primary School in Edinburgh's Southside. Since taking early retirement in 2016, Chris has spent much of his time contributing to the community in Portobello.

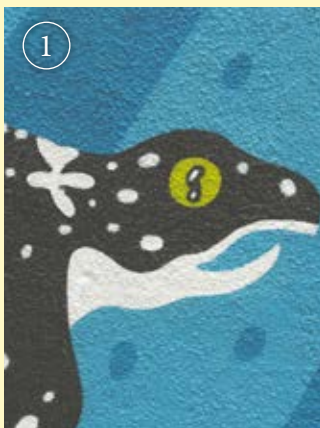
Chris says that he "wants to make a positive difference" and has taken on a number of projects which have improved the local area. He can regularly be found cleaning graffiti from the streets of Portobello and he is also an active member of Keep Porty Tidy. A passionate gardener, Chris has used his skills in a number of guerrilla gardening projects in the area. This involves tidying areas of land which have grown desolate, planting flowers and shrubs, and even installing benches. Three of Chris's notable projects can be found at the old Joppa Station on Brunstane Road, the police box and garden at the corner of Dalkeith Street and Morton Street, and near St John's Primary School on Duddingston Road.

Chris is an active committee member of the Joppa Community Tennis Courts and helps with maintenance of the courts, the new garden and the recently installed floodlights. His other pastimes include music and acting. He is a member of the Portobello and Joppa Church Drama Group and performed in its production of *My Fair Lady*.

Already planning future projects, Chris is currently looking for a local artist to collaborate with on a mural on the South Morton Street railway bridge. He has no plans to slow down, and wants to keep playing his part in improving things in the community.

Colin Reilly

**WHERE AM I?**



PHOTOS: ANDREW MYLNE

Try to identify the places where these creatures are. Answers on page eight.

**What's On**

**FILM SCREENING:** *Local Hero*, Fri. 9th Dec, Bellfield. 7pm drinks/nibbles, 7.30pm film. Tickets £5 (cash) at door. Presented by local group Screen Porty@Bellfield.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** Portobello & Joppa Parish Church, Abercorn Terrace, Christmas Eve at 11pm (also Family Service, 6.30pm, Watchnight Service, 11.30pm; Family Service, Christmas Day, 10.30 am).

**PORTOBELLO LOONY DOOK:** 1st Jan. 2023, at foot of Bath Street. See [www.thelooneydook.co.uk](http://www.thelooneydook.co.uk) for details.

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

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

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY FRIDGE:** Saturdays, 10.30-11.30am, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. Surplus food from shops available free, to combat food waste. A chance to donate to food bank from 11.30am.

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

**THE** Porty Christmas tree lights will switch on at 6pm on Thursday 8th December. There will be tunes from 5.30pm to get you into the festive spirit. People make Porty! Shops on the High Street will open late. Window Wanderland will launch and the Bellfield decorations will be revealed. Later, grab something to eat, catch up with friends in a cafe or pub. Let's hope for snow? For more information go to [www.bellfield.scot](http://www.bellfield.scot) or see posters in local shops.

Jennifer Elliot

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## DEMENTIA SINGING GROUP

LET'S Sing, a local dementia-focused singing group, has been awarded £28,000 by the Queensberry House Trust as part of its 25th Anniversary of giving to charities supporting older people and their carers across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Jan Killeen, Let's Sing's Chairperson, said: "This is wonderful news and means we can now offer free transport to those who need it. We welcome anyone with early-stage dementia in the Portobello

and Musselburgh areas. No singing experience is needed, and companions are also invited." For further information, contact Jan Killeen, 0131 669 2888, m. 07933 607762, e-mail [jan.killeen@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.killeen@btinternet.com) or Penny Stone, e-mail: [lets.sing.brunton@gmail.com](mailto:lets.sing.brunton@gmail.com)

Let's Sing meets on Tuesdays from 11am-12.30pm at the Fisherrow Centre, South Street, Musselburgh. It is free, but a small donation towards refreshments is welcomed.

