

# The Portobello REPORTER

The independent voice of Portobello

Quarterly: Autumn 2004  
Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Portobello Online P2
- Lifelong Learning P3
- Local History Video P5
- Scots Poetry P7
- Going Organic P8

Your Community Newspaper produced by local people.

## COUNCIL TO OPPOSE SUPERSTORE

**THE** determined Portobello Campaign Against The Superstore (PCATS) is bearing fruit: dozens of objectors who attended the Council's Planning Committee on 28th July were delighted to hear the decision that it was 'minded to refuse' the application for a superstore and associated parking on the old Scottish Power site. Committee members visited the site the following day and saw for themselves how serious the traffic problem can be in the area. Based on that visit and further research into the reasons for refusal, on 18th August they decided unanimously to oppose the application at the public inquiry on the grounds of traffic impact, effects on local shops and design.

The balance of the argument

is against a superstore on the basis of local knowledge, experience of similar developments, national guidelines on sustainable communities, Council policies on sustainable development and a Local Transport Strategy for managing demand for road space.

Local Councillor Maureen Child said: "I am absolutely delighted the Committee have taken this view. Thanks to everyone involved for the excellent campaign. More of us need to shop as much as we can locally, however, if we are to sustain Portobello's unique character, even if that means walking or taking a bus."

The battle isn't over yet, though: Scottish Ministers will have the final say at the public

inquiry, which is now likely to be heard in February 2005. There will be a meeting in October at the Town Hall, led by a Reporter with the Scottish Executive Inquiry Unit, to discuss the timescale and procedures for the inquiry. Everyone who has lodged an objection has been notified.

Local shopkeepers are also responding to the threat to their livelihoods. Sheila Scott, manager at Findlay's butchers, has re-convened the Portobello Merchants' and Hoteliers' Association which many have joined. Sheila says: "I am delighted at the response of the traders who have come together to fight this application. Members of the Association will display a sticker in their windows".

BM

## JOPPA POST OFFICE CLOSURE THREAT

**THE** Post Office Ltd are proposing to close 20 post offices in Edinburgh, six in the east, including Joppa. Local people would then have to travel to the PO at Asda or Portobello Scotmid. The Post Office say they intend to re-invest to improve facilities in the remaining POs.

Public consultation on the proposals continues until 22 September. The City Council will present a case and is gathering views from local councillors, and Cllr Maureen Child asks for comments to be sent to her, as soon as possible, at the City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ or by e-mail to [maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)

To respond to the Post Office, write to Andy Byfield, Post Office Ltd, c/o National Consultation Team, PO Box 2060, Watford, WD18 8ZW, or send an e-mail to the external relations manager [graham.laird@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:graham.laird@postoffice.co.uk) and copy it to Postwatch Scotland (the independent watchdog) at [scotland@postwatch.co.uk](mailto:scotland@postwatch.co.uk). Postwatch is at 28 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 0TT.

Gavin Strang MP and Susan Deacon MSP are also concerned about the closures and their implications for the elderly and less mobile, and are pursuing the issue with Post Office management.

## PORTYWATCH

**THE** Portobello Neighbourhood Watch Association (or Portywatch as it has been dubbed) has recently been formed to represent the many Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area. The group meets quarterly to share ideas and information and to encourage others to set up schemes. The association has the backing of local councillors and police and is represented on Portobello Community Council.

Find out more information and details of the next meeting by sending an email to [portywatch@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:portywatch@blueyonder.co.uk) or call 669 1918 (evening).

Bob Jefferson

## SUMMER FUN WITH POD



Photo by Peter Ross

**THE** Promenade was brought to life on August 22 when Portobello Open Doors staged their second annual event. Large numbers of people enjoyed the live music, belly dancing and a magician, among other entertainments. There was also a face painting stall and coconut shy.

## Plans for 'Portobello Calendar'

**THE** Portobello Campaign Against The Superstore are now raising funds to support their campaign, starting with bag-packing at Scotmid and a ceilidh at the Town Hall on 14th August.

"For our latest idea, however", said PCATS secretary Diana Cairns, "we drew inspiration from the film 'Calendar Girls' and decided that a calendar featuring local traders would give them and our campaign publicity whilst raising money for the inquiry. But instead of featuring strategically-placed sausages, baguettes or power tools, the calendar will follow a film theme, showing the traders as you have never seen them before, linking their professions to celluloid moments". Jack MacDonald, who used to have a photography shop in Portobello, has kindly offered his services free and PCATS are now looking for a sponsor to help with printing. Would anyone who can help please contact the *Portobello Reporter*.

Other fundraising events will include a coffee morning and baking sale, and a jumble sale. Look out for details in shops soon.

## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR PITZ SITE?

**THE** City Council have agreed a proposal to market the five-a-side football pitch site in Portobello jointly with Power League (formerly Pitz), who hold a 99 year lease on this Council-owned site. Power League want to reinvest in a new facility somewhere in the area. The uses envisaged for the site are quality design housing, a small park and a community facility, possibly a new Community Centre.

"Settling on a common approach to this site will be an important first step in discussions with the local community on how we can really regenerate Portobello and build the facilities we need, including a new Portobello High School", says Councillor Maureen Child. "As we have all learned during the anti-superstore campaign, we need to develop a proactive approach to Portobello's regeneration. On the back of this proposal for the Pitz site, my Council Executive colleagues agreed to get a further Council report on the wider regeneration of Portobello and how it may be funded. In this part of Edinburgh's Waterfront, public places and spaces for all our community's aspirations are in very short supply and very high demand. There could be some really tough choices for us to make together in securing Portobello's future."

## BIG THINGS AT JOPPA ROCKS

**THE** tidal artwork bobbing about in the sea at Joppa Rocks has provoked a lot of interest, most of it positive, but the recurring question has been "What is it?"

The installation, by Portobello-born artist Renny Nisbet, is an experimental tidal artwork consisting of 37 pink buoys, anchored to the seabed. The work was installed in phases through August and, as we went to press, work was underway to produce a tide-activated lunar calendar. Water at high tide will displace air from a tank on the foreshore to inflate specific sequences of buoys reflecting the changing phases of the moon. However far the work develops, the installation has provided an attractive feature, which should remain in place until the end of September and will also be illuminated at key phases of the moon. (For further information see [www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk](http://www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk))

This is the first such venture by 'Big Things on the Beach', a local arts trust formed by Portobello residents. "Over the next few years", said Big Things Chairperson, Damian Killeen, "we aim to develop the beach as a location for public art that contributes not only to the quality of life of Portobello, but also to the artistic life of Edinburgh".

The project was developed in partnership with the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and funded by the Scottish Arts Council and the City of Edinburgh Council, with in-kind support from commercial sponsors.



Photos by Margaret Drysdale & Peter Ross

The Portobello Reporter is non profit making and produced by volunteers. It is funded solely by the businesses who advertise in it. Please support them in turn whenever possible.



## PORTY PROFILE No. 18 BERNADETTE HERON

**HAVING** been involved in community activities for over 50 years, it is not surprising that Bernadette Heron is one of the best-known people in Portobello. She and her husband John came to live in Wellington Street (Marlborough St.) in 1946, then moved to Bath Street, and they had four sons.

Bernadette was born near Fountainbridge and before her marriage she trained as a secretary. She later found time in her busy life to help John run his hairdressing business at Montrose Terrace.

Through her children, Bernadette became involved in the running of The Toddlers Hut and soon started a Young Mothers Group. This led in 1983 to the formation of the Sunshine Club, which she still runs, many of whose members started as Young Mothers. "Originally we did tap-dancing and keep fit, and went on outings", she says, "but we've moved on to Old-Time and sequence dancing now".

