

THE **Portobello** REPORTER

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WASTE TRANSFER PROPOSAL GOES TO APPEAL

VIRIDOR Waste Management have appealed against the Council's decision, in August 2008, to refuse their planning application for a waste transfer plant on the former freightliner terminal on Sir Harry Lauder Road. The case will now be decided at a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) which will start on Tuesday 1st December.

PONGS, the campaign group against the proposal, believe one of the main arguments against it is the anticipated extra traffic: Viridor's planning application indicated that there would be 928 HGV movements in and out of the site every day, which PONGS believe would lead to increased congestion and air pollution, and lorries queuing along the Portobello bypass. Viridor's traffic study omitted the Seafeld and Milton Link

junctions, and was carried out before the bus priority traffic lights scheme replaced the Seafeld roundabout.

The proposal is for a residual waste transfer plant for commercial and industrial waste, not domestic waste, to be trucked in from a wide area. PONGS are concerned that it would lead to a severe loss of amenity resulting from traffic congestion, air pollution, light pollution, noise, smell and vermin, and would be detrimental to the adjacent conservation area.

PONGS estimate that they need to raise at least £20,000 to pay for expert witnesses at the PLI. Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society have both pledged £1,000 to the fund, and PCATS have been approached for a similar donation from funds left over from

the superstore inquiry. "If anyone objects to this, please send an e-mail to pcatsinfo@googlemail.com before 30th June", asks PCATS treasurer Karen MacLean.

The group are planning a series of fund-raising events, such as Porty's Got Talent, their own version of the popular TV show, coffee mornings and raffles. More information will appear on posters locally and on the campaign website www.portobellopongs.com

"If every household in close proximity to the site donated at least £20, we would have enough money to pay for the experts", said PONGS spokesperson Maria Devoy. "If you would like to donate, please send a cheque made out to P.O.N.G.S., c/o 12 West Brighton Crescent, Edinburgh, EH15 1LU".

80 YEARS OF TODDLERS HUT



Photo courtesy of Portobello History Society

Nurse Chrissie Brown is seen here in the early 1930s at Portobello Toddlers Hut.

PORTOBELLO Toddlers Hut Playgroup celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, and is believed to be the longest-running independent childcare service in Britain.

It was set up in 1929, as a playground, by a group of local women who held whist drives and bridge parties to raise funds, then two years later the committee raised more money to build the hut that is still used today. The playgroup provided care for under-privileged children, allowing their mothers to go out to work, perhaps even to cook and clean for the women who opened the premises.

"The Hut" is an important part of the local community, with generations of families passing through it themselves and returning with their own children and grandchildren. Many people also remember it being used as a lost children and first aid post during the summers when people flocked to Portobello for their annual holiday.

Today the Toddlers Hut is registered to care for children aged from 2½ to 5 years, providing up-to-date childcare in a modernised environment. The service meets all Care Commission and SSSC standards and requirements and receives positive inspection reports. Morning sessions are run on Monday to Friday, and three afternoon sessions per week were recently introduced to help meet the high demand for places.

Karen Wilson

MAKING SAIL IN PORTOBELLO



Photo by Margaret Drysdale

THE Royal Yachting Association Sailing in the City team gave 144 young people a taster session, at Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club's inaugural event, over three weekends in May and June. The club is currently fundraising to buy its own boats. For more information and membership applications, go to www.porty.org.uk and click on the Sail Porty button.

IMAGINE PORTY PROM

PORTOBELLO Promenade is going to change in the coming years, not least because the City Council has a vision of an Edinburgh Promenade stretching the 17 miles of Edinburgh's coastline, from Cramond to Joppa. In the Council's vision, the Edinburgh Promenade will be a walkway and cycleway linked to the other coastal pathways around Scotland. Portobello is the most densely populated area along Edinburgh's coastline, and the people of Portobello should have a say in how our section of the Edinburgh Promenade can be made into a distinctive, admired and enjoyed public space for us and our visitors.

