

# THE **Portobello** REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello

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## STILL NO GREEN LIGHT AT JUNCTION

**PORTOBELLO** High Street will be affected by traffic disruption until early April. That is the latest estimated completion date for work on the new junction given in a report that went to the Council on 10th February.

Local traders are seriously concerned about the continuing impact on their businesses. Andrew Wilson of Woodwares Mica said: "I think fewer customers are travelling by car and the road works are putting people off, though it is difficult to judge by how much. I am concerned about my summer trade if the works continue."

Work on the junction finally began in mid June, several months later than planned. It was not originally intended to close the High Street at the junction, but the temporary traffic management scheme failed to function effectively. Driver error and confusion, caused by the road layout and signalling, was blamed for tailbacks and some drivers jumping red lights. According to the Agenda for the Council meeting, however: "Council notes: The admission by Council officers that the transport management plan to deliver the new traffic management system at the King's Road



Photo by Peter Ross

roundabout was 'dangerous'."

Because of concerns for the safety of drivers, pedestrians and workers, work was suspended until a new scheme could be devised, and a traffic diversion was implemented in mid November. It was hoped that the junction would be completed by Christmas, although the Council now admit this was "over optimistic" and "unrealistic". The Council is responsible for meeting the resulting additional costs, including those of the contractors, and these have

yet to be finalised.

Inaccurate information was put out in November on road signs, in press notices and local radio traffic reports, that Portobello High Street was closed. Although this was later corrected, the damage had been done. Cath Porteous of Artisan Gifts and Gallery, said: "Customers thought the High Street was closed and this definitely affected my trade, particularly at Christmas".

The disruption has also meant that bus passengers can

be delayed by up to 25 minutes during peak periods. There are still serious concerns for the safety of pedestrians, particularly the elderly and those with children, trying to cross at the junction in the absence of pedestrian crossings.

It is to be hoped that there will be no further delays, particularly given the bad weather in February, and that the junction will be fully operational by early April.

Margaret Munro  
& Karen Combe

## RIGHT TO BUILD ON PARK - DISPUTE CONTINUES

**THE** City of Edinburgh Council announced in December that they had received legal clarification on the use of Common Good land and that, as a result, does not need to seek permission of the Scottish courts to build a new High School on Portobello Park. They also voted to put the school above the other Wave 3 schools for funding for a re-build by 2014. The news was welcomed by Portobello High School Parent Council

Portobello Park Action Group, however, say that as far as they are aware, in all other cases where development on Common Good land has been allowed, it has been necessary to obtain permission through the courts. As their own legal advice asserts that such permission is indeed necessary, they intend to mount a challenge to that obtained by the Council and have started raising the necessary funds.



Photo by Peter Ross

**THIS** model of a 1950s steamie (public wash house) was made by Sandra Braid, owner of It's A Small World in Portobello High Street. It was displayed in the Community Centre (once a steamie) at the launch of History Week in November and then returned to the shop window before going on display at Portobello Library. Wherever it has been it has generated a lot of discussion and memories, and it has now found a home at the Seagrove Centre, the North Edinburgh Dementia Care Centre in Seafield Street, where it will be used as a reminiscence aid.

## GARDEN GALLERY 2009

**LAST** year's Garden Gallery was a huge success, with the work of 26 artists on display in local gardens during the whole of August, as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival. It really put Portobello on the map, attracting hundreds of visitors, many of whom had not been here before, and featuring in the local and national press.

The organisers, Big Things on The Beach, are now counting down to the launch of this year's event. The Garden Gallery is a unique opportunity for local people to work together with contemporary artists and, with only six months to go, the call goes out to anyone in Portobello who would be interested in hosting an artwork.

The Gallery will again be curated by Amber Roome and Duncan Bremner. To register your interest please email [gardengallery@amberroome.co.uk](mailto:gardengallery@amberroome.co.uk)

An invitation to artists to submit work for consideration will be advertised in April. For more information about Big Things on The Beach see [www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk](http://www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk)



Photo by Peter Ross



# PORTY PROFILE No. 34 BERT MCCALL

**BORN** in Edinburgh, Bert McCall went to Parsons Green and Norton Park Schools, and while staying with relatives in Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire for three years during the war, he also went to Balmedie School.

Bert was a keen footballer, playing for Edinburgh Norton U-17 and Edinburgh Waverley U-21, and from age 17 he played centre-half for four seasons with Leith Athletic, as a part-time professional. "A highlight for me at this time was playing in an East v West Select match, featuring Jimmy Logie of Arsenal", he says.

On leaving school, Bert served an apprenticeship as a caserom compositor with Hugh Paton and Sons, railway printers. In 1957, after National Service in the RAF, he moved to The Scotsman Publications where he stayed for 31 years. "I missed my gold watch by two years", he reflects. Changes from hot metal production to newer printing technology led to staff redundancies and a new job for Bert at Percy Johnson Marshall in Duddingston Village.

