

# The Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Winter 2003  
Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper produced by local people.

## MASSIVE PROTEST AGAINST SUPERSTORE

OVER 300 local people packed Portobello Town Hall on Monday 3rd November to protest against plans by Duddingston House Properties to build a huge supermarket on the old Scottish Power site between Fishwives Causeway, Baileyfield Road and Portobello High Street. Over 300 letters of objection have already been sent to the Council, as well as a petition with more than 3000 signatures.

The meeting, organised by the Portobello Campaign Against The Superstore, heard representatives from residents' groups, community groups and local traders speak strongly against the proposal. High Street trader Graham Kitchener predicted that many shops would close if it went ahead. He emphasised the vital part local shops play in making Portobello a thriving community as well as supplying a wide range of goods at competitive prices. Local residents Anne Ward and Karen MacLean highlighted the huge traffic problems such a scheme would bring to an area already faced by serious traffic issues and road accidents.

John Stewart, for Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Community Council, urged that the site should be developed in line with Edinburgh City Council's own Urban Design Principles for this area, which recommend a mix of housing, small business and community use. He also stressed the need for affordable housing in Portobello, and argued that this site should be developed with well-designed buildings fronting the High Street. Local Councillor Lawrence Marshall insisted that this important site should be knitted back into the surrounding area and provide a fitting 'gateway' into Portobello.

Gavin Strang MP endorsed the need for affordable housing, and reminded the meeting of recent tragic road accidents. MSPs Susan Deacon and Colin Fox both spoke against the proposal and pointed out that the huge turnout clearly showed that the whole community was against it. Both offered to help the campaign in any way they could, as had Robin Harper MSP, who was prevented through illness from attending. There was unanimous agreement to continue the campaign and all who attended the meeting will be kept informed of its progress.

The Council has asked the developers to provide a Retail Impact Study and a Traffic Impact Analysis to determine the effects of the proposal on local shops and existing traffic problems. Doubts will surely be expressed regarding the impartiality of these studies, but they will be assessed independently by Council officers. The reports will then be available in Portobello Library for consultation and residents will have three weeks to submit further objections to the Planning Department.

Anyone who would like to help the campaign in any way, financially or otherwise, should contact Mike Robb, tel. 07810 558197 or by email at [Info@pcats.org.uk](mailto:Info@pcats.org.uk)

J.S.

## DRIVERS CAUGHT OUT BY PARKING SIGNS AT TOWN HALL

IT WAS recently reported in *The Herald & Post* that the number of tickets issued by Edinburgh's parking Enforcers has risen by 25% in 12 months, and many people have been ticketed at Portobello Town Hall when they did not realise they were parking in a Disabled Driver bay. One bay has a Disabled Drivers sign on the pavement, but a second bay, added later, has none. To add to the confusion, until November 19, when the Council responded to a call from *The Portobello Reporter*, there was a 30 Minutes Parking sign just inside the second bay, and the legend 'Disabled Drivers' on the road had worn away.



One driver, who received a ticket in June 2002, is local man Mr Jack Calder, who noted the unclear signage and appealed. After lengthy correspondence with the Parking Appeals Service, and the refusal of several people 'in authority' to inspect the site, Mr Calder's determination paid off. In June 2003 a Parking Appeals Adjudicator visited the site with him, and concluded that the penalty seemed unjustified. The Council did not answer the Adjudicator's questions on the case and withdrew the Penalty Charge Notice, but although some of the parking attendants told Mr Calder that their superiors had repeatedly been told of confusion at this bay, ticketing continued.

Although the Council has now redrawn the boundaries of these bays to exclude the 30 Minute sign and renewed the legend on the road, Mr Tom Clark, Network Manager, City Development, told us: "We consider the signs to be correct, but we are investigating further". Meanwhile, drivers will need to look carefully before parking at the Town Hall.

B.M.

## THE CHALLENGE OF A WICKED WORLD TOUR



Patrick and Ali with Margaret and Sheila from the Wicked World Tour charity in Times Square

**TAKING** a year out from your studies to travel the world is nothing unusual these days but for Patrick Knox, a former pupil of Portobello High School, and his brother Ali this is a challenge far greater than for most young people. Both boys have Friedrich's Ataxia and are permanent wheelchair users, so to enable them to see the 'wicked world we live in' they set up The Wicked World Tour Charity.

In June 2003 the boys, with their entourage of friends and helpers set off to the USA, Canada and Mexico on the first leg of their tour. On their travels the boys and their team visited many great places including the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and went swimming with a dolphin in the Caribbean Sea.

"The first leg of The Wicked World Tour proved to be amazing for us", Patrick told *The Reporter*. "We were successful in finding out things to help other disabled people follow in our wheel tracks, and by the end we felt as if we were on top of the world".

The Wicked World Tour Charity has been fund raising for the next stage of the boys' tour, which begins early in December with visits to Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The charity's long term aim is to get a fully accessible bus to make it possible for Patrick and Ali and many other disabled people to experience the excitement of world travel. In addition, it is hoped that a resource centre with all the information and experience needed to plan and execute this kind of tour can be set up. For more information about The Wicked World Tour charity visit [www.wickedworldtour.com](http://www.wickedworldtour.com) or email [info@wickedworldtour.com](mailto:info@wickedworldtour.com)

## PORTOBELLO IMPROVEMENTS TAKING SHAPE

**THE** Council is currently pursuing a number of initiatives to help promote and improve Portobello. Work is continuing to remove the rusty railings along the Promenade and replace them with bollards to improve entrance points. The sea wall railings are also being replaced. One of the more significant pieces of the work will be the upgrading of the area in front of the Pipe Street toilets, which has long been an eyesore. Current plans include re-surfacing, planters, seating and bollards to prevent indiscriminate parking on the Promenade. All being well, the works should be completed by Spring 2004.