Over the coming year, with funding from the Scottish Arts Council and the City of Edinburgh Council,

Big Things on the Beach, the local public arts trust, will create a number of opportunities for anyone in Portobello who is interested to become involved in creating a Public Art Plan for Portobello Promenade. Artists will be commissioned to create artworks for us to enjoy and discuss, there will be Imagine Porty Prom events for all ages and, hopefully, a lot of fun will be had. To give the project a base we will shortly be transforming the empty Tides Inn pub at the bottom of King's Road into the Portobello Public Art House and we hope to welcome everybody there from August. Find out more about Imagine Porty prom at www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk.

Damian Killeen, Chair,
Big Thing On The Beach

PORTY PROFILE No. 35 CLAUDIA POTTIER

CLAUDIA Pottier can be found planting, pruning and planning at Dr Neil's garden in Duddingston. Born in London, Claudia had a busy childhood and attended nine schools in north and east London. Her love of gardening was inspired by summer holidays spent at her great-aunt's home in Dorset, where she was entrusted with dead-heading pansies and violas.

Later, as a freelance dancer she often worked away from home, but kept an allotment to satisfy a passion for gardening.

On one tour she met and fell in love with a Scottish dancer, which prompted a move to Joppa for the couple. Claudia has now been living in the area for the past 15 years and says: "Portobello has been a great place to bring up my three children. It's friendly and human, nothing is too precious."

When her daughter was a year old, Claudia switched to a career in horticulture. This involved a juggling act, she remembers, taking her baby into Oatbridge College when childcare plans fell through. Her daughter is now twelve years old and clearly takes after her mother, as she is training to be a ballet dancer in Glasgow. Claudia also has two sons, the elder studying Urban Design and the younger teaching skateboarding.

On graduation Claudia worked as a freelance gardener, then a meeting with the founders of Dr Neil's Garden led to an opportunity to work there one day a week. She eventually took over the garden full-time when the Neils could no longer manage. After a decade, her contribution to the beautiful garden has come to fruition. She says: "I can now see part of me reflected in the garden as the planting has reached maturity and, since I have been growing it organically, there are many more varieties of birds and insects."

Claudia also has a local allotment where she grows fruit, vegetables and lots of flowers. "Picking a favourite is difficult", she says, but auriculars are top of her list and are displayed in a theatre made by her partner.

For the moment, all her future plans rest in Dr Neil's Garden, where she says she can be found apparently staring into the middle distance, spade in hand, but actually thinking hard about new projects. The latest is an unusual knot garden using native myrtle, which flowers and has a wonderful scent. "I am the type of gardener who waits for the ground to give me inspiration rather than the other way round", she says.

Karen Coombe



Photo by Karen Coombe

ON THE BEAT

MANY of you will have been aware of the conman who operated in Portobello for a short period in mid-January. He called at houses asking for financial assistance, under the guise that he had been sent by the local church Minister. He then moved on to the south of England and Police Forces there were looking for him. The latest news is that since his picture appeared on BBC1's 'Crime Watch' at the end of April, he has been apprehended.



The first part of the year has been a proactive period, with a variety of initiatives resulting in a reduction in crime figures compared to last year. Now that summer has arrived, and the good weather that goes with it, we must remain vigilant and aware of those criminals who will be passing through the area looking for opportunities to commit crime. Don't be tempted to leave doors and windows open, as it is an invitation for someone to 'slip-in'. It has become evident that criminals will steal not only personal belongings and electrical equipment, but also car keys and the car itself.

For further information on home security and personal safety please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer, PC Graeme Buchan, at Craigmillar Police Station, Tel: 661 3362.

More recently a number of cars have been vandalised in the Morton Street and Coillesdene Avenue areas. A local 15-year-old youth was found to be responsible and was arrested, and a report outlining the circumstances was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

PC Sarah Potter, Community Beat Officer.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

ELECTIONS for a new Portobello Community Council will be held in October. This is your chance to become a member of one of the most active and successful Community Councils in Scotland.

There are two ways to get elected. The first is to become one of 15 directly elected members, all of whom stand as individuals, with no party politics involved. The second is to become one of 15 representatives of local groups; for your group to be eligible, it must register with the City of Edinburgh Council (contact eileen.hewitt@edinburgh.gov.uk). Official Notices of Elections will appear in the press on Monday 31st August.