In 1955 Bert married his wife Jean; they had a daughter and three sons and moved to Portobello in 1986. They were members of Portobello Old Parish Church and in the mid-1960s Bert was invited to be President of the Youth Basketball Club (POPYC). He held that office for 15 years and says: "I found it time-consuming but very stimulating".

Bert has been an Elder for over 40 years. He started the Burns Suppers for Christian Aid in 1986 and helped to organise them for 21 years. In 1991 he was elected by the local Council of Churches to chair Portobello Christian Aid and says: "I really enjoy raising money with such a strong-minded team". He is also part of the Covenanted Churches Children's Mission team and helps at the Old Parish Café.

Bert has run two Edinburgh Marathons (one for Christian Aid) and two 7 Hills of Edinburgh races. He plays bridge, badminton and indoor bowls and is a Scottish Bowling Umpire. He has been a member of Duddingston Golf Club for 49 years, is a season ticket holder with Hearts and an enthusiastic supporter of Portobello Rugby Club. "All of this", he says, "makes me glad to live in Portobello".

Brenda Molony



Photo by Brenda Molony

# ON THE BEAT

**PORTOBELLO'S** new Community Beat Officer, PC Sarah Potter, took up her post in mid-January. PC Potter has been stationed here since 2003, on car patrols, and says: "I am very excited about the future and proud to have the opportunity to become more involved in the community".



**IN** mid-January a conman hit Portobello, calling at houses near a church, looking for members of the congregation. If he struck lucky, he told the resident that "the minister was busy", but had said a church member would be able to give him some advice.

He was smart and polite, and several people invited him in. He then told a sorry tale of how a large cheque paid in hadn't cleared and he needed funds to tide him over for a few days. He was so convincing that some people parted with substantial sums and he gave them a 'signed' receipt!

He was apparently working the east coast, keeping one step ahead of the Police. He had already been in west Edinburgh and moved on to Musselburgh.

Inspector Norman Ward of Portobello Police said: "Be on your guard with any individual who calls unannounced, no matter how plausible the explanation. Sadly, there are a number of bogus callers who are very creative in gaining a person's confidence. If in doubt give us a call and we will deal with any concern you have".

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP REPORT

**AS** reported in the Winter issue of the *Reporter*, the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership is working for, and with, the local community to make things better. The local councillors, three community representatives and representatives from Health, Police and Voluntary Sector make up the Partnership Board. Portobello Community Council has a member on the Board.

The first 'Portobello and Craigmillar Local Community Plan' is now available on our website: [www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk) or in Portobello Library. The website also gives more information about the Partnership and its activities, such as the Community Grants Fund, to which local organisations can apply for up to £5,000 for activities or

events which fit local priorities.

To ensure real progress, the Partnership has established sub-groups to provide more opportunities for people to get involved and to help influence local service delivery. These meet every 6-8 weeks in alternating venues. So far, there are sub-groups focusing on Health and Wellbeing, the Environment, and the Voluntary Sector, plus an Area Board. Others will be set up soon to focus on Community Safety, Housing, Regeneration and Employment, and Children, Families and Young People.

If you are interested in any of the sub-groups, or would like more information please contact the Partnership Development Team on 529 3032, or by e-mail at: [pc.np@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:pc.np@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Graham Rowan

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**OIL ON BEACH:** Anyone who sees traces of oil (not coal dust) on the beach is urged to call the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as quickly as possible, on its hotline 0800 80 70 60, or the local number 449 7296, giving location, date and time. SEPA will investigate and take action as necessary.

**SMOKE-FREE ZONE:** Following the recent increases in the price of gas and electricity, more people are burning wood and coal to heat their homes, but Edinburgh is a Smoke Control Area, and anyone caught burning anything other than smokeless fuel could face a fine of £1,000. Action will also be taken against anyone delivering unauthorised fuels. For further information contact the Council on 529 3030 or visit [www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk](http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk)

**PAS MEETINGS:** The next meetings of Portobello Amenity Society will be held on Wednesdays 25th March, 22nd April and 27th May at 4a Elcho Terrace, 7.30 p.m. If you would like to attend, or for more information, please call 669 6466.

**THINKING OF GETTING FIT?** Join your local JogScotland Beginners jog group. Meet outside Portobello Swim Centre on the Prom, 6pm Tuesdays. For further info call Hazel on 07947352436.



