

The Portobello REPORTER

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

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980.

THE KILNS - TIME FOR JOINED-UP THINKING

AT the end of September, Murdo Macleod, Group Leader, Property Conservation and Chairperson of Edinburgh Council's Kilns Working Group, confirmed that both kilns are safe and weatherproofed. An advertisement with a closing date of 23rd November to find suitable contractors to rebuild them was later placed on the council website.

The Group seeks a satisfactory outcome to the restoration project and a viable future for the kilns, and Mr Macleod said: "The issue of the feasibility of any role the kilns could provide in the redeveloped area could then be discussed, but this is also for the Planning process to have a view on, particularly as the proposed adjoining developer may have input into the adjacent landscaping etc, and as far as I am aware this has not



The kilns in 1984 beside the still functioning funfair.

moved forward in the interim." It seems he was not informed of what was happening in another part of the council:

On 28th October, architects for the Fun Park developers presented design proposals, to be part of a Planning Application, to Portobello Community Council. They said they had discussed them with Council planners but were not given details

of any other council interest in the adjacent kilns or their surroundings. Earlier this year a report from the Working Group, detailing options for the kilns, had been sent to Dave Anderson, Director of City Development, whose department includes both Planning and Property Conservation.

In addition, in its submission on the Portobello Urban Design

Brief in February, Portobello History Society informed Steven Hajducki of Planning that "various council and community members are currently actively participating in discussions on the future of the kilns..." There appears to be a lack of co-ordination between parts of the same department on an issue of common concern.

The Fun Park site and the kilns are so close that neither can be considered in isolation, and if the kilns are to have more than an ornamental future they must be part of a plan that includes the entire area of private and council land on either side of the Figgate Burn.

Now is the time for the two sets of council officials to talk and work together, with the developers and community representatives, to ensure a benefit to all.

HAVE YOUR SAY

UNDER recent Scottish legislation local councils must give their residents the opportunity to influence how council and other services are delivered.

To achieve this, the City of Edinburgh Council decided to set up 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships which include representatives from the local community, the voluntary sector, the Police, Fire Service and Health Board, and local councillors. For Partnerships to be effective, however, people need to know what they do and how to contact them.

The Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership has funding for services in three priority areas, to improve the quality of life of local people: Support for families, children and young people; Reducing health inequalities; Increased opportunities for employment and training.

Four other priorities are the responsibility of the city council: Improving community safety; Providing a sustainable, cleaner and more attractive environment; Improving and regenerating the local area; Establishing good transport links. Concerns about any of these can be channelled through the Partnership.

The best way for people in the Portobello area to make their voices heard is to contact the Portobello Community Council representative on the Partnership, Peter McColl (email: peteramccoll@yahoo.co.uk) or one of our local councillors, whose details are on page 6 of this issue. Voluntary organisations should contact their representative, Claudia Goncalves (email: info@planetaryhealing.co.uk).

For more information, details of meetings and to have an item put on an Agenda, see www.edinburgh.org.uk.

Information and help are also available at Portobello Library.

IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL ON THE HIGH STREET

SINCE mid-November Portobello High Street has been closed between Fishwives Causeway and the Kings Road junction, but the rest of the road is open to traffic and shops, cafes and other businesses are open as usual.

Edinburgh council has publicised this widely, but diversion signs on approaches to Portobello are directing traffic away from the area and traders are concerned that their businesses will be affected in the run-up to Christmas.

Work to replace the roundabout with traffic lights should

have been completed by the beginning of November, but temporary lights, installed to enable all five approaches to remain open, did not operate successfully. It was therefore decided to temporarily divert traffic along Fishwives Causeway, Baileyfield Crescent and Sir Harry Lauder Road. Measures required to put this in place caused the delay.

A council spokesman said that, subject to suitable weather conditions, it is still hoped to open the new junction to traffic prior to the Christmas holiday period.

VILLAGE SHOW

ROSEFIELD PARK was transformed into a village green on what was probably the sunniest afternoon in September as part of PEDAL Portobello Car Free Day. The afternoon's fun kicked off with a bike parade from Kings Road to Rosefield Avenue and culminated in the first POD Village Show.

The show, complete with bunting-festooned stalls, live music, and prizes for home baking and garden produce and a dog parade where Portobello pooches strutted their stuff, was well supported by the many 'villagers' who turned up. Louise Kelly of POD said: "The tea-tent worked its socks off, keeping the crowds fed and watered and helped raise enough money to cover the costs of this free community event."

The PEDAL event was intended as a forum for people's ideas and enthusiasm rather than a fundraiser. Tom Black of PEDAL said: "The event forms part of a feasibility study that is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund under their investing in ideas programme. We have just received just under £10,000 from them for this."

Plans to repeat the successful event may be on the cards for next year. Louise Kelly said: "We hope anyone who didn't win one of the beautiful ceramic medals made by local potter Alison Robinson wasn't too disappointed and will be inspired to try again next year." Karen Combe



Photo by Karen Combe



Photo by Peter Ross

To celebrate its bi-centenary, Lodge 226 of the Ancient Order of Freemasons parade along Portobello High Street on Sunday 12th October to Portobello Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street, for a service of thanksgiving.