WE always love hosting the Portobello Book Festival at the start of October and would like to thank the organisers for bringing us another great programme of events. We are already looking forward to the 2023 festival and hope to see you all there.

Portobello Library Book Group meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at 6.30pm upstairs in the library. We always welcome new members. Copies of all the books we discuss are available from the library. We are restarting our Chatterbooks Book Group for children aged 8-11 in January 2023. If you are interested in joining our book groups please speak to library staff.

Other regular events include: Story Time for children, Tuesdays 4pm; Book Bug session every Wednesday 10.30am and Saturday 11am; Family and Household Support Services Drop-in Thursdays 2-4.30pm fortnightly; Craft session for children, Fridays 2pm alternate weeks; Lego session for children, Fridays 2pm alternate weeks

We have a Library Link fortnightly on Monday morning. This is a free bus service for anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of age, ill health or disability. We also have a delivery service for housebound people on Wednesday mornings, so please speak to library staff if you are interested in any of these services.

For updates and information on our regular events, check our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary) or our Twitter [@PortyLibrary](https://twitter.com/PortyLibrary)

Lesley Mayes



## ATLANTIC ROWERS

THE FIVE Portobello rowers taking part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge are ready to start the race on 12th December, beginning at the Canary Islands and finishing in Antigua. You can still support their charities by donating at [www.atlanticbodyandsoul.com](http://www.atlanticbodyandsoul.com)

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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) 2022/23:

Fridays - 9:30-10:15am - 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. & 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Trigger Point Pilates (Virtual/Live) 2022/23:

Saturday - 9:30-10:30am - 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. & 25<sup>th</sup> Mar.

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### All new at Porty.

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If you're thinking about a revamp – carpet, vinyl, natural floors, wood or laminate, give Steve a call on **0131 669 9800** or pay him a visit at **234 High Street**. You'll be sure of a warm welcome.



**WINTER** can be cold and miserable, which is a great excuse to dream and plan your garden. Seed catalogues are mines of information, but get your orders in early so you don't miss out. First to sow in January are chillies, sweet peas and broad beans, then in February sow tomatoes and start dahlias.

If the garden looks dreary, make a visit to a winter garden; the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is excellent. This will inspire you, as there are winter flowering plants, many you won't even know, but some are available, especially online. But please try to ensure they are British grown and peat-free for the sake of our soils and plant health.

Empty the compost heap and mulch the vegetable patch or special plants. Start to clear away any plants that are untidy and keep some for your own compost mix. Leave grasses and tall-stemmed plants that are dry for insects to overwinter in. Watch out for emerging bulbs and, as you see snowdrops emerging, lift some and put them in a pot for a cheery indoor display, which will last in a cool room for a week or two.

**IT LOOKS** like the world will exceed sooner than predicted, maybe by 2026, the 1.5 degree rise in temperature above pre-industrial levels set by the Paris Agreement. As this piece is being written, heads of government meet again at the COP27 climate conference but any promises made need to be backed up by investment to accelerate renewable power generation and better insulation of our buildings.

Major interventions are needed but we can individually contribute: turn down thermostats; only heat occupied spaces for a shorter time; walk and use public transport and reduce food waste.

At the Donkeyfield orchard we recently welcomed nursery age children from Calderglen to pick apples and taste juice. In October we held our Apple Day attended by over 70 adults and children. Watching the children make the connection between where the juice comes from and the wonderful taste of fresh apple juice was a sheer delight. Baked treats, toasted marshmallows and even sushi were eagerly consumed as were the bottles of Portobello Apple juice and chutney. Long may this continue but our leaders need to implement drastic changes now. Protest, write letters, change your behaviour, whatever – for our children's sake.