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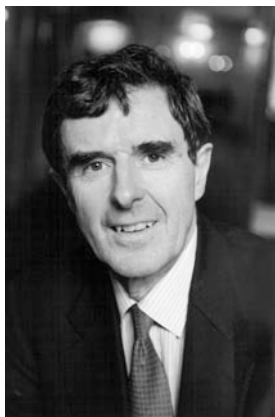
**PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL,**  
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**CASTLEVIEW CENTRE**  
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**ST AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH,**  
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**YWCA LOCHEND**  
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If you have a problem or issue you would like to raise with your local MP please contact Gavin at  
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## WASTE TRANSFER PLANS BATTLE GOES TO APPEAL

WASTE treatment firm Viridor lodged an appeal on 11th February against the Council's refusal, in August 2008, of their planning application for a waste transfer facility on the Portobello Freightliner Terminal site. They have requested a Public Inquiry, which could take six months to implement. It may now be necessary for consultants to be engaged to

argue on behalf of the community at the Inquiry, as was done in 2005 when the planning application for a superstore on the old Scottish Power site was refused. Further information will be publicised locally by PONGS, the campaign group again this development. Details of the appeal (ref.no. PPA/230/1061) are available on [www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk)

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PORTOBELLO Community Council (PCC) works hard to ensure that the interests of Portobello are best represented.

BL Developments have made several presentations on their proposed development on the Scottish Power site of family and starter flats, 25% to be social housing. PCC expressed concern about the proposed use of brick as the main building material; although Portobello used to produce bricks, the dominant local material is sandstone. BL agreed to consider changing this. There was also concern that the development may dominate the High Street, with some parts being up to six storeys high.

Plans were presented at the October meeting for the development of the Funpark site on the Prom. Concerns were expressed about the mass of the proposed buildings and the likelihood that they would obscure the pottery kilns.

In January, the Community Council welcomed the new Community Police Liaison Officer, PC Sarah Potter, who replaces Kenny Owen and will give regular reports.

PCC also engages with the Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership, which presents an opportunity for Portobello to access the Fairer Scotland Fund for projects that address poverty.

The Partnership is to spend £100,000 on a new crossing at Coillesdene Avenue, and other improvements at Milton Road East. Under normal Council criteria this could have taken 15-20 years.

PCC Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall (just off the High Street) on the last Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome.

Peter McColl

## PORTOBELLO SHOPPERS PRIZE DRAW

TO encourage people to shop in Portobello during the roadworks fiasco, the Council organised a Winter Shopping Draw. From 11th December to 21st January anyone spending £15 or more in a local shop was eligible for entry into a prize draw. There were four prizes of £200 worth of vouchers provided by the Council, to be spent in participating shops, and other attractive prizes donated by local traders. Around 400 tickets were entered and the draw was made on 18th February, with prizes going to customers of Shapes, Kitchens, C&M, Deli 194, Wisteria Lane, Mike's Tackle Shop, Fine Wine Co, Woodwares, Reds and Portobello Optics.

Cllr Stephen Hawkins says he will be pushing for another promotion once the work is finished.

*The Portobello Reporter is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 37 local people. If you have something to publicise or would like to advertise call 669 3466 or email us at [portyreporter@btinternet.com](mailto:portyreporter@btinternet.com)*

June deadline 7th May 2009.

## GRAND DESIGNS - 2009

WE want to take this opportunity to let everyone know that we will soon be introducing a new look inside the Library. We are currently at the design and planning stages and will display the plans in the library as soon as they are available.

The refurbishment will result in a bright, new, attractive and eye-catching design for the Library, and will also introduce a new facility which will enable customers to check books in or out for themselves. Don't worry though, as the staff will always be there to meet and greet you and help you to use our services.

We plan to introduce a new and exciting zone for children and young people, to improve the space downstairs for our People's Network Service, and to introduce a better display of our excellent range of books.

If you have local events that you want to publicise there is an easy way to do it in the Library hallway. Write the details in our Community Diary, which is always on display just below the notice board. If you also have a poster, it can be put there.

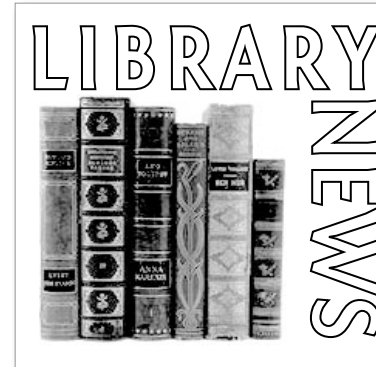
Make use of your Library. It is free and open to everyone seven days a week, and we do a lot in addition to having books to browse. Come in to find out what's on locally, get information about Neighbourhood and Community Council meetings and current local issues, and read the daily papers.

Babies are welcomed at Rhymetimes, school children at Thursday Storytimes and Chatterbooks sessions, we have book groups for young people and adults, and we host Toybox Toy Library and Kumon after-school maths and English classes.

We can deliver books if customers find it difficult to visit the library. We have books in Urdu and Chinese, and can obtain other language books on request. We have free bookable computers, and run beginners computing classes.