The improvement of the John Street Paddling Pool site is also still very much on the agenda and, although there is Council budget pressure, other avenues of funding are being investigated.

Four shops have now received grant aid assistance from the Shopfront Improvement Scheme: CostCutter, Mulberries, Deli 194 and d.b. Studios, and another three schemes are in the pipeline. In addition, the Portobello Town Scheme continues to grant aid the reinstatement of original features including railings, doors and windows and so far, 20 properties within the Portobello Conservation Area have benefited.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

to all our Readers and Advertisers

**PORTY PROFILE No. 15  
SHAUNA MACDONALD**

SHAUNA is a talented and popular actress, probably recognised by many for her role as Sam Buxton in the BBC TV series *Spooks*. Although born in Malaysia in 1981, Shauna came to Portobello with her parents and sister Kyrsta at the age of two.



Whilst at Towerbank Primary School, Shauna began her performing career when she joined St. Philip's Junior Choir at the age of six. She later became a member of Brunton Youth Theatre, Paisley Youth Theatre and the Young Lyceum and appeared in many productions. When she was aged fourteen, Shauna and David Sneddon, winner of Fame Academy, played two halves of the same person in *Earthcrack*, a Paisley Arts Centre (PACE) production.

Her favourite performance at Portobello High School was in a German version of *Cinderella*, when she played one of the Ugly Sisters. Shauna learned German specifically for the pantomime. Her first professional appearance was at the age of fifteen, when Shauna won a competition sponsored by Pantene Pro (hair products) and the back of her head was used in one of their television advertisements.

When sixteen years old, Shauna auditioned for the part of Catriona in *The Debt Collector* when the director wanted "girls with Edinburgh accents". Of course, she got the part and appeared with Billy Connolly. Shauna attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and whilst studying there appeared in several films. In one, *The Rocket Post*, which was filmed in Harris in the Outer Hebrides, Shauna played the part of Catherine McKay, which was the name of her granny, who came from the Isle of Lewis. Her television appearances include *Murder Rooms*, *Taggart*, *State of Play* and, of course, *Spooks*.

The year 2002 provided Shauna with a double cause for celebration. On the day of her twenty-first birthday she made her first professional stage appearance in *Victory* in the Royal Lyceum Theatre. Family, friends and cast members joined the celebrations. Shauna recently appeared as Catherine in *A View from the Bridge* with Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Filming of the third series of *Spooks* is scheduled to begin this month. Although now resident mostly in London, Shauna enjoys returning to Portobello whenever she can.

M.M.

**SUNNY JOPPA'S SOLAR POWER**

JOPPA toilets now has its hot water generated by a solar panel on the roof thanks to local resident Jim Wolff, who undertook the project with Millennium Award funding. Councillor Maureen Child says: "Jim did a fine job of co-ordinating and enthusing everyone needed to make this happen and I warmly congratulate him for achieving his Millennium Award in such style. He was supported by the Council and the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative, run by the Energy Savings Trust, which aims to help Scotland achieve 18% renewable energy by 2010 and 40% by 2020. Following this successful pilot, the technology is likely to be repeated throughout

**LOCAL CAB SAVED**

PORTOBELLO and District CAB is open and its immediate future assured. The Bureau has received strong support from local councillors and MP. Donations from Citizens' Advice Scotland and local people and businesses, together with an offer of premises at a modest rent, means the CAB can continue to serve all who seek its help. Opening hours are 9.30 - 3.30 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 9.30 - 12.00 and 6.30 - 7.45 on Wednesday. The bureau closes at 12.00 on Monday 22nd December 2003 and will re-open at 9.30 on Tuesday 6th January 2004.

**ADDRESSING UNDER-AGE DRINKING**

WE have heard and seen much to do with 'anti-social behaviour' by young people in our society, and closely linked with this is the problem of under-age drinking. In response, Police Officers in the 'Portobello Sector' have addressed the problem with action planned and implemented during October and November by Acting Sergeant Meechan. The intention was to visit ALL licensed premises, Off Licences and Licensed Grocers, to educate their staff as well as the youngsters themselves, and to closely monitor the situation thereafter.

Officers distributed a booklet, 'Saying No to Under Age Drinkers', to all licensed premises. This highlights the problems and advises how to deal effectively with youngsters trying to buy alcohol, or those attempting to buy it for them. Designated Officers, patrolling on foot, will follow this up and target under-age drinkers. Those found will be taken home, or letters will be sent to their parents or guardians outlining the circumstances, together with literature on 'Discussing Drinking with your Children' and a card giving safety advice and a variety of contact telephone numbers.

Many young people are susceptible to peer pressure or are otherwise vulnerable, and are even more so when under the influence of alcohol. The sale of alcohol to under-age persons is an offence, so please report it if you see it taking place. Adults have a collective responsibility not to encourage these activities, and if asked to purchase alcohol on behalf of youngsters, to politely but firmly decline. Anyone who wishes further advice, information and/or literature on this subject should get in touch with Portobello Police Station.

