

The Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Autumn 2008
Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500
Also available online on www.porty.org.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	• Village Show	P2
	• Dogs Kill Swans	P3
	• Local Archive	P4
	• Musicians Score	P6
	• Future Vision	P7

The independent voice of Portobello

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WASTE TRANSFER PLANS DUMPED

AT its meeting on 30th July the council's Planning Committee turned down the application by Viridor for permission to erect a waste transfer plant on the former freight terminal on Sir Harry Lauder Road. The councillors voted 9-3 against, overturning the recommendation by planning officials that it should be granted.

Nearly 100 people, some of whom are pictured here, demonstrated outside the Council Chambers before the meeting.

The campaign group PONGS (Portobello Opposes New Garbage Site) led a concerted campaign against the proposal and 700 letters and emails of objection were written to the Planning Department and councillors, expressing concerns about the likely effects of such an operation in a residential area. This was the largest number of objections ever received to a single planning application. The campaign was also strongly supported by Gavin Strang MP, Kenny MacAskill MSP, and local councillors Maureen Child, Michael Bridgman and Stephen Hawkins.



After the meeting Councillor Hawkins said: "I'm delighted that the Planning Committee refused the application and supported the community's view that this proposal in a residential area was totally unacceptable."

The plant was not intended to handle Edinburgh's refuse, but commercial and industrial refuse, brought by lorry from throughout the Lothians, packed into containers and taken by rail to landfill at Dunbar. The grounds for objection were the

expected smells, noise and light pollution on-site; the impact on the surrounding conservation area of a 17 meter high building; the noise of the anticipated 90 lorries per hour at peak times entering and leaving the site, and their effects on traffic flow in the surrounding streets.

Kenny MacAskill MSP said: "The decision to reject these plans is the right one for the community and for the city. I believe that the alternative sites identified in the application

process are more appropriate for this facility".

Once again local people have shown that they will fight to protect their environment.

Viridor may appeal the decision within six months, however, in which case the community will have to fight a Public Inquiry, or they may make another application with an amended proposal. Either way, this is probably not the last that we have seen of them.

Brenda Molony

PARTY ON THE PROM

THE annual party on the Prom at the 'cakestand', organised by Portobello Open Door on August 24th, was a huge success. Lots of people gathered for the entertainments, fun and games and



Photo by Margaret Drysdale

music. Some even went in the sea and families picnicked on the beach, as the sun shone. Further along, Portobello Amenity Society and Community Council celebrated the completion of the largest Coade stone pillar in the Community Garden, with a formal 'unveiling' of its large new capital.



Photo by Brenda Molony

GALLERY PUTS PORTY ON THE MAP



Hunting for Diana by Kenny Munro was hosted by Maggie Le May in Regent Street.



Land Stream by Angela Beardley was part of The Power of Three Commission and was situated on the 'cakestand'.



Whitehouse by Lorna Fraser could be seen in Bath Street and was hosted by Robert Pickles and Joan Birse.

THE Garden Gallery, which featured the work of 26 artists in the gardens of local people during August, was a huge success. The artworks, including painting, sculpture, installations and sound and

performance work, attracted a lot of interest. Three additional works were specially commissioned by participants in this year's Public Art Commissioning Course. The large crowd of people who

attended the launch on 2nd August was entertained by The Carpetbag Brigade from San Francisco and many of them went on guided tours round all 26 gardens.

The Garden Gallery was

an initiative of Big Things on the Beach and chairman Damian Killeen said: "The hospitality of local people and the imagination of so many artists came together to put Portobello firmly on this

year's Edinburgh Art Festival map. Next year we want to build on this success and we would like many more people to join us in making this happen".

B. M.

PORTY PROFILE No. 32 BOB JEFFERSON

BOB JEFFERSON came to Edinburgh in 1976 to go to university. He married local girl Michele and moved to Portobello 16 years ago.

Born in Carlisle, Bob grew up in the border town of Gretna and attended Annan Academy. He doesn't consider himself to be either Scottish or English but will, he says, accept the label of 'world citizen' or 'earthling' if pressed.

The local punk scene and "the other distractions of a big city" proved to be more alluring than his study of languages and social sciences. After "floating around for a few years doing a variety of things" he spent the next decade in the wholesale cut-flower business, based at Chesser Fruit Market. "It was an exciting industry to work in", he says "but it was stressful and the hours were not really conducive to family life." Since 1993 he has been employed as a support worker with Lothian and Borders Police. He has two children, who are, he says, "both doing very well at local schools."

Bob has been an active member of Portobello Community Council for a number of years and is probably best known for the award-winning community website 'Portobello Online', which was put together with, as he says, "help from a lot of local people who were able to translate my ideas into hard code." Maintaining and developing the site content is very time consuming and Bob says he is always happy to accept any offers of help.

When the Police Station was being refurbished in 2005, Bob saw an opportunity to get the former town hall clock chiming again for the first time in many years and obtained funding from the Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council.