The Community Council needs members who are active in one or more local initiatives,

want to start a new initiative, or are prepared to put some time into improving our community.

Most of the things that make Portobello such a great place to live are organised by hard-working volunteers, as individuals or in groups, such as Big Things On the Beach, the fight against the superstore, Portobello Open Door or this newspaper. The Community Council is a forum to bring ideas and initiatives to the fore and gain support.

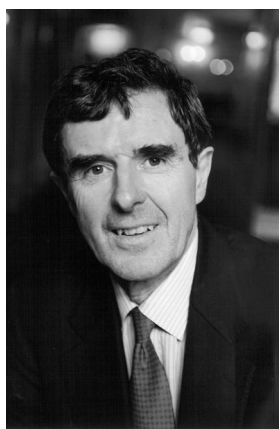
Meetings are held 10 times a year on Monday evenings. All are open to public participation, and are usually attended by our local City Councillors and sometimes by our MSP and MP. The meetings are a chance to air your views and the main avenue for collecting local opinion.

Robert Gatliff
Chair, Portobello CC

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From Plans to Completion

NEWS IN BRIEF

JUNCTION OPEN! Work to replace the Seafield/Kings Road roundabout with traffic lights was finally completed and the junction opened on 18th April - almost six months late. Bad weather and poor Council planning were blamed for the delay. The final cost is likely to be well above the original estimate of £1.7m.

CHILDREN and staff at Cherry-trees Nursery raised £1045.74 for Comic Relief by sponsored silences and run/walks, sale of home baking, count the beans in the jar competition and designing T-shirts.

THE TROTTERS CLUB: The annual charity donation of £150 from The Trotters Club, who play skittles in The Sheep Heid Inn, will go to Portobello Older People's Project.

PORTOBELLO MASONIC Lodge No. 226 recently gave £500, raised at a charity event, to the Childrens Hospice Association Scotland.

TOWERBANK Primary School has achieved its third Green Flag award for its continued success in promoting sustainable developments. It is the first primary school in Edinburgh to do so.

A team of P7 pupils won the Edinburgh Rotary Quiz.

HAGGIS HERO: Local butcher Joe Findlay, a Rick Stein 'Food Hero', is the South East of Scotland Scottish Haggis Champion for the third time. Joe has made few changes to the recipe he was given by an Edinburgh butcher over 30 years ago. His haggis has been served all over the world, in places such as New York and Norway.

INTERESTED in helping set up a Credit Union for Portobello by extending Craigmillar Credit Union? Cllr Maureen Child has been elected to the new Board and CCU is looking into extending the 'common bond' or the area it covers. For more information please contact her at maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk or tel. 529 3268.

GILBERSTOUN Residents Association: A small band of Gilberstoun residents are trying to (re)form the once active Residents Association. If you are interested or would like to help, please contact David Hamilton on 07794186759 or email gilberstounresidents@ymail.com

BASE CAMP OR BUST: Local woman Jo Spiller will trek to Everest Base Camp in October for the retinitis pigmentosa charity, RP Fighting Blindness, and needs to raise £4000. She has set up a website www.basecamporbust.info on which she will add adverts, as a jigsaw piece, for a £20 donation. She also offers to take family portraits for a donation. Contact her at jo.spiller@gmail.com

AWARD FOR LOCAL TRADERS



Photo by Peter Ross

DURING Fair Trade Fortnight in February/March, Jim and Morag Baird of the Just World Shop, 54 Portobello High Street, won the overall prize in the Lord Provost's Awards as part of the Edinburgh Fair Trade City initiative. Morag and Jim have run the Just World Shop and supplied the growing number of local stalls for nearly 18 years, well before fair trade became trendy. Jim has also given dozens of talks in local schools.