In 1987, Bernadette was given a Citizen of the Year Award by Lothian Regional Council "in recognition of services to local organisations in Portobello". Earlier this year local people nominated her a 'Local Hero' in a Scotmid poll and she won £150 of Scotmid vouchers.

When the Salvation Army did a sponsored charity walk in August, from Bath Street, to Kings Road, to Joppa pumping station and back, Bernadette signed up and raised £70. "I was probably the only 80-year-old on the walk", she said. She was in good shape for it, however, as it's a route she takes most days "to keep fit", but not in her usual high heels.

Bernadette loves Portobello. "I didn't want to move here, but now it's my home", she says, but she regrets the changes that have taken place: "I'm looking forward to further improvements and better facilities for visitors", she says. "We miss the small shops that used to be in Bath Street and I think it should be smartened up, as it's the main route to the beach".

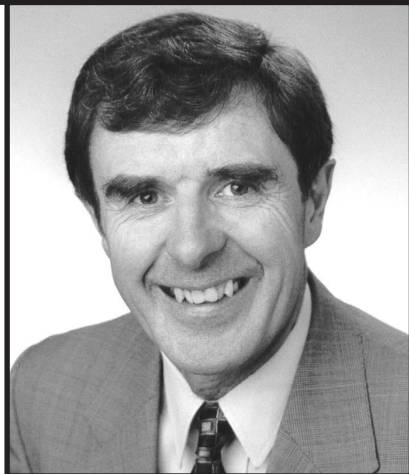
B.M.



**GAVIN STRANG, MP** is available to meet constituents on the second Friday of the month at

**YWCA,**  
198 Restalrig Road South  
between 11.00am and noon  
and

**PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL** between 7.30pm and 8.30pm.



He is also available on the last Saturday of the month at  
**BRUNTON HALL** between 9am and 10am and  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE**, 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace  
between 10.30am and 11.30am

You may also make an appointment to discuss a problem or raise an issue with Gavin Strang: Please phone **669 6002** or write to

Gavin Strang MP  
Constituency Office  
54 Portobello High Street,  
Edinburgh EH15 1DA

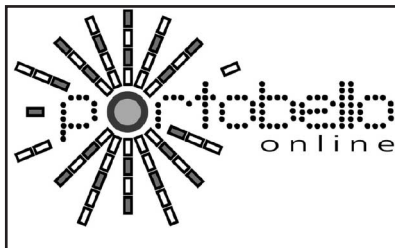
or e-mail him at: [gillana@parliament.uk](mailto:gillana@parliament.uk)  
You can also visit his website: [www.gavinstrangmp.co.uk](http://www.gavinstrangmp.co.uk)

*James Scott*  
**—(PORTOBELLO)—**  
**Funeral Director**

314 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh EH15 2DA  
Tel: 0131-669 1285 or 0131-669 6333  
24 HOUR SERVICE  
Pre-funeral planning available on request



Member of National Association of Funeral Directors



WORK continues on the community website, with lots of new features planned for the coming months. Our popular online discussion forum now has 222 registered members, who have posted 4382 messages on a variety of local and general topics. This 'virtual community' is THE place to go for the latest local news, views and gossip and is open to everyone with an interest in Portobello. From the very serious to the totally trivial, all life is here!

If you have never used an online forum before you will find it very simple and there is help available if you get stuck. Lots of friendships have been formed, both in hyperspace and IRL (in real life), and the forum has become compulsive viewing for members and lurkers alike. Find out what all the fuss is about [www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk) and come and see us at the Festival of Learning on 11th September.

Bob Jefferson

### HOLIDAY FUN FOR YOUNG FOOTBALLERS

**CHILDREN** spend the whole year looking forward to the summer holidays then say they have nothing to do. With this in mind Constable Barry Mercer from Portobello Police Station proposed a two-week 5-a-side football programme in the Portobello area for Primary and Secondary school children. Lothian and Borders Police, the City Council and the East Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel all contributed generously, so there was no charge to take part.

A league was set up for both age groups and 50 to 60 children attended daily, and with prizes donated by Hearts and Hibs, UCI cinema and Megabowl 10 pin bowling, and trophies for the winners, all was to play for in

the final week.

In the end the 'Parsons Green Boys' won the primary league, with Jonathon Court named Player of the Tournament for the age group. 'The Untouchables' won the secondary league, and Liam Frost was Player of the Tournament. Councillor Shami Khan, Chief Inspector Jim McBrierty and Tony Scott from Powerleague attended the prize-giving on the final day, which was enjoyed by the children and many parents.

The scheme provided well-structured activity, and promoted fitness and team building as well as interaction between the children and police. It is hoped that a similar scheme can be introduced in the near future.

### PROFIT POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITIES

**WITH** the spectre of supermarket hell hanging over Portobello, and the ongoing issue of how to generate jobs and keep money in the local economy, perhaps now is the time to consider the role of the social economy. In simple terms, this consists of enterprises that empower people to improve their wealth and well-being and which put people first.

While such enterprises need to be viable, profit is secondary to their ability to help individuals and communities to realise their potential. These organisations include community businesses and co-operatives: nurseries, furniture recycling initiatives, Credit Unions, Local Exchange Trading Systems (e.g. Reekies) and Housing Associations. BlindCraft at Craigmillar, which employs people with a range of disabilities, is a good local example.

While distinct from the mainstream economy, the social economy often works in partnership with public and private enterprises, trading goods and services, providing mutual support, attracting investment and contributing to a sustainable local economy.

Boosting the existing social economy could be just what Portobello needs.

If you're sceptical about the value or impact that the social economy can have, then its worth pointing out that you're reading this article in a community newspaper, which is itself part of Portobello's social economy.

For more information, contact Leon Thompson, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, Tel. 474 8046.

### CHAI'S HOUSE CHINESE TAKEAWAY

1c Magdalene Drive, Duddingston.

Special meal deals - £5.50 per person. Please ask for details.  
Special promotion - Orders over £10, free prawn crackers; over £15, free bottle of juice; over £25 - free spare ribs. Subject to availability.

Open 7 days - 4.30 till 11pm.

Home delivery and telephone orders welcome.  
Tel.468 7500/ 9500. Mob. 07780 627401

ESTIMATES FREE



**DOUGLAS BROWN  
& SON**



**Plumbers & Gasfitters**  
24 hour service

22 Lee Crescent, Edinburgh EH15 1LW  
Tel: 0131 657 1655 Mob: 07973 678961

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:

Booklets on Autumn classes are available from local Libraries and Community Centres, or by post - request a copy on the web at [www.ces.egfl.net](http://www.ces.egfl.net) or call 469 3250. There will be a wide variety of courses and most start week beginning 26 September.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITY PROJECT:

Bield Housing Association is setting up a programme of regular social activities for older people living in its sheltered housing scheme at Milton Court in Portobello, including reminiscence groups, trips out, and coffee mornings.

They are looking for volunteers with a couple of hours spare each week or fortnight (daytime or evening) and enjoy the company of older people, to help organise the programme. Training and support will be given and out-of-pocket expenses paid. Anyone interested in finding out more can call Pat Donnan on 657 4567.

