

THE Portobello REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980.

CRAIGENTINNY ALLOTMENTS SAVED



Betty and Jack Welsh having a wee break from weeding at their plot in Craigentenny Allotments.

THE Reporter to the Scottish Executive, who settles planning disputes, has rejected a request by Gladedale Ltd for permission to build houses on Craigentenny/Telferton allotments.

In 1998, after Edinburgh Council had refused them planning permission, developers Bett Homes Ltd (now Gladedale Ltd) bulldozed the site and erected fencing, to try

to evict the allotment holders. They dug in their heels, however, and carried on gardening. A formal appeal against the refusal was turned down by the Reporter in 1999.

Due to changes in Scottish planning law in 2006, the Council had to create a new city-wide local plan. During its preparation Gladedale submitted another appeal, requesting

that the open space designation of the site be changed in order that houses could be built on it. The Reporter agreed with the Council's defence, however, that allotments are a valued resource for the community and are open spaces requiring protection, whether publicly or privately owned.

Jaap Prins

SUMMER FUN FOR THE YOUNG 'UNS

CHILDREN from Parsons Green and Duddingston Primary School Holiday Club making the most of the summer weather on Portobello beach.

As well as fun visits to Portobello beach, they fitted in trips to the Tall Ships and Beecraigs Country Park this summer.



YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

PORTOBELLO'S first ever book festival takes place next month with a varied programme of events to interest book lovers, new readers, cycling fans, budding authors and everyone in between.

A group of local people with a shared passion for books were inspired by Portobello's historical and contemporary literary connections to organise an event as a celebration of reading and acknowledgment of Portobello's talented authors.

Supported by Portobello Library, the festival's diverse programme includes readings and workshops by prominent authors, an exhibition of Portobello books, 'Portobello Write here and Write now,' quizzes and a quest to find Portobello's favourite book.

The festival begins on the 9th October with an evening of poetry, prose and music, and continues with an opportunity for 7-11 year olds to meet and hear the stories of D A Nelson and to

get creative, writing something of their own.

Authors will discuss their books in a series of talks and workshops and local journalist Jim Gilchrist will guide a literary walking tour of Portobello.

The organising group say the festival is special as it is primarily for local people, and with everybody's support it will be the first of many.

For full details of events see page 3.

LOCAL CAMPAIGN GROUP AIMS TO RAISE £30,000

AS previously reported, Viridor Waste Management have appealed against the Council's refusal of planning permission for a waste transfer plant on the former freightliner terminal on Sir Harry Lauder Road. The appeal will be decided at a Public Local Inquiry, which will start on Tuesday 1st December and last for seven days. Members of the public can attend to observe the proceedings. The venue has still to be decided, but information will be available nearer the time on www.portobellopongs.com.

A Joint Action Group has been formed to put the case against the plant. This will include planning, design and sustainability witnesses, representatives from Portobello Community Council, Portobello Amenity Society, local school councils, PONGS, Brightons and Rosefield Residents' Association and the Christians residents.

To have a fighting chance, expert help will also be needed, and the Joint Action Group has therefore engaged a planning consultant and a QC with notable experience of waste issues. Their services will cost around £30,000 and to raise this money PONGS has planned several fundraising events, listed on page 3.

Look out for posters nearer the time and see www.portobellopongs.com for full details.

A special calendar will be available from the beginning of October, and a Grand Raffle will be held, with prizes, including many donated by the following local businesses: Mica Woodwares, Williamson's Fishmongers, Findlay's Butchers, Ink Tek, Mancini Hairdresser, Shapes Hair, Allan's Chemist, Blue Bean Cafe, Mike's Tackle Shop, The Fine Wine Company, The Seahaven Hotel, Artisan Gifts & Gallery, Kitchener's Deli, Kidd's Pharmacy, La Vie en Rose, Mei Li, Traidcraft, Gordon's Butchers, The Ormelie Tavern, Joppa Foods, Boots the Chemist, Sheena Seeks Garden Design, Jill Wright Massage & Bodywork, and Ardgath Guest House.

A PONGS spokesperson said: "There has been a fantastic response to the appeal for funds in the last issue of the Reporter, for which we are very grateful. If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to PONGS, c/o 12 West Brighton Crescent, EH15 1LU, or you can donate directly to account no.06002278, sort code 80-18-31".

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

COMMUNITY councils are made up of people who want to make their community a better place to live. Elections for new community councils are due and nominations are now open, giving local people the opportunity to become members and help influence the city council's decisions in areas including local planning applications, licensing, transport, community safety and the environment.

Portobello Community Council consists of 15 elected individuals and 15 representatives of local groups. Several long-standing members are now retiring, and Tom Smith, a former Chairman, who is stepping down after over 20 years, says: "Community Councils do a sterling job helping to shape what goes on in their communities, but it shouldn't be left only to the over-50s. We need young people as well."

As notified in the summer issue of this paper, and recently in other local press, the nomination period started on 31st August, and although forms must be returned by 4.00pm on Monday 14th September, there is still just time to get them in.