FLOOD PREVENTION WORK IN PROGRESS

WORK is in progress on flood defences behind the cottages in Adelphi Place. A new bypass culvert (underground tunnel) will link into the existing network that runs under Portobello High Street and, during heavy rainfall, will divert any excess water in the Figgate Burn away from the cottages. The defences are designed to mitigate the effects of the big storm that may take place once in 200 years, and the system's capacity has been increased by 12% to also take account of any potential increase in flooding caused by climate change.

The excavation, which is 5m deep, 5m wide and 230m long will be dug in phases and the work is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Landscaping will be re-instated in early 2010.

The work is being carried out for the Council by Carillion Civil Engineering. Stakeholder Manager, Stuart Mackay, is happy to answer any concerns or enquiries on 07779 585 762. Stuart will be making a presentation on the scheme to the Portobello Community Council meeting on 29th June.

ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DURING the East Neighbourhood Partnership Environment Week of Action, 27th April to 2nd May, local residents and groups, children and ENP staff helped to make their local environment greener and cleaner.

In Portobello, there were clean-ups in Brighton, Rosefield and Figgate Parks. We also worked with shops and schools to help reduce lunch-time litter and used a barrow-beat to target hotspots. Recycling 'road shows' were held in Portobello and Piershill Libraries to spread the message "Re-use, Re-cycle, Reduce". There were also clean-ups in the Craigmillar area.

Many people already help to take care of the environment, and if we all do a little it can make a big difference. Local groups, schools or residents who would like to get together and tidy up where they live, could arrange a Community Clean-up. Litter-pickers and gloves will be provided and all the rubbish collected will be taken away. For more information on this, please call 529 3111.

The Seafield recycling centre is open during the summer from 8am-7.30pm on weekdays and 6pm at weekends.

Mary Dunbar, ENP

SUMMER days will soon be here, with lots of free time for children. This summer libraries will be running 'Quest Seekers'. The theme is all about the power of the imagination and will take young readers into a mysterious and wondrous land where they can discover the joy of reading and nurture a life-long love affair with books.



We will also have quizzes, games, and one-off events on this theme and, because we love them, we'll have a special feature on 'Dragons'. Just come into the library during the holidays to join the Quest, and get membership and details of how to reach the end, win prizes, and get invitations to our events.

Our popular Computer classes for complete beginners are held every week, on Fridays at 11am. Each class set runs for 4 weeks. Please book at the counter. You will soon feel confident.

Internet use is free of charge, and computers are always available, so everyone can get on, all you need to do is book in person or phone the number below.

Do you know anyone who is unable to get out and about easily, and would like the companionship and regular activity of an assisted visit to the library? Our Tuesday Library Link bus service has six places available, and we would love to hear from you.

We've had many compliments from our Library Link customers, who appreciate the friendly welcome we give them, assistance to find good books, and good company. The transport is provided by the South Edinburgh Action Group, assisted by two lovely volunteers, Irene and Helen, who are there to help with the bus and the introductions! Just phone the Library Officer on 529 5558 /5560 to put your name down.

On Tuesday 7th July at 6.30pm, the Book Group will talk about books they have read that have been adapted into films. If you have a favourite, come along for an informal discussion with tea and coffee.

Joyce Campbell

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The GREEN COLUMN

PEDAL has several groups working on different themes (for more details see www.pedal-porty.org.uk). The Food Group has been working to create a community orchard (just off Gilbertstoun, opposite the footbridge at Brunstane Station) and has finally got a lease from the Council, who also cleared the site for us. We planted several trees and fruit bushes on our first workday, and are expecting to end up with about 30 trees, a willow plantation for withies, a soft fruit area, and a medicinal herb garden. BTCV, a voluntary organisation, also helped with clearing work and will create steps and a path to make the orchard accessible to all. We're planning several workdays over the summer, and a midsummer party too.

The orchard is part of PEDAL's plans to create opportunities for local people to grow more food locally. We're currently mapping local land that isn't being used, including gardens whose owners would like to share them. This could lead to a garden sharing scheme, more allotments being created, or a 'patchwork urban farm' where several sites are worked to a plan. Another possibility is to bulk-buy fruit trees to sell at cost price and create a 'virtual' orchard in front gardens. We also hope to develop a regular local market for new and existing businesses.