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**
to all our Readers, Contributors
and Advertisers

PORTY PROFILE No. 33 GICA LOENING

GICA is a talented fiddle player who started classical training when she was 8 years old and turned to traditional music in her early 20s. She was born in Edinburgh, attended Boroughmuir High School and has lived in Portobello for 11 years.

She is trained in health education and describes herself as "a community musician with a background in health projects", and has just taken this further with the completion of an MSc degree in Music in the Community at Edinburgh University. Her degree project, which she carried out at St John's Primary School, was the use of music as a tool for the integration of new migrant children into primary schools.

Gica enjoys "being involved in the community and making things happen" and is the vice-convenor of the arts and entertainment group Portobello Open Door, better known as POD. With her friend Jenny Gardner, she runs Fun Fiddle which she describes as "the opportunity for adults and children to learn to play the fiddle in a social and community setting". She also plays at ceilidhs and other events with The Belle Star Band, which she formed 14 years ago. This all women band is named after Belle Starr, a famous Wild West outlaw in the 1800s.

Gica comes from a German Jewish family and has been learning klezmer (Jewish wedding music) for the last eight years. She says: "This is my real passion and connects me with my roots", so five years ago she formed a klezmer ensemble, Celter Schmelter. She performed with this group at the Scottish Fiddle Festival - Fiddle 2008, at the Assembly Rooms in November.

In addition to all this activity, Gica has a family life - a partner Dave, and three sons Finlay, Herbie and Micha who are all musical and play various instruments. She has also just started a new job in Glasgow as a research officer at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She keeps fit by cycling everywhere and, when she has time, she tends her allotment in her parents' garden in East Lothian because, she says, "I just love food".

Brenda Molony



Photo by Brenda Molony

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

PORTOBELLO Community Centre is proud to announce its first drama production for a number of years. Our children's drama group will put on a production of the musical 'Grease' on Saturday 20th December at 6pm.

Our Primary School Musical group will continue after the Christmas holidays.

Also in January we will have kids' art classes, initially for primary school children, on Monday afternoons after school.

The computer drop-in group has re-started on Thursday afternoons. Our regular tutor has had an accident, but we have found a temporary replacement. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to have him back as soon as possible.

A new block of pottery classes will also start in the New Year. The details have not yet been finalised, so please call the centre if you are interested.

Please call Gillian on 0131 669 8275 for more information on any of the above.

GD

ON THE BEAT

OFF THE BEAT

PC 2561, probably better known to everyone as Kenny Owen, Community Beat Officer in Portobello, is retiring in early January after 30 years service with Lothian and Borders Police, 16 of them spent in Portobello. Kenny has enjoyed working in Portobello and says: "I liked the area so much I moved here."

On leaving school, he joined the army and served for six years, mainly with the British Army of the Rhine, but also in Northern Ireland. "I handed in one uniform only to put on another when I joined the police", he says.

When he retires, Kenny plans to don his kilt and tour Europe for a year with his bagpipes. He has bought a new motor home and bicycle and intends to busk, although he has to confirm whether he needs an entertainment licence, as he doesn't want to get arrested!

Kenny will attend the Boudin Noir (black pudding) Festival in Normandy, and on 9th May will pipe a friend, who is being given a civic reception, into the town of Nesle, near Paris. In July he will appear at the Pipe Fest in Basel, Switzerland, continuing his fundraising for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

He plans to winter in Southern Spain or North Africa and will probably return to Portobello in March 2010. He says he has retired from the police but not from working life, and hopes to pipe at weddings and local events. Forward Edge Battle Area, a charity that works with Scottish veterans, has already asked if he will volunteer with them, so he expects to be kept busy. In the meantime, Kenny wishes everyone "Awra best."

Margaret Munro



Photo by Margaret Munro



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wishes all his constituents

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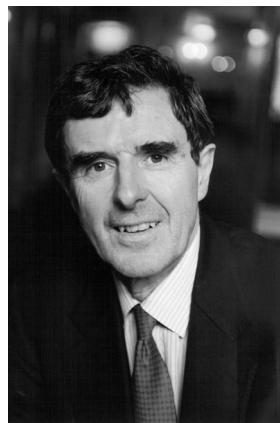
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of the month between 10am and 11am

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198 Restalrig Road South, on the fourth Friday of every month
between 4pm and 5pm. [Please note there will be no surgeries on 26th December.]

If you have a problem or issue you would like to
raise with your local MP please contact Gavin at

Constituency Office, 54 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh, EH15 1DA
Tel: 0131 669 6002

Email: gillana@parliament.uk www.gavinstrangmp.co.uk



To contact *The Portobello Reporter* you can
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NEWS IN BRIEF

PAS MEETINGS: Portobello Amenity Society will meet on Wednesday 7th December 2008, 28th January and 25th February 2009 at 7.30pm at 4a Elcho Terrace. Anyone with concerns about the local amenity or environment is welcome. For further details, or if you would like to attend, call 669 6466.