Nomination forms for both individuals and representatives are available from Portobello Library, or can be downloaded from www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils. A map showing community council areas, and more information, are also available. Groups that have been in existence for at least 12 months and are properly constituted can nominate a representative.

PORTY PROFILE No. 36 JERZY MAREK

FROM the age of eight Jerzy Marek wanted to paint, and ever since he has been passionate about what he calls "the visual aspect".

Today, Jerzy's body of work, which is exhibited in galleries all over the world, is testament to this life-long passion. Even at the age of 84, he continues to spend long hours in his Portobello studio, often working on pieces that he began years ago. "This is the way of painting I developed for myself". Marek builds his paintings up in layers of oils, going back time and again, adding more detail, changing colours and components, and building a personal relationship with each piece. He works on several paintings at one time, and knows the "story" of each one – often writing it down on the back of his paintings.

He depicts sporting themes, pastoral scenes, lush Victorian interiors and close-ups of animals and people. They are painted from his imagination and are referred to as work in the Naive style, though Jerzy prefers the term Self-taught. He has spent much of his career encouraging other artists, known as the 'Marek Circle'. Many of them have gone on to receive recognition and notoriety, including his Scottish mother-in-law, Margaret Baird.

Born in Poland in 1925, Jerzy came to Britain in 1948 after serving with the British Army in Italy. He met his Scottish wife in Brighton, where she was training as an art teacher and where Jerzy was beginning a career in civil engineering. He became a noted bridge designer, relying on his eye for "visual harmony". He only started painting in 1967, at first painting at night – "I knew I needed a career, and financial security behind me before I risked becoming an artist", he said.

Marek moved to Portobello in 1983 where he has lived, worked and exhibited ever since. He enjoys shopping and meeting people in Portobello, often engaging them in a joke or a smile.

He was once described by a journalist as "a romantic with a sense of humour" and he says "I think this is a good description" – which for a man who survived the second world war in Poland and has endured the loss of loved ones and family, is truly an inspiration.

Eilidh Bateman



Photo by Peter Ross

ON THE BEAT

THE summer months were relatively crime free for Portobello. There were only a small number of theft slip-ins, primarily as a result of people leaving their doors open due to the good weather, and a small number of break-ins to houses, garden sheds and garages.

There has been a noticeable rise, however, in the theft of pedal cycles, which is endemic in the whole of Edinburgh, but particularly in Portobello. This has affected both residents and visitors who cycled to Portobello and the Promenade to enjoy the local attractions. For those of you with pedal cycles, please ensure that you are always vigilant and use a secure lock when leaving them unattended. This is particularly important for pupils who ride their bikes to school and leave them outside all day.

The summer initiative on the Promenade was, once again, a success. The identity bracelets for children, which incorporated a contact telephone number for an accompanying adult, allowed the few children that had gone missing to be found quickly and reunited with their loved ones safe and well.

The beach activities provided also had a positive effect, mainly on vandalism and youth disorder, both of which were reduced significantly. All in all it has been a successful and relatively quiet summer, hopefully a sign of things to come.

PC Sarah Potter,
Community Beat Officer



PORTOBELLO JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY



EDINBURGH East MP Gavin Strang adds his signature, alongside those of other prominent Portobello people, to a poster supporting the aims of the Get Fair coalition.

The coalition of over 20 organisations aims to mobilise support for raising minimum incomes, affordable rents, decent neighbourhoods and access to services without discrimination. Their objective is to work towards a fairer society in the light of growing social inequality, unemployment and poverty.

To contact *The Portobello Reporter* you can
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GAVIN STRANG

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between 10am and 11am

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of the month between 10am and 11am

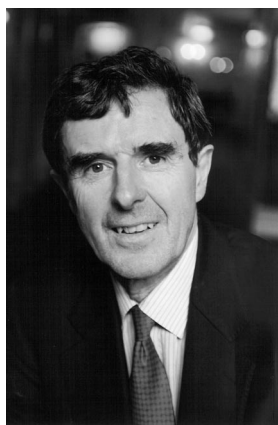
YWCA LOCHEND
198 Restalrig Road South, on the second Friday of every month
between 11.30 am and 12.30pm

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



NEWS IN BRIEF

BRUNSTANE Bowling Club raised £478.44 for St Columba's Hospice at its annual event, the June Cup.

PORTOBELLO Older Peoples Project is looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours during the day on Tuesdays. POPP meets at the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St. If you can help, please contact Rita on 657 4264 or 01620 843484.

VOLUNTEERS are sought to help weed the Community Garden on the Prom - not a big job, but a vital one. Please call John Stewart on 669 6466.

BUS SERVICE UPDATE: The 42 bus is running again on evenings and Sundays; the N26 night bus will continue on most weekdays; the N44 now only runs at the weekend.