If you'd like to join the Food Group, help plant the orchard, or share your garden, check our website to see when we meet, email eva@transitionsotland.org, or phone Eva on 657 2555.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, PEDAL hasn't secured funding for the Portobello Transition Hub. The fund we applied to was hugely over-subscribed and most of the money went to areas of greater deprivation.

ADDICTED to your car? Need help to kick the habit? - Why not take up the PEDAL Challenge? In the run-up to Car Free Day in September, we will issue five people with a free Ridacard for one month to help them make the transition from car dependency to public transport. In return, they will pledge to give up car use for the month and keep a diary about their car-free experience. If you would like to take part, please e-mail info@pedal-porty.org.uk or call 669 4981 for further details.

Tom Black

HEALTHY EATING: IRISH SODA BREAD

This bread is quick and easy to make, as no rising is needed, and is delicious with soup, cheese or spread with jam. It also freezes well.

- 1lb (500g) wholemeal flour
- 5oz (150g) strong white flour
- 2oz (50g) oatmeal (optional)
- 1½ teasp. bicarb.soda
- 1½ teasp. salt
- 16-20 fl oz (400-600 ml) of sour milk, or fresh milk soured with juice of ½ a lemon.

First set the oven to gas mark 7, 427°F (220°C). Mix the dry ingredients well. Add 16 fl oz of the milk at first, then gradually more until you have a soft (but not wet) dough. Knead briefly then form into a round about 1" (2.5cm) deep and place on a greased baking sheet. Mark with a cross and bake in the centre of the oven for 35-45 mins, until the crust is golden brown.

Cool on a wire rack for at least 30 mins before eating, wrapped in a tea towel if you prefer a softer crust.

HANDY HINTS

CAMPING HINTS: Take a supply of lids to use as candle holders.

If you run out of ice to cool your beer, put each can in a wet sock and hang from a branch.

Eat plenty of garlic, and marmite sandwiches, not necessarily at the same time, to ward off midges.

Make matches waterproof by dipping ends in wax.

Clean thermos bottle by dropping in an Alka-Seltzer tablet, fill with water and soak for an hour.

GENERAL HINTS: Smelly trainer trouble? Fill socks with cat litter, baking soda, crumpled newspaper or tea leaves. Tie the ends and put them into the trainers to absorb odours.

To stop ice cream dripping out of the bottom of the cone, pop in a mini marshmallow before the ice-cream.

To keep ants out of the house, find out where they are coming in and sprinkle a barrier of cinnamon or ground pepper to block their way.

Put newspapers under passengers to help prevent travel sickness, under a bowl of bread dough to help it rise, and under a layer of kitchen roll in the fridge to keep vegetables fresh.

Add ¼ tsp. bicarbonate of soda to a pan of potatoes while mashing, for fluffy results.

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

Sept. deadline 7th August 2009.

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



SOME credit crunch money-saving tips. Working in the garden, rather than going to the gym, will save on fees and, as long as you warm up and cool down, you'll build the three Ss - stamina, strength and suppleness. Save time by shopping locally for seeds, etc. instead of a journey to a DIY shed and save transport miles as well.

Organic gardening advocates healthy soil first, so there's no need to buy insecticides, herbicides or artificial fertilisers. Make your own fertiliser - when comfrey or nettles are vigorously growing, cut them and make a compost tea. Pernicious weeds (horsetail, docks, hairy bittercress) can be added to the compost heap if they are first put in a bucket of water for a few weeks until dead. Plants infested with greenfly or other nasties benefit from hanging bird feeders close by; the birds will devour your pests while awaiting their turn at the feeder.

Gardening is a slow process, so don't be in a hurry and don't feel overwhelmed. Split the garden into little sections, if only in your head, and concentrate on finishing one piece. A bit every day achieves more than too much at the weekend, and with the longer lighter evenings you could do a bit after work. If you're not feeling up to a major weeding task, go round the garden and pull out only those you dislike most; next time you look out of the window they won't offend the eye so much.