### NEW CONSUMER HELPLINE:

The recently launched Consumer Direct Scotland is part of a UK wide telephone helpline and online service, providing advice on consumer rights and a range of consumer issues. It will also create a database of complaints that will assist the Council's Trading Standards Officers to enforce the law more effectively. For advice call 0845 4040 506 or visit the website [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)

### COUNCIL PAPERS ON LINE:

All committee agenda, minutes and reports are now available on the internet from the Council's website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol)

### HELP YOUR COMMUNITY TO COMPOST:

The Lothian and Edinburgh Environmental Partnership is looking for volunteers who already compost to take part in their 'Master Composter' project. Volunteers will be trained in how to successfully compost at home and will use this knowledge to encourage others in their community to compost, through presentations, workshops and providing support for new composters. For more information contact: Emma Clements, LEPP, 36 Newhaven Road, EH6 5PY; Tel. 538 7957; Email: [mastercomposter@lepp.org.uk](mailto:mastercomposter@lepp.org.uk)

### ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION:

The RAFA is a leading Service membership charity whose aim is to care for the whole Air Force family. Membership is open to serving and ex-service RAF personnel and ex-members of the Royal Observer Corps. Family and friends can apply for Associate Membership. The Edinburgh Branch is looking for new members and anyone eligible should contact the organisation at 20 Queen Street, EH2 1JX. (Tel. 225 5221).



## AWARD FOR LOCAL CARER



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Amanda Hepburn of Straiton Place, who has received a Community Carer Commendation in recognition of her contribution to the promotion of public awareness and understanding of care issues. The award, sponsored by CareAware, is given to only eight people in the UK each year.

Amanda, who is Care Home Manager of Daybreak House in Marchhall Crescent, was featured in The Reporter in 2002 after winning the Keith Matthews Memorial Award for outstanding diligence in the care profession.

The deadline for your contributions to the Autumn Issue of *The Portobello Reporter* is **3rd Nov 2004**

## LIFELONG LEARNING ON YOUR DOORSTEP

**THE** Portobello Lifelong Learning Forum is holding its fourth annual Festival of Learning on Saturday 11th September, from 10.30am-4pm at Portobello Town Hall. It's a free event, when local education providers will answer queries about what, where and how to learn in your area: Portobello Community Centre, Portobello History Society, Jewel and Esk College, Workers' Educational Association, Orcadia Creative Learning Centre and Deaf Action are just some of the 20 stallholders who will be there. Queen Margaret University College are offering health check tasters, so come and check your weight, fitness level, foot pressure and blood flow.

Kids can have their faces painted, pick up pencils, balloons, mugs etc. and enjoy the Digital Photography stall that was so successful last year. Teens can hop on board the 'BUZZ' bus parked outside the Town Hall, check out the cool internet laptops, and chill out and chat to Norman Tulloch and his team from the Youth Bus Project.

There is also a fantastic line up of stage events, and refreshments will be provided by Forth View Catering, of Portobello Swim Centre.

For more details, contact Annie Bell, Festival Co-ordinator, at Portobello Library, 14 Rosefield Avenue, EH15 1AU. Tel. 529 5558. e-mail [annie.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:annie.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## DRIVER NEEDED FOR MONDAY CENTRE

**THE** Portobello Monday Centre offers friendly and informal care to those suffering from mild or moderate dementia. It is run entirely by volunteers and works under the auspices of the Portobello and District Council of Churches, with part-funding by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The Centre is well supported by the community, in the kind donations from many local organisations, and the time and commitment given by many people. The Centre thanks them all.

A new minibus driver is now urgently required, either a lady or gentleman, who is free during the daytime on Mondays and enjoys working with the elderly. Midas training is required, but help is available with this. Would anyone who can help please ring 669 4351 and ask to speak to Nell.

## LETTERS

Dear Ed.

DO we still have anti-litter laws? If so, why are our streets in such a mess? Is it my imagination or has there been more litter than ever on Portobello High Street and adjoining streets in recent weeks? But then, where are people SUPPOSED to put their litter - in bins? The bins we used to have at the top and bottom of Bellfield Street have been removed - so people throw their litter on the ground or in gardens as they pass up the street from the Swim Centre.

I once was naive enough to ask why there were no bins in Waverley Station any more: "Security", I was told. "Throw it down and someone will pick it up". But at least there they have someone going round regularly picking it up. Are we now indeed the Throw-Away Society?

Sandy Sutherland.

**WHATEVER** the weather this summer, things hotted up in the library as we got ready to start our extra weekend opening hours: Sunday opening, from 1-5pm, started on 1st August - drop in and meet some of the new weekend staff, and Tori, our new Weekend Library officer. We are also open from 9-5 on Saturdays. We hope to start a children's book group on Saturdays and a children's computer club on Sundays - please check at the library for details.

In the school holidays, nearly 200 children joined our Reading Rollercoaster, reading six books to get stickers and enter the prize draw, and we ran a special event every week.

Our Adult and Teen Book Groups are looking forward to cosy reads in the autumn: the Adult book for October is Christopher Brookmyre's *Sacred Art of Stealing*, with Louisa Waugh's *Hearing Birds Fly* to follow. The BBC's 'Cover Stories' team will meet our teenage group in September for a forthcoming programme. This group meets once a month on Mondays; please ask for details at the library, or just come along to a meeting.

There has been a delay to our disabled access refurbishments but we hope to have automatic doors and the lift installed as soon as possible. We would like to thank our customers for their patience and the interest shown in the library development. This is always very helpful.

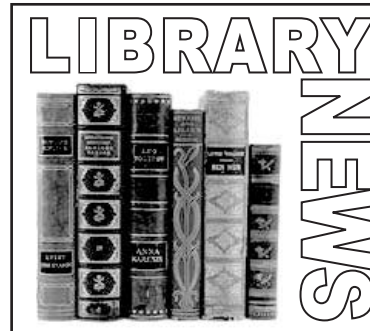
We have a good book fund for the year and, as always, try to meet customers' requests, but it is really hard to meet all the requests for travel guides! So, our news ends with a request - Don't throw your travel guides in the bin - you may never go to that country again. Why not give them to the library? Recycling is good for everyone!

Joyce Campbell

## AWARD FOR COMPUTER CLASS -

Portobello Library's Drop-In Computer Class for Older People has won the Excellence Award for Groups, in the 'City for All Ages / Get Up and Go' Awards; Joyce Campbell was presented with a plaque for the Library at a special ceremony at the City Chambers in June.

Annie Bell, who organised the classes, and the Library staff, who all work on this project are justifiably proud of the achievement - as are the class. One member, Joseph McConkey, sent the library an e-mail: "Heartiest congratulations on your tremendously well-deserved win of the Get-up and Go Award. Also, heartfelt thanks for dragging me, kicking and screaming, into the 21st Century. I was greatly honoured to be one of the 'customer' representatives at yesterday's ceremony."



# McIntyre Lewis

## • SOLICITORS • • ESTATE AGENTS • • MORTGAGE BROKERS • 20 years continuous service

"LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO HELP LOCAL PEOPLE"

### OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

- Free No Obligation Valuation Of Your Existing Property
- Free Quotation - Give Us The Opportunity To Match Or Beat ANY Quotation You Have From Other Agents
- A Special Property Sales Package Can Be Offered
- Free Will Service With Every Conveyancing Case

### MORTGAGES

(In association with Stephen McIntyre & Co Limited)

- 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 ALL Mortgages

Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it, written details on request.

\*\*\*\*\*



**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%. Subject to a minimum fee of £400 and not available on any other offer.