PORTOBELLO Sailing and Kayaking Club has secured its first funding, but more is needed before the site on the Prom near Bath Street can be made ready and equipment bought. The Beach House café, the eventual home of the club, is open and will have a bulletin board with news of progress.

NEW PARK CALENDAR: Portobello Park Action Group has produced a calendar for 2009 with stunning colour photographs of the Park and Golf Course by local people.

The calendar would make great Christmas presents for friends and family, at home and abroad. To buy a copy (at £5) please e-mail info@portygreenkeepers.org.uk or phone 669 4981.

SKITTLES: Portobello History Society played their annual game against the Trotters Club at The Sheep Heid Inn on 6th September. The society scored a magnificent 511, but unfortunately the Trotters outshone them, scoring 594.

From February 2009, The Trotters will meet for their skittles games, held in The Sheep Heid Inn, on the first Saturday of the month, from 4-7pm.

RECYCLING CHRISTMAS TREES: These should be chopped up and put in your brown bin, or taken to the Recycling Centre. Don't put them out for collection unless you don't have a brown bin or they'll just be left to blow about. For more info. see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycle

DURING Christian Aid Week earlier this year the Portobello group raised £9,504.32 and thank everyone for their support. The total raised from all activities in the area for the year to the end of August 2008 was £15,448. All money raised will provide relief to those hit by disaster and help others lift themselves out of poverty.

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S
A warm welcome is guaranteed by St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church, Portobello High Street, at special services during Advent and Christmas. There will be Advent Meditations on Sunday 7th and 14th December at 7pm, and a service of lessons and carols on 21st December at 6.30pm. Children are particularly welcome at the popular Christmas Crib service on Christmas Eve at 4pm, and Midnight Mass will start at 11pm. Christmas Day will be marked by a Eucharist at 8.30am. For information about St Mark's, see www.stmarksportobello.org or call Ian Gardner on 669 9258.

SCOUT POST: Last collections at Old Parish Church, Bellfield St: Sunday 7th December, 12noon-1pm; Monday 8th, 10m-2pm; Tuesday 9th, 2-8.30pm. Cost 21p per card to areas EH1-17, 28, 29 & 30. Please use postcodes.

DRAMA ON MORTON STREET



Photo by Archie Foley

THE appearance of popular TV actor, Caroline Quentin with a baby, a large film crew, a double-decker bus and a llama in Morton Street during one week in September understandably created a lot of interest around Joppa. They had come to film scenes for a new six-part BBC Scotland comedy drama series called *Life of Riley* that centres round second time round newly-weds Rosie (Caroline Quentin) and Jim (Neil Dudgeon), and their dysfunctional family.

Producer Catherine Bailey told the *Reporter*: "I'm afraid I don't have an exact transmission date yet but I believe we are going out some time in January. We did all enjoy filming in Morton Street. All the residents were very accommodating even when we had a llama running down the street! (The reason for which will be revealed when you watch the series).

We were looking for a house that could be found in England. The ones in Glasgow tended to be mainly of red stone and a particular architecture. Our locations manager found Morton Street and we felt the house could resemble somewhere in the south. We chose that particular one because it worked with the adjoining house and because any further up the road you could see the sea in shot!

I hope you enjoy the series."

A.F.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

IT is now 26 years since Portobello Community Council was set up and the number of issues requiring attention is increasing. Over the past few months these have included:

Backing of the campaign against a waste transfer site on the Freightliner Terminal.

Commenting on developers' proposals for building on the former Funpark and Scottish Power sites.

Raising concerns about traffic, Seafield roundabout work, bus route reductions and jet skis with the city council.

Promoting improved planting and street repairs.

Supporting the sub-committee that deals with commemorative plaques, interpretive boards and the Coade stone pillars.

Taking a view on Planning and Licensing applications and listening to residents' concerns

Supporting the campaign to Save Meadowbank Stadium from demolition.

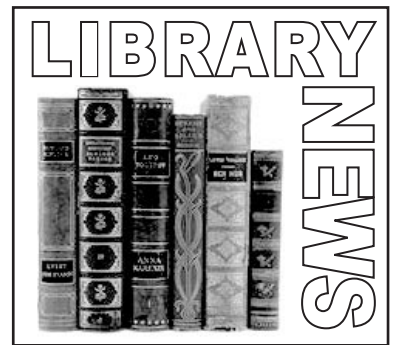
Supporting Joppa Tennis Courts and our Neighbourhood Partnership with Craigmillar.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Monday of the month (except July and December) in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St and are open to the public. The next meeting is on 26th January 2009. Minutes are available in Portobello Library or on www.porty.org.uk

A Community Council is stronger when more people take part, so please consider coming to a meeting. You would be very welcome and would hear current news of your area.

Contacts: Acting Secretaries Diana Cairns - Diana@dcairns.demon.co.uk or Caroline Hosking - hoskingcaroline@hotmail.com, Tel 669 5262.

WE are happy to say that the library is to be re-carpeted and re-shelved in the spring, and internal paintwork refreshed. In surveys over recent years customers say the library has great atmosphere and excellent helpful staff, but the room looks shabby and could do with a refresh. If you have any things in particular you would like to see in the new library, please tell a member of staff and we will try to incorporate it.