"I love the village feel Portobello has", Bob says "and the bell is an hourly contribution to that sense of identity." One of his current projects follows a similar symbolic theme. "What would be really nice would be to fly a Portobello flag from the Town Hall."



Photo by Michele Jefferson

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A number of changes have taken place at Portobello Community Centre. Gillian Dunn has taken over from Maggie LeMay as the new facilities co-ordinator.

We also welcome Pauline Willox as our new Treasurer who took over from Alex Rose, and our new Chair and Vice chair, David Ewing and Jim Brown. We are still looking for a Secretary.

The summer has been fairly quiet, but by September we expect to be back to normal.

We are planning to run more pottery classes in blocks of 5 weeks, which will cost £40 including all materials and firing. Concessions will be available. For more information and to book a place please call Gillian on 669 8275 or email gillian.dunn@ea.edin.sch.uk

G.D.

POPP GO THE NEEDLES

COLOURFUL knitted squares have been flying off the needles of members of Portobello Older People's Project (POPP) who aim to complete a blanket in time for their Christmas Party auction. It is fundraising enterprises like this, as well as a myriad of other activities and social events, that the group enjoy when they meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

POPP provides Portobello's older residents who may be isolated through immobility or illness an opportunity to leave their homes for a few hours a week, with transport provided.

Transport costs are met by an

annual grant from the City of Edinburgh Council, while day trips and social events are funded by an award from Lloyds TSB and POPP's own fundraising activities. But perhaps the group's most valuable resource is the dozen or so committed volunteers who support it, and as co-ordinator Rita Aitken says: "The project wouldn't be there without the volunteers. It's a simple as that."

There is currently a waiting list for new members and Rita says new volunteers are always welcome. If you think you could lend a hand contact her on 01620 843484.

Karen Combe

'VILLAGE SHOW' ON CAR-FREE DAY

ON the afternoon of Sunday 21st September, Portobello will be the centre of Edinburgh's celebration of European Mobility Week. Following last year's successful car-free festival the Portobello Transition Initiative - PEDAL will be running another event in conjunction with Portobello Open Door (POD).

The event, at the foot of Rosefield Avenue, will lead to a 'Village Show' in Rosefield Park. It's your chance to take part in competitions to find the handsomest home-grown vegetables, cutest cakes, niftiest needlework, as well as lots of fantastic competitions for kids - get your best-dressed potatoes ready! Look out for details on posters around Portobello and on the POD website www.the-pod.org. There will be other fun and games - welly throwing, tug-of-war, a dog parade, live music and lots more. The event aims to highlight the benefits of re-localising Portobello's economy, and building a more resilient and cohesive community.

European Mobility Week is a festival of active and public transport. The Portobello event joins a long list of similar activities throughout Europe. The organisers are hoping that it will bring a lively atmosphere to Portobello High Street and Rosefield Park on the day, showcasing the best of Portobello, and creating a fun day for everyone.

Louise Kelly



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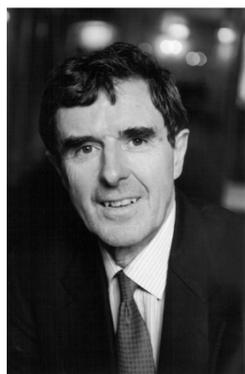
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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHRISTIAN PATH: After years of confusion, it seems that the issue of Christian Path, its ownership and upkeep will finally be resolved. This is the neglected path between Windsor Place and Brighton Place. BRB (Residuary) Ltd (formerly British Rail) are in the process of transferring the path to Sustrans, the UK cycling charity, who are expected take on the responsibility for surfacing the path. The Council has agreed to upgrade the lighting.

NOISY NEIGHBOURS: In its first four years, the Council's night noise team has dealt with over 27,000 complaints: 85% about loud music, 3% barking dogs and 2% DIY noise. If noisy neighbours are your problem call 311 3131. For help with noise from commercial premises or music from pubs or clubs, contact 529 3030 Monday to Friday in office hours, or 200 2000 at other times.

BRIDGE: Interested in playing Bridge, afternoon or evening? Call Bert on 669 8040 for more information. Learners welcome.

THE Annual June Trophy at Brunstane Bowling Club on 21st June raised £529.80 for St Columba's Hospice.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL: THE next meetings of Portobello CC will be held on Mondays 29th September, 27th October and 24th November, at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall, 193 Portobello High Street. Meetings are open to the public and Minutes are available in the Library and on www.porty.org.uk

A CONCERT by Kailyard, members of South Leith Church led by Gavin Booth, will take place at St Philips Church on Friday 7th November at 7.30pm

SPOKES, the Lothian Cycle Campaign, is celebrating its 30th year and its 100th Bulletin.

Their display in the Library window, until 14th September, includes bulletins, cycle maps and a summary of their campaigns. For more information

KINGS ROAD JUNCTION WORKS: Temporary traffic signals and alternative routes across the site have been installed to make it easier for pedestrians to cross. Traffic delays are expected.