COMPOSTING ADVICE: The Changeworks Master Composter project has lots of volunteers eager to share their knowledge of home composting. If you are new to the idea or haven't had much success, give them a call. They will also give talks or workshops to interested groups. To book a home visit, talk or for information on volunteering, please call Kathleen Kirkness, on 538 7941 or email kkirkness@changeworks.org.uk

THE City Council has received £582,014 from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund for improvements to Portobello High Street. The Council will add a further £50,000 and the money will be used to extend the programme of new paving started in 2007. This will be carried out by March 2010.

VIRUS ALERT! Hoax computer virus warnings are a pest. If you receive an e-mail warning of the worst virus yet, check it out on www.snopes.com before you forward it to your entire address book!

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BOOK FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRI. 9TH OCT:

OPENING EVENT: 7-9pm: The Dalriada: **Music, Poetry and Prose** with local artistes.

SAT. 10TH OCT:

10.30-12pm: Portobello Library: **Workshop for 7-11 yr olds.** Meet D A Nelson, the author of *Dark Isle, My first adventure*, hear her stories and maybe write something yourself.

10.30-11.30am: Indoor Bowling Centre: **Becoming a Writer** (adults), with prize-winning local author Alice Thompson, who will read from her soon to be published fifth novel *The Existential Detective*.

1-2.30pm: Portobello Library: (for 12yrs +): **Author Des Dillon** will talk about his book *My Epileptic Lurcher*. Expect strong language and lots of laughs!

3-4.30pm: Portobello Library: **Meet the Author**, Richard Moore, author of *Heroes, Villains & Velodromes: Chris Hoy and Britain's Track Cycling Revolution*.

5-6.30pm: **Walking Literary Tour** of Portobello by local journalist Jim Gilchrist.

Tickets for the above are free, available in advance from the library, two per person.

There will be a book shop in the library from 9am-5pm, run by Blackwells, where you can buy signed copies of books by participating authors, and more.

8-11pm: The Dalriada: **Book Quiz.** All welcome, but space limited so come early to get a table. £1 entry per participant.

PONGS FUNDRAISING EVENTS

SOULUSSION, Edinburgh-based soul/R&B covers band, Fri.11th Sept., 7.30pm, Portobello Community Centre. Tickets £7 from Woodwares.

SALSA CEILIDH, Fri. 9th Oct. 7pm, Tickets £7/£5 conc. from 07803097727. For venue see www.salsaceilidh.com/pongs

CHILDREN'S Clothes and Toy Sale, Sat.10th Oct., St James Church Hall.

HALLOWE'EN Party Night with 50s, 60s and 70s music by Déjà Vu, Fri.30th Oct., Community Centre. 7.30pm, tickets £8.

CEILIDH with The Beach Band, Fri.6th Nov., Community Centre. 7.30pm. Tickets £7

PORTY'S GOT TALENT, Sat.14th Nov., Community Centre. 7.30pm

COFFEE MORNING, Sat. 21st Nov., 10.30-1pm, St James Church hall.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT benefit gig with well-known musicians, Fri.27th Nov. Community Centre. 7.30pm Tickets £10.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

THE Neighbourhood Partnership is at a crucial time in its development. The new structures are all up and running, and it's time to take stock of what's working and what isn't. It wouldn't be surprising if some people were unaware of a Partnership in Portobello and Craigmillar, as the natural communities that would best fit a 'community planning' approach are much smaller than the Neighbourhood Partnership areas. More details about the Partnership can be found on [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/Portobello and Craigmillar.aspx](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/Portobello%20and%20Craigmillar.aspx) or in Portobello Library.

While the idea of getting representatives from all the important public sector service providers round a table, with community representatives and Councillors, to discuss how services should be provided is a good one, it seems to be rather uninspiring.

Why is this? Possibly because the Partnership hasn't yet started making significant decisions (though the allocation of Fairer Scotland Fund money is important to local voluntary organisations). Maybe it's because it overlaps too much with well-established and effective community councils. It certainly doesn't help that many of the thematic groups meet during the day, when people who work full time find it difficult to attend.

Events entitled 'Let's Talk', to discuss where the Neighbourhood Partnership is going, will be held on Saturday 26th September from 11am-3pm, in Niddrie Mill & St Francis Primary School; and on Friday 2nd October from 1-3pm in Portobello Town Hall. There are great possibilities here, including the opportunity to influence where the Council spends money. But to harness these possibilities, we must make our voice heard – and where better to start than at 'Let's Talk'.

Peter McColl

PORTOBELLO LIBRARY is set for a make-over in early October, following the Portobello Book Festival, and will re-open in early December. The upstairs area was revamped last year, and now it's time for the ground floor to be overhauled. There will be new shelving, flooring, furniture, coffee area, display space and self-service machines, as well as areas for adults, teenagers and children, including a 'cuddle book corner' for carers and children. The plasma screen which was recently installed in the Library to provide information will be repositioned.

The proposed designs will be displayed in the Library from the end of August to allow people to comment before they are finalised. Then we hope to arrange for a few sample chairs to be brought in to allow local groups to try them, to make sure they meet our needs.

A mobile library will be parked near the building during the closure. Although it won't be able to deliver all the services currently offered, and the number of books displayed will be less, customers can reserve any book they wish to read and collect it at the mobile van.