*Stephen Hawkins*

## SUSTAINABLE PARTY

### Porty Pennypincher

**AS THE** cost of living crisis bites even harder, now is the time to ensure that you are not living beyond your means, as before long you could get into debt.

If you are already in debt, then you need to address this immediately. There is no point ignoring it as this will only make things worse.

You may be feeling ashamed that you are in this situation. Don't let that stop you from seeking help from the many debt advisers that are available to assist.

Debt advisers can help you come up with a budget and a plan to pay back your debt – or suggest other solutions if you can't afford to pay them back. Some advisers will help you negotiate with the people you owe money to.

Citizens Advice has a branch in Portobello and offer advice over the phone or face to face. **0131 510 5510**.

Turn2Us is a charity that supports people in debt and can advise on what benefits and grants are available. **0808 802 2000**.

StepChange is a charity that helps you manage your debt and come up with a repayment plan. **0800 138 1111**.

## JOHN BRODIE'S PORTOBELLO ... PLUS A LITTLE MORE

**THE** latest history book from Archie Foley and Peter E Ross stems from a highly successful exhibition, *Portobello in the 1950s and 1960s*, held in Portobello Library in 2019, which featured photographs by local amateur photographer, John Brodie, who died in 1980. The book contains images from the exhibition, as well as some of his photos of other local neighbourhoods.

An introduction, by David McLean, tells the intriguing story of how he came into possession of Brodie's magnificent photographic collection, as well as giving a brief history of Brodie's life and time in Portobello. The 61 photographs, each with explanatory text, give a fascinating insight into outdoor life at that time and include many well-known local landmarks, including a poignant photo of Harry Lauder's birthplace in Bridge Street, taken in 1959, and a striking set of three of the fire at Portobello power station, taken in 1961.

The book is available from Portobello Library, Portobello Bookshop (and online) and Portobello Frame King.

*Patricia Scotland*

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FROM THE ARCHIVE BY MARGARET MUNRO

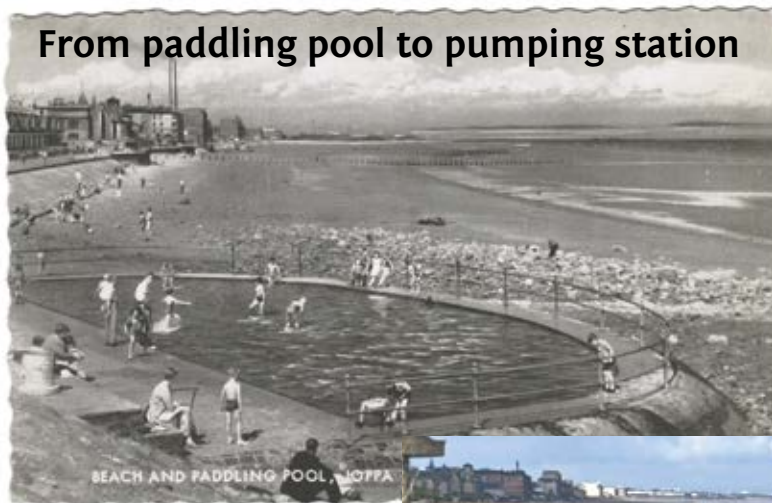
# THEN AND NOW...



PHOTOS AND POSTCARDS: MARGARET MUNRO

WHEN the plans for the community garden were drawn up they included the Coade stone pillars. In 2006 Portobello Amenity Society was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and, working with the City of Edinburgh Council and Portobello Community Council, successfully had the pillars erected on the site. The pillars had been stored by the council since 1989, after they were removed from the garden of Argyle House in Hope Lane. As a result, part of Portobello's history was preserved and the pillars provide a focal point for the garden, with many people admiring them and reading the information board.

Before this there was a paddling pool with seats and a grassy area on the site. The bottom of the pool could be slippery and care had to be taken. It was allowed to deteriorate over the years and became derelict. It was eventually dismantled. The paddling pool replaced the bandstand around 1960. The popular Edwardian bandstand also had a ballroom where people could dance to the music. This proved popular during World War Two when dances were organised for service personnel.