Opening hours are 10.00-8.00 Monday to Thursday, 10.00-5.00 Friday, 9.00-5.00 Saturday, and 1.00-5.00 Sunday. Phone us on 529 5558, or email: [portobello.library@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:portobello.library@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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## PORTOBELLO - ECO TOWN

THE local community group PEDAL has changed its official name to PEDAL—Portobello Transition Town. Working with local people, we want to help our community make the transition to a more sustainable eco-town.

The Transition movement encourages people to work together to tackle climate change, become less dependent on oil, and make their community a better place to live in. This might mean growing more of their own food, creating a wider range of jobs closer to home, or generating their own energy.

It is hugely important to PEDAL to know what people think about these ideas, so we are conducting a door-to-door survey, which can also be found on our website or in our new office at 90 Portobello High Street.

We are also holding some exciting events so people can tell us what they think while having some fun! The first, a 'Cuban Night', was held in February and featured great music, rum cocktails, a salsa dancing class, and an inspiring film about how Cuba dealt with having 50% of their oil supply cut off in 1991.

On Saturday 21st March we're throwing a free 'Porty Party' from 2-5pm in the Town Hall. There will be something for everyone: tea and home baking, raffles, face painting for kids, and Alchemy Arts will be recycling plastic bags into fabulous Asian kites. We hope to see lots of you there!

PEDAL is also working on proposals for an exciting new social space for Portobello. This will complement existing facilities and will be built to high environmental standards. We have run several local consultations on the idea and have employed professionals to research its feasibility further.

For more information on PEDAL, or to get involved, visit [www.pedal-porty.org.uk](http://www.pedal-porty.org.uk) Tom Black

# HANDY HINTS for families

**CHILDREN AND TRAVELLING**, or children and eating don't always run smoothly. Here are some handy hints to help: [www.purpleturtle.co.uk](http://www.purpleturtle.co.uk) has all the answers for dealing with travelling and sells the remedies too. It reveals that ginger is great for travel sickness and colloidal silver in a travel-spray is an alternative way of treating burns, scalds, rashes and bites. It also suggests that to remove a splinter, putting teething gel around it numbs and softens the skin.

Charlotte Hume, couldn't get her son to eat his vegetables and came up with a few hints to deal with fussy eaters in her book *How to get your children eating vegetables happily* (Vermillion £16.99). Tips from the book are listed at [www.hellomagazine.com](http://www.hellomagazine.com). These include: take letters from your child's name or their favourite football team and try out vegetables starting with these letters. If it is the texture they don't like, cook in a different way the next time and, just because they don't like something, don't stop trying. Broaden the choice – they may prefer asparagus to peas!

When you do get them to eat, there is invariably a lot of cleaning up to do; [www.minti.com](http://www.minti.com) provides some useful tips such as: to get rid of spaghetti - bolognaise stains, wash as usual and then hang in the sunlight to dry. The sun will bleach the stain. And did you know that fresh oil stains on clothes will wipe away with talcum powder?

If you are concerned about the hazards of using chemicals in the home, around children, [www.allergy.co.uk](http://www.allergy.co.uk) provides some healthier alternatives in its section about 'multiple chemical sensitivity'. One tablespoonful of baking soda (bicarb) mixed with water and put in a spray bottle is just the trick for an alternative air freshener and it's environmentally friendly too.

Lorna Sinclair

## HEALTHY EATING: SPICY CARROT & LENTIL SOUP

**AFTER** a breezy walk along the Prom or a wintry tidy up in the garden, warm up with a steaming bowl of this fragrant soup, ready in 20 minutes. (Serves 6).

- 1 tbsp. veg oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 sticks celery, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, coarsely grated
- 55g (2oz) split red lentils
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tsp fresh coriander or 1tsp ground
- 850ml (1½ pints) vegetable stock
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Heat oil in a saucepan, add the onion and celery and cook until soft, stirring. Add carrots, lentils, cumin, coriander, stock and black pepper and mix well. Cover the pan, bring to the boil, then simmer gently for 15-20 minutes, or until carrots and lentils are soft, stirring occasionally. Serve with fresh crusty bread.

(More healthy recipes can be found on the British Heart Foundation website)

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



**AFTER** a very wet winter there will be casualties - I know I've lost a few plants - so be prepared to replant, perhaps raising the soil slightly or adding extra grit with each new planting. I've tried this under lily bulbs which normally would rot away and been quite successful. The advice "right plant, right place" becomes even more important when there are extremes of weather and saves a lot of money trying to establish plants where they just aren't happy to thrive.

Once seeds have been planted ensure they are kept watered and frost free. A candle in a cold frame will keep out a small amount of frost, but if you're only growing a few, a windowsill is all you need. If light levels are low, try to prop up a mirror or a piece of cardboard covered in aluminium foil to reflect the light and keep seedlings from stretching out for it.