Once shrubs have finished flowering take out one in three branches right down to the base and shred them, or, if there are only a few, cut into 6cm lengths. Use them as a mulch to stop weeds growing around plants that are just getting established, or between perennials to save weeding. New perennials need to be protected or they get swamped and don't thrive. I've lost many small plants this way, often expensive unusual ones. I mulch after it has rained and use soaked newspaper, even old woollen blankets or downie covers, topped with the mulch.

Clear weeds between paving. I love the Mexican daisy between paving but sometimes I get the odd dandelion. I use an old bread knife, whose long blade makes using it as a lever very effective. After all that work, remember to take time to just look...and enjoy.

* * * * *

We've decided not to open our garden this year as, although the front is finished the side hasn't been decided on - so many options: herb, kitchen, courtyard garden, pond, fountain? We hope to open again next year.

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PORTOBELLO GALA DAY REMEMBERED



Photo courtesy of Ralph Balfour

SPECTATORS are seen here admiring the PADCA Gala Queen float. Printed from a set of negatives given to Portobello History Society, this photograph was taken between 1977 and 1980.

George Davidson, Coal Merchant, has loaned his lorry to the Gala Queen's entourage, and a lorry from Scott Vehicles is lined up behind. The spire of St. Philip's Church can be seen in the background.



Photo courtesy of Irene Bell

THIS GALA DAY photograph from 1952 shows a chivalrous group of courtiers with their knight, fair lady and ponies. Irene and Robert (Bobby) Bell won first prize for fancy dress in this ensemble.

Any information regarding these photos would be welcomed. Please contact Margaret Munro, tel. 657 2866 or email munroporto@hotmail.com.

PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

OUR speaker in March was Simon Green, who gave an entertaining and enlightening talk on *North South East West Hame's Best, The Edwardian House in Scotland*. Simon's slides showed us the exteriors and interiors of homes that have been preserved or lost. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, his subject was evident throughout his lively presentation.

Our speaker in April was David MacAdam, who provided us with many interesting facts about *Arthur's Seat Volcano*. Through a series of illustrations, David explained the history and structure of this extinct volcano and enabled us to look for evidence of these when walking in the area.

Unfortunately, our May speaker had to cancel, but we were very fortunate that Mrs Dorothy Kelly, nee Cavaye, offered to talk to us about *The Cavayes of Craig Royston and Portobello in the Thirties*. Mrs Kelly related her own and family members' memories of this time and, accompanied by many family photographs, provided a fascinating insight into her family life and history. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Kelly's return to the society at such short notice.

Our AGM was held in June and was followed by a talk by Archie Foley on *Early Photographers in Portobello*. It became apparent how many photographers were located in Portobello, particularly at its height as a resort. They worked both on the street and in their studios and left a permanent record of life in Portobello.

We have had a very successful series of speakers this year. Our 2009/10 programme begins on Wednesday 2nd September and meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place, beginning at 7pm sharp.

Margaret Munro

THOMSON'S TOWER

THOMSON'S Tower is a unique octagonal building located behind Duddingston Kirk, in Dr Neil's Garden, on the shores of Duddingston Loch. It was designed by the famous Edinburgh architect William Henry Playfair and built in 1825 by Duddingston Curling Society as their curling house. It was named after the Reverend John Thomson, minister of Duddingston Kirk from 1805-1840, a famous landscape artist, who used the tower as a studio.



The building is historically important, as it was here that Duddingston Curling Society wrote the rules of curling which are still used throughout the world.

The tower consists of a lower and upper chamber and has recently been restored by Dr Neil's Garden Trust with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, The National Trust for Scotland and others. The lower chamber is a small museum of curling, and the upper chamber gives the history of the tower and garden, and its associations with Playfair, Thomson and curling.

The tower is open to the public each weekend during July and August from 1-4pm. Entrance: Adults £2, children £1, family ticket £5. The upper chamber is available for hire for small functions, recitals or as a studio: Tel. 07849187995.