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DOGS KILL SWANS IN PARK

IN April this year a swan family lived on the Figgate Pond, with the female on the island nest and the male constantly chasing the four remaining of last year's brood.

Sadly he died, so when eight cygnets were hatched on 17th May the female had to protect them on her own. Four of them have so far survived, but only one of the yearlings remains; dogs were witnessed killing two of them in June and another was found dead and mutilated two days later.

Dogs also jump into the pond after sticks or balls and frighten the waterfowl. The birds need to be undisturbed during the breeding season if they are to be successful, and although four mallard pairs raised families this year, none of the moorhens or coots did so.

Tom Forsyth, Chairman of Friends of the Figgate Park appeals to all dog walkers to control their dogs when anywhere near the waterfowl: "Please do not throw balls or sticks into the pond for your dog to retrieve. If it enjoys chasing ducks, restrain it on a lead".



Photo by Tom Forsyth

A GUIDE TO JOPPA SHORE

A NEW illustrated guide to Joppa shore highlights the geology of the rocks between the Joppa pumping station and Eastfield bus terminus which provide a fascinating walk at low tide. It also covers the history of local coal mining and salt production.

The free guide was produced by the Lothian and Borders RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) Group of the Edinburgh Geological Society, with additional sponsorship from Portobello Amenity Society and the Community Council.

The first draft was produced by Lindsay Wilkinson as a project towards a degree at the University of Edinburgh.

The guide was launched in July at an Edinburgh Geological Society field trip on the rocks, led by Robert Gatliff, and copies are available from the Library and at local events.

The Portobello Reporter is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 36 local people. If you have something to publicise or would like to advertise call 669 3466 or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com Dec deadline 7th Nov 08

THIS summer we were very busy. 270 children joined 'Team Read', reading six books to win a medal. With the rainy weather, the library was a good place to go and books flew in and out.

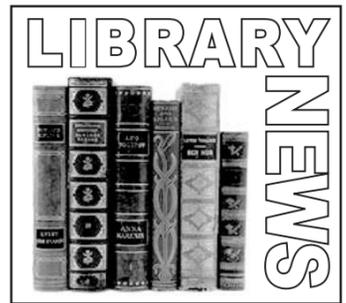
We hosted many events: a visit from 'Zoolab' animals, an art frieze with visiting Chernobyl children and their temporary mums, a craft event, sport quiz, storytime, and a team games party just before the Olympics. There were photographic displays by Capital Collections Edinburgh and Musselburgh Camera Club; and the window was used to promote events such as Edinburgh Art Festival's 'Garden Gallery'.

We received a lovely letter from one of our customers. These are the things that make us all feel good, so with his permission, here it is:

"You're never 2 old or 2 young to learn the Computer. I was terrified to learn because I had never done anything like that in my life before; I didn't know how to switch it on. I would send letters to many countries abroad and for years, my brother in Australia would say to me, why don't you learn the computer, it's a lot faster than snail mail (post), so about one year ago I went to a free course at Portobello Library on a Friday for one hour, for 4 weeks, with George the librarian, just to show me the basics - it was fascinating. Then I went to a free course, also in the library with a tutor, Lennie Lawson, with the help of Linda Kelly, for two hours per week, for 8 weeks. I can now do e-mail, word-art, copy images from Google and put them on letters, send photos on e-mail, from the digital camera, and any information that I want. It is very enjoyable and interesting and the time just flies in, it's better than watching that square box and it keeps your mind active. And all the staff at Portobello Library are very helpful if you have any questions or problems. It's a very nice quiet place to have a coffee and read the papers, mags and books and once a week they have Rhymetime with all the children singing all the old nursery songs, it gets your feet fair tapping. I think that I spend more time in the library than the staff. "Och naw, not him again, it's the pest" 7 decades old, that's 70 years old, to the young team. Roy Donald"

As part of our contribution to the About our Past Festival in November, we will be hosting a display of historic photographs of Portobello and surrounding areas. We'll soon have posters advertising a talk on Local History materials, to be held in the Library during the week.

Joyce Campbell



ROBERT BURNS - A LEGACY

LOCAL woman Roberta Burns Hyslop believes she is the great niece six times removed of Robert Burns and that she has inherited some of his talent.

She found an old biography of Burns containing a photograph of an elderly lady named Elizabeth Hyslop Burns. "This was a heart stopping moment", she says, "as Hyslop is my surname, and it was spelt with a 'y', the same as mine". As she delved deeper, she learned that Robert Burns had had an affair with Anna Park, the outcome of which was the birth of an illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth.

Roberta went on: "I had written poetry, but thought that was because I was brought up in Ayrshire. It was what everybody did, recite Burns poetry, it was the tradition. I had the knack and I am good at picking up dialects. I didn't think I had to be related to Burns". She did say, however, that she has been a regular winner of national poetry writing and reciting competitions.

So does creativity live on in descendants? Roberta thinks it does, "although it can miss generations, my great uncle's artistic gene is handed down and manifests itself in me". Roberta continues to write and to recite Burns poetry at various conventions, and was thrilled to be the first woman to 'Address the Haggis' at the Masonic Lodge on the Royal Mile that Robert Burns joined when living in Edinburgh.