Bob Wardrop. Inspector, Portobello

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**NEW HOMES FOR SURPLUS FURNITURE:** The Edinburgh Furniture Initiative (EFI) is a community-based registered charity, which provides furniture and other household items free of charge to new tenants who cannot afford to furnish their homes. Most of their customers have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness. EFI depends solely on donations from the public and businesses in Edinburgh and are always in need of usable furniture, white goods, small electrical items and other items to meet a growing demand. Full tins of paint are also needed. If you have something that you would like to donate, please contact Maya Irwin, Development Officer, EFI on 553 4438 or email mayai@ecsh.org.uk

**TRANSFORM SCOTLAND** have recently compiled a website, designed to encourage people to travel sustainably both at home and overseas by bus, train or ferry. [www.transformscotland.org.uk/info/travel.html](http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/info/travel.html)

**PLANNING WEBSITE GOES LIVE:** All Planning applications, including architects' drawings, can now be scrutinised on the Council's website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning) as well as at the office at 1 Cockburn Street. Comments and objections can also be registered on line. It is easy to use and the progress of applications can be followed through all their stages. Those without a home computer can use the public access computers at Portobello Library or the Community Centre.

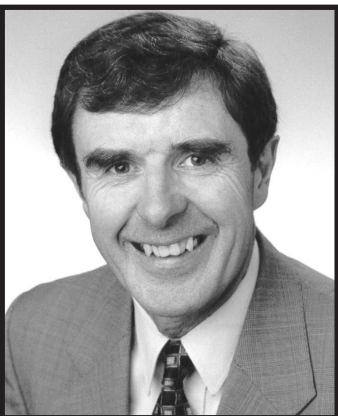

**THE BIKE STATION** at Waverley Station, which sells renovated, refurbished bikes, is holding a kids' bike sale on Saturday 6th December from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. with all proceeds going to charity. Enter beside the left entrance to the main booking hall and discover an underground world unknown to most of those above! Contact them on 558 1682 or 07789 367010 or visit [www.thebikestation.org.uk](http://www.thebikestation.org.uk)

**CARE AND REPAIR:** Age Concern run this service for people over 60 in Edinburgh who live in their own homes, but don't have family nearby to help with everyday things. It is partially funded by the Council. Age Concern do not charge for staff time, only for materials in a service which includes advice, applying for grants, overseeing work, small repairs and handy work. They can also recommend reliable and well-vetted tradesmen. Phone 228 5707 for details or write to Care and Repair (Age Concern Scotland), 54a Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9PT or email [careandrepair@talk21.com](mailto:careandrepair@talk21.com)

**BOUNCE FOR CHILDLINE:** A sponsored bounce on a bouncy castle organised by Newcraighall Primary School PTA in October raised £843 for Child-Line Scotland plus £560 for the school. The cheque was presented to Zoe Smith, Regional Fundraiser for Child-Line Scotland, who said: "By taking part in Action Bounce the school and the PTA are helping ChildLine reach our goal of answering every call from every child who needs us".

**THE 2001 CENSUS:** Statistics for Portobello Ward 39 (Cllr Marshall) can be seen on [http://download.edinburgh.gov.uk/Census\\_Ward\\_Factsheets/ward39.pdf](http://download.edinburgh.gov.uk/Census_Ward_Factsheets/ward39.pdf) For Cllr Child's ward, substitute ward40.

**NEW WEB SITE FOR CITY:** [www.myEdinburgh.org](http://www.myEdinburgh.org) provides local news and events, with maps and discussion forums; free web space for organisations and email addresses for individuals. Its aim is to "encourage citizens to participate in citywide and local community consultations".

**Gavin Strang MP  
and Susan Deacon MSP  
wish all their constituents a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

Gavin Strang MP and Susan Deacon MSP for Edinburgh East and Musselburgh hold regular interview sessions across the constituency.

For details write to 54/56 Portobello High Street, EH15 1DA  
Or Telephone  
Gavin Strang MP 0131 669 6002  
Susan Deacon MSP 0131 669 6446

During the refurbishment of the Town Hall in the New Year, Portobello interviews will be held at 54/56 Portobello High Street.

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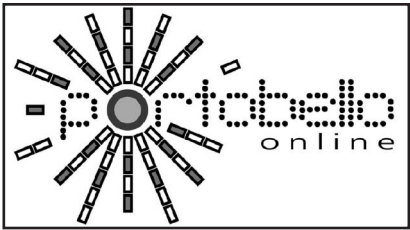
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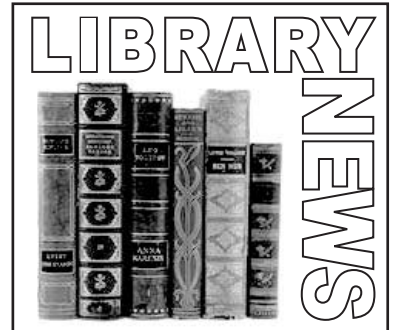
**CHECK OUT YOUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE**  
**ARE** you connected to the internet? Want to know what's happening in the Portobello area? Work continues on 'Portobello Online', your local community website.

Volunteers are now building a third generation site, which will incorporate a user-friendly interface, designed to enable local people to add their own information to the site. Meanwhile, our online discussion forum is THE place to discuss local issues. It's easy to use and gives you an opportunity to have your say on topics like the proposed supermarket development. Want a new interest? - See the list of Local Groups. Want to help out? - Budding journalists, photographers and web designers are always welcome.

Check us out at: [www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk) " Bob Jefferson

## SCOUT POST

**THERE'S** still time to catch the Scout Post at Portobello Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street between December 4th and 9th. Collection times are: Dec. 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th - 10am-2pm and 7-8.30pm; 6th -10am-12; 7th -12-1pm. Nazim's Newsagent is also accepting cards. Postage is 16p and delivery will be made between December 12th and 20th in EH1 - EH17, EH28, EH29 and EH30. Remember to use postcodes.



**LEADING** up to Christmas, the Library has a few events to announce:

From 10th November - 'Print Options Promotion' - a collection of new titles in paperback, to be displayed on our computer desks. These are for anyone who would like to borrow them - you don't have to be using the computer!