WHILE it looks like a Greek temple and its western end is on its way to becoming a restaurant, Joppa Pumping Station has been sending sewage on its way to be processed since 1978. It is the last of seven stations, including Belhaven, North Berwick and Musselburgh, which pump sewage up the east coast to be processed at Seafeld Waste Water Treatment Works.

It was the site of a popular, seawater paddling pool. The foundations of this can still be seen at low tide, as shown in this recent photograph. The pool provided lots of fun looking for small sea creatures, although care had to be taken with bare feet not to stand on sharp stones and shells. Pools of water left in the foundations, when the tide is out, can still be explored for crabs and other aquatic life. There is still a tidal paddling pool at North Berwick.



## EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME

EDINBURGH Dog and Cat Home will celebrate its 140th birthday in 2023. It has been on Seafeld Road East for the past 57 years and not only provides a safe shelter for dogs and cats, but is part and parcel of life in Portobello and the wider city.

Although the need for a safe haven for dogs and cats that have landed in difficult circumstances has never been greater, the Home is determined to celebrate. If you have any memories or photographs of the Home in past times that you'd like to share, please contact [derek@edch.org](mailto:derek@edch.org) with your details.

*Derek Stewart-Brown*



PHOTO: ANDREA FRASER

## CHARITY CYCLE

LOCAL woman Andrea Fraser set off for Ukraine in October to help deliver a vital ambulance car to the war-torn country. She decided to cycle the 1,250 miles home to Portobello to raise funds for the charity Baby Lifeline, which helps pregnant women and babies in Ukraine. Andrea made it home safely and smashed her target of £6,000 by raising £7,300 for the charity. You can still donate here: [www.bit.ly/Andreafraser](http://www.bit.ly/Andreafraser)



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**THE Wash House** is buzzing with activity. Our new business support administrator, Sammy Roberston, will help you to book spaces or find out what's on.

Activities this month include Fun Fiddle, Enjoy a Ball, children's Friday afternoon knitting group, Sing in the City, Taiko Drumming, Lynn the dog lady's dog training classes and badminton.

We're joining the 'Warm Spaces' initiative this winter opening over lunchtimes to fill the gap when other venues are closed. To find out more, learn about our activities or book a space, please visit: [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org)

*Gica Loening*

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

**IN A** fractured world, there is no shortage of injustices for Amnesty International (AI) to campaign on internationally and its Portobello Group continues to do what it can to support this endeavour, not least through its Portobello Market stall, which continues to attract a heartening degree of interest.

The October market, despite fickle weather, garnered 169 signatures in a petition to the Saudi Arabian authorities to release academic and human rights campaigner Salma al-Shehab. He was sentenced to 34 years imprisonment on trumped up charges of "disturbing public order" – simply for using Twitter to support women's rights activists.

Signing a petition or writing a letter may seem a hopeless gesture. Yet AI can report numerous successful outcomes to its campaigns. Take, for instance, another Saudi campaigner, Nassima al-Sada, arrested in 2018 and jailed and beaten for peacefully defending human rights. Supporters worldwide sent 777,611 letters, tweets and e-mails to the authorities and Nassima walked free last year. Her son, Mousa al-Sada, believes that this international attention helped to finally bring about a verdict on the case following years of stagnation.

AI Portobello 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*



**TRIBE** Party is a community co-working and creative events space in Portobello. If you are interested in hiring Tribe Party for an event or workshop you can enquire by emailing [more@tribeparty.org](mailto:more@tribeparty.org)

We offer free tours and day passes which are bookable on our website. By becoming a member, you gain access to social events like our Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of every month and our Social Lunch every Thursday. We host free monthly Tribe Talks which are open to the public. The talks see a Tribe member speak about their work and interests. It's a great opportunity to learn and to network. To keep up to date with our events, find us on social media @Tribeparty

*Alice Hudson*

## ACTION PARTY

**ON** bonfire night Porty Community Energy Group ran an excellent event on how we keep ourselves warm as we tackle the climate and fuel crisis. Before participants had a wonderful community meal and all-age ceilidh, a panel of experts, facilitated by the sharp-witted Lesley Riddoch, took questions from a feisty Porty crowd who were sceptical that governments, councils or companies would ever act in time. One idea was

for community-led co-operative neighbourhoods/whole tenement retrofits. Another was for Seafeld sewage works to power a district heating system for the proposed 3,000 new homes at Seafeld and for Portobello as a whole. There are likely to be community consultations on Seafeld in the new year. If there are, then here's hoping the community brings real pressure for positive changes such as this.

*Justin Kenrick*

## TRAFFIC SURVEY

The City of Edinburgh Council recently carried out a further survey, seeking feedback on the closure of Brunstane Road since 1st February and traffic management in the Coillesdenes. The results "will be used to inform decisions on how best to continue managing the road network in the area".

## NEW COUNCIL BIN HUBS

**THE** City of Edinburgh Council has undertaken a review of communal bins to make it easier for people in flats to have the full range of recycling options, all situated in the same place. The new bins will have increased capacity, thus reducing overflowing bins and street clutter, and will be surrounded by railings to keep them secure. The Council carried out an online consultation in Portobello last summer and held a drop-in session to gather feedback. Fifty-nine responses were received. The final bin hub locations have now been decided and can be found on [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communalbinreview](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communalbinreview). No date has been set for the start of the work in Portobello, but residents will be sent postcards and Councillors informed in due course.

## PCC

**P O R T O B E L L O** Community Council meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 7.30pm, except in July and December. They are held either online or in the Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High Street. See [www.portobelloc.org](http://www.portobelloc.org)

## PORTY CENTRAL

**EXTERNAL** repairs to Portobello Town Hall should be complete around the turn of the year. Walls have been thoroughly refinished; windows and the hall ceiling have been repaired and repainted and drains have been checked.

Our expanded board is firmly focused on opening the business in late spring to provide spaces for familiar and new activities. Many enquiries are already being received for events well into late 2023. The board hopes to recruit a manager to concentrate on the booking process.

The formal steps, including a 25-year lease on a notional rent, permits, insurance and utilities, are being finalised, with strong support from City of Edinburgh Council. Start-up funding applications are in hand and real community support is essential for this. Contact [hello@portobellocentral.org](mailto:hello@portobellocentral.org)

*Geoff Pearson*

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# NATURE NOTES

I'VE WRITTEN before about moorhens. These lovely little black waders, with a flash of white at the tail, a red face shield, and gangly yellow legs, don't hide their presence at all. This could hardly be more at odds with their secretive cousin, the elusive water rail.

Winter can be a great time to see these birds, as the reeds and grasses by the ponds they skulk around in are less dense and tall. The little brown birds, with textured markings on their back and flanks, a blue-

grey chest and a striking orange bill, still manage to keep their presence hidden to the extent that you're more likely to hear them first. And you'll know when you do, because they squeal like a pig!

Water rails can be susceptible to predation by mink, but with fossils of their ancestors going back two million years, they're clearly a species that will find a way to survive.

They are certainly creatures of habit, and if they find



A water rail visible in the reeds at Figgate Park

good feeding grounds they will hang around for quite some time. And they're likely to return in a subsequent season as well. This means if you think you've heard one (and the Figgate Park is a great location for this) it could pay to make a few return visits and sit on the boardwalk with a flask of coffee, watching twitching reeds for movement that might... just... be...

Anthony Robson

PHOTOS: ANTHONY ROBSON

## PARKING

IN THE past, communities across Edinburgh have contacted the City of Edinburgh Council requesting action to tackle issues caused by non-residential parking. This led to a Strategic Review of Parking by the Transport and Environment Committee, initiated in 2018. Surveys of parking pressures were carried out in every street across the city, and 63 per cent of streets within the Portobello area were categorised as having 'high' parking pressures.

A public consultation on this issue was carried out in late 2021, via leafletting and an online survey. A subsequent report will be considered in December. If the decision is to proceed with proposals for parking controls in Portobello, a full statutory public consultation will be required as part of the formal Traffic Order process.

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# JOPPA TENNIS

SUMMER play may be over, but here at Joppa we are proud to be one of a few clubs in Scotland taking part in the Tennis for Race Against Dementia (TRAD) programme. TRAD is a social enterprise partnering with Tennis Scotland to increase access to tennis for people aged 50 and over. It promotes tennis as one of the best activities to improve and maintain healthy cognitive ageing, as well as being welcoming and inclusive.

The programme supports Sir Jackie Stewart's Race Against Dementia charity. Delivered by our coach Finn in a fun and welcoming environment, the six-week course uses an innovative approach to learning fundamental tennis skills in a technical and tactical sense, as well as creating opportunities to make new friends.

The programme is open to members and non-members alike.

*Marjorie Shepherd*



PHOTO: MARGARET MUNRO

## Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association September volleyball fun

Pupils from Edinburgh primary schools enjoy playing volleyball in the September sunshine. The event was organised by Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association.



PHOTO: PSKC

# WOATY MCBOATFACE?

CAN you come up with a better boat name beginning with 'W'? Portobello Sailing & Kayaking Club (PSKC) is running an online competition during December to name its new club boat. Wayfarer dinghies are traditionally named with 'W' names. Give your suggestions and vote at <https://www.facebook.com/pskcedinburgh> or email [sail@pskc.org.uk](mailto:sail@pskc.org.uk)

PSKC is delighted with this fantastic multi-purpose addition to the club. The addition of oars, safety equipment and a small engine, allows the club to do more 'cruising' – sailing trips further afield. These fittings were added with help of a £1,600 grant from the Council's Community Grants Fund for Portobello and Craigmillar. Recent day cruises have visited Inchkeith island, Longniddry beach and Kinghorn, Fife.

PSKC is three clubs in one: Paddle Porty, Row Porty and Sail Porty. New club members are welcome at any time of year, although less activity takes place over the winter months as all sessions are weather dependent. Check the club facebook page for details of how to join. The club is currently fundraising to build new facilities, so look out for posters of events on the prom boatyard fence.

*Alison Jeffrey*

# IN THE SADDLE

DURING the summer, Portovelo's Sunday rides started early (at 8am) and the aim for all four groups was to get back about 1pm. That allowed for rides of around 50-75 miles, depending on the group. But on one Sunday in September, we gave ourselves more of a challenge, with routes that took us onto new roads beyond our normal range. Each group's challenge was different: from a 77-mile 'two bridges' route round the Forth to a 136-mile epic whose furthest point was Lowther Hill near Wanlockhead (Scotland's highest road).



PHOTO: JOHN DICKIE

Portovelo riders on Lowther Hill in September

Now the days are shorter, Sunday rides start at the later time of 9am, so typical distances come down to roughly 40-60 miles. These rides continue throughout the winter, as do gravel rides every second Saturday, and a social ride every Wednesday.

A highlight of the club year is the Christmas meal out, which this year takes place on Friday 9th December at the Espy. It will include an awards ceremony to recognise those who've contributed most to the club during this, our 10th anniversary year.

*Andrew Mylne*

**The Portobello Reporter** wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?**  
 1: Turtle – mural on Windsor Place. 2: Lion – on Coade Stone pillar, Portobello Community Garden. 3: Seal – mural outside Towerbank playground on the Prom. 4: Kingfisher – on storage container, Figgate Park (near Baileysfield Road entrance).



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