There are a few loose ends to be wrapped up in this amazing story and Roberta has assured us of updates.

Lou Hardless

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LOCAL ARCHIVE IS REAL TREASURE

WHEN the Rev Dr Jim Jack began his Ministry at the ancient Parish of Duddingston eight years ago, he also found himself setting out on a treasure trail that would lead to the development of a rich, local resource.

'The Duddingston Archive' began life when he wanted to get rid of an old and disused safe. He decided to engage the service of a local locksmith before abandoning it, and amazingly they found it to be packed full of 'treasure'.

The hoard included the 'poor records' for Portobello - detailing who was in receipt of financial support from the Church. These have since been handed over to the City Archivist. However, further church records, correspondence, photographs, documents and items remain. These include a selection of silver trophies inscribed with the acronym DPGC - Duddingston Parish Golf Club. This Kirk golf club seemed to go out of existence in the 1970s, but the current congregation, under Dr Jack, have set about reinstating it.

Other priceless objects include a pair of 16th century offering plates that would have sat outside the church doors for members to make their financial contribution. Despite their weathered appear-



Rev Dr Jim Jack in 1991 with two curiously designed Alms Plates found in the safe when it was first opened to reveal its secrets.

ance, they remain ornate, and depict scenes from the story of Adam and Eve.

Work began to organise and store these precious finds and the archive was born. Since then it has continued to grow and as news of it has spread, donations, including a substantial one of photographs and documents from Portobello History Society, have come in. Now the extensive archive covers more of the life and events of the village and local area as well as of the church. As it develops, there is an equal need for more support to maintain and manage it.

Rev Dr Jack is keen not only for people to get involved in the upkeep of the archive, but also for people to come and visit and use it. He is ambitious

for the archive - hoping it will be used as a valuable resource for serious research, as well as for interest. He sees it as a means of preserving and contributing to the history of the area.

The key to fulfilling these aspirations is keeping the archive as open and accessible as possible. It is open daily and welcomes visitors. The Church office is located in the Manse basement and is open between 9.00 to 11.30 am Monday to Friday (except Tuesday).

The address is: Duddingston Kirk, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh, EH15 3PX. Call (0131) 661 4240 or email jamesapjack@aol.com

Eilidh Bateman

Photo Peter Ross

LODGE CELEBRATES BI-CENTENARY

THE Lodge of The Ancient Order of Freemasons in Figgate Street, Portobello was granted its Charter by The Grand Lodge of Scotland on August 1st 1808. Its first official public appearance in Portobello was at the laying of the foundation stone of the Portobello Chapel, now the Old Parish Church, on 27th October 1808. Because this was the first ecclesiastical building in the village, the ceremony was given full masonic honours and the opportunity was taken to have the new lodge formally installed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. On the day, the Portobello brethren were joined by lodges from Edinburgh and elsewhere and after the installation ceremony the whole company, headed by a band, marched to the site of the new chapel where the foundation stone was laid with all due formality.

Portobello did not get Burgh status until 1833 and William Baird in his *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello* (1898) refers to and quotes extensively from the early minutes and records of the Lodge and says "one may be sure that in the absence of any Town Council or other local body to manage the affairs of the little community, matters affecting the welfare of the village would at their meetings be thoroughly discussed over the ale and toddy." As the membership contained the community's most prominent merchants and manufacturers such as Thomas and Samuel Rathbone (potters), Allan Livingston (brick and tile manufacturer), James Baxter (builder) and the "The Father of Portobello" himself, William Jamieson, he is doubtless correct. Baird also highlights that there are many references in the minutes on assistance for the poor and destitute in the village.

Today, the Lodge supports Masonic Charities through their retirement homes and respite care centres and participates in appeals led by the Grand Lodge, most recently in aid of the new Children's Hospice at Loch Lomond and the earthquake and tsunami disasters. It gives generously to local organisations, particularly for the young, and this year is supporting a project for young people in the Thistle Foundation and FACE (the Fight Against Cancer Edinburgh).

It is part of a world-wide fraternal and charitable organisation, one of the oldest practising secular societies still meeting regularly whose members are concerned with moral and spiritual values. Its precepts are taught by ritual dramas which follow ancient forms and use stonemason's

continues on page 5

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Can anyone identify any of the men, believed to be local foundry workers, seen here at Jessfield Bowling Club, Portobello, perhaps around 1940? If you can help, please call the secretary on 468 2082.

**PORTOBELLO
HISTORY
SOCIETY
NEWS**

AT the time of writing we are looking forward to meeting members old and new at our first talk of the new session on Wednesday, 3rd September, with John Sanders of Simpson and Brown, Architects, giving a presentation on *Recent projects and proposals for the pottery kilns*, a subject close to members' hearts.