The greenhouse comes into its own in spring and I spend a lot of time planning the sowing, pricking out and hardening off processes to keep effort to a minimum. I only grow vegetables or fruit that I know will be eaten and enjoyed. I sow salad leaves every few weeks so there is a continuous supply, and again a windowsill is a good place to grow them.

Tidy the garden, trim hedges (check for birds nesting first) and tackle any weeds seen now; the effort is worth it. The first cut of the grass should be done with the blades set high. There'll be a lot of moss and buttercups due to the wet. I'd prefer daisies, but the wet discourages them, so unless you want to be a martyr to a perfect lawn, just accept what grows in it and cut it either once a week or fortnight. Edging is more important as it makes an untidy garden look tidier.

Any shrub or tree that has outgrown its space should be removed - ruthless I know but look on it as a planting opportunity for something a bit different. A beautiful shrub like witchhazel (perfumed and winter flowering) is expensive (maybe £30), but you are paying for the time it takes the nursery to get it to a decent size and, compared with the amount of enjoyment over time, is well worth it.

I use scoops made out of those large plastic bottles with integral handles (keeping the tops on) for mixing compost, sand, even water. Cut to shape with scissors, I have a variety of sizes and shapes for different jobs. They last a long time and can be hung up with a string loop through the handle.

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Photo courtesy of Portobello History Society

**THIS PHOTOGRAPH** is taken from a binder of photographs held by Portobello History Society charting the building of the extension to Portobello Power Station in 1926/27. This particular photograph shows a view of the excavation works below the level of the High Street, with the layers of clay clearly visible. The view looks west and, across the High Street, Mitchell's Buildings, where many Portobello residents lived, can clearly be seen. The photograph is dated 2nd November 1926.

## PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

OUR first talk of 2009 took place on 4th February when the Rev. Andrew Patterson, from Portobello Old Parish Church, visited the society. The main focus of Andrew's talk was the church's bi-centenary this year, but he outlined the history of Christianity and later Protestantism, in Scotland, incorporating many changes along the way.

Wednesday 4th March brings Simon Green from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland to talk about *North South East West Home's Best, The Edwardian House in Scotland*. This promises to be an interesting talk on a life-style from the past.

David MacAdam visits us on Wednesday 1st April to talk about *Arthur's Seat Volcano*. There is a wonderful view of this extinct volcano, one of the ancient wonders of Edinburgh, from Portobello Promenade. The opportunity to learn more about it should not be missed.

*Portobello: a Nineteenth Century New Town* is the promising title of our talk on Wednesday 6th May. Paul McMahon visits the society to talk about the history of our own community based on his research. This should inspire historians old and new.

Our AGM is held on Wednesday 3rd June and will be followed by a talk by Archie Foley on *Early Photographers in Portobello*. The popularity of Portobello as a resort led various photographers to locate here. Information about their studios and work is promised.

Meetings start promptly at 7pm in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place.

Margaret Munro

### DARWIN WAS HERE

ON 12th February 2009 events were held worldwide to mark the bi-centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, author of *The Origin of Species*. While studying medicine in Edinburgh from 1825-27, he also had an interest in natural history and is known to have collected specimens on the shore at Portobello.

### REPORTER STALWART MOVES ON

ARCHIE FOLEY a stalwart of the *Reporter* team has decided to redirect his energies into his many other interests and will no longer be able to write for the paper.

Archie has long been a major contributor to the

*Reporter* and took responsibility for the history pages which so many people have enjoyed.

The editorial team wish Archie all the best in his future endeavours and will sorely miss his considerable contribution.

### SEARCHING FOR SOMEBODY?

FROM time to time the *Reporter* receives requests from readers looking for someone or for information about something long lost in Portobello. So far this has proved fairly successful and sometimes people have received surprising information and replies. If anyone has a desire to get in touch with someone, or is looking for particular photos or information about Portobello, please get in touch with the paper and we can publish an appeal for you.

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## EASTER SERVICES

**ST JAMES** Parish Church, Rosefield Place, will hold: A Palm Sunday service on 5th April at 11am; services each night at 7pm during Holy Week, lasting around half an hour; on Good Friday, 10th April, St James is open all day, with two services, at 11am and 7pm, and shorter acts of worship on the hour. You are invited to spend some time at the Church on Good Friday, in quiet prayer or reflection or just to look around.

On Easter Sunday: at 9.30am, a Service to welcome Easter Day in the Church gardens, followed by Easter Breakfast in the Church Hall; at 11am, an Easter Day Family Service with input from Junior Church Groups. See also the website [www.stjamesparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stjamesparishchurch.org.uk)

**ST MARK'S** Scottish Episcopal Church in Portobello High Street, extends a warm welcome to local residents during Lent and over Easter. During Lent (which starts on 25th Feb), Morning Prayers will take place from Monday to Saturday at 9.30am, for 15 minutes. A Lent Group will meet on Saturdays at 11.30am. Other dates in March include the cafe on Saturday 7th at 10.30am and a family service for Mothering Sunday on 22nd at 10.30. For full details of services see [www.stmarksportobello.org](http://www.stmarksportobello.org) or call Ian Gardner on 669 9258.

## 50 YEARS OF FLORAL ART

**PORTOBELLO** Floral Art Club celebrated the 50th birthday of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies with a beautiful floral display in Portobello Library in January. From John o' Groats to Land's End, floral displays symbolised a golden thread of clubs.

The club is thriving, with about 70 members, some of whom have taken part in competitions in Scottish, UK and worldwide events and are looking ahead to America in two years time.

Chairperson Morag Donaldson emphasised that the appeal of floral art reaches beyond the traditional image

of the more mature person, to mums and younger people, and added: "There are afternoon classes, and the advantages of joining are that it is quite therapeutic for people and it is stress free".

She described demonstration nights as "fun events run by paid instructors, who not only demonstrate flower technique, but also have an art for entertaining conversation".

The club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Portobello Town Hall and new members will be warmly received.

Lorna Sinclair

## BURNS LUNCH AT QUEEN'S BAY

**THE** staff of Queen's Bay Residential Home laid on a celebration of our National Bard for their residents, on Monday 26th January. It was a happy occasion and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Music was provided by Sally Bootman on accordion and the Immortal Memory was given by Cath Pattinson. Fellow residents Margaret Dawson and May Scott contributed the *Selkirk Grace* and said grace after dinner, and May gave a moving toast to absent friends. Tommy Taylor addressed the haggis and toasted the lassies, only to be completely overshadowed by Dot Baxter in her reply. Dot also performed her famous *One O'Clock Gun* song and some hilarious monologues. Staff member Yvonne Arnot recited the lovely poem *To a Mountain Daisy*, and all joined in the weel-kent Burns songs.

The dining room was beautifully decorated, and Helen Somerville and staff were their usual caring, happy selves. No wonder they recently received a Certificate of Excellence from Crossreach.

Tommy Taylor

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

**ON** Human Rights Day, 6th December, our table on the High Street resulted in 42 members of the public writing cards of greeting, comfort and hope to prisoners of conscience in Moldova, Mexico, USA and Eritrea, their relatives and support organisations. Pupils of Portobello High School, and Towerbank and St John's Primary Schools made a splendid contribution, sending over 150 cards to young people or families in Turkey, Nigeria and El Salvador.

At our table at the launch of History Week on 1st November a number of people signed a petition calling for equality for women in Iran.

The group mounted an exhibition - Heroes and Heroines - in Portobello Library from 19th January to 14th February. It featured writers across the globe who have suffered for taking a stand against hatred and persecution of people because of their peacefully-expressed beliefs and activities. The display was part of Edinburgh's Stand up to Hatred Programme, which included Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January.

Our annual Coffee Morning and Book Sale, in partnership with the Woodcraft Folk, will be held on Saturday 7th March from 10am-12noon in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month. For more information about the group, please call 669 1308.

David Turner

## OLD PARISH BICENTENARY

**A SERVICE** of thanksgiving, to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of Portobello Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street, will be held at 11am on Sunday 29th March, conducted by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. David Lunan.

The Old Parish has seen many changes in its history - more recently, unions with Regent Street and Windsor Place Churches - making the Church in Bellfield Street what it is today.

Former members, or people who were associated with the churches in the past, are welcome to join the service. It will be followed by a light buffet lunch in the hall, when there will be an opportunity to reminisce over a display of old photographs. Would anyone wishing to attend or needing more information, please contact Alex McDonald, Session Clerk, on (0131) 669 1331.

## ROUND AND ROUND WE GO

**IN** October 1984 the Reporter carried an article by Gavin Strang MP, headed Kings Road Roundabout Chaos, in which he said: "The plan to construct a huge roundabout at Kings Road will be a disaster for Portobello. That was the view of the majority of people who attended a public meeting ...[at which] Council officials failed to justify the decision to replace the proposed underpass with a roundabout, to save £6.5 million.... The new plan means that all heavy traffic to and from Leith, and all traffic to and from the city centre, will converge on the roundabout. Some of the heavy through traffic from Leith will go onto Portobello High Street, rather than the new by-pass".

The traffic load on the roundabout has now made it necessary to re-install traffic lights, to give priority to buses, and the Council has promised to erect signs directing through traffic along the by-pass.

B. M.

## COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

### Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

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

Bingham Community Centre, 1st Monday, 6.30pm.

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

OR call 529 4233 or email [michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Receive regular Reports by email or view on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk)

### Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:

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## PHOTO CALL

LOCAL young photographers are invited by the Rotary Club of Portobello to get snapping for the Young Photographer Competition 2009. The theme 'Environmental Impact' allows a broad interpretation of subject matter, and judges will be looking for imagination and style, as well as technical merit, content and composition.

There are three age-groups: under 12 years, 12-15 and 15-18. Photographs can be taken with digital or film cameras, in colour or monochrome, and must be sent as prints no larger than A4, by Wednesday 1st April, to: Young Photographer Competition, Rotary Club of Portobello, Kings Manor Hotel, 100 Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2NP. Full rules and entry forms can be found on [www.rotary1020.org.uk/youngphotographer.asp](http://www.rotary1020.org.uk/youngphotographer.asp)

Winning local entries will go on to the 1020 District final, which will be judged by well-known Scottish photographers and a representative from Keep Scotland Beautiful, which is supporting the competition. Certificates and trophies, provided by Keep Scotland Beautiful, will be awarded to the winners in May.

## FAIR TRADE LOYALTY CARD FOR HOLY ROOD

OVER the last four years fair trade has become an important issue for Holy Rood High School. We now have a well-established Fairtrade tuck shop that offers a range of snacks and home baking using their ingredients, and we sell their drinks and snacks at parents' nights. On 1st December we launched our loyalty card scheme to reward staff and pupils who regularly support the tuck shop.

We are currently working towards official recognition by the Fairtrade Foundation. This is being led by pupils in the school's Justice and Peace Group, with the support of staff and other pupils.

For Fairtrade Fortnight, 23rd February to 8th March, we strengthened our focus on related activities, and are taking part in the 2009 Schools' Fairtrade Showcase. Future plans include sharing with our associated primary schools what we do and what we have learned about fair trade. We hope we will be able to support them in becoming Fairtrade schools.

Lesley Hind

## PORTY ANIMATORS HIT THE BIG SCREEN

*SQRULY AND SQUEAK BUY A HOUSE* was one of 13 films selected for screening at Glasgow Film Theatre on February 12th and 14th, as part of the Glasgow Youth Film Festival. Made by Portobello boys Callum Booth-Lewis (9) and Saul Kenrick (11), the 6-minute film is a stop-frame animation made with clay models that took over a year and a half to complete. Callum, whose ambition was to animate something flying, says: "The most exciting parts were seeing the finished film and opening the letter to say it was going to be screened". Callum and Saul are the youngest film makers to take part in the festival. Sqruly and Squeak, who first appeared on the screen at the launch of Portobello Telly in the Community Centre in 2006, can be found in their latest adventure on Youtube, and Portobello Telly on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk).



## TEACHING MARTIANS ABOUT HEALTHY LIVING

OVER the last three months Parson's Green Primary School has adopted an innovative approach to teaching drama and health through workshops, and has linked these subjects to the 'Curriculum for Excellence'.

Primary 5 pupils presented examples from their workshop at assembly, when their new understanding of emotional, physical and environmental health was expressed through games, improvisation and role-play.

The workshops explored what it means to be healthy, with the children playing the roles of health experts

preparing a new planet for healthy living. Some of the fun included creating a space-ship, learning a Martian welcome song and teaching Martians the skills they would need to build a healthy planet. When the pupils told the assembly that the name they had chosen for their space-ship was 'Healthy Saucepan', the words resonated off the walls with their enthusiasm.

The children said they particularly enjoyed the fact that everyone was included in the presentation and that they liked learning about healthy eating.

Lorna Sinclair

## DUDDINGSTON PRIMARY'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

DURING the week beginning 9th May we are hosting a number of events to celebrate our 50th anniversary, including:-

- A Coffee Morning and Talent Show on Saturday 9th May, organised by the PTA.
- A Concert of Music and Drama.
- Pupils' Display of Project Work.
- An Open Day on Thursday 14th May (1.30-3pm).

If you have any photographs, old report cards, jotters, stories, memories ... anything of interest for our Project / Display, please contact us at 669 5092.

We'd be delighted to meet up with any former colleagues, pupils and friends of the school on our open day.

(For more details check [www.duddingstonprimary.ik.org](http://www.duddingstonprimary.ik.org))

Dave Wright  
Depute Head

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Next Issue June 2009

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Photo by Karen Combe

**PARSON'S GREEN** Primary School P6 football team ready to play the P4/5 team in an Edinburgh Primary Schools league match at Cavalry Park on Saturday 24th January. P6 won 6-5. The team is as follows: left to right back row, Jonathan Collins, Daniel Johnston, Gregor Boyter and Fraser Wildgoose. Front row Lewis Thomson, David Ferguson, Sean Gilroy, Rory Watson and Jack Egan.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT TOWERBANK

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mohasin Ahmed and Stuart Graham who came 1st and 2nd in The Edinburgh and Lothian Racial Equality Council poetry competition held at Portobello High School on 6th February. Jack Smith also read his poem, along with the winners. We are very proud of all our P7 children for their excellent contributions. Well done!