Libraries and GPs in Edinburgh have combined forces to provide 'Books on Prescription', a new service to promote books to help with health problems: *Overcoming Anxiety* and *A Woman In Your Own Right*, for example. The choice must have been good, as the books were borrowed as soon as we put them on display. If you would like a list, please ask the team leader at the library.

We are now part of the Neighbourhood Partnership and are starting to learn about the wide range of services provided, from Community Safety to Parks, Environmental Health and Housing. We have posters and information about the next Partnership meetings, and would like to help our customers gain better access to these important services. On our computers we can show you the Partnership web pages and a short video on their work. We have been providing replacement recycling box covers for some time now - a small example of how we are working with the Partnership.

Coming up in the New Year:

'Stand up to Hatred' is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, and we are thinking creatively.

The theme for 'One Book One Edinburgh' in 2009, which runs throughout February, is 'Lost World Read', and *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle will be the free book. There will also be events celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin. For more information see www.cityoflitterature.com

'Tales of the City' is an exciting project for which libraries will ask young people to write, draw or film a description of their life in the city. Entries will be put on a dedicated website and selected ones will be published in a book. If you know any young person who is creative in any way, look out for information posters in libraries in the New Year, and please encourage them to enter.

The Book Group will discuss *We are now beginning our descent* by James Meek, published by Canongate, on Tuesday January 6th at 6.30pm - all welcome. The book can be reserved at the library.

Joyce Campbell

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PORTOBELLO UNITED DANCE CLUB

LORNA Davidson from New Lanark has asked for the *Reporter's* help: "I don't know if you'll be able to help or not. My mother has a small silver-coloured medallion, engraved with a dancing figure, looks like 1920s or 30s style, and the words "Portobello United Dance Club". It was found via a metal detector on our family farm in the Borders, but no one knows anything about it, or where it came from. By sheer coincidence, my mother, now 84, was actually born in her grandmother's house in Portobello, but came to the farm after she joined the Land Army in the Second World War, met my Dad, and has been there ever since. The person who found the medallion knew she was brought up in Edinburgh, so assumed it had something to do with her, but she doesn't remember anything about a Dance Club, and says it must have been before her time."

Lorna's aunt, Margery Curwen, sent photographs



Photo James Mitchell

The Isadora Duncan like figure on the front of the medal.

of the medal and provided more family details: "My sister's name is Doreen Mitchell but she was born Doreen Scott in our grandmother, Ellen Young's house at 60 Bath Street, Portobello. Our mother was Ellen Scobie and she often talked about the Marine Gardens ballroom. In fact, her brother and sister, Jimmy and Greta, were instructors there. However, we know nothing about the medal or the dance club and hope you

can trace its origins."

Unfortunately the reverse of the medal, which is about the size of a ten pence piece, has no inscription to say to whom it was awarded, but the markings confirm that it is sterling silver and was assayed in Birmingham in 1926. It may not be possible to find out how the medal got buried near St Mary's Loch but does anyone have information about Portobello United Dance Club?

SUFFRAGETTES MARCH IN PORTOBELLO

MARY KELLAS is researching events in and around Edinburgh concerned with the campaign for votes for women prior to the First World War. One of the first things she wanted to find out was the accuracy of a story she had often heard from her mother about a day when hundreds of Suffragettes, led by the prominent author and veteran social reformer, Mrs Charlotte Despard, had marched through Portobello.

She found the first confirmation of her mother's story, rather surprisingly, in *The New York Times* of Sunday 13th October 1912. There was a paragraph in a brief account of the start of a Suffragette march from Edinburgh to London the previous day:

"The procession stopped to take tea at Portobello, three miles from Edinburgh, and then marched another three miles, where it disbanded."

There was no mention of Mrs Despard but Mrs Kellas was indeed correct to say that she was there. In a very detailed and extensive description of the events of Saturday 12th October, including the enormous rally beforehand in Charlotte Square, *The Scotsman* of the following Monday said that Mrs Despard was to the fore, marching behind the banner. Only five women were to march all the way to London to deliver a petition to Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith but they were supported by



A picture postcard of the time.

many others on each of the stages. *The Scotsman* reported that 120 supporters took tea at the Marine Café before going home and about 50 carried on to Musselburgh where they disbanded. Mrs Despard also left the march here.

According to *The Scotsman* many of the marchers were given overnight hospitality in homes in the area and it is likely that some, perhaps Mrs Despard and other important figures, lodged in Coillesdene House, Joppa. [Many will remember the large red brick mansion, with its idiosyncratic observation tower, before it was demolished and replaced by the tower block of the same name in the 1960s]. This was the home of the very wealthy Mrs Marion Grieve, who was an active campaigner for the right of women to vote, and Mary Kellas thinks it unlikely that she played no part in the march. Tradition has it that Mrs Grieve used to take stones from the beach at Joppa in a large handbag on demonstrations. She is certainly on record as having taken part in a large demonstration outside the Houses of Parliament but no mention of her throwing any stones.