Our speaker on Wednesday, 1st October is Peter Stubbs, talking about *Edinburgh at Work*. Peter is well known for his illustrated talks and this one provides an informative depiction of industry and employment in Edinburgh as it was in the 1990s. Many of the firms, such as breweries, distilleries, bakers and foundries, have disappeared in the short time since Peter visited them.

Former local bank manager, Kenneth Falconer revisits Portobello on Wednesday, 5th November, to talk about *The Waverley Train Route - Scenes from a bygone age*. This will be a treat for railway enthusiasts and will highlight the importance of this route through the Borders, particularly with current discussions about re-opening part of it. This talk is a central feature of the History Week to be hosted by the Portobello Lifelong Learning Forum. More details of this event can be found elsewhere on these pages.

Our last speaker in 2008, on Wednesday, 3rd December, is Alan Brochie, who provides us with a historical, yet topical, talk on *Portobello and its place in the tram world*. Although there are currently no plans to bring trams back to Portobello, this timely reminder will show the important role they played in providing transport links to Portobello.

Meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place and begin at 7pm. All are welcome, with membership of the Society available for £5. A donation from visitors to our meetings is appreciated. The Society programme will be on display in Portobello Library.

Margaret Munro

continued from page 4

tools as allegorical guides.

The Lodge will hold a service of thanksgiving in the Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street on 12th October, and a rededication ceremony of its principles and building by The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Brother Archibald D Orr Ewing Bart M.A. on 25th October.

For more information see www.lodge226.com or www.grandlodgescotland.com

Bill Reid
(with additional material by Archie Foley)

'ABOUT OUR PAST'

PORTOBELLO Lifelong Learning Forum is organising a History Week, with events in Portobello, Pierhill and Craigentiny, starting on Saturday 1st November in Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove. Key events in the programme will be presented by Portobello Library and Portobello History Society. With the help of library staff, the History Society will dress the library window with photographs, documents and artefacts from its archive. Make sure you take this opportunity

to view items not usually on public display.

The theme for the festival is 'our past', which could include genealogy, Scottish cultural traditions, industrial heritage and archives of any kind. Perhaps less obvious interpretations of the theme could include interests in fashion, design, film, popular music and dance.

Community centres, churches, schools, youth centres and local organisations are all invited to take part by hosting an event. Your courses, groups, clubs

or activities could be highlighted during the week in a workshop or demonstration, talk or exhibition, taster sessions or a performance, for example. If you have ideas or want to be included in the programme, or need more information, call 657 2607.

Linda Kelly

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WHAT'S ON

ART EXHIBITION: St James Art Group exhibition, Portobello Library, Monday 20th to Thursday 30th October. For information about the group please call 669 6731.

MALECON MATINEE: Traditional Cuban Ceilidh in the Beach Lane Social Club with help for beginners. £5, incl. free drink. Accompanied under-14s free. For info, join the email list on Rueda-Club-subscribe@googlegroups.com. Future dates: Sat 20th Sept, 2.30-5.30; Sun 19th Oct, 3.30-6.30; Sat 15th Nov, 2.30-5.30. None in December.

TEA DANCES: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1.30-4.00pm at Royal British Legion, Portobello, Clifton House, Baileyfield Rd. Dancing to Duncan McBain. For more info, call 661 3295.

STORYTELLING: Adrian Johnson and Angie Townsend are to hold 'Storytelling, Verse & Song' evenings at the Dalriada Bar, on the Prom. They hope to encourage people to come and listen, to open the floor for poetry, song, solo musicians and other storytellers to do a 'wee turn', and to introduce more people to the enjoyment of traditional 'Ceilidh culture'. First three dates: Wed 17th September, 8th Oct, 5th November. 7.30 to around 9pm. £3 suggested donation.

SILENT AUCTION: Sat. 4th Oct. 2-3.30pm, St Philip's Church Hall, Admission £1.50 incl. refreshments.

OPEN DAY: Saturday 27th September at St Mark's Church with music all day

COFFEE MORNING Saturday 18th October for Christian Aid in Portobello Old Parish Church from 10 am until Noon. Musical interludes from Melville Music Hall

BOOK REVIEW:

IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN, by Millie Gray.

THIS first novel by local author Millie Gray is an absorbing story of children growing up in Leith around the time of World War II. The humour of the drunken antics of their grandfather and the ingenuity of the twins, Sam and Carrie, is in stark contrast to their mother's struggle to bring up five children when her husband deserts them.

Millie Gray was raised in Leith and knows it well. She is a well-known storyteller and a member of the Scottish Storytelling Forum, and has performed at numerous venues.

In A Class of Their Own (ISBN 9780-9526554-8-0) is published in paperback by local publisher The Bellfield Press. It will be available in bookshops from 15th September, price £9.99, or from the publisher, tel. 657 3869.

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY

WOULD you like to find out more about what is happening in Portobello? Would you like something done about traffic and parking problems? Are you interested in protecting and enhancing our many listed buildings? Would you like to see the amenity of Portobello improved and environmental and landscaping projects carried out? Then come along to any PAS meetings to air your views and find out what the society is doing to improve Portobello for everyone who lives and works here.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4a Elcho Terrace at 7.30pm. The next dates are: 24th September, 22nd October and 26th November. For further details, or if you would like to attend, call 669 6466.