We'll display regular updates on progress in the Library, to keep everyone informed during the project.

Joyce Campbell



IMAGINE PORTY PROM

BIG Things on the Beach, Portobello's public arts trust, has received funding from the Scottish Arts Council and the City Council to involve Portobello residents and visitors in a year-long programme to generate a Public Art Plan for Portobello Promenade. We aim to make Portobello known as a place where local people and contemporary artists work together to create public spaces that stimulate and nurture imagination and community.

Susan Grant, the Participation Worker for the 'Imagine Party Prom' project, will be based in the new Portobello Public Art House

at the bottom of Kings Road. Through a programme of temporary artists' commissions and other activities, Susan will be at the centre of a community conversation about how we want to feel when we visit the Promenade, and what we would like to experience when we are there. Everyone in Portobello is invited to join in this conversation. To find out more about this project and how you or your group can get involved, visit our website www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk, email susan@bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk or drop in to the Public Art House.

Damian Killeen, Chair, BTOB

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Photo by Bryony Beckett



FIFTY EIGHT: MAKE 'EM WAIT

WELL, I've heard of pedestrians having right of way, but this takes the biscuit. Three head-scarved women, brollies up and heads down, were on a mission. But where to in Bath Street, of all places? The Spiritualist Church? The sweetie shop? As if it wasn't bad enough that they squeezed themselves between the parked cars without looking, they didn't set their sights on the other side of the road either. No, they plonked themselves right in the middle and trundled along, idly gossiping.

They were completely oblivious of my family wagon, full of noisy, tired kids, trying to get home. My children couldn't believe it. Luckily for them, my hubby wasn't in his usual agitated road rage state and found humour in the funereal pace the car had to imitate.

A passer-by caught sight of the scene, laughed sheepishly whilst running over to us to join in the joke...and still they didn't notice a thing. In-fact, they never did.

Suddenly, like a small boy pretending to spin the steering wheel of his dad's car, they birked sharp right. The echo of the caller resonated around the car, "61 - Get up and run." The bingo was their destination all along and at last our 'house' was now in reach.

HANDY HINTS

for a happy homemade Hallowe'en

GET ready for Hallowe'en with a few ideas for spookily creative decorations that can be made at home. To make a balloon ghost decoration, cut the handles off two white plastic carrier bags, leaving the seams of the bags intact. Cut the bag into strips and tape the seamed ends around the top of an inflated white balloon. Next use a marker pen to draw eyes and a mouth to complete its ghoulish face.

Keep it company with some bat clips by drawing and cutting out a bat's body and wings from black paper, making sure the body is large enough to cover a clothes peg. Glue the wings on to the peg

followed by the body. Punch holes for the eyes or apply googly eyes, and clip the bats around the house on curtains, cushions plants etc.

For a more high-tec approach, go to www.microsoft.com/athome/morefun/createmasks.mspx to find inventive ideas for masks.

If all that hard work makes you thirsty, make a witches brew from two cups of apple juice, two scoops of vanilla ice-cream, two tablespoons of honey, half a teaspoon of ground cinnamon and a quarter of a teaspoon of nutmeg. Mix until smooth, chill and add some 'fly' ice cubes made with raisins.

Karen Combe

PEDAL's Car Free Day this year will be on Sunday 20th September, and looks like being the best ever. We have all the old favourites: the dressed-up bike parade, local market and street music.

The action will kick off with the Bike Parade starting on the Prom at the bottom of Kings Rd at 1.30 pm, and this year we will have with us the amazing armchair bike! (There will be a 'dress up your bike' workshop on Towerbank Primary School asphalt on Friday 18th from 2-4pm: £2 per child).

The Local Market, near the Library in Rosefield Avenue, also starts at 1.30pm. If you'd like a stall (£10) to sell local produce, baking, crafts, etc. contact Eva on 657 2555.

Then, at 3pm, we'll be hosting a superb new play from Eco-Drama about how a community copes when the oil runs out - great fun for all the family and very funny! Look out for publicity prior to the event.

There'll also be the chance to become a local hero: we're launching the Portobello Challenge, asking five local folk to do without their cars for a month and let the rest of us know how they managed. In return there's a free bus pass and possibly access to the City Car Club.

The COMMUNITY ORCHARD at Brunstane Road South/ Gilberstoun, opposite Brunstane Station, is taking shape. There's plenty to be done though, and everyone is welcome to come along and help on the Work Days. Please bring tools (spade, garden rake, fork, shears), gardening gloves, and thick clothing! The next dates are: Saturdays 26th September and 31st October (Hallowe'en Special), 10am-2pm, and Sunday 22nd November, 11am- 3pm.

Tom Black

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



FLU-LIKE illnesses can strike at anytime, so try to keep lemon balm and thyme (which reputedly have antiviral properties) going over the winter. They could be grown in a window box and covered with a plastic tumbler when the weather turns very cold. Nip the tops out and make a herbal tea. Even if it doesn't cure the symptoms it will give you a lift.