Jim Baird

BOOK REVIEW:

155 Years of Golf in Portobello

IT is very rare for a book on local history, intended for what can only be called a niche market, to be produced to such high standards as this history of Portobello Golf Club. Czeslaw, commonly known as Chester, Kruk and his Polish publishers have brought out a volume whose stylish hardback covers enclose 96 top-quality, glossy pages that do full justice to the text and lavish illustrations. There is also a three-page index, which is an invaluable and necessary asset in a work that has to mention so many individuals, such as Club Captains and trophy winners.

Chester provides a brief history of Portobello's development and describes how the golf club was founded in 1856 by its civic leaders when the burgh had its own Town Council. Thomas Wood, Major Hugh Christian and Alexander Brand, all Provosts of Portobello at various times, were to the fore in club affairs. (Is it just a coincidence that Brand Drive in the Christian housing estate is so close to the tricky second hole?)

Quite rightly, there are chapters devoted to the club's Ladies Section, which has its own distinguished history going back to 1893, and to Willie Hare who was Club Secretary for over two decades. All in all, this book should be on the shelves of everyone who has played, or just walked, around the attractive little course in Stanley Street.

(The book costs £10 and copies may be had from the author, Czeslaw Kruk. Contact him at 552 2466 or czesla.kruk@hotmail.co.uk)

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RETIRED TEACHER FUNDS EDUCATION FOR NEPALI CHILDREN IN INDIA

NEPALI children are benefiting from the dedication of retired teacher Pauline MacInnes of Moira Terrace. Her charity, the Himalayan Children Education Trust, funds teachers in the Kalimpong Hill region of West Bengal.

She first went to India with her daughter, who was teaching for VSO. There she discovered that the children of the Lepcha tribe were seriously disadvantaged: "Some of their teachers are trained, but not all of them," she told the *Reporter*. "Their English is not very good, but the children have to sit their exams in English because there is no provision for them to do so in their own language". She has spent many months over the past few years helping the teachers and children with their English.

Her charity, established in 2007, has raised enough funds to pay the salaries of seven teachers in St. Mary's Tribal School in Nok Dara and another six in St. Joseph's High School in Git Dubling. She is hoping that her book sales and other fund raising events will pay for another two teachers.

Pauline needs help with fund-raising and is looking for a volunteer organiser who can share her "wonderful feeling of satisfaction". If you want to find out more about her work, give your time, or make a donation then go to her blog at www.pauline-westbengal.blogspot.com



Photo by Ian Torrance

FIGGATE PARK MAKE OVER



Photo by Peter Ross

THE FIGGATE park has recently had a make-over thanks to the Friends of the Figgate Park and a £75,000 grant from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN). The make-over has seen the pond greatly enhanced by a new wooden walkway.

"I am delighted with the way it has turned out", said founder member, and recently retired chairman of the Friends of the Figgate Park, Tom Forsyth.

Tom told the *Reporter* that he was happy to retire as chairman because the committee "have loads of ideas". Tom will continue to contribute by providing information about the wildlife in the park on their website www.figgatepark.org.uk

A grand opening is planned for later in the summer when the plants in and around the pond will be at their best.

PR

BOOK REVIEW:

Fragments - My Life and Death in a Cult, by Elizabeth Fraser

LOCAL writer Elisabeth Fraser's remarkable life story is set against a continual search for "Truth and self-knowledge". In great detail, she describes a country childhood in the 1920s, her first marriage, and problems following the birth of her fourth child, which led to her seeking help in a cult and losing custody of her children. She escaped with the help of a Scot, fled to Scotland and later married him. Her story continues with her work as a publisher's agent, travelling around Scotland, her reunion with her children, by now young adults, and marital problems. She constantly sought help through Taoism and Buddhism, and finally found it in the teachings of Krishnamurti. In the final chapters, Elisabeth writes about how his teachings helped her and could help others.

ISBN 9781847478184. Chipmunkpublishing, 2009. £15

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE Coffee Morning and Book Sale held in March, with help from the Woodcraft Folk, enabled the Group to donate £500 to Amnesty International UK for human rights promotion worldwide.

The Group's high profile in the past year has attracted two active new members.