We are delighted to also say "Well done" to everyone in Towerbank for their hard work towards achieving Stage 2 of Health Promoting Schools.

Patricia Morrison

## WHAT'S ON in Portobello

**PEDAL** Portobello Transition Town meetings: Wed. 4th March; Thurs. 2nd April (see [www.pedal-party.co.uk](http://www.pedal-party.co.uk) for details of all events).

**AMNESTY** annual Coffee Morning and Book Sale, Saturday 7th March, 10am-12noon, Portobello Old Parish Church Hall, in partnership with the Woodcraft Folk.

**COFFEE MORNING** with home baking, bric-a-brac and book sale. Saturday 14th March, 10.30am-1pm, St James Church hall, Rosefield Place. Proceeds to Portobello Park Action Group.

**MALECON MATINEE**, Sun 15th March & Sat. 23rd May, 2.30-5.30pm, Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello (behind the Police Station), £5 incl drinks. Cuban music and dance for all ages and levels, even those with two left feet! £5 entry includes drinks; free entry for accompanied kids. Get reminders by joining the email list by emailing: [RuedaClubssubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:RuedaClubssubscribe@googlegroups.com)

**PORTOBELLO GOES BALKAN!** Friday 20th March, Portobello Town Hall. A POD event featuring the Black Cat Balkan Band - Balkan, Gypsy and Klezmer madness, with support from Celter Schmelter - Klezmer shtetl dance music. Tickets £10 from Kitcheners Deli and Mica Hardware. For more info see [www.the-pod.org](http://www.the-pod.org)

**PORTY PARTY**, Town Hall, Sat. 21st March, 2-5pm, with recycled craft workshops, home baking and mini disco, free low-energy lightbulbs and power-down switches. (Free entry).

**PORTOBELLO FUN FIDDLE**, Saturday 28th March 2-4.30pm, St James's Church Hall, Rosefield Place. Tickets at door - adults £4, conc. £2, children £1.

An afternoon of musical performance, tea and scones, finishing with a mini ceilidh dance. Featuring fiddlers of all ages, Portobello musicians, and surprise guest spots.

This event is supported by Portobello Open Door (POD) and is part of Ceilidh Culture [www.ceilidhculture.co.uk](http://www.ceilidhculture.co.uk)

**AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC** at St Mark's Church, Portobello High Street, Sat. 25th April, 2-5pm, with stalls, tombola, teas and home-baking. Look out for posters with details.

**CONCERT** featuring Peter Morrison, the popular Scottish Baritone, and Alastair McDonald, well-known Scottish entertainer and musician. Sat. 25th April, 7.30pm. St Philip's Church. Tickets £10 incl. refreshments. Enquiries and tickets from Lilian Warwick 669 4906, Pat Knox 669 3765, Christina Orr 667 9622.

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

**THE** Centre's drama group (Primary School Musical) staged their first ever production in December. This was a great success and a wonderful time was had by the children and the audience. Rehearsals are now under way for their next performance 'Annie', to be performed in May. We now have 20 boys and girls coming along every Saturday afternoon.

- Computer classes are now being run on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in 8-week blocks. Phone the Centre if you are interested.
- We also have a children's Spanish class on Tuesday evenings.
- We have two Tai Chi sessions running from March: one on Tuesday evenings, the other at Wednesday lunchtimes.

The Porty Youth Club is running again and happy to welcome new people. The junior club (P6-7) meet on Tuesdays, 5.30-6.45pm and hope to organise a camping trip in the summer. The seniors (P7-S4) meet on Thursdays, 6-8pm. Come along and make new friends or meet up with some old ones. Chloe Anderson is the Youth Club rep.

For more information, please contact Gillian on 669 8275 or e-mail [enquiries@portobellocc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@portobellocc.co.uk).

## ALL A-TWITCH IN JOPPA

**WHEN** Portobello Amenity Society planted some rowan trees in the corner of the grass area by the tennis courts in Joppa, little did they know that some 20 years later they would become a focus for bird-watchers.

Many authorities on trees cite "the attraction of wildlife" as one of the greater values of trees in towns. Trees that attract birds are particularly valuable and such is the case with the rowans.

Over the past three years at least, waxwings have visited the rowans near the tennis courts, eating the berries to build up their depleted fat reserves following their winter migration from arctic Russia and northern Scandinavia.

In November this year a flock of about 60 of these magnificent birds settled on a tree in Coillesdene Avenue and two days later 'twitchers' were seen at the junction with Morton Street.

Around this time The Scottish Ornithologists Club Visitor Centre at Aberlady were publicising the tennis courts as the place to go in South Scotland and the Edinburgh area if you wanted to see waxwings. Fame at last for Joppa!

George Anderson

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