Harvesting crops is the most important job of the season. I cook apples and pears before freezing, but don't always bother with plums, as it's easier to remove the stones once defrosted and then stew them. Lift root crops like potatoes and carrots and store in old pillowslips or large paper sacks to exclude light, never plastic bags. These can be used for storing apples, however: pop in five or six apples, blow up, tie and pierce two or three times with a needle, then hang up somewhere cool and airy. Don't waste excess crops of fruit - get together with other growers, hire a fruit press and pool the fruits to make juice (or cider if you prefer). Freeze in small plastic water bottles so you can defrost small quantities as needed. A mixture of apple, pear and plum is lovely.

Once harvesting is over, apart from crops like leeks, cabbage or broccoli, which will be harvested later, any spare clear ground can be sown with a green manure. I use phacelia which you can get from the Organic Gardening catalogue in large packets, and just broadcast it - I don't even rake it in. It grows over the winter and can be dug in in spring to help feed the soil; the bonus for clay soils is that it helps improve the structure and texture. I also spread a handful of potash around each fruit tree and any slightly tender shrubs, as it helps harden the wood before the winter frosts.

Plant hyacinth bulbs now in recycled containers of various types on a few inches of gravel, water and leave in the cool and dark until 6cm dark green shoots appear. Bring into lighter and slightly warmer conditions until the flower spikes are about to open, then they're ready for prime position. I like them in the bathroom and hall where their beautiful scent perfumes the house.

Children like dinosaurs, so get them to put five or six carrot or parsnip tops into a shallow dish, add 1cm of water and leave on a windowsill for the green fronds to emerge. They can grow to over 10cm tall, and if you pop in a few plastic dinosaurs it will become a "Jurassic garden"!

Wm Morrison (Portobello)

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ICONS OF WORLD WAR II

I CHOSE to look at Anderson shelters for my World War Two project at school. I always wondered what they were all about, ever since I saw what looked like an old tin shed in my neighbour's garden at Willowbrae when I was four years old. It has a curved roof and is rusty red in colour, with no windows and a door at one end. I found out it was an air raid shelter and has probably been there since just before the start of the Second World War in 1939.

The shelter is named after the Lord Privy Seal, Sir John Anderson, born



Photo by Scott Combe

Hamish's curiosity about his neighbours 'old tin shed' led to his investigations into its origin.

in Eskbank in 1882 and a graduate of Edinburgh University. The Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, placed him in charge of making sure people could find shelter in areas

expected to be bombed by the Luftwaffe.

For people who could afford it, the shelter cost £7, but was free to those with an annual income under £250. Over two million

were made and distributed during the war and, although they tended to be damp and uncomfortable, they were very effective at protecting people during an air raid, especially from flying fragments of debris, including shards of glass and pieces of shell from the bombs themselves.

Most shelters were dismantled and recycled for their iron after the war, but the ones that remain dotted around gardens throughout the country are an iconic reminder of the Second World War.

Hamish Combe

PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

THE first meeting of our 2009/10 session was held on Wednesday 2nd September, when Jo Moulin, Manager of John Muir's Birthplace, spoke to us about *John Muir's Life and Legacy*. It is often argued that the vision of John Muir is not recognised in Scotland, the country of his birth. Jo illustrated the value of the work undertaken by Muir and enabled us all to appreciate the far-sightedness of his principles.

Our speaker on Wednesday 7th October is John Scott, who will give a talk on *Charles Jenner of Easter Duddingston*. This promises to widen our knowledge of Jenner's time as a resident of Portobello and the legacy he left behind.

Sundials are the topic of our meeting on Wednesday 4th November. David Gavine's illustrated talk will perhaps indicate the function of these objects in a country that often seems to have little use for them.

Our talk on Wednesday 2nd December is very relevant to Portobello. Annie Scanlon presents 'A toe in the water' - 100 years of swimsuits. Annie had a stall at the fair held during History Week in November 2008, where she displayed a selection of her costumes. A dive into the changing mode of these garments should interest all our members.

Our membership subscription has increased to £6 per year, still good value for money. Non-members attending talks are asked for a donation. Our meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place and begin at 7pm sharp. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Margaret Munro

The Portobello Reporter is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 39 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. 2009.

FROM THE ARCHIVE



Photo courtesy of Ralph Balfour

A VERY fine sandcastle has been awarded a prize in this sandcastle competition, which took place between 1977 and 1980. The Marine Bar and amusements can still be seen on the Prom at the foot of Bath Street. If you recognise yourself, or anyone else, in this photo, we would love to know. Please contact Margaret Munro, tel. 657 2866 or email munroporto@hotmail.com

DOORS OPEN DAY

DOORS Open Day is once more upon us and the public have the opportunity to visit buildings to which they normally would not have access.

On Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September the following buildings in the Portobello area will be open to the public: Duddingston Kirk, The Thomson Tower in Dr Neil's Garden, Queen Margaret University Campus, and The Robin Chapel in Niddry Mains Road. The 2009 brochure detailing all buildings open is available from local libraries.

READERS RESPOND

WE had two responses to the photographs we published in our previous issue.

An elderly lady was delighted to recognise herself as a girl in the photograph of the Toddlers' Hut. At her request we sent her a copy of the photograph.

A resident of Dalkeith Street informed us that the Gala Day photograph was taken there and that the procession gathered there before moving out along the High Street.

Since this is such a popular feature we will continue to publish old photos of Portobello and its people.

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WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago this month, the United Free congregation of the Wilson Memorial Church walked into their new place of worship for the first time. Since then, the elegant art deco architecture of the church has been an eye-catching landmark on the corner of Moira Terrace and Kekewich Avenue.

The light and airy interior has recently been refurbished, and Reverend Ralph Dunn (pictured), only the fourth minister in the church's history, says people are always amazed at how bright and welcoming it is. The church runs a lively range of activities throughout the year, including a film club, a video games night and a men's



Photo by Karen Combe

breakfast club. In January it will host a science and religion course 'Pathways to Truth'.

To mark the anniversary, Rev. Dunn and his congregation have planned a weekend of events, beginning on Friday 25th September with a performance by the award-winning female Barber Shop choir, The Forth Valley Chorus. On Saturday afternoon

a reunion hour from 3-4pm will provide an opportunity for anyone who has been associated with the church to catch up, and in the evening there will be a social and concert for the congregation.

Re-dedication services will be held on Sunday 26th at 11am and 6.30pm for reflection on the past and contemplate the future of the church. Rev. Dunn says: "I've had a happy experience in the three and a half years since I came here. We are now looking forward, thinking of ways to help a small church grow. In the last year or so, 20 new members have joined us and that is encouraging. Maybe there is something special here."

Rev Dunn and the congregation extend a warm welcome to everyone to share the celebrations. For more details contact Wilson Memorial Church, 0131 669 6636.

Karen Combe

GOLD MEDAL GARDEN DESIGN



LOCAL artist Sheena Seeks won a Gold Medal in the Visionary Garden category at the Royal Horticultural Society Show at Tatton Park in July. After completing a diploma course in garden design, Sheena submitted a design to the RHS and was, she says, "thrilled" to be selected. The concept of the garden was how we perceive time, and its title was Time and the Bell, a reference to T S Elliot's poem 'Burnt Norton'.

Sheena says: "I'm delighted, but I couldn't have managed without the many volunteers who helped me with the construction".

Sheena has now been invited to submit a design for next year's Chelsea Flower Show and is looking for sponsorship.

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY

THE aim of Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) is to help improve Portobello for residents and visitors, and one way of doing this is by working closely with other local groups.

This year PAS has worked with the Master Plan Action Group, concerning planning applications for the Fun City site, where 73 flats are proposed, and the Baileyfield site, where 739 units are proposed. We objected to some aspects of the applications and made suggestions for the improvement of others. We understand that the planning department has requested a revised application, in the light of objections received and the recent Masterplan Design Brief for NW Portobello.

The Society has also supported the PONGS campaign to prevent Viridor from building a waste transfer plant off Sir Harry Lauder Road, and will be one of the groups giving evidence at the Public Local Inquiry.

PAS is represented on Portobello Community Council and monitors and responds to new planning applications on its behalf. Our joint project to erect information boards and building plaques continues, with a plaque soon to be erected on the Tower.

If you are interested in finding out more, you are welcome to come to any of our monthly meetings. For more information, please call 669 6466.

John Stewart, Chairman

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

MEMBERS of the Portobello Group were deeply saddened by the death of Michael Rames, a member for more than 12 years and utterly committed to the support of human rights worldwide. We will miss him greatly.

This quarter we have made representations to the UK Government on the Gaza catastrophe, over human rights violations; and to the Chinese authorities on the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, regarding the continuing detention of peaceful protesters and the need to bring the facts into the open. The UK Foreign Secretary was urged, in the light of evidence of watering down of the proposed International Arms Trade Treaty, to stand firm for the terms of the Draft Treaty, seen as essential for a robust global controls agreement.

Next on our agenda is the campaign on 'disappearances', a feature of life in many countries, by which opponents of the regime are got rid of quickly without arrest or trial. A UN Convention on Disappeared Persons is pending and needs 20 states to ratify it to become international law.

A big Amnesty Party, in the form of a family-friendly ceilidh, will be held on 3rd October in St Philip's Church Hall. Tickets will be available soon.

David Turner

ROLL UP FOR VILLAGE SHOW

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Village Show, POD (Portobello Open Door) is swinging into action for this year's event to be held on Sunday 27th September from 2-5pm, once again in Rosefield Park.

This should be a fun afternoon. There will be prizes galore: for the 'puniest', 'biggest' and 'most beautiful' home-grown veg, the best-dressed turnip, home baking, original flower displays, the 'best turned-out doggie and owner', fruit and veg models, kids' junk competition, and more. There will be live music and a brass band with a twist, a tug o'war, welly throwing and wheelbarrow races.

Help is needed with baking for the tea tent, setting up tents and tables, running stalls and

organising games. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Barbara Middleton (email below).

POD also needs more help with Portobello arts events through the year. It was set up in 2004 by a group of local people, to showcase the wealth of local artistic and musical talent, and create more opportunities for people to join in creative events on their doorstep. These have included an annual Party Beach Party, art walks, cabarets, ceilidhs, and large-scale gigs at the Town Hall, and now the Village Show. The group meet regularly during the year. To find out more, please contact POD convener, Barbara Middleton at barbaraam65@hotmail.com or see www.the-pod.org

Gica Loening

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

Portobello Library, 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm.
Bingham Community Complex, 1st Monday, 6pm.
Magdalene Community Centre, 1st Monday, 7pm.
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
Receive regular Reports by email or view on www.porty.org.uk

Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:

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ROTARY CLUB VISITOR



Photo by Lawrence Marshall

THE Rotary Club of Portobello received a visit on 2nd July from Kenan Kern, the outgoing Governor of District 6920 in Georgia, USA. He is a long-time supporter of the Georgia Rotary Student Program and a recent host to a student from Portobello High School. In recent years, the Club has obtained scholarships through the Program for 21 High School pupils to study for one academic year at University in Georgia.

Portobello Rotary's Ken Hart (left) and President Malcolm McMillan (right), and former Program scholar Ruth Murphy, are pictured welcoming Kenan Kern and his wife, Beth, on their arrival at Waverley Station.

NEW HOLY ROOD OPEN



WHEN the Autumn term commenced on 25th August pupils and staff at Holy Rood High School had their first taste of working in the new building. Sixth Year pupil, Andrew Connarty was quite impressed: "The new Holy Rood is a great building", he said. "All the classrooms are kitted out with modern high-tech equipment and some of the views from the windows are absolutely amazing. Everyone was trying to find their way around at first, but now they have got used to the new lay-out. It is going to be a great place for the school to base itself for many years to come".

The school will be officially opened on 14th September by Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien and Cllr Marilyne MacLaren, Education Convener.

Six pupils from Lombeta School, Holy Rood's partner school in Tanzania, are visiting with their headteacher. They are attending classes for three weeks and will take part in the school's opening ceremonies and celebrations.

U.S. BECKONS BECCA



Photo by Richard Haylocks

LOCAL basketball protégé Becca Allison has moved to America to take up a basketball scholarship at Old Dominion University in Virginia. Becca has earned her place through her commitment and rapid progress up the ranks of junior basketball in Scotland.

Her athletic ability and leadership qualities have gained her a place in the national under-16 squad and she has played to great effect in international competition. "It's hard to take in that I am going to play basketball in America", said Becca. "The standard is high and I'll have some catching up to do. But I know I will be training hard when I get there and hopefully it won't take me long to get up to speed".

MORE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

• **SCOUTING:** There are Scout sections in the Portobello area at St Margaret's, St James, New Restalrig, and St Christopher's Craigen-tinny churches, and Parson's Green, Duddingston and St John's schools. All sections can be co-educational.

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.

• **RUGBY:** Portobello Hornets meet on Sundays around 12.30pm at Cavalry Park, next to Duddingston Golf Course, when Rugby Union coaching is offered, with SRU qualified coaches, to boys and girls from Primary 3 to 7. They play contact rugby, with regular games against other schools.

There is also coaching for boys from S1 to S3 who play in a league. So the club 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.

WOODCRAFT FOLK IN PORTOBELLO



IT is Friday evening and time for Woodcraft Folk. Groups of children with the occasional adult make their way to St James Church hall, or gather on the beach or in Figgate Park. These are the Woodchips (under-6 year olds), Elfins (6-9) Pioneers (10-12), Venturers (13-16) and parent group leaders.

Woodcraft Folk are not, as often assumed, people who are good at crafting wood, but "a UK based educational movement for children and young people, which aims to develop self-confidence and activity in society with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and co-operation."

Woodcraft Folk are a democratic movement and activities are planned and organised by the parents and the young people themselves. These have included outdoor games and projects, raft building, ceilidhs, BBQs, art and crafts, film making, music, drama, baking, and discussions and involvement with current issues locally and globally. Camping and youth hostelling in Scotland and further afield are also very popular.

Woodcraft is a great space for having fun and making friends and new members are always welcome. Groups meet on Fridays in term-time from 6.15-7.30pm in St James Church Hall, Rosefield Place. (The Venturers are looking for a place to meet. Does anyone know of a space in Portobello for about 20 people?) For more information call 669 1063.

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Send your answers by 30th September, with your telephone number or email address, to The Portobello Reporter, c/o 9 Bedford Terrace, EH15 2EJ. Mark your envelope "Book comp." Ted will draw the winners and present the books, and names will be published in our Winter Issue.

1000 MILES IN THE SADDLE

ON 15th July, local man Robert Ritchie and his friend Marc McEwan, a Fire Fighter based in Gala, set off to cycle 1000 miles in nine days around the coast of Scotland, to raise money for the rugby charity Hearts and Balls. They went from North Berwick, up the east coast to John o' Groats, along the top and down the west coast as far as Fort William, on to Callander and back to North Berwick. They towed their gear in cycle trailers and stayed in campsites. So far they have raised £2,300. Robert's son Bobby, who has just started in P1 at Towerbank, was very proud of his daddy and extremely happy when he returned.

Hearts and Balls was conceived in 1999 when a player



Photo by Mrs Ritchie

from Lismore Rugby Club suffered a spinal injury that left him paralysed. "It is close to our hearts", says Rob, "due to the injury of my close friend Jonny Mitchell, who, when Captain

of North Berwick, suffered a serious spinal injury in the first scrum of a game at Hawick Linden". For more information see www.justgiving.com/robandmarc

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

THANKS in part to a donation of £5000 from the Fairer Scotland Fund, two drama workshops for primary-aged children took place over the summer. Around 30 children took part over two weeks and learned new skills, including circus skills, dancing and acrobatics.

In partnership with Edinburgh Council's Community Education department, events for older children also took place, on the beach, when over 100 young people took part in beach volleyball, touch rugby, swimming and dance. These were a huge success, especially when the weather was fair.

The P4-P7 drama group has started again, on Saturdays at the new time of 2-5pm.

A new drama class has started, for high school students only, on Monday evenings from 4.30-6.30pm. Please call the centre for more information.

Most of our regular groups have started back after the summer break.

Please check our website www.portobellocc.btik.com for details of any groups or events you may like to take part in.

For more information please contact Gillian on 669 8275 or e-mail enquiries@portobellocc.co.uk

PORTY BOATBUILDERS NEED HELP

THE Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther is backing a project to re-introduce inter-community rowing around the Scottish coast. So far there are plans to build boats, traditional Shetland Skiffs, in North Berwick, Anstruther, Leven and Portobello.

Local man Andrew Leslie has funding, and a team of people keen to build and row the 'Porty boat', supported by the Fisheries Museum boat builder and a local joiner. It will be about 25ft long and will take four oars, men/women/youngsters, and a cox, and the aim is to race it over the summer.

But the team are having difficulty finding somewhere to build the boat. They need a secure place, about 26ft long and 10ft wide, from September to next May. If anyone can help with this exciting project, to bring rowing back to Portobello, contact Andrew on 077 7877 2344.

BEACH FUN!

BEACH Volleyball was one of the many fun activities that took place on Portobello beach this summer.

It seems that more and more sports clubs are using the beach to train and practice.

Long may it continue!



Photo by Peter Ross

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WHAT'S ON in Portobello

PORTOBELLO Amenity Society: Next meetings: Wednesdays 23rd September, 22nd October, 25th November.

BRIDGE at St Mark's Church, Portobello High St recommenced on Monday 7th September at 10am. All welcome. For more information call 669 8040.

EXHIBITION BY ST JAMES ART GROUP, 17th Sept. to 1st Oct. in Portobello Library. The group meet on the second Thursday of each month in the church hall in Rosefield Place. New members are welcome. For more information call 669 6731.

MALECON MATINEE: Beach Lane Social Club. Cuban Ceilidh for all with help for beginners. £5 includes free drink. Accompanied under-14s free. Future Dates: Sun 20th Sept; Sun 18th Oct; Sat 14th Nov. 2.30-5.30pm, Class at 1pm

COFFEE MORNING, Saturday 3rd October, 10.30am-1 pm, St James Church hall, Rosefield Place. Home baking, bric-a-brac and book sale. Proceeds to Portobello Park Action Group.

'NEW PYJAMAS' FAYRE, Sat. 7th November, Portobello Town Hall, for the New Pyjamas Campaign (Edinburgh Sick Kids Hospital). Hand-crafted jewellery, books, beauty products and advice, personalised confectionary, massages, portrait photography, plus entertainment for children. For more information see www.newpyjamas.org or contact Lorraine McKay on 0131 478 0913.

Portobello Burns Club **CEILIDH**, Sat. 12th September at 8pm in the Ravelston House Hotel, 182 North High Street, Musselburgh. Tickets £5, food an optional extra, available from Marjory Taylor, tel. 669 4471; David Scott, 669 4664 and Colin Mackay, email colinmackay@aol.com

THE MILTON QUILTERS Bi-annual Show: Sat. 24th Oct, 10am-4pm, Old Parish Church, Bellfield St. Admission £2 incl. refreshments. A donation will be given to the Drum Riding for the Disabled.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Sat. 14th Nov, 10am-1pm, Old Parish Church, Bellfield St.

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 Mon to Sat 11am to 12 midnight
 Sun 12.30 pm to 11pm

AN EVER CHANGING RANGE OF CASK-CONDITIONED ALES

Caledonian Brewery Belhaven
 Timothy Taylors McEwans
 Harviestoun Hadrian & Border

OVER 60 MALT WHISKIES
 35ml measure

FILLED ROLLS & SNACKS AVAILABLE