2nd December - St John's Primary School children will sing Christmas Carols in the afternoon. Tea and coffee available!

8th December - 2-3pm - Christmas Cards Drop-In computer training session - How to 'do' Christmas on your computer! (please book).

19th December - 10.30-12.00 - "Silver Surfers" Christmas Party in the Drop-In computer learning centre. (If you are interested in learning to use a computer, ask at the counter, and the staff will book you in.)

Did you know that you can now reserve a book on the library website? If you would like to do this, please ask for your own 'PIN' number at the library; the website address to use will be on the PIN number slip you will be given. The 50p reservation charge will be deducted when you next use the library. It is simple to use and can save you time.

Plans for refurbishment and disabled access for the library are in preparation and work is due to start in March 2004. If you are interested, please ask our staff about what is planned; a display will be on view from early December.

The library will be closed on 25th and 26th December and 1st and 2nd January.

Thank you for using your local library. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to serving you in 2004!  
 Joyce Campbell, Portobello Library

## TIE MAKERS MOVE TO PORTOBELLO

**HEARTS** sank when two shops next to each other in Portobello High Street, John Thomson Hardware and Alexander Anderson Plumber, became empty at around the same time. There were too many empty shops already. The good news, however, is that tie producers Maddocks and Dick Ltd are to leave their premises in the Canongate and move to Portobello in the New Year, taking over both shops. Managing Director

Kenneth Dick told us: "I was born and bred in Portobello. It's a lovely place and I'm glad to be coming back home". The firm has a world-wide customer base for its regimental, club and corporate ties. They designed and produced the Scottish Parliament tie, and have just completed a special Gavin Hastings St Andrew's Day tie, to be taken to America for Tartan Day, which helps to strengthen Scottish-American links.

## PARACHUTING FOR MAGGIE'S

**ON** Sunday 7th December, Lorraine Thomson who works at Joppa Newsagents will do a sponsored parachute jump in aid of Maggie's Cancer Centres. Lorraine has already collected over £1000 and anyone who would like to add to this total can call at the shop at 24 Joppa Road or call 657 3537.

*The Portobello Reporter* is produced by a group of volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 33 members of the community. If you have a story to tell or an event to publicise contact the editor on 669 3466 or email us at [portobelloreporter@talk21.com](mailto:portobelloreporter@talk21.com)

## RE-CYCLING AFTER CHRISTMAS

**IT MAY** be a bit soon to talk about 'after Christmas' - Santa hasn't been yet, but this is a reminder that Christmas cards can be taken to branches of Tesco and W H Smith from January 5th for re-cycling by the Woodland Trust. There

will be NO kerb-side uplift of Christmas trees this year, but they can be taken to the Fillyside dump site at Seafield for re-cycling.

For further information call 538 5381 or email to [env.con.svs@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:env.con.svs@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## SIR WILLIAM RUSSELL FLINT

A **PLAQUE** to Sir William Russell Flint has been placed at 9 Rosefield Place, Portobello where the artist, who was born in Edinburgh, lived as a boy and young man from 1885-1900. William received his early training in Edinburgh before moving to London where he specialised in painting Spanish ladies in elaborate draperies. His most famous model, whom he painted for fifteen years, died recently aged 72. This plaque, the fifth to be put up in a joint project by Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society, was funded by a Community Grant from the City of Edinburgh.

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# PROVOST BRAND PORTRAIT PURCHASED

A PORTRAIT by Dutch artist, Hubert Vos of Alexander Brand the last Provost of Portobello has been bought by the City of Edinburgh Council helped by donations from Portobello History Society, Amenity Society and Community Council. It will hang in Portobello Library, which already has a photograph of Portobello's last burgh council on its walls. A master baker and confectioner with shops in the High Street and Joppa, Alexander Brand had come to Portobello aged thirty-two from Aberdeen after his marriage in that city in March 1869. His first wife tragically died in January 1870 just two weeks after the birth of their son, William. He had outlived two subsequent wives when he himself died at his home No. 34 Regent Street on 16th January 1931 aged 94.



William Baird in the *Annals* mentions Brand being elected to Portobello council in 1877 but we do

not know if this was the first occasion because of the absence of local records. In any event, he would have

had a lengthy spell of public service as councillor and Baillie before becoming Provost in November 1894.

Alexander Brand led the negotiating team that hammered out very favourable terms with Edinburgh Town Council during the discussions about amalgamation in 1895 and 1896. According to Baird he was the driving force in the pro-campaign, believing very strongly that this was in Portobello's best interests and had to endure much personal abuse from local opponents before the amalgamation on 1st November 1896.

Hubert Vos was born in Maastricht and began his art education there. He enjoyed considerable success in the 1880s, winning prizes in Paris and Amsterdam, and settled in London in 1887. The Brand portrait would probably have been painted there before Vos finally went to live in the USA in the mid-1890s. Paintings by Vos are in the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

## UK LEGACIES

A BRAND new local history website has been launched by BBC Nations and Regions and can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/legacies](http://www.bbc.co.uk/legacies). National histories are often guilty of ignoring local peculiarities and the new Legacies website promises to celebrate the regional diversity of the UK's history. A valuable tool on the site is the Listings feature, which not only lists all local history programmes from around the BBC but also aims to include anything and everything on local history on the net. If you know of a site that you'd like included then e-mail to [legacies@bbc.co.uk](mailto:legacies@bbc.co.uk).

Every two months a different theme is chosen, the current one is Myths and Legends and from 1st February it is Work. In the Your Story feature you have an opportunity to tell about your working experience or how a trade or industry shaped your local community. There is a form you can fill in on the website, or, again you can e-mail direct.

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or Tel 529 3268 / 669 2184  
[maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)

# MEMORIES IN PHOTOGRAPHS

**THE** Living Memory Association has been involved in oral and community history in Edinburgh since 1986 and has spoken to hundreds of people about their lives and experiences. From this, it has produced displays, exhibitions and publications and has also been involved in training and promoting this type of work.

Four years ago it began work on building up an archive of people's old family and personal photographs. It has collected over 1000 images which range from images of holidays, childhood, work life, street scenes, social life from Edinburgh and wider afield. These snapshots of the past are often undervalued. They powerfully evoke an everyday view of history, one that most of us can directly relate to. There are also photos that stand alone as artistic images.

The LMA is always keen to work with new people and gather in more photographs. If you are an individual or in an organisation and have photographs that you would like them to see, please contact as shown below. With permission your photographs will be copied for the new archive. Photographs are always scanned on site so that you will not have to part with the original.

For more information please contact:-

Miles Tubb,  
Living Memory Association,  
101 St Leonard's Street,  
Edinburgh, EH8 9QY  
Tel (0131) 667 0761  
Email:miles@edinpa.org.uk  
www.livingmemory.org.uk

**NOTE: Portobello History Society is organizing a special local photograph copying session with Miles Tubb. This will be in St John's Church Hall on the evening of 4th February 2004. There will be notices giving times posted in the library and elsewhere nearer the date. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available and you will be able to view videos, photographs and displays showing the work of the Living Memory Association.**

# WINDSOR PLAYERS

The request in the last issue of *The Reporter* for information about this local amateur dramatic society brought to light two albums detailing its productions between 1955 and 1976. Here, laid out in date order, are the names of the plays, programmes, cast lists with photographs, and when competing in festivals the comments of the adjudicator. The group, began in the 1920s as the drama section of the Windsor Place Church Social Guild, disbanded on the outbreak of war and reformed in 1954. It adopted the name Windsor Players when the congregation of Windsor Place joined with that of the Old Parish church. These books are a record of its second incarnation and perhaps somewhere there is material on the pre-war years

## FROM THE TROTTERS 'BIBLE'



Pictured with other 'Trotters' are, centre, William Baird of *Annals* fame and far right, Alexander Brand whose portrait is on the page opposite.

# PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

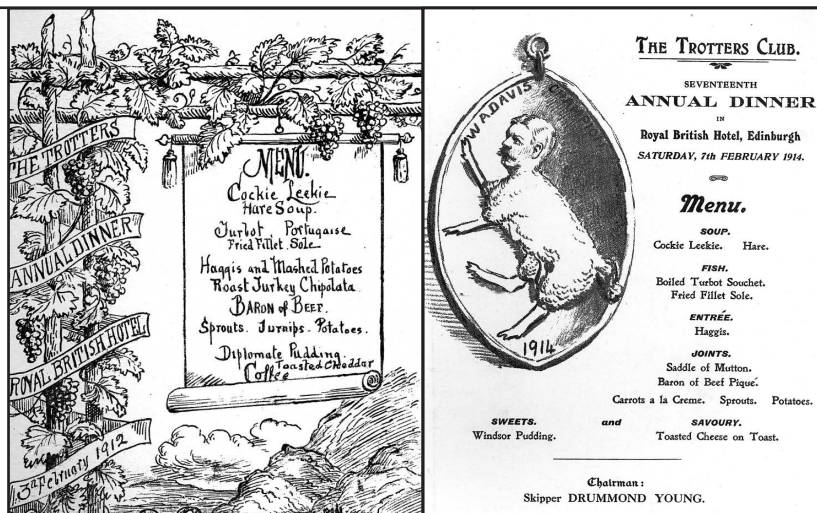
An eagerly awaited sporting encounter took place on Saturday 6th September. Forget football and Hibs versus Hearts at Easter Road or Tynecastle; this was skittles and Portobello History Society versus the Trotters Club at the Sheep Heid in Duddingston. It would be nice to report that it was a closely fought match with the result in doubt until the final end, but untrue. The Trotters won fairly comfortably but perhaps they will give us an opportunity for revenge next year. During a very enjoyable evening we were able to examine some of their artifacts and memorabilia including scrapbooks, which they call their 'Bibles'. Some of the early members were gifted calligraphers and artists and as well as photographs the books contain lots of illuminated menus, poems, cartoons and sketches chronicling Trotter events and poking fun at themselves. It is a wonderfully unusual set of records.

(The Trotters meet at 7.15 pm on the first Saturday of each month between September and June in the Sheep Heid Inn. New members will be given a warm welcome.)

Our new session of talks got off to an excellent start on 3rd September with a stimulating talk by John Hackland on St. Giles Cathedral. Mr Hackland is a voluntary guide there but this was more than just an illustrated tour as on occasion he persuaded members of the audience to take part in role-play to enliven his story. It has to be said that some members appeared to enjoy the opportunity to 'ham it up' before an audience.

On 1st October Ian Campbell presented the findings of the survey and analysis carried out by post-graduate architecture students of Edinburgh College of Art at the site of Hugh Miller's house now occupied by numbers 74 to 82 Portobello High Street. The talk was illustrated by a slide show of photographs, maps and drawings and at the end Dr Campbell stressed that this was a work still in progress and that there were many puzzles to solve and questions to answer before the riddle of Shrub Mount was solved.

Unfortunately, Carmen Demarco who was to be our speaker on 5th November had to cancel because of illness but she hopes to be well enough to give her talk in Spring 2004. Miles Tubb of the Living Memory Association very kindly agreed to step into the breach by bringing his talk forward from February. This was on the theme of Memories in Photographs illustrated by selections from the association's archive, begun four years ago. Miles had wanted audience response and was not disappointed; almost every slide got some kind of reaction and very often someone was able to add a piece of new information. The society is working with Miles to add photographs from its collection to the Living Memory Association's archive and elsewhere on this page there is information about how you can get involved.



Two examples of the many illustrated menu cards in the 'Bible'.

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# EVERGREEN BACK IN ACTION

AFTER the excitement of the Festival and a break to get things reorganised after a flood, Evergreen is open again during our usual hours of business.

As always we are promoting environmentally sound ways of being, by selling second-hand goods and organic and fair trade produce, and by acting as a collection point for organic veg boxes. We are also developing our role as a place to buy wholesome organic food in a sociable environment.

There are some great opportunities at Evergreen for local artists and crafts people:

we are always delighted for them to display and sell their work in the shop, and we are also having a Christmas exhibition in Projections for which we would still like submissions.

We are always keen to receive donations of clothes, bric-a-brac and household items, but our greatest need at the moment is for volunteers! Even just a few hours a week of your time would be extremely useful, and in exchange we can provide you with lunch, travel expenses and first pick of the bargains. Looking forward to seeing you!

Nina Marshall

## PORTOBELLO AMNESTY'S 25th BIRTHDAY

PORTOBELLO Amnesty Group was founded in late 1979 by local church members, and the present Group plan to bring together as many founding members and past supporters as can be located for a celebration early next year. They would welcome information from *Portobello Reporter* readers who took part in Amnesty's work for human rights themselves, or know of others so involved.

Our Coffee Morning and Book Sale on 6th September was visited by unprecedented numbers and we were able to contribute £200 to Amnesty's work worldwide, £100 to the Refugee Survival Trust, and £100 to the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture.

Our Human Rights Day stall in the High Street in December will highlight the Arms Control Campaign aim of one million photographs of supporters and will promote Greetings Cards to Prisoners of Conscience and their families.

The Group are keen to welcome more new members. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month in the Vestry of the United Reformed Church in Marlborough Street. Why not look in and meet us - without commitment. For further information call 669 1308.

David Turner

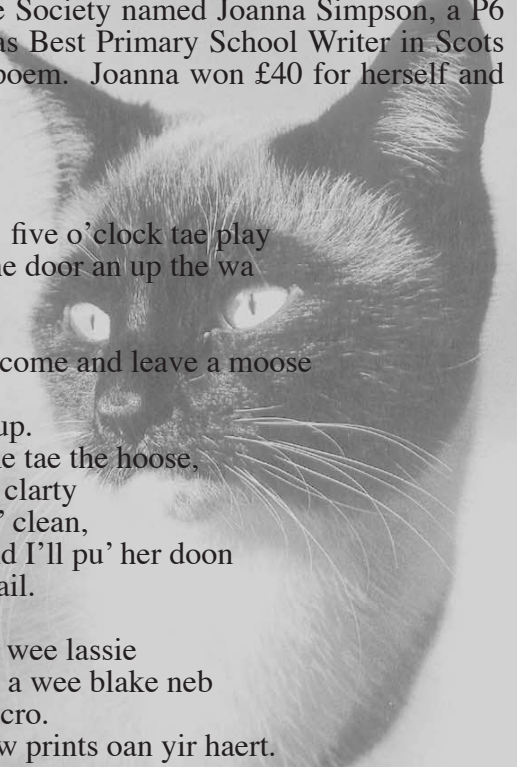
## 'MA WEE MOGGIE'

THE Scots Language Society named Joanna Simpson, a P6 pupil at Towerbank, as Best Primary School Writer in Scots 2003 for this lovely poem. Joanna won £40 for herself and £100 for her school.

Ma wee moggie  
Snoozies a' th' day  
She wakes up aroond five o'clock tae play  
Then she gangs oot the door an up the wa  
Tae catch the birds.

Sooner or later she'll come and leave a moose  
Oan the door step  
For ma Ma tae clean up.  
When she comes hame tae the hoose,  
She'll be drooket and clarty  
And she'll lick hersel' clean,  
Jump tae ma airms and I'll pu' her doon  
And she'll chase hir tail.

Ma moggies a bonnie wee lassie  
Wi fir as dark as soot, a wee blake neb  
And a tongue like Velcro.  
Ma moggie leaves paw prints oan yir haert.



## WHAT'S ON TOWN HALL -

Sat.27 Dec. 8pm - midnight:  
CHARITY CEILIDH in aid of Maggie's Centres, with Bella McNab's Dance Band, Licensed bar. Tickets £5 from Kitchener's Deli or call 669 5731.

Fri.5th Dec. from 9.30am:  
CAROL SINGING on the steps by pupils from St John's, Towerbank and Duddingston Primary Schools.

Sat.6th Dec. 10am-1pm: Dog & Cat Home CHRISTMAS FAIR.

Wed.17th Dec. 8-10.30pm:  
Recording of BBC Radio Scotland's 'TAKE THE FLOOR' with live band and dancing. Tickets free from Town Hall.

## ELSEWHERE

Sat.6 Dec: COFFEE MORNING with Christmas Mini Market, Portobello Old Parish Church, Bellfield St, 10am-12noon.

Wed. 17th Dec. 7.30pm:  
CHRISTMAS POEMS & PINTS at Bedford House Hotel, The Prom, Joppa. Read your own poems or poems of your choice, or just listen and enjoy. A Portobello Open Door event. Tickets £3 (£2).

Sat. 24th Jan. 7pm: Christian Aid BURNS SUPPER at Portobello Old Parish Church. Tickets £12. Call 669 8040 for seat reservations.

## CHRISTIAN AID

THE Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Sale which took place in November raised £381 and a very enjoyable Folk & Jazz evening in St. Philip's Church in October £268.

This year's **Carol Festival**, which is a highly popular annual event, will be held in St. John's RC Church,

in Brighton Place, Portobello on Sunday 14th December at 7.30 pm. The talented youngsters of St. John's Music Group will provide the music and there will be a collection to help the work of Christian Aid in less fortunate areas of the world. Mince pies and hot drinks will be served to round off the evening.

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## OUT OF AFRICA FOR HOLY ROOD PUPILS

STAFF and pupils of Holy Rood High School have developed a very successful relationship with a partner school at the foot of mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and raised over £10,000 in the last year to support it. Computers, projectors and textbooks were sent to Lombeta Secondary in Tanzania and staff and pupils from Holy Rood visited Tanzania in July to engage the young people from both schools in reflection on their lives, culture and future. The groups gave a joint presentation to Lombeta pupils, teachers and parents in a wonderful combination of Scottish and Tanzanian music and dance (pictured here).



Back in Holy Rood during 'Africa Week' pupils studied African and Scottish folk tales in the English Department, developed a Tanzanian fact-file in Geography, and in Home Economics they sampled cooking African style. Both staff and pupils enjoyed an introduction to Swahili and staff particularly enjoyed the formal greeting used by pupils, "shikamo", which literally translates to "I kneel at your feet"! The climax of the week was the school's Feast Day Celebration when pupils, staff and parents were joined by Archbishop (now Cardinal) O'Brien, the Lord Provost and many friends of the school. The school has been recognised for their work in this area with a Commonwealth Projects Award.

## ST JOHN'S SAYS 'FAREWELL'

ST JOHN'S Primary School recently said farewell to two members of staff who have served the school well over a number of years.

Learning support teacher Mrs Joyce Martin came to St John's in 1969 and after teaching a range of classes became permanent learning support teacher. Her kind, patient and highly skilled teaching made a real difference to the many pupils with whom she worked and she was popular with pupils, parents and colleagues alike. She supported a wide range of children in a variety of areas, and her work with pupils with dyslexia type difficulties was widely acknowledged. Mrs Martin was also the editor of the school newspaper, the *St John's Special*. Under her stewardship it flourished for 15 years and won the *Scotsman* Primary School Newspaper of the Year competition several times.

Learning assistant Mrs Mary Alexander had worked at St John's since 1983. She supported staff and pupils well during that time and made many friends through her unflinching cheerfulness. One of her duties was to look after sick or injured children and her gentle manner comforted many. Indeed, one child told her that she was "just like Jesus" because she healed the sick.

Mrs Martin and Mrs Alexander received presentations from staff, pupils and parents and their retirements were marked by a dinner at Duddingston Golf Club. Everyone in the St John's community wishes these two excellent servants of the school every success and happiness in retirement.

Ted Brack, Headteacher

## NASA VISIT FOR PORTOBELLO HIGH PUPIL

FIFTH year pupil at PHS, Paul Dingwall, has been selected to join the Scottish Space School in Houston, Texas next September. Fifty pupils from all over Scotland will attend the camps and will participate in a range of space-related activities including lectures and group work with NASA space cadets, astronauts and scientists. Paul will visit the space shuttle and NASA laboratories and get a

behind-the-scenes tour of all the facilities.

Principal teacher of physics, Mr Kenny Walker, is delighted Paul has been chosen. "Paul had to compete with a large number of hopefuls to successfully complete a distance learning programme developed by NASA. The opportunity of going to Houston will certainly supplement Paul's studies in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics", he said.

## NEIGHBOURS NEAR & FAR

ON 15th October over 80 senior citizens from the Portobello area came to Towerbank Primary School to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments.

The children played violas, sang Autumn songs, Glen Miller songs and told lots of teacher jokes. Our visitors had tea, coffee and home baking and they took more home baking and a bunch of flowers away with them. Everyone enjoyed the show.

Scott Donaldson (P7A)

## FREE CLUB NIGHT AND COCKTAILS

IF you are aged 11 to 21 and like the sound of a free night out, fancy a bop, boogie and a few drinks, then come to Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove on Thurs 4th December at 7.00pm. 'E52' and 'Project Focus' will provide the entertainment, showing you how to make your own 'dry' cocktails – and hosting a variety of quizzes and interactive games.

For further details about this event or the city-wide work of 'E52' and 'Project Focus' please contact Clare on 554 4300 or email: e52@fastforward.org.uk who will be happy to talk with you.

## PORTYOUTHSCENE UPDATE

THE summer was a busy time for Portyouthscene with various activities, clubs, trips, and beach parties.

The senior Cafe club is going well, with an average attendance of 50 young folk, and the junior club attracts around 20 of primary age.

The Outdoor/Camping group recently undertook a six session outdoor activity programme and a three day camp at Loch Tay. They have decided they want to stay together as a group and are planning a holiday in France. A second group has started with 19 new members who are planning an outdoor/adventure programme followed by a stay at an outdoor centre.

Our lounge has been renovated. More developments are planned, however, and a launch party will be held when this work is completed.

Volunteers play a crucial part in the staffing and development of these services – If you are interested in joining the team you will be made most welcome. (Disclosure Scotland checks and training are provided).

Our recent Pool Tournament was a hotly contested affair, with Liam Doran and Paul Moncur making it to the 'best of 7 frames' final. Paul eventually ran out the winner – Congratulations!

Want to find out more about Portyouthscene? Call 661 7463.