In the run-up to the European Elections on 4th June, the Group played a part in Amnesty's campaign to seek information from candidates on their approaches to the on-going process of building human rights concerns into every aspect of European legislation.

For two weeks from 15th June, there will be an Amnesty display in Portobello Library window, focusing on the inhumanity of UK asylum policies, which include leaving thousands destitute, and detaining adults and children for indefinite periods in institutions where they have fewer rights than convicted criminals. This will coincide with Refugee Week.

The Group meets on the third Monday of the month in the vestry or hall of the URC in Marlborough Street from 7.30-9pm. Meetings are open to everyone. A letter-writing sub-group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 Esplanade Terrace. For further information call 669 1308. Any changes in time of meeting will be advised by email and on the Group's website www.amnesty.org.uk/edinburghportobello

David Turner

DR PETER SAVAGE - AN APPRECIATION

PETER SAVAGE, who sadly died in April, was the founder in 1979 of the Abercorn Amenity Association which, in 1981, became Portobello Amenity Society.

Peter, an architect, had the vision to realise that Portobello's wealth of fine architecture needed protection. In 1979, Portobello, as now, was undergoing great change. The Power Station was being demolished, and Pipe Street and Figgate Street, areas full of historical interest and fine Georgian architecture, were also being destroyed. Peter therefore formed an amenity association for residents living near Abercorn Park, as he did, who wished to protect Portobello's built heritage.

1981 saw the Open Air Swimming Pool decaying and disused. Britain was in a deep economic slump and there was no public money available to renovate it. This, and the imminent construc-

tion of the Portobello Bypass, led Peter to propose that the Abercorn Amenity Association should widen its scope to become the Portobello Amenity Society, concerning itself with the whole of the Portobello area.

The first major campaign that PAS undertook that year was to prevent the demolition of Windsor Place Church, then owned by Telcom and surplus to their requirements.

Since then PAS continues to monitor all planning applications for the Portobello area, as well as campaigning on a wide range of issues affecting the whole of Portobello.

None of this would have been possible without Peter's vision and his determination to protect Portobello's built heritage. PAS and Portobello owe him a great deal.

John Stewart, Chair, PAS

PERSON SEARCH: JAN MULHALL

of Liverpool asks via the Edinphoto website: Does anyone remember Janette Bruce, daughter of Jimmy and Agnes Bruce, who was born on 29th June 1939 in Portobello? She lived at 7 Ramsey Place, and attended Towerbank school.

Any information should be sent to the website by email to peter.stubbs@edinphoto.org.uk

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES
Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:
Portobello Library, 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm.
Bingham Community Centre, 1st Monday, 6.30pm.
St Francis Primary School, 3rd Monday (term-time) 6.30pm.
OR call 529 4233 or email michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk

Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:
Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk
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Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:
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PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING SUCCESSES

THE U14 boys basketball team won the Scottish Championship for the second year in a row; Catrin Moens, Rowan Simpson and Elspeth Simpson have been selected for the U14 East of Scotland Development Squad; Chloe Lodge (S4) is now captain of the U16 Scottish team.

Special training and coaching have been set up for Rebecca Allison, who is a potential basketball Olympian for 2012, and for Amy Brodie in her sport of hockey, so there may be two former PHS pupils in future Olympics.

Kieran Kivlin (S2) has been selected for the Scottish Schools U16 Indoor Athletics international team.

Stephanie Malcolm (S4) has been chosen to represent Scotland at U17 football, and Billy King (S3) at U15.

Mark Scott continues to excel on the European cycling circuit.

LOCAL FAMILY'S HOCKEY TALENTS



ROSS Jamieson (17) and his sister Sarah (14) have both been selected to play hockey for Scotland, Ross for the U18 Boys Team and Sarah for the U16 Development Team. Ross has also been selected for one of the senior men's squads taking part in the GB Hockey Super League. Both are pupils at Portobello High School, and play for Inverleith Hockey Club www.inverleith-hc.co.uk Ross has had trips to Wales and Belgium with the U18s, and to Wales and England with the Highland Jaguars Senior team, competing in the Super League. