

The Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Summer 2001
Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500

INSIDE	• Basketball Champions	P8
THIS	• Party Profile	P2
ISSUE	• Sir Harry Lauder Garden	P5
	• Young Portobello	P7
	• Targeting Litter Louts	P3

The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper produced by local people.

YELLOW FLAG PLANS PROGRESS

THE City of Edinburgh Council has finally acknowledged the importance of Portobello as Edinburgh's Seaside, something this community has been promoting for years, and is preparing a submission to Keep Scotland Beautiful for its prestigious Yellow Flag Award.

The Yellow Flag is one grade below the Blue Flag Award given to the very best beaches. But these things take time: the submission will be made in 2002 and, if successful, Portobello beach would achieve Yellow Flag status in time for the 2003 summer season.

The main stumbling block of contaminated sea-water has been overcome following a huge investment in water quality by East of Scotland Water, and the Portobello Counts Group, group of the Community Council, is co-operating with a City Council group ensure that the other Yellow Flag criteria can be met. These include a dog in a designated bathing area in the bathing season (probably May to September), which would still leave the majority of the beach open for dogs and responsible owners. There will be consultation this summer on the area to be designated, when volunteers on the Promenade, beach and High Street will ask members of the public for their views.

Other criteria include adequate toilet provision, which will involve the siting of two or three portaloos along the Promenade (in addition to the existing permanent facilities at Joppa, Bath Street and Pipe Street); lifeguards and safety equipment; and the availability of emergency telephones and drinking water.

A Yellow Flag Award should lead to an increase in visitor numbers, which would be good for local businesses; it should also lead to further upgrading of the Promenade area which, even in its current state, is a valuable public space that attracts large numbers of strollers and joggers at all times of the year.

B.M.



Photo by Peter Ross

KEEP PORTY TIDY AWARENESS DAY

FRIDAY May 4 celebrated the first anniversary of 'Keep Porty Tidy', a local group working with environmental and Consumer Services to improve the standard of street cleanliness in Portobello.

Bemused morning shoppers looked on as teams of school kids, more used to being cast as villains, picked up litter from the streets. In the Town Hall, P7 Towerbank pupils and S1 from Portobello High took part in workshops, viewed exhibits, listened to talks, puzzled over quizzes and wrestled with recycling issues.

An informative video explained the processes involved in waste management and highlighted the unsustainable practices we have at present, at a huge financial cost to us all and an even greater cost to our environment.

Outside on the High Street the Portobello HS Jazz Band were belting out "Livin' la Vida Loca" with great aplomb, while inside parents and children admired the pupils' artistic skills, as demonstrated in an impressive display of anti-littering posters.

Also on show were the latest plans for the Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Garden and a splendid archive of the great man himself. Councillor Maureen Child was promoting the Paddling Pool Project and eliciting the opinions of the young people present. A community police officer was also there, issuing the clear message that littering can no longer be tolerated. You have been warned!

The highlight of the day for many was an exclusive preview of 'Detritus', a new CD Rom aimed at young people, featuring techno music, speed of light editing, and futuristic graphics - an anti-litter message for the Playstation generation.

The event was a great success. Thanks and credit to everyone who helped and to the many local sponsors, not least Scotmid who have supported the campaign from the outset.

We certainly raised the profile of the campaign, but keeping Portobello tidy is an ongoing concern and the battle has only just begun.

You can register your support for 'Keep Porty Tidy' and obtain more information at; kpt@blueyonder.co.uk or by writing to; KPT c/o 10 Rosefield St, Portobello.

Bob Jefferson

TASK FORCE DUE IN LOCAL AREA

PORTOBELLO should start to look a lot cleaner once the Open Space Task Force squad starts work here on July 30.

The Task Force is part of phase 2 of the City of Edinburgh Council's Clean Edinburgh 2000 campaign that aims to improve levels of cleanliness in the city by looking at what and who causes litter and what can be done about it.

The area-based squads, already operating in other parts of the city, have specific responsibility for litter removal, grass cutting and weeding.

Consultations will be carried out with local residents to identify areas of priority and the main sources and causes of littering. Other initiatives include education services, awareness raising and enforcement of litter regulations.

Coupled with this is the introduction of environmental wardens who will use the law to make improvements locally. This could include such issues as poorly presented refuse, litter around shops and schools, dog-fouling and fly-tipping.

These measures should make a substantial and welcome difference to the visual amenity of the area.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR CHOSEN TO SIT ON UK COMMISSION

LOCAL COUNCILLOR Maureen Child has been appointed to the UK Sustainable Development Commission set up by Tony Blair under the chairmanship of Jonathon Porritt.

There are two Scottish members on the Commission, which reports to the Prime Minister and the First Ministers of the devolved administrations on how to implement key policies on issues such as climate change.

'I would not be doing this unless I was sure it will add value to the work I do in the local ward and as an Executive Member for Finance in Edinburgh', said Cllr Child. 'It is an enormous opportunity to learn what needs to be done, and promote the work already going on through a whole range of local and national agencies'.

CROSS RAIL PROGRESS

IN THE 1950s it was possible for city centre office workers to go home for lunch in Joppa and get back to work on time in the afternoon. And it will be again.

Outline planning permission has been granted for a rail halt at Brunstane and the Cross Rail project is on schedule to have trains running before the end of 2002, aided by £8 million of Scottish Executive transport funding. This will enable people from East Edinburgh to get into the city centre in about five minutes and provide park and ride facilities at Newcraighall.



GET OUT AND VOTE!

DON'T FORGET to use your vote in the General Election on 7th June. Polling Stations are open from 7am to 10pm so there is no excuse!

Check which Polling Station to go to - it's printed on your Polling Card. If you need a lift contact any of the political parties - they are listed in the Phone Book.

Candidates for the Edinburgh East & Musselburgh constituency are: Derek DURKIN (SSP), Peter FINNIE (Con), Robert MUNN (SNP), Gary PEACOCK (LibDem) and Gavin STRANG (Lab).

Joan Pickles

SCOOT TO SCHOOL!

A LARGE number of pupils took part in a 'Scoot to School' on the morning of May 25, organised by the Towerbank Safer Routes to School group, to celebrate National Walk to School Day. The procession of decorated scooters went along the Prom from the Joppa end to Bath Street, where Cllr Maureen Child judged the best-dressed scooter competition.

The idea of the event was to dissuade parents from driving their children to school and to capitalise on the latest craze for mini-scooters.

PORTY PROFILE No. 6 GARY DICKSON

GARY DICKSON is a familiar sight around Portobello in his distinctive beret. He is married to Margaret, who is the librarian at Portobello High School, and together they have two daughters, Rachel and Sarah.

Gary is an academic. He is Reader in History at Edinburgh University, that's one step below Professor. From the San Francisco Bay Area, he has journeyed through the Universities of Stanford and Yale studying History and came to Edinburgh for his PhD in Medieval History. It was while at Edinburgh University that he met Margaret. They married in 1970. He became a fully fledged lecturer in 1975 and has just had his first book published: a collection of essays, "Religious Enthusiasm in the Medieval West".

Once they had settled in their flat on the Promenade, in the 1970's, Gary's love affair with Portobello began. He likens Portobello to the Riviera, admittedly the "Riviera of Edinburgh". He feels that the Promenade is a "great asset and has been undervalued". He says "In California an area like this would be populated by millionaires". Gary created a patch of America every 4th July by flying the American flag from the window of his flat.

As the Dickson family grew, it was necessary to move to a bigger house. but there was no question of leaving Portobello. "No-one wanted to go anywhere else". Even though Rachel and Sarah didn't want to leave they have both ended up living and working in Los Angeles. Rachel is an 2nd Assistant director in the movies, while Sarah recruits people for the IT industry.

Gary doesn't hide his regret at leaving the Promenade but he is equally happy with the good view of the sea from his study. He enjoys spreading the word about Portobello saying that "it has the small town atmosphere with excellent links to the big city. It's a real place with a real community that is neighbourly and friendly".

Margaret suggests that he thinks he is a "one man tourist board".
Lisa Baptie

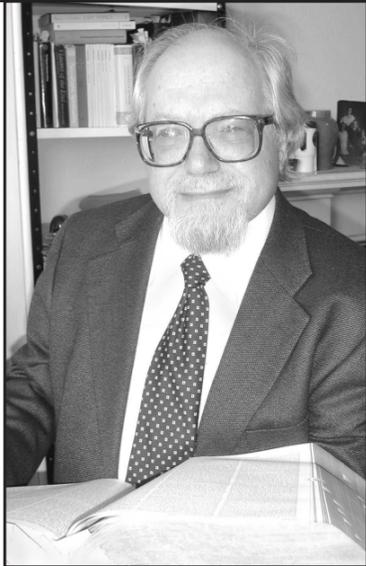


Photo by Peter Ross

MAKING DECISIONS AT A LOCAL LEVEL

THE MEETING of the East Edinburgh LDC on Tuesday May 1 at Portobello Town Hall was attended by some 50 members of the public.

Among the items on the Agenda was a report on the proposed closure of Craigmillar Castle Road, except for buses, cycles and emergency vehicles. The principal reasons for the proposal are: to avoid existing safety problems being exacerbated by an increase in traffic following the opening of the New Royal Infirmary, and to avoid the creation of a 'rat-run' through the new development in Craigmillar. Alternative routes to the hospital would be via Old Dalkeith Road and Cameron Toll, where traffic lights would be installed at the roundabout. Following a lively public discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive that closure should be delayed until a solution is found to access to the hospital from East Edinburgh.

A report on before and after traffic surveys at Northfield Broadway/Northfield Road/Mountcastle Drive North junction indicated that since the opening of the A1 bus priority scheme, there had been no significant changes in peak period traffic levels at the junction.

A report on maintenance of footpaths indicated that repairs in Portobello High Street had been given priority for the current financial year.

In reply to a question on the reduction in summer opening hours of the Indoor Bowls and Leisure Centre, and the absence of skateboarding facilities, the reason given was that last summer's activities had not been cost-effective.

A question from the Amenity Society on inadequate planning enforcement in Portobello would receive a written reply as no Planning official was present.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 11 in either Portobello High or Duddingston Primary School.

PORTOBELLO LEARNING EMPORIUM

A DATE for your diary – Monday 3rd September will be the first ever "Portobello Learning Emporium".

This all-day event will take place in the Town Hall, and will promote opportunities for training, education, and hobby interests, run by local tutors and organisations and suitable for all age groups. There will be an all-day café and demonstration events.

A full programme will be available nearer the time, but in the meantime, if you would like details of how to get a stall or participate, please contact staff at Portobello Community Education office, Bath Street (tel. 657 2607) or at Portobello Library.

PORTOBELLO COUNTS UP

THE FIGURES for the year 2000 relating to aspects of life in Portobello, collated by the Portobello Counts Group which is a sub-group of the Community Council, showed an improvement over-all, compared with the first year of this project, 1999.

The total number of local businesses increased from 180 to 184 and empty shops fell from 16 to 11 (one new business took in two shops).

There were big increases in the number of people using Portobello Swim Centre and Indoor Bowls and Leisure Centre; bookings at the Town Hall also increased, with approximately 25,000 people attending a wide variety of events.

Although crime figures in the Portobello/Milton area are low, there was a slight increase over 1999, with house break-ins up by 13 to 124; car thefts up by 16 to 94; cases of vandalism up by 29 to 241. Traffic accidents, however, were down from 145 to 109, with resultant injuries down by 2 to 29, but accidents involving bicycles trebled to 6.

On the environmental side, sea water quality in the May to September testing period in 2000 averaged a 'good/excellent' rating, compared to 'fair' in 1999. Defective pavements surveyed in the High Street area are due for attention this year.

There is a good public transport service in the area, with buses to 26 destinations going via Portobello High Street each day, an increase of 2.

These findings, together with the recent start of an improvement programme for the Promenade, the possibility of a Yellow Flag Award for the beach, and its popularity as a residential area, as reflected in property prices, suggest a brighter future for Portobello.
B.M

NEWS IN BRIEF

BLOOD DONORS are always needed and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service would welcome more volunteers at the next donor sessions in Portobello, at the Town Hall on Wednesday July 23 from 2.30-4.00pm and 5.30-8.00pm.

PORTOBELLO ROTARY'S main fund-raising event of the year, the Annual Art Exhibition and Sale, was held at Adam House in Chambers Street from March 19-24. Of the many paintings entered by 97 artists, 135 were sold, enabling Portobello Rotary to donate £3,000 to FACE (Fighting Against Cancer in Edinburgh).

GLAD TO BE BACK: Former Portobello High School pupil Allan Blackey says he is 'delighted to be back in Portobello' after some time away.

Allan, 29, is a partner in Leapfrog Graphics, newly opened at 288 Portobello High Street, and is keen to meet old school-friends and fellow members of St Philip's Junior Choir in the 1980s. He particularly remembers taking part in 'Robin Hood' when Euan Bremner of 'Trainspotting' fame played the title role!

Give him a ring on 657 1857 or e-mail him at;
allan@leapfroggraphics.co.uk

GARDEN COMPETITION: The Annual Garden Competition sponsored by Portobello Garden Centre and Amenity Society will be judged this year in the week beginning August 6.

There are prizes in two categories: domestic gardens, and tubs and containers, and anyone living in Portobello and neighbouring areas can enter.

Entry forms and further information are available from the Garden Centre, 256 Portobello High Street (tel. 669 5367).

FRINGE AT THE SEASIDE could come back to Portobello if Council funding can be secured.

A one-day event in August, during the Festival Fringe, is envisaged in the first instance, and could be expanded if it was successful, and though time and money may prevent it taking place this year, next year looks much more likely.

This proposal is due to the efforts of Marion Grimes of Portobello High Street who has spent a lot of time promoting it to the Council. The more help given by other members of the community, both groups and individuals, to organise the event, the better the chance of success.

Anyone who would like to get involved should contact Richard Barclay, City Development Department, on 529 4315.

LIBRARY OPEN ALL SUMMER: The good news is that additional Council funding will prevent the two-week summer closure this year, so holiday reading will be available all summer long!

Regular readers should start to notice more new fiction books in the library soon – the book funds have also been increased, with fiction and children's stock targeted to receive a boost.

As always, library staff welcome readers' comments and suggestions for new stock- whether for books, books on tape, compact discs, or magazines and newspapers.



The last thing you want with your new carpet. An old carpet.

At Kristoffersen Carpets, we offer an optional carpet uplift service for your old carpet.

Just one of the many services we offer that proves we go the extra mile for our customers.

Like our furniture moving service, out of hours fitting and At Home service that allows you to choose the perfect carpet in the comfort of your own home.

So for the widest range, the keenest prices and knowledgeable, helpful staff, give us a call at any of the numbers below, or simply drop in and see us soon.

It could be an uplifting experience.

KRISTOFFERSEN CARPETS
We made our name by knowing yours

234 HIGH STREET,
PORTOBELLO
0131 669 9800

96 MORNINGSIDE ROAD,
EDINBURGH
0131 447 9800

KRISTOFFERSEN
CARPETS AT HOME
0800 378 248

293 ST JOHN'S ROAD,
CORSTORPHINE
0131 334 9800

29 MOSS STREET,
PAISLEY
0141 887 9800

DELI CELEBRATES 10 YEARS IN PORTY



Photo by Peter Ross

PORTOBELLO High Street was jumping on the morning of Saturday April 21 when Kitchener's Delicatessen celebrated ten years in business. A crowd of people gathered for the event and MP Gavin Strang helped cut the celebration cake and congratulated Graham Kitchener on his achievement in developing the deli, which he said was 'a great asset to Portobello'.

Refreshments were served and some great music was played by ceilidh band 'The Donkey Stompers' and the Edinburgh rock band 'Blue Finger'.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER LOUITS

PORTOBELLO POLICE have been working closely with the 'Keep Porty Tidy' group in an effort to solve the litter problem particularly evident in the High Street at lunch times. School pupils are undoubtedly the main offenders and police have approached local schools to make youngsters aware that littering is an offence.

Patrols have been increased and during a week of cautioning, offenders were informed that, in future, charges would be preferred against them – a contravention of the Environmental Protection Act, which carries a maximum penalty of £2,500.

Now, following the 'Keep Porty Tidy' Awareness Day, the police have adopted a policy of zero tolerance on littering: if there is only one witness to an offence, a letter will be sent to parents, but if there is more than one witness, the offender will be prosecuted.

With the assistance of the public, who are our eyes and ears, we hope to reduce the littering problem and, indeed, all types of crime in the Portobello area.

PC Bill Adair, Community Officer

AMNESTY'S CONTINUING CAMPAIGNS

IN THE run-up to the General Election, Amnesty International UK has produced its own Manifesto on human rights issues, high on the agenda being respecting the rights of asylum-seekers, and the urgency of tough arms exports controls. The Portobello Group has written to all candidates on these issues, enclosing a copy of the Manifesto, and has been raising human rights questions at local hustings.

The Group is also involved in the 'Stop Torture' campaign, and is collaborating with other Edinburgh groups over the repression of basic rights in Burma. After many years of ignoring the mountains of letters from Amnesty members about Prisoners of Conscience, the Burmese authorities are now providing some information and response to criticisms – a small but welcome development.

David Turner

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
Copy deadline for the next issue is 2nd August 2001.
Send your contributions c/o 9 Bedford Terr, EH15 2EJ, or put them in the box provided at Portobello Library, or call Brenda Molony on 669 3466 or e-mail: portobelloreporter@talk21.com

LOCAL CHURCHES TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER

ON SUNDAY April 22 St Philip's Church, St James and Portobello Old Parish met together as Kirk sessions and then in a service in Portobello Old in Bellfield Street to sign a Covenant: a general agreement to work even more closely together within Portobello, sharing resources as appropriate. This should also further strengthen the work of the Portobello and District Council of Churches, comprising about a dozen churches of all denominations, including those mentioned, which has been in progress since the early 1980s.

Among those at the service were Gavin Strang MP, a member of Portobello Old, and Portobello Councillor Lawrence Marshall, a member of Portobello Baptist Church.

ROTARY LAUNCH BULLYING CD ROM



Photo by John A. Sowrey

THE PORTOBELLO Rotary Club meeting of April 4 was the local launch date for Rotary International's CD ROM on 'Bullying and How to Deal With It', one of their 'Coping With Life' series. The principal guest speaker on this occasion was Clarissa Dickson Wright, seen here with President Fred Prain (left) and Vice-President Jack Powell.

Also speaking about the problem of bullying from their own perspectives were Mr Ted Brack, Head Teacher, St John's Primary School; Ms Wendy Doran, Assistant Head, Holy Rood HS; Ms Margaret McKay, Chief Executive, Children First; and Paul Matthews, Social Crime Prevention Officer. Representatives of the 12 local schools who attended the launch were each presented with a copy of the CD ROM.

John Sowrey

McIntyre Lewis

Solicitors • Estate Agents • Mortgage Brokers
18 years continuous service

"LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO HELP LOCAL PEOPLE"

OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

- Free No Obligation Valuation Of Your Existing Property
- Free Quotation
- A Special Property Sales Package Can Be Offered

MORTGAGES

- We will help you to select the best mortgage to suit your needs by a computerised search of Mortgage Link
- 100% Loans for First Time Buyers and Subsequent Purchasers
- Special discounts on Loans of 95% or less
- Free Will service with every Conveyancing Case

Come in and meet
Susan Gibson, George Sneath
and the Staff

Have a cup of tea or coffee and let them take the strain out of buying or selling a property for you

10%

Off

If you wish to put your property on the market, forward this advert after you have received our quote in writing and we will reduce our Estate Agents fees by 10%
Not available on any other offer and subject to a minimum fee of £400

158 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET,
EDINBURGH EH15 1AH
Tel: 0131-669 7218 • Fax: 0131-669 8352
www.mcintyrelewis.co.uk e-mail: property@mcintyrelewis.co.uk
Open; Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm
Saturday - 9.30am to 12 noon

SPECIAL SUMMER OFFERS

Keats Riven Circle Packs
 (1.8m diameter)
 (Acorn brown & York buff)
£89.95

Bronte Riven Paving Slabs
 (Acorn brown & York buff)
 from only
£2.30 each

New range of rockery stones now in stock
 Large 80Ltr bags of bark chips
 Buy 4 and get a 5th FREE!

Weed suppressant fabric now in stock
 Full range of Marshalls products in stock

OPEN 7 DAYS

HARVEY BUILDING SUPPLIES

Mon-Thurs 7.30am-5pm
 Fri 7.30am-4pm
 Sat 8am-12 noon
 Sun 10am-1pm

TELFERTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (opp. Appleyard Landrover, Portobello Road)
www.harveybuilding.co.uk e-mail: harveybuilding@zoom.co.uk
Tel: 0131 468 1717

LETTER:

[Mr Ian McKellar of New Westminster in British Columbia is writing a memoir of his childhood for his grandchildren and wrote to the History Society to clarify some points for the Portobello chapter.]

Dear Mr. Foley

It was good of you to write in reply to my letter last month and to enclose a copy of the Portobello Reporter, which I found interesting reading.

Although we lived in Craigentiny, one of my close friends at the Royal High School was a Jimmy Chapman who lived with his widowed mother and aunt in the last house in Joppa Road before coming to a lane and beyond which was the café or tearoom at the end of the promenade. Sadly Jimmy died in North Africa whilst serving with the Black watch in World War 11.

Fond memories of fishing off the rocks towards the Joppa Salt pans with Jimmy or bathing in the sea or at Portobello Baths come to mind, before devouring high tea in their upstairs front room afterwards! Mrs Chapman was a P.E. teacher at Leith Academy and both she and Jimmy were excellent swimmers.

My memories are slowly taking shape and the final chapter, Portobello, is almost ready to put into words when I can find the time, and the urge!

Thank you for your interest.

Ian McKellar

The Portobello Reporter is always looking forward to hearing from you. If you have something you would like to share with the community please write to;
The Editor
9 Bedford Terrace
Edinburgh EH1515 2EJ

'Call In'
Homecare Ltd
322 Portobello High Street
 Care and support at home to suit individual needs. Reliable and professional Care provision, from 'pop in visits' to 24-hour care.
 for further information call:
0131 468 1628

CAPITAL GAS AND HEATING SERVICES
 Specialists in:
 • Installations and Repairs
 • Landlords Reports
 • Living Flame Fires
 • Servicing and Plumbing
 Baisi Service Agent
 Insurance Work Welcome
 Corgi Registered
0131-669 6462 Mob: 07831 406553
21 Brunstane Drive,
Edinburgh EH15 2NF

PORTOBELLO WIRELESS PIONEER

In 1901 the Italian scientist, Marconi transmitted the letter "S" in Morse code across the Atlantic from Cornwall to St. Johns in Newfoundland and secured his place as a pioneer of wireless telecommunication. Marconi's broadcasts were telegraphic and he was not the first to transmit sound by radio. Credit for this is generally given to a Canadian, Reginald Fessenden. In 1906 he made a music transmission in America that is claimed as the first radio broadcast but was he beaten to it by a Portobello man who carried out his experiments on the pier? An article in the Weekly Scotsman of 5th September 1963 under the heading, **He Beat Marconi To It**, tells the story of how the son of a Portobello dentist has been denied his rightful place in the history of wireless communication:

"A Scot who rarely received credit for his pioneer efforts in radio has died in England at 76, and his death has brought to light a story of wireless experiments at Portobello, Edinburgh, as early as 1909. [This was the year Marconi shared the Nobel Prize for Physics] Had Mr. Andrew Burns been given co-operation by the Government he could perhaps have been recognised throughout the world as a man of equal importance to Marconi. He can safely be called one of the pioneers of wireless telephony. Born in 1887, Mr. Burns was the son of an Edinburgh dental surgeon who practised in London but later returned to Scotland. It was in Portobello that Mr. Burns, as a youth of 18, began transmitting and receiving voices over the air. This was in 1905. Four years later he demonstrated his achievements at Portobello Pier on the Firth of Forth. Reporters and scientists from all parts of Britain flocked to the pier to wonder at this "marvellous invention." "Wireless telephony had been successfully demonstrated," they explained to all the world. One newspaper described Mr. Burns's accomplishments in this way: "Mr. Andrew Burns, after several years of persistent, painstaking and patient study, carried on with indomitable will and confident convictions as to the final results, has successfully solved the problem of wireless telephony and has given a practical demonstration of its faultless achievement on the Portobello Pier.

A few days later another newspaper wrote: "The information the other day circulated through the London Press that a certain

gentleman was the first inventor of a system of wireless telephony to carry the voice over space and through concrete material, came as a surprise in scientific circles in Scotland, because as a matter of fact, an able and accomplished young electrician in the person of Mr. Andrew Burns had already invented a system" Shortly afterwards, Mr. Burns founded a wireless school on Portobello Pier to train others in the use of his equipment.

Then came World War I.

While Mr. Burns was away on his honeymoon, the War Office closed down his station under the Official Secrets Act. Had his work occurred just before World War 2, the Government would have probably assisted him; but the Government's closedown practically dealt a deathblow to Mr. Burns's spirit.

"My father's whole career was buried by this blow," said his son, Mr. Andrew Burns, Jun. "This action so upset him that he rarely spoke about his invention afterwards. He was a modest man, but now I think the truth should be known." But for the Government's action, the son explained, Mr. Burns might have become a multi-millionaire.

He tried to join the Navy, then the Army, to try to further his work; but both Services turned him down on medical grounds. Eventually he joined the L.M.S. Railway in London as a sub-station attendant from which he was retired at age 65. Now he is dead, and his story is the tragedy of a little-known genius.

Andrew Burns met his wife when she was on holiday in Joppa. In a letter to the Weekly Scotsman from his home in Tadworth, Surrey Mr. Andrew Burns jun explained: "He was, my mother told me, a wonderful teacher - a man who was full of patience and easy to understand ... His interest in electrical matters never dimmed and only a few months ago he was hoping to get an electrical article published."

Perhaps like another Scottish genius named Burns, he will now be appreciated far more - after he has gone."

Members of the Portobello History Society are now trying to find out more about Andrew Burns and his time in Portobello and would welcome information from anyone with knowledge of him or his family.

Archie Foley



For Commercial, Domestic, Interior and Exterior Quotations on request

Call 0131 669 1228 or 0131 552 0262

Commercial • Domestic Interior • Exterior
Members of the Painters Federation

KITCHENERS DELICATESSE!

LIKE A GOOD MATURE MALT WHISKY, WE'RE NOW

12

Wm Morrison (Portobello)

Auto Accident Repair Specialists
 All Bodywork Repairs - Spray painting
CAR & LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
 Large and Small Jobs Welcome Reliable Advice - Free Estimates
0131 669 5544
2-4 St Mark's Lane, Portobello

• FREE DELIVERY • FREE ESTIMATES • SAME DAY GLASS REPAIRS

WINDOW VENTS
GREENHOUSE GLASS



258 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH EH15 2AT
TEL/FAX 0131 669 9898

INSURANCE WORK
SAFETY GLASS

BROKEN OR MISTED DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS REPLACED
 REPLACEMENT PVC WINDOWS & DOORS • PATIO DOORS

"Lunch? I'll meet you at



Tuesday - Friday 10:30-3:30
Saturday 10:00-4:00

THE PLACE TO MEET AND EAT

15 & 17 Brighton Place, Portobello ☎ 468 2633

"we will beat any price"

Call into our newly refurbished office where Ian, Barry, Lorraine, Claire and Katy will be available to help you make the right choice on your travel arrangements.

Commission FREE Foreign Currency

FREE INSURANCE on your holiday with this ad

*Package holidays • Independent travel
 Flights • Cruises • Foreign Exchange • Travel insurance
 Airport transfers • Airport parking • Hotel accommodation
 Executive & Business travel
 UK holidays • Car hire and much more...*

The **SIBBALD TRAVEL** HOUSE

Tel: 0131 669 4683
 135 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh

"Dinner? That would be lovely!"



evenings @ OOP!

2 courses from £9.95 • Fridays & Saturdays from 7pm

PORTOBELLO AROUND THE WORLD



Portobello, Panama

The name Portobello is derived from the Spanish Puerto Bella, "beautiful gateway" and tradition has it that our burgh took its name from the seaport in Panama, Central America captured from the Spaniards in 1739 by Admiral Vernon. Standing as it does at the Atlantic end of the Panama Canal the present day town is indeed a gateway



Portobello, Nr. Dunedin, N.Z.

to the Pacific Ocean. If we continued across the Pacific Ocean to New Zealand we could drop in at the little seaside town of Portobello, in Otago about 12 miles from Dunedin. It was given its name by a draper called Christie who left his birthplace here and arrived there in 1850. Whalers called this Porto-



Walt Disney World, Florida

bello "Limeburners' Bay" because the locals burnt cockleshells there to get lime for whitewashing their huts.

Our third photograph is not really of a place named Portobello but these two travellers can recommend the cuisine in the Portobello Yacht Club in Walt Disney World, Florida.

Archie Foley

HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

OUR session has just ended and plans are well in hand for the 2001-2002 programme, which gets under way on 6th September. We hope that our meetings will once again be held in St. John's church hall but this is still to be finalised.

Archie Foley



A jet skier gets his thrills. Now that the better weather is here Portobello comes into it's own as Edinburgh's seaside playground.

Award for Lauder Memorial Garden

THE SCHEME to create a community garden to the memory of Sir Harry Lauder next to Portobello Town Hall has received a welcome boost by the award of a £500 start-up grant by the Urban Britain in Bloom Project, which is funded by the Community Fund (the new name for the National Lottery Charities Board). The garden is scheduled to open at the beginning of August this year.

The Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund Committee is organising an all-star variety show in Portobello Town Hall on Saturday 1st September at 7pm as its major fund raising event of the year so look out for the posters and publicity nearer the time.

Archie Foley

ROCKVILLE HOTEL

2 JOPPA PANS ROAD 669 5418

Why not take a look at the all new Rockville Hotel now under new ownership with newly refurbished bar/restaurant.

Serving a fine selection of Tennents lagers and beers, Belhaven Best and Guinness.

Meals served Monday-Saturday from 5.30pm-8.30pm and Sunday Lunches from 3pm-6.30pm Childrens Menu available

Trivia Quiz - First Thursday of each month starts 9pm End of month cabaret tickets include top quality entertainment and basket supper

SUMMER CABARET PROGRAMME -

Fri. 29th June - the Fabulous Chris Judge, Fri. 27th July - Gillie Leroy Jones, International Soul Singer, Fri. 31st August - The Glamorous and Vivacious Lauren Kyle.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE HOTEL. NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

just arrived leapfrog graphics limited creative advertising and multimedia solutions 

design services advertising annual reports corporate id and branding interactive cds large format posters leaflets and flyers newsletters and magazines web design and maintenance

288 portobello high street edinburgh eh15 2as
0131 657 1857
www.leapfroggraphics.co.uk

ESTIMATES FREE

SMI prof DOUGLAS BROWN & SON 

Plumbers & Gasfitters
24 hour service
22 Lee Crescent, Edinburgh EH15 1LW
Tel: 0131 657 1655 Mob: 0973 678961

T.A. Harris & Son
A FAMILY RUN COMPANY
Established 1957

CAR SALES, SERVICING, REPAIRS
MOT TESTING STATION
COMPETITIVELY PRICED
BRAKES AND EXHAUSTS

tyre expert 

T.A. HARRIS
-A member of the tyre expert network-

LUK LuK Aftermarket-Service Ltd
Light Clutch Division

9-1 BELLFIELD LANE, PORTOBELLO
EDINBURGH EH15 2BL
TEL: 0131 669 5995

SIR HARRY QUIZ

A QUIZ on the life of Sir Harry Lauder was held at the 'Keep Porty Tidy' event in the Town Hall on May 4. The overall winner was Joe Dean from St John's Primary school who chose a cycle helmet as his prize, donated by BG Cycles and Blades. Following closely were Rowan Duff, Sandy Wood, Calam Cameron and Xani Byrne, all from Towerbank Primary. Their prizes came from a selection donated by Boot's, King's Manor Hotel Macdonald', and the KPT Group. Well done, everyone!

Patricia Ralph,
Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund.

PORTOBELLO COBBLERS
131 Portobello High Street
0131-657 4888

- Quality shoe repairs •
- Fast service •
- Keys cut while-u-wait •
- Name plates • Engraving •
- Watch batteries •
- Purses and wallets •
- Umbrellas •
- Shoe care •

OAP discounts available
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

ADAM McALPINE
Watchmaker + Jeweller
Free Estimates and advice on all watch, clock and jewellery repairs.

Watch straps and batteries fitted
190 Portobello High Street
Tel. 669 4462

Warners
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS.

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?
COME AND SEE US FIRST - BUYING AND SELLING PROPERTY IS OUR BUSINESS

We can offer you:

- Advice on all aspects of Buying and Selling Property
- Independent Financial and Mortgage Advice
 - Free Pre-Sale Valuations
 - Commercial Conveyancing
 - Wills and Executries
 - Friendly Personal Service

FIXED LEGAL AND ESTATE AGENCY COSTS
QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

Please call Mae Davies on 669 7575 for a free initial consultation
All our properties for sale can be viewed on our website:
www.warnersol.com

CHURCH TO LOSE POPULAR MINISTER

THE REV. MALCOLM MACDOUGALL better known as Calum, is to leave St James Church, Rosefield Place after almost 20 years, to become Minister of Eddleston Parish Church, Peebles, which is linked to Peebles Old Parish Church. He will conduct his last service at St James on Sunday July 22.

Calum, originally from Greenock, came to St James in October 1981 and is a well-known and well-liked member of the community. Apart from his pastoral duties he has been involved in many aspects of local life, including Portobello High School and the Community Centre. He served on the High School Board for four years, set up and ran the Debating Society, and has greatly enjoyed his contact with pupils as School Chaplain. One of the highlights of his time on the Board was his appearance on its float in the Portobello Festival Parade, as a well-endowed schoolgirl, dressed in gymslip, holey black tights, lipstick and wig!

Calum's wife Janet, a teacher, is quite excited about the move; 12-year-old Fiona is getting used to the idea, and son Alastair is moving soon anyway, to university.

Calum himself has mixed feelings: "I'm excited by what lies ahead but very sad to leave", he said. "I will miss so many aspects of Portobello life - the St James congregation and so many other people. This has been a wonderful community to be part of. It has a lot going for it". Many Portobello folk will miss him, too.

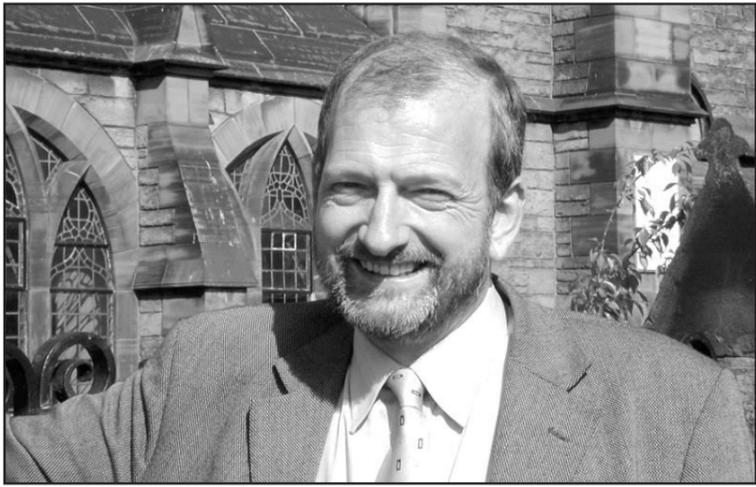


Photo by Peter Ross

PORTOBELLO ZEN BUDDHIST PRIORY

THE PORTOBELLO BUDDHIST Priory was established in October 1998 after many years of saving and planning by Edinburgh's Zen Buddhist congregation. Since then Scotland's only Zen temple has been open six days a week and has welcomed many newcomers interested in meditation and Buddhism.

'Zen' is a Japanese word meaning 'meditation'. The historical Buddha taught that learning to meditate - learning to let go of confusion, anger and desires - puts one in touch with the natural goodness at the root of all people, all existence. For 25 centuries Buddhist faith and practice has helped millions of men and women throughout Asia find peace with life. Now as Buddhism takes root in the West it appeals to many with its simple and positive outlook on life.

If you would like to find out more about Buddhist practice or wish to visit the Priory you can contact resident monk and Prior, Reverend Lewyn Blake on 669 9622.

Val Clark

ST PHILIPS RESTORATION UNDER WAY

AFTER initial problems with lifting the rafters into place, the exterior roof is almost complete. The empty gable-end windows will be fitted with protective glass and the building will then be wind and water tight enabling internal restoration to proceed.

The floor joists are in place, the electrics and heating works in progress, and a new boiler, which will heat both halls and church buildings, has been installed.

Douglas Hogg, our stained-glass window designer and maker, has been to Germany to oversee the first phase of the making of his windows and it is hoped that these will both be in place by the time we open for worship. A week of celebrations is planned for later this year when everyone will be welcome to join us.

There is still time, if you wish to, to give a "Gift for St Philips" and have your name recorded in our book, an up-to-date History of St Philips is soon to be published.

George Anderson

LOCAL CHOIR SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

THE Portobello based choir, the Crescent Singers, is seeking new members. Anyone interested in choral singing is assured of a warm welcome.

The 40 strong choir is directed by Vincent Wallace with assistance from Edward Sutton, both of whom have lots of experience of performing and directing. The emphasis is on singing together and the choir usually performs a Summer and a Christmas concert, but have done special concerts as well. They have performed Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Messiah, but also enjoy folk and traditional songs, and anything else from Bruckner to the Beatles. At present they are rehearsing a concert performance of the 'Pirates of Penzance' for the Summer 2001 Concert.

There is no audition to join the choir - anyone who enjoys singing is welcome - you don't need to be able to read music or to have any previous experience of singing in a choir, and help is on hand for any little difficulties. Just go along to St James' church hall, Rosefield Place, Portobello on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm, or contact Tom Casey on 669 3292 for further information.

EVENTS at the Town Hall:-

June 16: 7.30pm: Multicultural Drama Show. Call Angela Gulfam, 555 1424.
June 26-28: 7pm: Lothian Dance Academy Showtime 2001. Info: 669 9073.
June 30: 10am-2pm: Jumble Sale in aid of local student Max Borthwick's trip to Korea to work with under-privileged children.
August 8: Charity Concert. Contact Carol Hewson 01835 865077.
August 25: 7.30pm: Multicultural-Drama Show. Contact Angela Gulfam 555 1424.

CHURCHES GROUP CAMPAIGNS FOR WORLD'S POOR

FINANCIAL exclusion, Fair Trade promotion and Breakfast Clubs were among the concerns addressed recently by the Peace and Justice Group of Portobello and District Council of Churches. A public meeting is also planned for the autumn, to be addressed by Health Minister Susan Deacon, MSP, focusing on children's health needs - an appropriate theme in this 'Year of the Child 2001'.

The new Christian Aid campaign 'Trade for Life', which calls for a change in the rules on international trade, in favour of the world's poor, is closely linked with Jubilee Scotland's 'Drop the Debt' programme. The Group is asking local churches to support the campaign by providing information to their members and the public about trade inequalities, and by making Pledge cards available for signatures, as evidence of their concern. These would be presented to our constituency MP prior to the next meeting of the leaders of the rich nations in Genoa in July.

David Turner

Findlay's Of Portobello

NEW ORGANIC BAKERY

• breads • cakes • rolls
all made and baked on premises

112 Portobello High Street
669 2783

ROBIN T. BOND

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTS • TAX RETURNS • CASH FLOW
VAT • BUSINESS START UP • PHOTOCOPYING

22 JOPPA ROAD TEL: 0131 669 0442

The Just World Trading Shop
Fair Trading For A Just World
Visit our shop at 54 Portobello High Street
For a good selection of
Cards • Wrapping Paper • Decorations • Gifts • Crafts • Jewellery • Also Coffee • Tea • Cocoa and a range of food including
• Dried Fruit • Nuts • Sugar
Open: Monday-Friday 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm
Saturday 10am-12noon
Supported by the Portobello Council of Churches

WHO?

H.S.KIDD

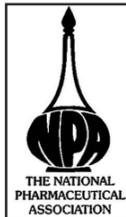
Your Local Pharmacist
Open 9-6 Monday-Friday • 9-5 Saturday

WHY?

• Personal service
• Free Prescription collection and delivery service
• Easy parking
• Wide range of cosmetics and toiletries

WHERE?

330-332 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET,
EDINBURGH EH15 2DA
0131-669 4331



MAJOR JEAN RETIRES

A RETIREMENT Celebration was held on May 12 for Jean Farrer, Major of the Portobello Corps of the Salvation Army in Bath Street for the last nine years.

Born in Paddington, London, Jean went to the William Booth Memorial College in Denmark Hill in 1965, for two years training. She has since moved around a lot, serving the Army in Nottingham, Granton, Plymouth, Inverness and Aberdeen before coming to Portobello.

After so many years in Edinburgh, Jean has lots of friends here, so has decided to stay; she is retiring to Leith and will be involved with one of Army corps near her new home.

Jean received lots of retirement presents, including a picture of Portobello from the Mother and Toddler Group. "The people in the Corps are so lovely and dedicated, and we've worked so well together. I will miss them all", she said, "but I had a lovely send-off".



HOMELESS PEOPLE GET A FRESH START

CROCKERY, cutlery, pots and pans, linen and cleaning materials are again being collected by the members of Portobello Old Parish Church as part of the Fresh Start scheme to help homeless people moving into accommodation. The value of this organisation is evidenced by its continued development over the years.

Items can be left at the back door of the church in Bellfield Street on Sunday mornings or when the Cafe Lounge is open from 10am-2pm, Monday to Friday. Arrangements can be made, if necessary, for the collection of goods by ringing Ray Lang, 669 4537; Norman Grierson, 663 9283; or George Murray, 669 5254.

SUSAN DEACON

Member of the
Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh East
and Musselburgh



54 Portobello High Street,
Edinburgh EH15 1DA

email:
Susan.Deacon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Regular surgeries are held in Portobello

Please telephone

0131-669 6446

for an appointment

James Scott & Son

(PORTOBELLO)

Funeral Director

314 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh EH15 2DA

Tel: 0131-669 1285 or 0131-669 6333

24 HOUR SERVICE Contact: Margaret Hunter

Pre-funeral planning available on request



Member of National Association of Funeral Directors

'Call In' Homecare Ltd

322 Portobello High Street

We are a private care agency currently looking to recruit experienced CARE WORKERS to enable elderly clients to remain at home

for further information call:

0131 468 1628

WHAT'S ON THIS SUMMER

THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB organised by a Church of Scotland mission team of young people will once again be held in the Old Parish Church Halls, Bellfield Street, from Monday 16 to Thursday 26 July. They look forward to meeting children who have taken part before and new children and families. Look out for information notices in local schools and shops.

HOLIDAY READING: This summer, Edinburgh City Libraries children's reading theme is "Carnival" and Portobello library is hosting events especially for children. On Thurs. 19th July at 2.30 pm a show by "MR BONES" for 5 to 12 year olds, on Thurs. 26th July at 2.30 pm a Crafts Event when children can make circus crafts, a frieze, and try juggling and plate-spinning! Tickets (free) will be available at the library (from 5th July)

BOWLS COURSES: The Indoor Bowls and Leisure Centre will now concentrate solely on bowling and there will be summer courses for young people. Skate boarding had become less attractive to youngsters and was not cost-effective last summer.

EDINBURGH MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES service is organising a series of special family events during the summer, in the grounds of Lauriston Castle, plus a programme of children's activities during the school holidays. For information call 529 7902/3.

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE: Children aged 8 to 12 years can explore Joppa Rocks with the Countryside Ranger on Sat. June 23rd or Sun. 24th, from 9am to 2pm. Paint, draw, or write a poem about what you find, or list everything living on the shore. Everyone's work will be made into a book, with some of the paintings used to illustrate the Portobello Seashore Information Board to be installed on the Prom. Application forms from the Library, for information contact Alison Robinson on 468 0623.

ACE CLUB for 8 year olds and over, at Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove, run by the Four Winds Inspiration Centre. Fun activities, projects and games to explore an understanding of the environment and develop art, craft and music skills. June 7 and 14, 3.45-5.15pm: £1 a session - tel. 669 8275 to book a place.

HOLIDAY CLUB: Portobello Community Centre is putting on a Holiday Club during the holidays. 2nd - 13th July from 10am - 12 noon, and 16th July - 6th Aug from 10am to 12 noon.

HOLY ROOD DRAMA REMEMBERS HOLOCAUST

PUPILS at Holy Rood High School gave a moving performance of 'Out of Europe - children of the Holocaust' a specially commissioned play by Raymond Ross about the appalling genocide of the Second World War.

The play, which was part of a Conference on Prejudice and Discrimination hosted by the school, was opened by Nicol Stephen MSP.

The conference highlighted the many terrible genocides committed across the globe during the twentieth century and brought into focus the on going situation for millions of people throughout the world who suffer the terrible consequences of prejudice and discrimination.

Maggie O'Kane, foreign correspondent with *The Guardian*, who has worked extensively in troubled regions of the world, gave a moving account of her experiences as a journalist and warned people not to believe the inflammatory reporting of a number of newspapers who stir up prejudice against asylum seekers. Shirley Grieve from the Scottish Refugee Council talked about the difficulties faced by refugees and asylum seekers living in Scotland today.

All the speakers appealed for greater understanding and for a fight against prejudice, xenophobia and discrimination in Britain.



Photo by Peter Ross

SCOUTING ABOUT IN SPITE of the foot and mouth epidemic, most Scout camps are open. Scouts and Cubs are following the precautions advised by the experts and are still getting outdoors. Scouts will canoe, hike, play wide games and cook for themselves. They will develop teamwork and leadership skills, and have fun!

Cub Scouts enjoy the Parent and Cub Camp, now in its 27th year, which means that many of the parents at this year's camp will have been before - as Cub Scouts. Beaver Scouts enjoy their sports, sandcastle competition and barbecue, and Venture Scouts are going on practise hikes for their Queen's Scout 50mile expedition.

Scouting is for boys and girls aged from 6 to 25 and there are about 450 young people involved in Portobello and district. If you are interested, give Edinburgh Scout HQ a call on 229 3756 or email info@edinburgh-scout.org.uk

Coming Soon...Cinema To Look forward To

FOR YOUNGER kids it's gonna be a long wait until November for the 'Harry Potter' movie which has fans of J. K. Rowling's award winning novel drooling in anticipation. So, before it reaches British shores there are a host of animated features to keep the younger ones happy. 'Osmosis Jones' is the story of blood cells fighting viruses inside the body of Bill Murray (Groundhog Day); or how about 'Shrek', a computer animated fable starring Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz.

Autumn will also hopefully see the release of 'A.I.' Steven Spielberg's latest project that was initially developed by Stanley Kubrick. It stars Haley Joel Osmert (The Sixth Sense) in what can best be described as a sci-fi version of Pinocchio.

For action fans this year looks to be very exciting with the release of the romantic war movie, 'Pearl Harbor'; it may be the biggest movie released this summer. Also coming soon are 'Jurassic Park III', 'The Mummy Returns' and 'Tomb Raider'. So it seems most of the summer will be spent eating popcorn and drinking watered-down cola in front of the 'silver screen'.

As for the film I'm looking forward to the most: 'Planet of the Apes', a remake which stars Mark Wahlberg and directed by Tim Burton ('Sleepy hollow', 'Batman')

Oh, and don't forget the most talked about movie since 'The Phantom Menace': 'Lord Of The rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring' will probably be the biggest movie this Christmas, it is the first of three movies based on J. R. R. Tolkien's trilogy.

I don't know about you, but I'm saving up my pennies 'coz this year is gonna be great.

Eddie Ross

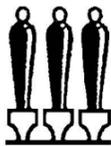
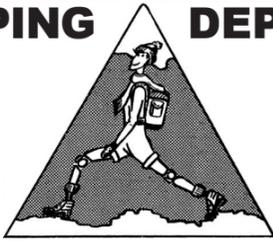


Photo by Graham Jeffery

CAMPING DEPT.

CLEAR-OUT SALE ON NOW



CLEAR-OUT SALE 25% OFF ALL CAMPING GOODS (except gas)

THOMSON'S CAMPING & HARDWARE
266 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET, Tel: 0131 669 5367

Carlo's Fish Bar

227 Portobello High Street
Fish and Chips, Pizzas, Kebabs, Pastas and Baked Potatoes

Delivery Service Available

0131-669 3010



LAPLAND GEMS

96 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh, EH15 1AN
Tel: 669 9344

Jewellery and Gifts to suit all ages and pockets



T E A JENNY'S

180 Portobello High Street
Snack's, Fish Teas
Coffees and Friendly Atmosphere

Open Monday to Saturday
8am to 5pm

The Rocking Horse Nursery

60a Duddingston Road (Near Duddingston Primary School)
Open 8am - 6pm

- We are a family orientated nursery with a friendly atmosphere
 - Babies - 8 years old cared for by qualified staff
 - Pre-School partnership provided for
 - New Nursery opening summer 2001 in Cockenzie
- For further details
Please Tel. 0131 669 0819 and ask for Fiona



SOUTH ASIAN CULTURAL FASHION SHOW

A SOUTH Asian Cultural Fashion Show, organised by Nari Kallyan Shangho (NKS), will be held on Sunday 1st of July 2001 from 1-3pm at Portobello Town Hall.

The event is for women and children ONLY (incl. boys under 12 years). Tickets are available from NKS (tel/fax. 221 1915) and hopefully at the door on the day: prices are: Women and girls over 12 years - £2.00; Children under 12 - £1.00; children under 5, free.

The Fashion Show will include a wide range of traditional costumes from the different regions of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan and will be a good opportunity to find out more about the different cultures within the South Asian community.

There will also be a cultural dance programme, clothes stalls and other activities such as henna hand painting.

Nari Kallyan Shangho is a health and welfare project providing services to about 100 South Asian women and children in Edinburgh every week.

C.L.A.P.A TO BENEFIT FROM PROM RACE

THE ANNUAL Promenade Races organised by Portobello Running Club take place on Thursday June 14, starting at the foot of Figgate Street. The 1-mile race for children will start at 6.45pm, with the 4-mile adults event at 7.15pm. Changing and toilet facilities will be available in Towerbank School.

The entry fees are: children £2; adults £4 (SAF members) and £6 for others. Pre-entry forms are available at Portobello Library and last entries on the night will be taken at 6.45pm. The proceeds of this year's event will be donated to CLAPA (the Cleft Lip and Palate Association).

The contact for any queries is Paul Eunson on 657 1477.

TENNIS COURTS OPEN

JOPPA TENNIS courts in Joppa Grove (off Brunstane Rd) will be open to members and non-members this summer as follows:

June 14 - 30: Thursdays - 4-8pm; Fridays - 2-8pm; Saturdays - 2-6pm.

June 30 - August 11: Monday to Saturday - 1-5pm and 6-8pm.

Charges: Adults, 80p per half-hour; children, 30p.

For membership details, contact Marjorie Shepherd on 669 1777.

SHELTERING IN FOLIAGE during the day, slugs and snails slide into action at night to devour delphiniums, hostas, lupins, tender seedlings, cabbage hearts and others. Since each slug or snail produces 500 offspring every season, it is imperative to control the population in your garden from early spring.

Hedgehogs, frogs and toads eat slugs and snails, so create homes for them with piles of leaves and branches in a wild patch, or install a small pond. You might protect your most precious plants by creating a rough-surfaced barrier with gravel, crushed eggshells or cinders, but avoid nasty blue slug pellets - use only the ones that are safe for animals and birds.

To shelter a balcony that faces into the wind, line it with bamboo canes tied closely together or adapt a screen of split bamboo, then plant evergreen shrubs such as aucuba, buxus (box) or privet which will gradually grow into an attractive hedge.

If your plants lack vigour, think twice before reaching for weedkillers, insecticides, fungicides and fertilisers. Ask yourself if they are absolutely necessary. It is likely that the soil is poor and unable to provide a balanced diet, so enrich it regularly with well-rotted organic matter. Chemical fertilisers are fine, but unless you deal with the cause of the problem the vitality of your plants will be only short-lived. With fungal infections also it is preferable, after removing the affected parts of a plant, to deal with the causes before resorting to chemical treatment. Happy gardening!

clippings from the garden centre



with Bill Thomson

BASKETBALL ACES KEEP THEIR CROWN

ONCE again Portobello High School came out as the top Basketball school in Scotland at this year's Scottish Schools Cup Finals at Meadowbank in March.

Six of the seven teams entered in age-group cups reached the finals, four of them returning with winners trophies (surpassing last year's haul of three).

The first year boys defeated St Andrews HS, Paisley 29-23, the second year girls beat Arbroath HS 55-39, the second year boys defeated Eryffe HS, Paisley 50-43; and the Open girls team beat Culloden Academy 88-47.

The first year girls lost in double overtime to Millburn HS, Inverness 60-53; and the third year boys lost to Marr College, Troon 85-64.

All the teams performed splendidly under the guidance of coaches Ross Szifris and Brian Findlay, who each took charge of two of the winning sides.

Alex Nelson, Emma Findlay and Calum Monteith were each awarded best player trophies for their respective finals. Toni Szifris



Photo by Peter Ross

THE DONKEY STOMPERS of Portobello are a widely travelled group of musicians. The band are Peter Davidson on the mandolin of James Street, Gareth Simpson on Didgeredoo and whistle, brother Keith Simpson on acoustic bass and dad Neil Simpson on accordion all of Bellfield and laterly Pittville St (now Pencaitland but always in Porty for socialising!). The group (apart from Dad!) were pupils at Portobello High and have travelled the world with their special blend of Scottish music mixed with influences taken on board en-route including New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and America. Anyone interested can find out more about bookings at this Email address: neilreb@compuserve.com.

Kodak Pictures

COMPLETE PHOTO DEVELOPING AND PRINTING SERVICE INCLUDING:

- 1 hour film processing for 35mm
- enlargements
- photo enhancement
- digital service (photos on CD and on-line)
- printing onto mugs, t-shirts, jigsaws etc.

NOW AVAILABLE AT

PROJECTIONS
210 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET
EDINBURGH EH15 2AY
657 3727

ORMELIE TAVERN

Purveyors of a large range of fine ales, lagers and spirits

Deuchar's I.P.A

Belhaven Ales

McLay's Wallace



Caledonian Ales

McEwan's 80/- Cask

+ Other Guests

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 11am to 12 midnight

Sunday 12.30pm to 11pm

Come along and try a fly half from our extensive range of malt whiskies

44 Joppa Road, Portobello. Tel: 0131 669 3323

JAMES KEANE - MASTER UPHOLSTERER

Specialist in Antique and Traditional Upholstery Work

Also Loose Covers Tailored to Fit

Selection of Quality Materials to Choose From



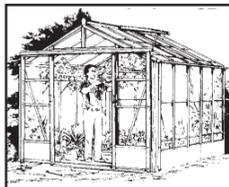
39 Mountcastle Drive South

Edinburgh EH15 1PN

Tel: 0131 669 4020 Fax: 0131 657 1025

Member of the Association of Master Upholsterers & Soft Furnishers

on display at PORTOBELLO GARDEN CENTRE



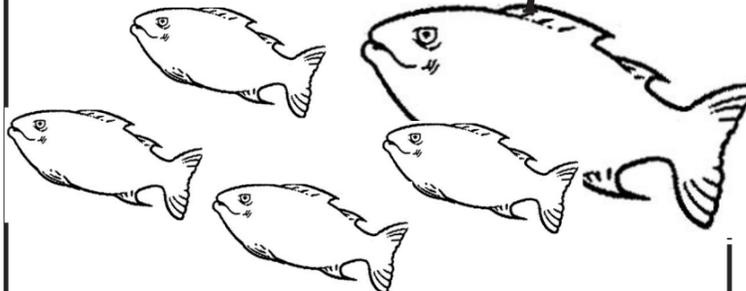
WELL DESIGNED ALUMINIUM GREENHOUSES WITH GUARANTEED STRENGTH

AGENTS FOR

Robinsons

256 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET 0131 669 5367

Mike's Tackle Shop Ltd.



has everything you need for the fishing season and a new and bigger range of clothing

Come and see our showroom at

44/46 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET

OPEN FROM 9am-5.30pm

Or visit our Web site: mikestackleshop.co.uk

E-mail: sales@mikestackleshop.co.uk

LOCAL RUGBY CLUB AVOID RELEGATION

PORTOBELLO FP have managed to stay in Division 3 of the National League, finishing the season in eighth place, with only seven wins and two drawn matches from 18 outings.

The 2nd XV finished third in their league and the Colts (U18) finished eighth: the club has a lot of work to do in preparation for next season.

Eddie Henderson, who has served the club well for many years, latterly as head coach, is stepping down and the search is on for a replacement.

On a brighter note, the club's Development Officer, Alan Freeman, continues his successes at Portobello High School and hopes to field teams at S1, S2, S3 and Senior levels, for the first time in many years.

There will be something going on at the club all summer on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, including rugby league and cricket.

Log on to the club's web site www.portyrugby.com for information.

Barry Sinclair