**158 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET,  
EDINBURGH EH15 1AH**

**Tel: 0131-669 7218 • Fax: 0131-669 8352**

Open; Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Saturday - 9.00 am to 12 noon

[www.mcintyrelewis.co.uk](http://www.mcintyrelewis.co.uk) e-mail: [property@mcintyrelewis.co.uk](mailto:property@mcintyrelewis.co.uk)



## 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 Portobello or any of our stores 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**

**20 STATION ROAD,  
NEWTONGRANGE  
0131 660 9799**



# THE RUNCIMAN FAMILY OF 6 ST MARK'S PLACE, PORTOBELLO

Alexander Runciman was the great-grandfather of Mr Keith Mitchell of Elgin, who has very kindly donated a file with details of his family history, insofar as it relates to Portobello, to the History Society. Unfortunately, we only have space to print one or two extracts and a few photographs from it:

'Alexander [Runciman] and Elizabeth [Houston] were married in the Temperance Hotel, Duns, on the 11th of December 1873. At this time Alexander was described on their marriage certificate as a stationer, a trade he would pursue all his working life. It is thought that by this time he was employed in the famous wholesale stationers, Macniven & Cameron of Blair Street [in Edinburgh], situated between the Cowgate and Tron Church. They had the well-known advertising motto "They come as a boon and a blessing to men, The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen." Possibly around the mid 1880's it would appear that Alexander left Macniven & Cameron to join a competitor, Harvey's Ltd. of Forth Street near the top of Broughton Street.

Before moving to Portobello in 1894 Alexander and Elizabeth had six children, five girls and one boy. They were: - Mary Anna Houston (Nan), Alexander (Alex), Margaret Helen (Helen), Elizabeth Houston (Elsie), Barbara Robb (Babbie) and lastly Isabel Bruce (Brucie).

By all accounts family life at Lindenlea, as 6 St Marks'



Family group taken in garden of number 6 St Mark's Place  
Back (l-r) Elsie, Alex, Jane Kerr, Nan, James Dey, Helen  
Middle (l-r) Alexander and Elizabeth  
Front (l-r) Brucie and Babbie

Place was known, seems to have been a happy and stimulating environment for the whole family. In 1900, Nan the eldest child, married James Dey, who later was to become secretary to the Church of Scotland. Next to marry was young Alex who married Jane Kerr, and they emigrated to America during the first decade of the 20th century. Then came Helen, who in 1907 married William Blake.

Their descendants now live in England and Australia. In 1910 Elsie married Robert Little, a storekeeper at Granton Gas Works. Eventually they settled in the Blackhall area of Edinburgh. The last of the children to marry was Babbie, who in 1911 tied the knot with Thomas Archibald Melrose who became a partner in the tea and coffee merchants that eventually became Brodie, Hamilton, Melrose & Co. Ltd. in

Leith. The only member of the family not to marry was Brucie. She remained at Lindenlea, eventually looking after her father until his death in 1930.

My great-grandfather appears by all accounts to have been a man of considerable learning and erudition. He had a large library of books at Lindenlea and spent a great deal of spare time, particularly during his retirement, not only reading

great works of literature, but also laboriously recording long extracts from them into a ledger which survives to this day. He also had a great love of poetry. A very sad family anecdote relating to this library is that after Alexander died, the majority of it was sold off at 6d a bundle, but just how many bundles were sold is not recorded.

Another important part of family life centred round St Philip's United Free Church in Portobello. Alexander moved his membership to St Philip's not long before becoming an elder there about 1908-09. It seems his eldership at St Philip's was greatly appreciated, as in 1930, David Reid the Session Clerk records that "A true Scotsman, a Scotsman at his best was Alexander Runciman."

In 1907, Arthur Ewart Little who lived in Comely Bank with his brother Robert [Alexander's son-in-law] was appointed organist at St Philip's. Both men were highly musical, Arthur being noted for his organ recitals and Robert as a tenor soloist, as well as being a 1st violinist. When he left in 1912 Arthur's services as organist were recognised by the presentation of a gold watch, suitably inscribed.

On the 21st April 1920, Elizabeth Runciman passed away after suffering a stroke complicated by a degree of paralysis. Her death was a very severe blow to Alexander, and by all accounts it would seem that he never quite recovered from the shock. However, he struggled valiantly on, eventually surviving Elizabeth by some 10 years. He died on the 12th October 1930, aged 85 years of age. Both are buried in Portobello Cemetery, along with their devoted daughter Brucie, who died in 1973 at the age of 80 years. She had remained at 6 St Mark's Place till 1939, when financial circumstances unfortunately forced her to sell what had been the family home for some 45 years.'

**R. Douglas Blacksmith**

• Gates & Railings • Mild Steel • Cast Iron Renewal or Restoration  
• All Metalwork Commissions Undertaken

*Your 'gateway' to a Stylish Home*

Tel. 0131 665 6645 Mob. 07884 111 964

**NEED A MORTGAGE?**

FOR A FAST, FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, WHATEVER YOUR MORTGAGE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE....

FIRST TIME BUYERS • HOMEMOVERS • REMORTGAGES  
BUY TO LET • COUNCIL HOUSE PURCHASE  
100%+ MORTGAGES • POOR CREDIT HISTORY

DISCUSS YOUR MORTGAGE NEEDS WITH US!  
CALL NOW FOR A NO OBLIGATION APPOINTMENT

0131 468 4111  
**EDINBURGH INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE ADVICE**  
96 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH EH15 1AN

**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

**Warners**

SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS.

176 Portobello High St.  
Edinburgh EH15 1EX  
Tel: 0131 669 7575  
Fax: 0131 669 5252

## THINKING OF MOVING OR SELLING? NEED ADVICE?

Why not contact us now and get all the advice you need. We can offer you;

- ❖ Free advice on all aspects of buying or selling property
- ❖ Full details of all costs involved including a no obligation quote for our fees
- ❖ Free pre sale valuation and marketing advice for sellers
- ❖ Extensive local knowledge plus a wealth of experience in buying and selling properties in and around Edinburgh
- ❖ Maximum advertising coverage for sellers on the internet, in the ESPC and in all our branches
- ❖ Friendly personal service

Our aim is to take the stress out of moving house. Why not contact us for a FREE INITIAL INTERVIEW  
Feel free to call in or telephone

**0131 669 7575**

Details of all our services and all our properties for sale can be viewed on our website: [www.warnersol.com](http://www.warnersol.com)

**MAIN OFFICE**  
22 ST. PATRICK SQUARE  
EDINBURGH EH8 9EY  
TEL: 0131 662 4747

**LOANHEAD**  
9 HIGH STREET  
LOANHEAD EH20 9RH  
TEL: 0131 440 4268

**CITY CENTRE**  
26 GEORGE SQUARE  
EDINBURGH EH8 9LD  
TEL: 0131 662 4555

**CORSTORPHINE**  
247B ST. JOHNS ROAD  
EDINBURGH EH12 7XD  
TEL: 0131 334 0022

**SUSAN DEACON MSP**

**INTERVIEW SESSIONS**



Susan Deacon will be available;  
on the **last Monday of each month**  
**6pm - 7pm in PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL**  
and on the **first Thursday of the month**  
**6.30pm - 7.30pm in PIERSHILL LIBRARY**

She also holds regular interview sessions at other locations in her constituency.

For details please contact 0131-669 6446

## 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



**Commercial • Domestic**  
**Interior • Exterior**

## PORTOBELLO FIDDLE CLASSES

Beginning Sept 23rd at  
St. James Church,  
Rosefield Place.

Various levels

For more information phone;

**JENNY - 657 1768**  
or **GICA - 669 7618**

## COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CHILD MILTON WARD

Cllr Child is available for  
consultation every Monday  
(except public holidays)

**PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL**  
at 6PM and every Wednesday  
(except during school holidays)

**BRUNSTANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
at 7.15PM

or by appointment a another time  
and place

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

*For Commercial,  
Domestic, Interior  
and Exterior  
Quotations on  
request*

Call 0131 669 1228  
or 0131 552 0262

*Members of the  
Painters Federation*





# "IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE SUNNY"



Photo by Peter Stubbs

Local children in cheerful mood after filming on beach.