Archie Foley

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FULL CIRCLE



Photo by Archie Foley

IN our 2008 issue we described how local potter, Alison Robinson, organised the transportation from Stow to her studio in Bridge Street of the parts of a completely dismantled potter's wheel that had been taken out of the Buchan Pottery when it closed in 1972. Now, we are pleased to report that after cleaning, oiling and a bit of improvisation all the pieces have been reassembled and the wheel is again in full working order.

Alison is thrilled that after 36 years pottery is once again being created in Portobello using an original Buchan wheel. "It was the skills of John Munro along with the help and knowledge of Arthur Jeffery, who worked at Buchan's using a similar wheel, that made this possible," she said. "What I would really like to see is the wheel working in a more appropriate setting such as a workshop or visitor centre by the historic Buchan kilns celebrating Portobello's past". Arthur is seen here throwing a pot on the wheel.

THE PORTOBELLO ADVERTISER

OUR predecessor as provider of local news still has a fond place in the memory of many folk, as shown by how often we are referred to as the *Portobello Advertiser* in conversation and correspondence. Perhaps this is not surprising given how long it served the local population.

The *Portobello Advertiser* first appeared in 1864 and its full title was the *Portobello Advertiser, and Leith, Musselburgh and Dalkeith weekly news*. Its first publisher was a Mr C Merrilees but by 1887 it was printed and published by Thomas Adams, Printer, Tower Street, Portobello, and Penicuik had been added to the list of towns whose weekly news was thought to be of interest. In 1897 it merged with the *Edinburgh Advertiser* and continued as the *Edinburgh Citizen and Portobello Advertiser* until 1938. For 1938 to 1939 the name altered to *Portobello Advertiser and Edinburgh Citizen*. Then it changed again, this time to *Musselburgh News and Portobello Advertiser*. Warwick and Sons Ltd had bought over the Adams printing and publishing business in Tower Street in the early 1930s and continued to publish news from both communities, but over the years Musselburgh content came to predominate.

In the changed conditions after the Second World War circulation fell and Warwick's accepted an offer to buy both papers from Scottish County Press, which was expanding by acquiring small local papers in the Lothians. By the sixties the reference to the *Portobello Advertiser* was, and still is, in small print beneath the main title, so one way and another it has lasted over 100 years.

Local newspapers are a great resource for historians but until recently it was extremely annoying and frustrating for those wanting to consult archive copies of the *Portobello Advertiser* to find that the early ones were stored in the Newspaper Library of the British Library in North London. However, thanks to the NEWSPLAN 2000 micro-filming project, most copies from 1867 onwards can be viewed in the National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge. This is not a Lending or Reference Library like the Edinburgh Central Library across the street and anyone wanting to consult the microfilm would need to apply for a Reader's Ticket at the front desk. Back issues of *The Portobello Reporter* are in bound volumes in Portobello Library and online at www.porty.org.uk.

Archie Foley



AS the evenings lengthen, the society's talks continue to prove popular, with our varied programme providing topics of interest for members and visitors alike.

Our October talk, *Edinburgh at Work*, highlighted the photographic skills of Peter Stubbs, who ventured from the highs of the Forth Rail Bridge to the lows of Edinburgh's Victorian drainage system. With his photographs of many working environments no longer present in Edinburgh, Peter has created a wonderful record of the industrial past of Edinburgh and made it available for future generations to wonder at.

November's talk was a featured event of the Festival of Learning's History Festival and proved so popular that our hall quickly filled up and people had to be turned away. Kenneth Falconer's talk on *The Waverley Train Route - Scenes from a bygone age* evoked memories from those present, moving from the world of steam to diesel engines on a line that may be partially reopened in the future. Even the winters were snowier in Kenneth's slides, reminding us all of the many changes taking place around us.

On 3rd December, Alan Brochie promises a talk on another historical, yet topical, subject, *Portobello and its place in the tram world*. This will be another popular talk, so come early to secure entry.

There will be no meeting in January. Our first meeting of 2009 takes place on Wednesday 4th February, when Rev. Andrew Patterson will talk about the history of Portobello Old Parish Church, which celebrates its bicentenary in 2009.

Meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall, Brighton Place. Members and visitors should be seated by 7pm to allow us to begin promptly.

Margaret Munro,
Secretary

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Next Issue March 2009

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LYN'S GIANT LEAP FOR CHARITY



Photo by Craig McIntyre

Lyn kitted up ready for her jump.

WHEN Lyn McIntyre from Joppa and her family, including grandchildren, set off for Auchterarder on 28th September it was to be no ordinary day out. By the end of it Lyn had made her first parachute jump and raised over £2,000 for the Maggie's Centre at Western General Hospital.

Lyn explained, "My husband Alastair died very suddenly in November 2006 from cancer and to mark what would have been his 60th birthday on 1st October this year I decided to do this sponsored tandem skydive. Maggie's has been a great support to me and my sons, Craig and Scott, over the past two years. Jumping from 10,000 feet was a truly exhilarating experience and I might even do it again."

OLD PARISH CHURCH BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

commenced on Sunday 26th October when Rev. Andrew Anderson, Moderator of the Edinburgh Presbytery, led a Service of Rededication to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone in Bellfield Street in 1808. The service, attended by guests, members of the congregation, families and friends, was followed by a buffet lunch. A colourful wall hanging depicting Noah's Ark was on display; it was made by the Banner Group and will be gifted to the kindergarten in Dwerebease, Ghana.

BOOK REVIEW:

A JOURNEY INTO MADNESS by Alistair McIntyre

REPORTER reader Alistair McIntyre has written a short e-book about his experience of schizophrenia "to offer hope to sufferers and carers". *A Journey into Madness* gives an insight into some of his thoughts and feelings, including paranoia, voices and visions. It tells of his experience of losing his job, hospitalisation and medication. Alistair finally got the right medication, his mental health is now quite good and he is a member of 'Safehaven', a drop-in group that he helped to set up. He is also now happily married. This story is indeed one of hope.

The e-book is available on the internet from the publisher www.chipmunkapublishing.co.uk for £3. It is also included in the paperback *Chipmunka Anthology Vol. Two* at £12 (ISBN: 9781847473820) which can be ordered from the publisher online or from bookshops.

PORTY FILMMAKER GAINS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION



CATRIONA MACINNES, a filmmaker who grew up in Portobello has found herself one step closer to the big time after her short film became part of the official selection for this year's 65th Venice International Film Festival. Her film, *I'm In Away From Here*, with its opening scenes set on Portobello Beach, is about a young man with Asperger's syndrome trying to find an escape from the grinding din of the outside world.

The Venice International Film Festival is one of the most prestigious in the world and

Catriona travelled to Italy in August to see her film on the big screen. "It was a very strange feeling when I found out my film was selected. It didn't sink in until I arrived in Venice and found myself in a private boat jetting across the water to my hotel. I had a smile from ear to ear the whole way!"

Catriona plans to continue pursuing her passion for film and theatre and is already working towards future projects, including two short films and a feature film.

Eddie Ross

WHAT'S ON

PARSONS GREEN Primary School Fair, Sat. 6th Dec. at 10am: Toys, cakes, Santa, balloons, face-painting, games and raffles, with prizes incl. tickets for big sporting events.

BRIDGE - Monday mornings at 10am in St Mark's Church, Portobello High Street; all welcome. For more information call Bert on 669 8040.

STORYTELLING, Poetry & Song at The Dalriada, first Wednesday of each month from 5th November, 7.30-9.30pm, with hosts James Spence and Angie Townsend. Open floor spots available. A great opportunity for new storytellers, poets, soloists and musicians in a warm friendly environment. All welcome, £3 suggested donation. More information from james@wizzardpoet.free-online.co.uk

BURNS SUPPER for Christian Aid, Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St, Sat. 17th Jan. at 7pm. Tickets £12 from 669 5257.

CHRISTIAN AID

THE Committee thanks everyone who helped to raise the marvellous amount of £15,448 in Portobello for the work of Christian Aid during the year 2007 - 2008.

The Coffee Morning in the Old Parish Church Hall in October raised £423 and the winning quiz sheet - all the answers were colours - drawn from the correct ones sent in belonged to Elaine Peach of St. Philip's.

The Carol Festival will be held in St James Church on Sunday 14th December at 5 pm. Tea/Coffee and hot mince pies will be served afterwards.

PORTOBELLO AMNESTY GROUP

THE group were delighted with the successful outcome of Amnesty's campaign against the 42-day detention proposal for suspected terrorists. Sincere thanks are due to all the other groups and individuals who opposed this measure and all who lobbied their MPs so effectively. A new Terrorism Bill is pending, however, and more proposals to restrict human rights on "security" grounds have been disclosed. The public should be very vigilant when these come before Parliament.

The UK government is committed to ratifying the European Convention on Trafficking in Human Beings, by the end of this year. This major Amnesty campaign has been pursued vigorously in Portobello by an exhibition and political lobbying. Our thanks to Gavin Strang MP for his strong support.

Human Rights Day will be celebrated on Saturday 6th December with a stall on Portobello High Street from 10.30am. It will focus on Amnesty's Greeting Cards Campaign and the public will be invited to send cards of hope and comfort to prisoners of conscience, their supporters and defenders, worldwide. Local pupils will again be involved in this popular activity.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the vestry of the United Reform Church, Marlborough St, from 7.30pm. Why not pay us a visit, even if just to say hello? For more information call 0131 669 1308.

David Turner

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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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

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Portobello Reporter is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 38 local people. If you have something to publicise or would like to advertise call 669 3466 or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com March 09 deadline 7th Feb

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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.

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MORE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

• **CAVALRY PARK SPORTS CLUB** local youth group is still running activities from the PE block at Holy Rood High School, despite the ongoing building of the new school, including football teams from age 8 to 21; ladies volleyball - games and Thursday evening training; Karate on Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays; an open Judo session in December for all ages to try; Badminton on Monday evenings with four courts, from 7-10pm.

Ideas on projects needing revitalising are welcome. Club chairman for over 20 years, Tom Gallagher, and his management committee are keen to provide as many opportunities as possible in a safe, supervised environment, where having a great evening of sport is the goal. Call in for a chat, e-mail club leader John.Hoban@holyrood.edin.sch.uk or phone 661 3539 after 6.30pm.

• **FOOTBALL:** Joppa United U-13 football team was started in August 2007 playing 7-a-side, and now play 11-a-side. Coach Cameron Lovie says: "We have great support from local business, in particular the Seahaven Hotel on Joppa Road. We play in the South East League on Sunday mornings and train on Tuesdays at Joppa Quarry Park and the Jack Kane Centre. We are the local football team run by local people".

If you are interested in playing, contact Cammy on 07748843609 or see the team website www.joppaunited.co.nr

• **JUNIOR CHURCH** at St James' Parish Church, Rosefield Place (off Brighton Place) would like to welcome new children aged 3-15; there is a creche for the under-3s.

Group 1, for children aged 3 years to P2 age, features a variety of activities and play. Group 2, for P3s to P7s, features activities including drama, art music and crafts.

The Breakfast Club, for children of secondary school age, features music, chat and the world of the Ultimate Adventure.

All groups meet on Sundays at 11am. For more information see www.stjamesparishchurch.org.uk

THANKS FROM TOWERBANK

TOWERBANK Primary school would like to say a huge thank you to all involved in our Community Arts day and week in Sept/Oct this year. It was an amazingly exciting event for all our children and their families and we hope we can repeat a similar worthwhile event next year.

Amy Fraser and
Ella Braidwood P7

WISE WORDS WIN FILM PRIZE

FORMER pupils from Towerbank Primary enjoyed success in the Edinburgh Schools Competition at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in June with an anti-bullying film, *Wise Words*. The film was showcased in Portobello Town Hall in June as part of the school's Health /Enterprise campaign 'Respect'.

The film, starring many pupils from the Primary 7 class, won the award for best drama and was part of a special screening of films entered from schools around Edinburgh.

Class teacher Morag Duncan said: "Everyone in the class was involved in some way in the making of the film and should all be congratulated for their efforts".

HANDBAGS AND GLAD RAGS



Photo by Susan Hewitt

THE assembly hall at Parson's Green Primary School was dressed up to the hilt on 26th September when it became the venue for a fashion show fundraiser, hosted by John Lewis and organised by parents. Complete with catwalk and candles and guests suitably dressed to the nines, this show-stopping event raised £1900 for The Sick Kids Friends Foundation and school funds.

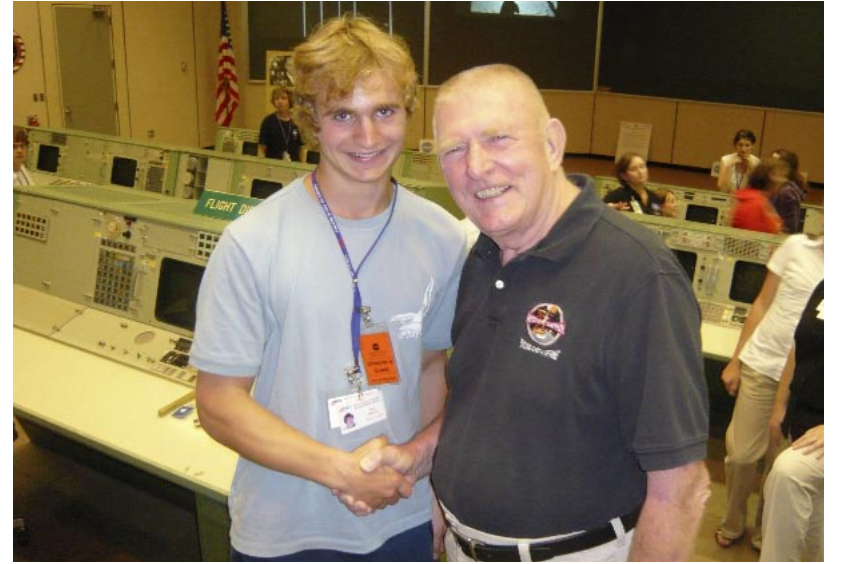
HOLY ROOD NEWS

HOLY ROOD High School's new building is on schedule for completion by next April and staff and pupils are really excited as plans forge ahead for the big move planned for 9th June 2009.

The school aims to set up a Former Pupils' Network and plans to provide a final opportunity for former staff, pupils and parents to come and see the school for the last time on the evening of Thursday 21st May 2009. There will be an exhibition of memorabilia, old photographs and musical performances by past pupils. Any former pupils wishing to help organize or contribute to this celebration can e-mail Mike Knox, Deputy Head Teacher: mike.knox@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

PORTOBELLO HIGH PUPIL VISITS SPACE SCHOOL

BEN WILCOX a sixth year Portobello High School pupil was lucky enough to be one of fifty Scottish students chosen for an all expenses trip to Houston in September, sponsored by Careers Scotland. This is his story.



After a day at Space Centre Houston we popped across the road to Mission Control at the Johnson Space Centre and met Gene Kranz, the legendary flight director who was responsible for Apollo and other missions, seen with me in the photograph. He talked about his work and how he became involved in the Space Programme. We watched the film *Apollo 13* in Mission Control and sat at the desks where he and his team had worked when saving the lives of the Apollo 13 astronauts and where they were responsible for the mission when humans first walked on the moon!

We visited many different parts of NASA including a zero gravity facility, a huge swimming pool in which full scale mock-ups of the International Space Station (ISS) and the Space Shuttle were submerged! We also had a chance to use the shuttle simulator; I landed first time! We watched ISS mission control live and had the opportunity to see state of the art research facilities including a gigantic temperature chamber used to test equipment.

Sadly our Space School programme was cut short by 'a small weather issue' - Hurricane Ike! A mandatory evacuation had been ordered, so we left the coast for central Houston to wait for it to pass. As Ike began its final approach we watched its progress on TV and finally went to bed, ready for a rough night. Fortunately I slept through the hurricane! In daylight we could see the damage that Ike had inflicted - our power and water were down, many windows of the buildings around us had shattered and trees and branches littered the road.

Our 'once in a lifetime experience' had turned into two very unforgettable ones. Many new friendships had been made. A trip never to be forgotten.

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SUCCESS FOR 'BRUNSTANE GENTS'



Back row from left to right - Geo. Langlands, Chris Binnie, Bill Whyte, Doug Brown, Tommy Taylor, John Webster & Ivor Gibson. Front row from left to right - Geo Sharp, Sandy Begg, Ian Fowler & Fred McLeod. Missing from photo Ken Grant.

THE Gents Senior Section of Brunstane Bowling Club enjoyed long-awaited success this summer. Having never won a team trophy before, they won two competitions in the space of three weeks!

This season, they joined the South Edinburgh Association, which has 10 member clubs, and won the inaugural Triples Competition, beating Mayfield BC at the Parkside club when all three triples won. They followed this up by beating Corstorphine BC by a single shot in a tense final of the Retired Men's Bowling League K/O Cup. As they had lost in three previous finals, the victory was rather sweet.

There are 16 clubs in the RMBA, including local ones, and most would be pleased to welcome new members who wish to enjoy either friendly or competitive exercise.

Tommy Taylor

ROTARY LINKS WITH HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH opportunities are the key feature of collaboration between Portobello High School and the local Rotary Club, and following the outstanding success of pupils participating in the Georgia (USA) Rotary Student Programme (reported in the Summer issue of this newspaper), other opportunities are being developed.

In District Rotary, comprising 62 clubs, Portobello pupils came out top in two of the three categories of Young Technologist competitions, with others performing well in Young Musician, Golfer

and Photographer. There are also plans for Youth Speaks and a primary schools quiz. In addition, the Club sponsors students on Rotary Youth Leadership weeks and a Challenge Enterprise Weekend.

Malcolm Macmillan, President of Portobello Rotary Club commented: "It gives us Rotarians great satisfaction to see young people from our local community have the opportunity to develop their many talents."

Portobello Rotary Club meets at the Kings Manor Hotel, Milton Road East at 6.30pm on Wednesdays.

IT can be windy during the winter, so I use old tights, cut into hoops as giant elastic bands or lengths tied together, to support climbers; they are remarkably strong and stretch to fit, and are great if you don't have another helping hand to tie in a large shrub to a wall, for example. I ask friends to pass them on to me - another bit of recycling. Just think to yourself: "If I collect these instead of throwing them in the bucket, they could be useful".



with Susan Burns

Blackcurrant, buddleia, lavatera and gooseberry prunings (but not evergreens), that can be cut pencil thick and about 20cm long, can be used as hard-wood cuttings. Propogating roses is particularly easy using this method - strip the leaves off and push the cutting into the ground to half its length. In a year you'll have well-rooted plants to transplant. I do about six of each to cover any losses.

If you haven't bubblewrapped your coldframe or greenhouse, then do it before January/February, which is usually our coldest time. It can allow geraniums and more tender plants and seedlings to survive the frost. I keep the wrap in place until a few weeks after the seedling stage, then remove it just at the time when the seedlings are needing more light but would have scorched if they had received full sun earlier.

A great job to keep you warm is to empty the compost heap (even if it hasn't completely rotted down) and spread over borders around fruit trees and shrubs; worms will take it down into the soil, so no need to dig. If any large bits offend your eye, pop them back into the heap until the next emptying.

Winter is a great time to plant out containerised plants. If you have wet clay soil then plant slightly higher on a small mound and then mulch. If planting shrubs or trees, I lay thick, wet layers of newspaper round them and then hide with the mulch.

Look at seed catalogues and order next year's vegetables and flowers ready for Spring - it's not that far away once we're into winter. Put some good, organic seed compost in a cold frame or greenhouse, so that it can be warming and won't chill the seeds when sowing. I put a large bucket of water in the greenhouse, too, so that it is not cold, straight from the tap. Don't use water-butt water for new seedlings until they're a few weeks old - you wouldn't make a newborn baby go into a cold bed and then start feeding it haggis, neeps and tatties....off the floor.



Photo by Peter Ross

Competitors in the Portobello Autumn Aquathon - Scottish Championships on 28th September run into the sea, in good weather, for the first leg of the event which was followed by a run along the Prom. There were 75 entries and the winner was Fraser Cartmell of Stirling.

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