Brian Greatorex

**Eleanor Robertson**

DYRBERG/KERN

Wishing everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS**

**CHESS CLUB** is closing until after Christmas. Numbers have fallen over the past few years - perhaps brain power has been eroded by computer games! If anyone is interested in joining after Christmas, please let Maggie have your name and contact details.

**COME DANCING** - Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm is Advanced Sequence Dancing - exercise your brain as well as your legs. Friendly class - tea and coffee too. Or join our Belly Dancing Class - Monday 6.00-7.00 p.m. and wiggle your way to health and beauty.

**YOGA** - Meditation with Sahaja Yoga on Wednesday 7.30-9.30 p.m. Women's Yoga with free crèche, Fridays, 10.00 to 11am- join mums and grannies for this invigorating and relaxing class.

**TAI CHI** - a new Monday evening beginners class will start after Christmas - contact Maggie to put your name down.

**PORTOBELLO SING OUT!** meets on Tuesday mornings- stretch your lungs and vocal chords and have fun with this informal group - everyone welcome. No experience necessary.

**COFFEE MORNINGS** every Saturday - drop in for coffee and a rest whilst doing your shopping - everyone welcome - 10.00 a.m. to noon.

**FOR KIDS** we have Karate, Wednesday and Saturday; Taekwondo, Sunday am (for adults too); PartyYouthScene, on Thursdays and at other times; Enjoy.a.ball sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**DANCE AND DRAMA SCHOOL** - Saturdays, 4-6pm: Jazz, tap, drama, games, annual productions. For boys and girls aged 5-15, £10 per week. Call 312 7035 to secure a place.

**COMPUTERS** - we have free public access computers, and have been running sessions on introduction to computers, the internet, and how to get an e-mail address over the Autumn. We will be running an introduction to Digital Cameras shortly.

**THE X FILES** - We know you are out there - Portobello Community Centre is in need of a Treasurer! Please contact Maggie.

**PLANS** - Following last year's Consultation, we now have draft plans of a new Centre with a link to the Library. These can be seen in the Centre and comments on the suitability of spaces, etc. are invited.

It was with sadness that we learned of the recent death of Alf Glacken, who together with his wife was a supporter of the Centre in its early days, and in its past history as Portobello and District Community Association. Alf worked hard at keeping the Centre clean and open and entertained the Senior Social Club on a Saturday morning with tunes on the organ. He will be missed by many in the Community.

Portobello Community Centre - 3 Adelphi Grove, Edinburgh EH15 1AP tel: 669 8275. Email: Maggie@portobello.co

**FIRST** some work, then relax: go into the garden and give it a little tidy, you've time now to dig out that thistle, dock or other perennial weed that keeps growing until you get all the root out, but leave seed heads for the birds. Find a clear piece of ground, say 1m by 1m, and put all the cleared material in a pile and let it rot down over winter - this is a cold compost heap, as it doesn't reach a high temperature, and works just as well but takes longer. Because of this don't put diseased material on the heap.



with Susan Burns

If you're bothered by squirrels digging up bulbs, do two jobs at once - prune roses or other prickly shrubs and place the prunings over where the bulbs are planted. Once the bulbs start poking through, the prunings can be removed.

Now sit with your favourite tippie and go over the seed catalogues. I do this over a few weeks because my first order would break the bank and enthusiasm runs away with me. One year I go for scented plants, another giant plants, and so on.

Packets of seeds are great Christmas stocking fillers as presents for children or for adults. Either get your mail order in early or buy locally - most good nurseries have a selection on display before Christmas.

On Christmas Day make a small centre-piece for the table with anything you have in the garden. Even privet hedge can be useful as evergreen material, or sometimes the odd rose is still flowering or a shrub is out of synch with its proper flowering time (global warming?). Use a potato in a yoghurt carton instead of oasis - pre-prepare some holes and pop out into the garden to see what's there. Be inventive - you'll be surprised, but if not, make a note to treat yourself to something gorgeous with your Christmas money for next year's garden, preferably scented.

(Those of you who followed Susan's suggestion in our autumn issue and hired a fruit press, will now be enjoying lots of delicious apple juice. -Ed.)

**ART IN THE GARDEN**



**LOCAL** girl Sarah Holligan's interest in painting won her a prize of art materials in the 9-15s section at a recent Art in the Garden event at Lauriston Castle. Sarah painted a view of Cramond as seen from the gardens, and said: "I was really surprised and happy to hear my name read out and I'm looking forward to seeing my painting on show". The winning works are on display in the City Art Centre until January.

**NEW YEAR PROMETHON**

**THE** 18th Annual Portobello Promethon will take place on New Year's morning. The 4 Mile race under Scottish Athletics rules, is from Seafield Dog and Cat Home to Joppa Rocks back, starting at 11.30am. The 2 Mile race for joggers and juniors, from Seafield to Bath Street and back, starts at 11am. Entries are taken on the day from 10.15am. For more information call 664 7864 or visit [www.runningresults@freeserve.co.uk](http://www.runningresults@freeserve.co.uk)

The deadline for your contributions to the Winter Issue of *The Portobello Reporter* is **7th FEB. 2004**

**NEW PULSE CENTRE FITNESS FACILITIES - OPEN DAY**

**PORTOBELLO** Swim Centre is upgrading its Pulse Centre facilities, with a style make-over and new equipment which will include Life Fitness cardiovascular equipment.

Due to the works the Centre has been closed since 15th November and is due to re-open on Monday 15th December.

To make up for the disruption the Centre is hosting an open weekend on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th January when you can try out the new facilities and take part in some new classes.

For more information call 0131 669 6888.

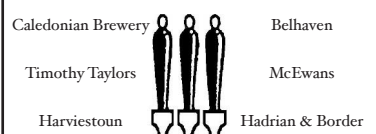
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