FUTURE OF KINDERGARTEN IN GHANA SECURED

THE congregation of Portobello Old Parish Church decided to celebrate its bicentenary in 2009 by raising £10,000 to re-build a kindergarten in a village in Ghana.

The great news is that this target has already been exceeded through the wonderful and varied fund-raising efforts of so many people, young and old: its own members, neighbouring churches, Bield Housing and the children of Towerbank Primary School, and donations from the local community, Just World Shop, churches, families and friends.

All this kindness will bring happiness to many young children. Thank you one and all.

Irene Robinson

LOCAL MUSICIANS SCORE

PORTOBELLO musicians Mairi Campbell and partner Dave Francis, who make up the folk band The Cast, say they are delighted by the success of their track *Auld Lang Syne*, which featured in this year's box-office hit *Sex and the City*.

The three minute track from their 1993 album *The Winnowing* provides poignant music for a wintry scene when two of the leading characters, Carrie and Miranda, see in the New Year together.

Rumours that their track might feature in the film reached the couple early this year, but it wasn't until the day of the film's premiere in May that they learned it would definitely be used. "Soundtracks for films are usually added at a late stage, but it was still a big surprise when we found out our track had been chosen," says Dave.

Since the film's release The Cast's profile has certainly been raised. "We have had hundreds of hits on Myspace and over 200,000 hits on YouTube. We hope that traditional music in general will get a boost as a result of the film."

Meanwhile, it's business as usual and the partnership is busy with teaching commitments and performing with their dance band Bella McNab, as well as preparing for this month's Linlithgow Folk Festival.

Karen Combe



Photo by Beverley Short

"INTO THE GREEN"

A CELEBRATION of Art, "Into the Green", will take place at St Phillip's Church, Joppa, over the weekend of 27th-29th September, when everyone is invited to enjoy the work of some of the many talented artists who live in the community.

The collection will include work by Jenny Antonio who creates images on glass, sculptor Gordon Brennan, furniture makers and designers Sean Diggin, Roland Fraser, Michaela Huber and Jonathan Lassen, tap-

stry maker Fiona Hutchison, and ceramics designer Lara Scobie. They will all be available to discuss their work.

String, jazz and folk recitals by local musicians will add another artistic dimension. A children's wood-working workshop is planned for the Saturday, from 2.30-4.00pm and is open to adult helpers.

Opening times: Sat. 27th Sept, 9am-5pm; Sun. 28th, 2-5pm; Mon. 29th, 10am-12noon. For more info contact Nell Graham on 669 4351.

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

AMNESTY is highlighting the plight of women who, while here legally on temporary or conditional visas, are denied access to refuge and other support when subjected to domestic violence, because of a "no recourse to public funds" immigration rule. Although the Government provides no funds, local authorities can decide to find the resources to help. The Portobello Group has asked a local councillor for information on Edinburgh Council's position.

Three male UK residents have been imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay for over five years, one with a serious mental health condition arising from confinement. The Group has taken this up with Gavin Strang MP, who has raised the matter with a Government Minister.

The Letter-writing sub-group will meet again on Wednesday 3rd September at 3 Esplanade Terrace, tel. 669 5129. Everyone interested is welcome, but a call to indicate intention would be helpful.

The Portobello Group was founded in November 1978 and, to mark the 30th Anniversary, a celebration will be held in the Dalriada Hotel, Promenade, on Tuesday 25th November from 7.30pm. Present and past members and supporters are invited to drop in, as are our local councillors, MSP and MP.

David Turner

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

Portobello Library, 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm.

Bingham Community Centre, 1st Monday, 6.30pm.

St Francis Primary School, 3rd Monday (term-time) 6.30pm.

OR call 529 4233 or email michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk

Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk

Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:

Portobello Library, each Wednesday, from 6pm. OR Tel. 529 3262 or email stephen.hawkins@edinburgh.gov.uk

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holds surgeries during school terms at 7.15-7.45pm in: Piershill Library 1st Wednesday of each month.

Craigentinny Community Centre 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Duddingston Primary School 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Ewan can be contacted on (0131) 529 3261 or at ewan.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

• **HOLIDAY CLUB:** A family follow-up to the Covenanted Churches of Portobello Summer Holiday Club will include outings to the Camera Obscura and a Christmas treat! For more information contact Nell on 669 4351.

• **THE WOODCRAFT FOLK:** This is an educational movement for children and young people, "designed to develop self-confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and co-operation".

Four groups meet in St James Church Hall, Rosefield Place on Fridays from 6.15-7.30pm: Woodchips for 3 to 5-year-olds, Elfins for 6 to 9-year-olds, Pioneers for 9 to 12-year-olds, and Venturers for those in S1 to S4. The new session starts on Friday 5th September at the 'Cake Stand' on the Prom at 6.15pm and anyone interested is welcome.

For more information contact Kathleen on 657 2265.

• **PORTY YOUTH SCENE:** A Youth Club for 12-16-year-olds is held at Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove. For more information call 661 7463 in office hours.

• **SCOUTING:** There are Scout sections in the Portobello area at St Margaret's, St James, New Restalrig, and St Christopher's Craigentenny churches, and Parson's Green, Duddingston and St John's schools.

Age ranges are: Beaver Scouts 6-8 years, Cub Scouts 8-10.5, Scouts 10.5-14, Explorer scouts 14-18, Scout Network 18-25. For more information see www.southeastscotlandscouts.org.uk, email: info@southeastscotlandscouts.org.uk or tel.229 3756. All sections can be co-educational and the leaders involved are male and female aged over 18.

New leaders and supporters are always welcome and training and support is given.

• **RUGBY:** Portobello Hornets is the youth section of Portobello Rugby Club. They meet on Sundays, around 12.30pm and offer Rugby Union coaching with SRU qualified coaches to boys and girls from Primary 3 to Primary 7, who play contact rugby with regular games against other schools. They also coach boys from S1 S3 who play in a league, so they say: "Why not come along and give Rugby a try?" For more information email: barry@portyrugby.com or call 661 4554 on Tuesday or Thursday evenings or weekends.

• **SWIMMING:** Portobello Amateur Swimming Club runs coaching sessions for young people aged 8 and over, from 7-9pm at Portobello High School on Mondays and Wednesdays and Portobello Swim Centre on Fridays. Anyone wishing to join the club must first attend the coaching sessions and be able to swim 25 metres in the main pool at the Swim Centre. For more information call Jack Snowdon on 669 3431.

• **BASKETBALL:** The biggest and most successful basketball club in Scotland, City of Edinburgh, is based at Portobello High School and offers top-quality coaching and playing opportunities for all ages and abilities:

Coaching for primary age, 'Sunday Hoops' from 10am-12 noon; U-14s, Saturdays 12noon-2pm; U-16s, Thursdays 6-7.30pm; U-18s Tuesdays 6.30-8pm & Thursdays 6-7.30pm. For more information email: info@cityofedinburghbasketballclub.co.uk, call 657 9622 or see www.cityofedinburghbasketballclub.co.uk

• **BOWLING:** Jessfield Bowling Club in Rosefield Avenue, next to the Library, runs an active junior section with coaching by qualified coaches, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm. For more information go along to a session or call the secretary on 468 2082.

• **KARATE and TAE KWON DO:** Classes are run at Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove, Tel. 669 8275.

• **ENJOY-A-BALL:** Sessions for younger children are run at Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove, Tel. 669 8275.

FUTURE VISION



Digital Image © Paul Hameed

DIGITAL artist Paul Hameed from Portobello has created his vision of a futuristic Portobello High Street and Police Station. Paul, who is studying for a degree in Interactive Media Design, took his inspiration from two science-fiction films. From *Minority Report* he has taken the idea of the 'Precrime Unit' and applied it to the Police Station, and for visual style he was inspired by *Back to the Future*.

Paul's digital skills are evident in this imaginative composite image that combines existing elements with imaginary ones.

If you would like to see the image in more detail and in colour then go to Paul's website www.paulhameed.co.uk/porty.jpg. Interestingly, Paul imagines the old town hall building existing well into the future. How do you think the future will look?

NEW HEAD FOR HOLY ROOD HIGH

NEW Head Teacher, Lorraine Legrix, took up her post at Holy Rood High School in June, following nine years as Deputy Head at St Thomas Aquinas Secondary, Jordan Hill, Glasgow.



"It is a real privilege to be working with the pupils, staff and parents of a school with such a proud history" she says. "I have received a very warm welcome and much practical support from everyone I have come into contact with. This is a particularly exciting time to be working in Holy Rood School as we prepare for the move to our fantastic new building next June. Our young people deserve the best and I will strive to ensure the school delivers by building upon the achievements of my predecessors".

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10 November; 1 December; 6.00 - 8.00pm

16A WILLOWBRAE ROAD
Friday 26 September; 24 October;
12 December; 3.30 - 4.30pm

PIERSHILL LIBRARY
Friday 19 September; 17 October;
21 November; 19 December 3.00 - 4.00pm

HAYS BUSINESS CENTRE, Craigmillar
Saturday 6 September; 4 October;
1 November; 6 December
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Contact Kenny MacAskill MSP at
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Tel. 348 5012 (Parliament).

Or email: kenny.macaskill.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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IS THERE STILL HOPE FOR MEADOWBANK?

WILL the success of Edinburgh cyclist Chris Hoy, triple gold medal winner at the Beijing Olympics, persuade Edinburgh Council to re-think its plan to demolish the velodrome and build a scaled-down sports centre at Meadowbank?

Hoy, who developed his skills at the velodrome, supports the Save Meadowbank campaign and has severely criticised the council for failing to provide quality training facilities. He has the support of First Minister Alex Salmond, who has promised that the Scottish Government will consider the case for new cycle training facilities across Scotland.

Gavin Strang MP, who has several times criticised the plan, said recently that Meadowbank is a tremendous asset for the city and the council should recognise it "for the jewel that it is".

Kevin Connor, spokesman for the Save Meadowbank campaign, urges people to sign the petition asking the Scottish Government to provide the money to fund Meadowbank's refurbishment: visit www.save-meadowbank.org.uk and click on the link.

AMBASSADOR FOR PORTOBELLO

ROSS Ross Millar, former head boy of Portobello High School and rugby player for Portobello Schools and Musselburgh, is studying languages and business studies at Napier University. He has just spent a year at the University of Cantabria in Santander, Northern Spain where he formed a rugby team. Earlier this year he brought them to Edinburgh and organised a match against Portobello at Cavalry Park, a close-run game won by Portobello. The Spanish team were so delighted with the hospitality they received that they want Ross to arrange another visit.

J Russell

JO HEADS UP 2012 HOOPS



FORMER Scotland team captain and basketball player of the year Joanna Sutherland has been appointed by London 2012 as the competition manager for basketball at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with responsibility for planning, organisation and management of events.

Joanna was born in Portobello and is a former pupil of Portobello High School. She joined FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, in Munich in 1998 and has gained considerable experience in the organisation of major European events.

Joanna, still an active player, says: "The Games are a terrific chance for basketball in the UK to start realising some of its potential and I look forward to contributing to that process. My only regret is that I won't be playing in the Games themselves".

The finals of the 2012 Olympic basketball competition will be staged at the Greenwich Dome and are expected to be a 20,000 sell-out from the quarter-finals onwards.

Joanna's parents still live in Portobello. Her father, Sandy, a well-known sports journalist, was instrumental in setting up the basketball club at Portobello High School, which is now the very successful Scottish League club 'City of Edinburgh'. B.M.

SOME years just aren't as successful as you'd like and this year was particularly poor for tomatoes. However, it is worth keeping them going into October and November, because if we get some warmer weather, they will ripen and you may even have some for Christmas Day. If you have to take green tomatoes off the vines leave them in a basket, check occasionally, throw out any that show signs of rot and eat them as they ripen. Alternatively, green tomato chutney is great, especially with cheese.

Sweet peas didn't do very well either, but the dahlias were exceptional (they love excess rain) and although some people recommend leaving the tubers in over winter, I'd never do this as we have such a high water table and they'd just rot. They need to be dug up once frost blackens them, dried off for a few days, wrapped in newspaper and stored frost-free until spring.

Now that many people have compost bins, one question I've been asked a lot is why have a worm bin? I use it to rot down anything that may attract vermin, i.e. cooked food including bread, pasta, vegetables and egg shells, as it is contained in a dustbin with a tight-fitting lid. Another tip to reduce vermin is to disturb your compost every day, perhaps with a stick, and completely empty it at least once a year. When the garden starts looking untidy, clear the borders keeping the debris aside, mulch with the compost, then start more compost off with the debris. Organic gardening is about keeping the soil healthy, which in turn will benefit you too - kitchen and garden waste is too precious to be wasted!

With very wet weather raised beds for vegetables come into their own, but if there are a lot of snails and slugs around, try sinking a container (a large old pan, baby bath, plastic tub) into the earth, level with the ground. Put in a few cobbles, perhaps a mini waterlily and an oxygenating plant (make sure it is not invasive - check with the garden centre). Frogs and pond life will just appear and will drastically reduce snail and slug damage.

Remember to get forced hyacinth bulbs now if you want them flowering for Christmas and plant in containers, leaving the top of the bulb uncovered. Keep moist, cool and in the dark until a fat pale green shoot appears about 5cm tall (in about six weeks), bring into a slightly warmer place (on a windowsill in an unheated room) for a few weeks and then into the warmth of a living area. Their perfume is worth all the effort.



with Susan Burns

BIG NATIONAL CEILIDH COMES TO PORTY

A national fund-raising ceilidh, where thousands of people will dance simultaneously to music from live bands, will have its only Scottish leg on Saturday 18th October at St James's Church Hall in Portobello. The ceilidh, which will raise money for the Water Aid charity, will be hosted by local favourites, Bella McNab's Dance Band.

A novel twist on the event is that at exactly 10pm on the night, everyone taking

part throughout Great Britain will be dancing the Circasian Circle to the tune 'Jamie Allen'.

Bella McNab's David Francis told *The Reporter*: "Obviously national events have greater public impact than local ones, but events organised by people in a community for the community can often be more successful and more relevant to those involved. Every event throughout the UK is being

planned, organised and run locally, and so will have its own unique flavour, but everyone will be doing it at the same time with the same aim in mind."

Big National Ceilidh, 18th October, 8-11pm. Tickets £7, £2 concess., under 5s free. Tickets from David Francis or Mairi Campbell on (0131) 669 8824, email: davidfrancis@the-cast.org.uk

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