THE phrase, "It always seemed to be sunny", or something like it, kept coming up during the interviews for the Portobello History Society memories of Portobello video. So, that's the title to look for when it is launched in the middle of November, but you don't just get a video; with it comes a little book with more photographs and text, adding extra details to what is in the film. The price for all of this will be £12.99 and it is not too early to add it to your Christmas list.

The project was made possible by a grant from the East Local Development Committee Community Grants Scheme and was also helped by a donation from Portobello Rotary Club. We would like to thank everyone who helped but here want to pay tribute to the older citizens who contributed their time and memories and the children who really were great to work with – and let's not forget their parents for assistance with the costumes.

Archie Foley

## LETTERS

THIS letter came in from a reader in North Berwick, proof that *The Reporter* now reaches far and wide.

Dear Sir/Madam,  
I came across an old photograph the other day taken at the Joppa Steam Laundry in what I calculate to be 1927. I was the subject of the picture together with several chickens, which I was meant to be feeding.

A series of memories were evoked and I remembered that relations of my Mother, John and Maggie Goldie ran the laundry, which employed a considerable number of girls at the time. I had a wonderful time being passed from one lovely girl to the other and thoroughly spoilt.

I have never been able to locate the site of the laundry though I do remember the boiler area was near a railway line.

John, Maggie and their daughter Peggy are long gone but I wonder if there is anyone who remembers the laundry and where it was.

Yours sincerely,  
Bill Robertson

The History Society was able to tell Mr Robertson that the laundry was in Brunstane Road by the railway bridge on the opposite side of the road from the station. It was locally known as the "Railway Laundry" because it had been owned by the LNER Company and its successor. Most people will remember the building as the Heather Valley clothing factory and now it is converted into a block of flats. If there are readers with more details, memories and/or photographs, Bill and the local history society would love to hear from them via *The Portobello Reporter*.

## SORRY

IN our last issue we published a photograph taken in the bottle works in Fishwives' Causeway shortly before they closed down in December 1967. The worker shown in the picture was the late Davie Scott but unfortunately, we gave an incorrect name in the caption. Our apologies to Mrs Scott for the error.



**The Just World Shop**  
**Fair-trading For A Just World**  
Visit our shop at 54 Portobello High Street  
For a selection of Traidcraft and other fairly traded goods including:

Tea • Cocoa • Sugar • Muesli • Dried Fruit • Nuts  
Rice • Pasta • Honey • Chocolate • Sweets & Snacks  
Gifts • Crafts • Jewellery • Cards • Gift Wrap  
Stationary • Ecover & Recycled Products

Open: Monday-Friday 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm Saturday 10am-12noon

## WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

Save £1000s by protecting your estate from future Inheritance Tax and long term care costs.

- Free Information pack & consultation
- Consultations in the comfort & privacy of your own home

10% Discount on fees, for appointments arranged before 31/10/04


**Contact Mike Gradone ACIL, today.**

Tel: 0131 669 6772 Mobile: 07900 657 704  
www.Edinburghlegalservices.co.uk

## JAMES KEANE - MASTER UPHOLSTERER

*Specialist in Antique and Traditional Upholstery Work*

*Also Loose Covers Tailored to Fit  
and Handmade Curtains*

*Selection of Quality Materials to Choose From*   
*Estimates by appointment only*



39 Mountcastle Drive South  
Edinburgh EH15 1PN

**Tel: 0131 669 4020 Fax: 0131 657 1025**

Member of the Association of Master Upholsterers & Soft Furnishers

## ROCKVILLE HOTEL and EASTFIELD CONSERVATORY RESTAURANT

2 JOPPA PANS Tel 669 5418

One of the finest locations along the Edinburgh coast with magnificent panoramic views over the Firth of Forth.

Lunches served Mon-Sat, 12noon-2pm; Sun, 1-8pm.  
Evening Dinners Mon-Sat, 5.30-8.30pm  
All food freshly prepared by resident chefs  
Willie Henderson, Mark Shaw and Brian Tait  
keeping food fresh, wholesome and simple

Bookings advisable at weekends. Bookings now being taken for pre Christmas lunches and dinners. Sorry fully booked Christmas Day

\* \* \* \* \*

### AUTUMN CABARET PROGRAMME

Friday 10th Sept – Modern Hi Tech Duo - Angel Star  
Friday 17th Sept – Edinburgh Entertainer - Brian Levell  
Friday 24th Sept – Swing and more - Jim McMail  
Friday 1st Oct – Tom Jones, Neil Diamond - Iane Ronson  
Friday 22nd Oct – Back Again - The fabulous Jim McMail  
Friday 29th Oct – Singer Songwriter - Cal  
Sat 6th Nov – Jazz with the Sandra Stone Set

Bed & Breakfast £25p.p based on 2 sharing  
www.rockvillehotel.co.uk

## PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

BY THE TIME this issue has dropped through your letterbox our new programme of guest speakers will have got under way.

On Wednesday, 6th October Elaine McNab will talk about the history of S.S. Explorer and the work being carried out at her berth in Leith Docks to restore this former fishery research vessel to seagoing condition. Her importance as the last steam engine deep-sea trawler in existence has been recognised by being placed on the National Register of Historic Shipping.

One of this country's most distinguished archaeologists, Dr Graham Ritchie, will be our speaker on 3rd November. Dr Ritchie was formerly Head of Archaeology at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, where he worked for over 30 years; he is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London and a past president of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He has written widely on the pre- and early history of Scotland and we are extremely pleased that he is able to be one of our speakers. The subject of Dr Ritchie's illustrated talk is *The Archaeology of Edinburgh*.

It is always gratifying when one of our speakers is a member of the society and this is the case for the last meeting before our winter break on Wednesday 1st December. Peter Stubbs is a long-time, active member of the Edinburgh Photographic Society and an acknowledged authority on the history of photography in Edinburgh and the professional photographers who worked in the city. For evidence of this, go to his award-winning web site [www.edinphoto.org.uk](http://www.edinphoto.org.uk). Peter's talk is titled *Edinburgh Photography*, which definitely includes Portobello, and there will be plenty of pictures.

The society meets on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June in St John's Church Hall, Brighton Place at 7 pm. You don't have to join to come to our meetings but as the annual subscription is only £4.00 there is little reason not to.

## JAMIESONS VICTORIAN TEAROOM

79 High Street, Portobello

Open Monday to Saturday  
10am to 4pm

For coffees, teas, lunches,  
snacks & takeaway.

Afternoon tea our speciality.  
Available for Private Sunday  
Functions

**Phone 07792 297924**



For expert up to date driving tuition  
look no further than  
**QUALITY DRIVEN.**  
your new local driving school.

- Fully Qualified Lady Instructor
- Friendly Tuition
- Highly Competitive Rates
- Courses to suit all levels

**0131-669-9251  
0772-990-4416**

**Quality Driven  
School of Motoring**

## T.A.Harris & Son

A FAMILY RUN COMPANY  
Established 1957

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



T.A. HARRIS

-A member of the **tyre expert** network-



LuK  
Aftermarket-Service Ltd  
Light Clutch Division

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





**ANTI-VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN**

**AMNESTY** International called on Scottish Ministers in July to support its worldwide campaign ‘Stop Violence Against Women’. Some of them are seen here with Amnesty Director, Kate Allen. The Portobello Amnesty Group will have a stall in the Library, for two weeks from 13 September, to highlight the campaign, when people will be asked to imagine a world in which such violence has ended and to write messages on liberation from the fear of abuse, or of being seen as a potential abuser. These will be sent to groups that support women who have suffered violence in civil wars, such as in Sierra Leone.

The campaign includes political action to gain the support of MPs for measures to protect and support women, and the group is in correspondence with Gavin Strang MP and Susan Deacon MSP with the aim of strengthening existing legislation in all parts of the UK.

The group, along with other Edinburgh groups, protested over the visit of the Chinese Army Band to the Edinburgh Tattoo, on the grounds of China’s abysmal human rights record – it went ahead though! Human rights abuses in Belarus, Nepal and Rwanda have also been taken up with senior figures in those governments.

The street collection in May raised a greater amount than usual and a contribution was sent to support Amnesty’s work worldwide.

David Turner

**CELEBRATION AT ST. PHILIP’S**

**ST. PHILIP’S** Joppa Parish Church is planning a week of celebration during a Stewardship Programme, for its members and the wider community. From Sunday 31 October to Sunday 7 November, there will be a series of events for both children and adults, open to everyone, including: Story Telling for Children, Gardeners’ Question Time, A Wide-ranging Music Programme, Contemporary Debate and A Family Day.

These events will take place mainly in the late afternoon and evening. There will also be a special service on each of the two Sundays.

Posters giving full details will be distributed nearer the time in Portobello and Joppa, and will be on the church notice board. See also the web site [www.stphilips.co.uk](http://www.stphilips.co.uk)

St. Philip’s extend a warm invitation and welcome to all. Enquiries may be made to M Brodie on 669 4796.

**A CAREER IN FILMS?**

**WHEN** His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Edinburgh and Dunfermline at the beginning of June, Graham Kitchener, local deli owner, had the honour of following him for the two days as director of the three official film crews for a live documentary shoot. Official stills photographer for the visit was Jack MacDonald, formerly of VIP in Portobello High Street and a member of The Reporter group. Portobello was, indeed, well represented on this occasion.

A first draft of Graham’s feature-length screenplay ‘Sleeping Dogs’, written in collaboration with Allan Crosbie, has been completed after 12 months work. Following a successful pitch in March, it has now arrived on the desk of Los Angeles producers who will let him know on 10th September if they intend to go for it.

**CHRISTIAN AID**

The wonderful total of £8,996 was reached when the contents of the envelopes collected during this year’s house-to-house collection were added up. Once again the people of Portobello, of all faiths, showed marvellous generosity to those in other parts of the world less well off than ourselves.

Graham Addis’s sponsored beard shave at Portobello Old and Windsor Church in June raised £857, not to mention a few eyebrows, when all was revealed.

**ART AT ST. MARK’S**

**THERE** will be a mixed media exhibition by John Morson, of contemporary lino cuts, and wood, cork and synthetic block prints in the Church at 287 Portobello High Street, from 13th to 20th October, 10am to 4pm.

**FOCUS ON GROUPS**

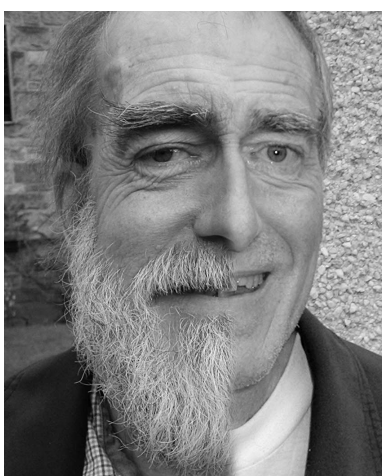
**PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY**

**PORTOBELLO** Amenity Society was started in 1979 as the Abercorn Amenity Association, by residents who lived round Abercorn Park. It became the Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) in 1981 and now concerns itself with the whole of Portobello, from Kings Road to Eastfield and from the shoreline to Asda. “PAS aims to improve the general amenity of our area and to promote high standards of architecture and town planning in proposed developments”, says Chairman John Stewart.

In 2000, PAS helped the Planning Department to produce the *Portobello Conservation Area Character Appraisal* against which all new developments should be measured. All planning applications for the Portobello and Milton areas are monitored by PAS and responded to if necessary, most recently the superstore proposal for the Scottish Power site. The Society also plants trees, shrubs and bulbs each year throughout Portobello and maintains a series of hanging baskets in the High Street.

PAS has published a *Heritage Trail Guide to Portobello*, which has sold over 4,000 copies and is available in many local shops and, in a joint project with Portobello Community Council, has erected a series of information boards along the sea front and several historical plaques on buildings of particular interest.

The Society has over 250 members, both households and local businesses, and welcomes new members. It meets once a month and holds an AGM in June with a speaker on a relevant topic, and members of the public are welcome to all meetings. For further details, please phone John Stewart, 669 6466.



Photos by Bert McCall

**BRUSHING UP ON VOLUNTEERING**

**ARE** you handy with a paintbrush? Are you a good listener? Shelter Families Project could use your skills. They are recruiting volunteers to help homeless families settle into their new tenancies by helping to decorate a room or going along on a family outing. If you would like a Volunteer Pack, call 553 4999 or send an email [ClaireW@Shelter.org.uk](mailto:ClaireW@Shelter.org.uk) Shelter Shops also need volunteers. Call 346 2468 for details.

**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**

**LOCAL ARTWORK FOR SALE**

**by local artist Martin Fowler**

**LANDSCAPES and SCENES from PORTOBELLO, EAST LOTHIAN and SURROUNDING AREAS**

**FOR SALE AT COMMERCIAL PRICES.**

**PLEASE CALL 0131 669 6894 FOR MORE DETAILS**

**commissions upon request.**

DRAGON WAY

CHINESE RESTAURANT / TAKE AWAY

10 Bath Street, Portobello

GREAT NEWS

If you are reading this advertisement, you may let your partner know that you are treating her to a meal at the Dragon Way **TODAY**.

Bring your partner to the restaurant today & buy her a **FREE Lunch or Happy Hour 3 course meal!!** (Cut out Voucher below. Conditions apply)

Enjoy a cosy & friendly atmosphere, choosing from our mouth-watering Lunch or Happy Hour Menu with up to 25 Main Dishes to try out!! Unlike many buffet style restaurants these days, all dishes are prepared at time of ordering, freshly organised, Stirred Fried & Served by our friendly attentive staff...

DRAGON WAY

RESTAURANT VOUCHER

☐ Business Lunch x 1  
(3 course meal luncheon)

☐ Happy Hour x 1  
(3 course meal between 5-8pm)

\* Please tick one box & bring voucher to restaurant. (One voucher per table, minimum table for 2)

Bring the Voucher & book your table on



669 0088 / 669 4888 / 669 6697

Thank you for your custom, hoping to see you soon.

CHI

seaside escape

Beauty & Body Therapies for Ladies at Esplanade Terrace, Joppa.

Announcing a new & specialist service from

PERMALASE

IPL for the treatment of hair & thread vein removal, acne and skin rejuvenation, specially trained therapists committed solely to IPL.

To arrange a FREE consultaion or for more information tel: -

657 9394

Suzanne Lampard

I.C.S.F.

Please come along to see our beautiful variety of Bouquets and Cut Flowers.

Suzanne and her caring staff will help you with all your requirements

Flowers by Ray

7 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LA

Telephone; 0131-669 8883 Fascimile 0131-669 3902

TELEFLORIST

SOCIETY OF FLORISTS

ROBIN T. BOND

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTS • TAX RETURNS • CASH FLOW

VAT • BUSINESS START UP • PHOTOCOPYING

22 JOPPA ROAD TEL: 0131 669 0442

6



BUDDING SCOTTISH POETS

THE Tom Scott Tassie is an annual Scottish Poetry competition organised by Mr Alan Keay of the English Department at Portobello High School.

This year, St John's Primary School entered several Primary 5 pupils and certificates were awarded to Cara Brannigan, Chanelle Irvine, Liam Clayton, Emer Byrne, Jennifer Frame, Martha Ryan and Sarah McMillan. But pride of place went to Alasdair Watson in P5b, whose poem 'Sic a Silly Sodger' won the Tom Scott Tassie; he received the trophy and a prize of £50.

Several Towerbank Primary pupils were also entered. The winners of the P1-3 section were Aiden Tracey and Kelly Michie; Sarah Jamieson and Sally Simpson each won a £10 prize in the Junior section; and in the Senior section, Max Lauder, P6B, won £10 for his 'commendit' poem 'Dirty Joe'.

SIC A SILLY SODGER

Sic a silly sodger  
Marchin through the toon.  
Gang tae see the Queen  
When his breeks fell doon.

The Queen was  
stammygastered,  
Her croon fell off her heid.  
She shouted to the polis  
"Ah very nearly deid!"

The polis chased the sodger,  
They couldna catch him.  
He slipped on a dod o  
parridge  
And he fell intae a bin.

The polis foond the sodger  
They threw him in the jail.  
Ye have tae keep yer breeks  
up  
That's the lesson o this tale!

DIRTY JOE

Dirty Joe, the mingin' wee  
wain  
Tae cleanliness he's an awfu  
bane  
His father saes that he's the  
worst  
But Rex the dug had licked  
him first  
Aets all minner o' filthy bugs  
Snails, spider, and slimy  
slugs  
His mither says that he's a  
laze...  
Scoffs the stuff atween his  
taes!

Smelly, Hoggin  
Goey, Boggin

His sister says he's aff his  
heed  
Does his wees in the flower-  
bed  
Naeone dare face the mingin  
wrath  
Nae until he hae a bath!

TOWERBANK  
GO 'GREEN'

TOWERBANK Primary School registered as an eco-school in 2003 and recently received their Silver Award. Staff, pupils, parents and the wider community created an action plan for the school, the main focus this session being recycling. The school now recycle paper, waste food, cans, bottles, ink cartridges and uniform, and held a mobile phone recycling event.

They also took part in the national Walk to School Week, which proved very successful, with many families ditching the car in favour of more environmentally-friendly modes of transport.

Towerbank are keen to continue this excellent work in the new session by adopting an area of Portobello Beach, which they will help look after.

Staff and pupils thank all the parents who helped develop this initiative, both in school and at home and say: "Keep up the great work and remember Towerbank's eco-code - Recycle Reshape! And look out for our green flag flying soon!"

Kirstie Rosie

YOUNG THISTLES OFF  
TO A GREAT START



PORTOBELLO Thistle F.C. U13 team had a very successful first season. Coaches Jimmy Aird and Andy Stevenson's strategy was to let the lads enjoy playing, have a few wins and stay mid-table, but they could not believe that the team would go all season without losing a league game and reach two cup finals, winning one of them.

Their achievement was due to lots of hard work by the players

and the coaches and their team spirit. "A great bunch of guys", say the coaches.

The team is looking forward to the 2004-05 season and hope to attract sponsorships for new strips and training equipment. Would anyone willing to sponsor this dedicated and hardworking local team please contact Jimmy Aird on 669 3616 or Andy Stevenson on 657 2196.

Andy Stevenson



www.factmonster.com

An interesting homework help site, filled to the brim with stacks of information, surrounding maths, science and sports! Bright and colourful, factmonster can easily help you catch up on basic and more complex maths, teach you fascinating scientific facts to bamboozle your teacher, and let you catch up on all the latest world news; and as if that wasn't enough, the factmonster site has many fun quizzes.

www.channel4.com/  
homework/index.jsp

Channel 4 has a superb homework site, aimed at those aged 7 and up. It is based around Homework High, and is filled with games, cartoons, facts and helpful hints. English is based around fairground spells, where a variety of activities will help you practise your English skills. Recognise old favourites like the Dodgems, Ferris wheel and a Test Your Strength Machine! Maths however is a role-playing game .....teaching basic to more complex maths. The variety of games offered is amazing, and if all else fails and you are still stuck on homework, they have an 'ask the teacher' option. Catriona Howson

BOOK REVIEW  
How to Survive Summer  
Camp by Jacqueline  
Wilson.

MANY of you will have been sent to a summer camp this year. Some will have been lucky enough to go to just a day-time camp and some, no doubt, were bundled off to a remote, desolate and scary resort for a week or two.

How to Survive Summer Camp is a superb read for both groups and for anyone returning from summer holiday adventures, and is certainly a great way to keep the summer holidays lasting well past returning to school. It describes the adventures of Stella Sibblings as she visits Evergreen Camp for the first time and those she encounters - the bossy mean girls, the over-powering guys, and the strange Evergreen staff, including Uncle Pong the activities co-ordinator. Stella's survival is an inspiration, to both boys and girls alike, and parents wondering how suitable this book is for their children, can rest assured it will make them wish to go off and have their own camp adventures.

Catriona Howson

PRE-INKED RUBBER STAMPS • NO MESS  
TEXT • LOGOS • PHOTOS  
UP TO 10,000 PRINTS  
2 HOUR SERVICE

**RUBBER STAMPS**

Available from  
**PORTOBELLO PRINT & COPY**  
247 Portobello High Street  
Edinburgh EH15 2AW  
Tel: 0131 657 4990

**KITCHENERS DELICATESSEN**  
**IMPORTANT CUSTOMER NOTICE**

D'onofrio, our Italian bread supplier for 14 years,  
has stopped trading.

We are trying to find a suitable replacement as soon as possible. In the meantime we have alternatives available.

We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you for your continued support.

**KITCHENERS DELICATESSEN & COFFEE SHOP** 127-129 PORTOBELLO HIGH STREET 669 9290

**CREATURE COMFORT**  
**DOG WALKING & PET SITTING SERVICES**  
providing for your pets needs.

Portobello based & covering the surrounding areas for walking, sitting & taxi services. Fully Insured

**0798 423 1977**  
**or 0131 6692477**

**TRADITIONAL THAI HEALING MASSAGE**  
BY YUWARET

For the effective treatment of:-

Stiff muscles/joints, neck, back and shoulder pain, frozen shoulders, tennis elbow, headaches, insomnia, stress and various other ailments.

Organic facials & reflexology.  
A beautifully choreographed fully clothed massage.

**10% Off 1st treatment with this advert**

**GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TEL. 657 2480**

**PORTOBELLO COBBLERS**  
**131 Portobello High Street**  
**07977571231**

- Quality shoe repairs •
- Keys cut while-u-wait •
- Name plates • Engraving •
- Watch batteries •
- Purses and wallets •
- Umbrellas • Shoe care •
- We will supply and fit locks •

**OAP discounts available**  
**NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL**

**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 funded places available/Outdoor play area
- After School Club places available

Also at our Seahorse Nursery at  
1 Edinburgh Road, Cockenzie, Tel 01875819997

For further details and brochure  
**Please Tel. 0131 669 0819 and ask for Fiona**

**Yoga for Every Body**

New class starts 15th September  
Wed 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Royal High Primary School

Details Lynne Scott 669 0407

Also Individual Yoga Tuition  
& Yoga Therapy

www.viniyoga.co.uk & Scotland link

**SUMMERSIDE SKIPS LTD**  
**RECYCLING FOR YOUR FUTURE**  
**Call 0131 669 8808 NOW**  
**Mobile 07930 346446**  
**for your 14 cub/8 cub/6 cub/4 cub**

**SKIP HIRE**  
QUALITY SERVICE GUARANTEED



SEAFRONT IDEAL FOR SPORTS



Photos by Peter Ross

**PORTOBELLO's** seafront has attracted some significant sporting events this year, including the Spring and Autumn Aquathons, the Open Water Sprint Triathlon, the Scottish Open Beach Volleyball Tournament, part of the Edinburgh Marathon course, and the kayaking leg of the multi-discipline 100km 'Rat Race', led by Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

The beach is much cleaner these days, thanks to our local Task Force Manager, and is very well used: a recent aerial survey of all Scottish beaches last summer showed it to be the third busiest on one occasion.

WHAT'S ON

1st – 30th Sept. 3rd **ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION** in Portobello Library by the St James Art Group. (The group meets on the second Thursday morning each month in the Church Hall, Rosefield Place. Anyone interested should call Evi Carmichael on 669 6731).

Sun.Sept.26th : **AUTUMN AQUATHON** (swim and run). 9am at Portobello Swim Centre. Registration 8am. Senior and Junior races. See [www.edinburghracingcoop.co.uk](http://www.edinburghracingcoop.co.uk)

TOWN HALL

Sept: Sat. 25th: Hearing Dogs for the Deaf **JUMBLE SALE**, 10am-1pm.

Thurs.21st: **SAFETY SEMINAR & TEA DANCE** (organised by Edinburgh East Crime Prevention Panel), 1.30-4.30pm. Tickets £3 on 669 3624.

Nov: Sat. 13th : Brunstane Bowling Club **COFFEE MORNING & SALE**, 10am.

Mon.15th: **BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS**, 2.30-4.30 & 5.30-7.30.

Sat. 27th : St Andrews Night **CEILIDH** with Bella McNab Band. Licensed bar. 7pm-midnight. Tickets £7/£5. Call 669 8824.

A DISH TO DIE FOR



**TV CHEF** Ainsley Harriott surprised customers at Findlay's Butchers in Portobello High Street at the beginning of July when he called in to sample Joe Findlay's famous championship haggis. It is one of the dishes he has chosen to feature in his new series '51 Things to Eat Before You Die' to be shown on BBC1 in September. The haggis was featured on Rick Stein's Food Heroes on BBC TV two years ago and Joe says: "With all this publicity we're having to work night and day to meet demand"!

**NOW** is the time to harvest and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Freeze lots of small amounts rather than one large amount and remember to label - apples and pears, for example, can look the same once frozen. (Years ago I made a curry with apple juice instead of stock. I couldn't persuade my children to eat it, but I did - a bit on the sweet side but OK!) If I run out of containers I use supermarket bags and suck the air out with a straw, and tie; keep the shape of liquids (e.g. apple juice) by using a mould that you like, lift the bag out once frozen and repeat the process.

Look at your garden now and, if you have no beautiful autumn plants, make a note to plant something suitable, i.e. the right plant for the right place. The library always has books to inspire. Another design tip - When looking at your garden, if it looks lumpy, like pudding bowls, then you need some spiky plants; again, choose something appropriate for the size and scale of your garden.

Lots of people visited our garden in the summer and gave generously to HDRA; many thanks to them all. A feature mentioned many times was two large, cheap plastic terracotta-looking pots at either side of our patio, filled with water and planted with water lilies. The plastic has weathered over the years so doesn't look bad, and even though thick ice has formed a few times each winter, the lilies have survived now for more than six years.

Buy prepared hyacinths now for Christmas presents for children to make up to give to Auntie or Granny. Place pebbles, gravel or grit in a container with no holes. You can use almost anything - I've even used old soup bowls and chipped tea cups – be creative. Put the bulbs in, fill with grit up to one third of each bulb, fill with water so that it just touches the bottom of the bulb and leave in a cool, dark place until mid-November, checking that they don't dry out. Once a pale yellow cone appears, about 5cm high, bring into the light in a cool room until the flower spike is almost open. Hopefully this will be around Christmas when it can be handed on to the delight of the recipient. The bulbs can be planted out in the garden in April, after taking off the old flower.



with Susan Burns

WANTED, OLD SEWING MACHINES OR TOOLS

**THE** organization Tools For Self Reliance collect old Singer sewing machines, preferably hand operated, and old tools (e.g. wooden planes, saws, hammers, screwdrivers, spanners, vices.) These are refurbished and sent to Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mozambique and Uganda, where TFSR's 'partner' organisations give the right to those who need them.

The Edinburgh group started in 1983 and has sent almost 20,000 tools to date. If you have anything you could donate, please contact Paul Turner at the TSFR Workshop, Tel. 337 4965.

**Advertising in the Portobello Reporter** is a cost effective way to reach a large local market. We distribute to 12,000 homes in the Portobello area. For more information call 669 3466. Next Issue Dec 2004.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

**LEARN BABY MASSAGE** – Fri. after Yoga for Women, with free crèche. Drop in class, 11.15-12.15 - £5. Bring a soft towel.

**EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUES** and Neurolinguistic Programming - alternate Tues. evenings – start date to be confirmed.

**CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOPS** – Fri. afternoons – times to be confirmed.

**WOMEN'S GROUP** – alternate Mon. – Partners in Advocacy – contact Aileen or Leona on 478 7723.

**PEOPLE 1st** – Advocacy Group - alternate Wed. mornings – in Porty Youth Lounge.

**INTEGRATED GENTLE EXERCISE GROUP** – coming soon.

**AND** all your old favourites are still running:

**COMPUTER DROP-IN** sessions, Thurs. afternoons.

**PENSIONS ADVICE** – alternate Mon. – 6th Sept. (not 20th ), 4th Oct. onward.

**COFFEE MORNING** every Sat.-10.00-12.00 noon.

**MEDITATION:** Wed. - Sahaja Yoga; Fri. - Self Realization Healing Centre. Both free and start at 7.30 p.m.

**DOG TRAINING AND PUPPY TRAINING** – Tues. and Wed.

**PORTYYOUTHSCENE** - Juniors and Seniors – Thurs.

**PLUS:** Yoga, Sequence Dancing, SWRI, Karate for Kids, Art Classes.

Look on our website to find out more - [www.portobello.cc](http://www.portobello.cc) or call Maggie le May on 669 8275 for copy of our programme.

LAUREN ELIZABETH  
121 Portobello High Street, 0131 669 5389



*Fabulous and Exciting Ranges now in Stock for Autumn/Winter 2004*

**CASUAL WEAR  
KNITWEAR  
SUITING  
OCCASION WEAR  
JEWELLERY & BAGS**

*And Lots More*

ORMELIE  
TAVERN

44 Joppa Road, Portobello  
Tel; 0131-669 3323

Opening Hours:  
Mon to Sat 11am to 12 midnight  
Sun 12.30 pm to 11pm

**AN EVER CHANGING  
RANGE OF  
CASK-CONDITIONED ALES**

Caledonian Brewery Timothy Taylors Harviestoun Belhaven McEwans Hadrian & Border

**OVER 60 MALT WHISKIES**  
35ml measure

**FILLED ROLLS & SNACKS  
AVAILABLE**

*The very best Indian Restaurant located by Portobello Beach.  
The finest classic, top restaurant in Edinburgh*

**GOLD AWARD  
WINNER 2003-04**

Sun-Thurs 5-11.30pm  
Fri-Sat 5pm – 12am



**VOTED BEST FOOD  
IN SCOTLAND**

Lunch 12noon-2pm

Bangladeshi and Indian Cuisine  
Fully licensed and air-conditioned

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

25% Discount on total bill for NHS and Council staff, Lothian & Borders Police, Fire Brigade and Lothian Buses, City Card holders and Gold Card Royalty members - restaurant meals only. Also 10% discount on takeaways. Excludes any other offers or deals.

**SPECIAL** Christmas Take-Away Menu - £10.95 per person.  
Open Christmas Day from 2pm to 10pm.

**FREE** home delivery (min. order £10).  
Home orders over £40 receive a free bottle of house wine.

11/12 Seafeld Road East, Edinburgh EH15 1EB  
Tel. 0131 657 1155 Fax. 657 1122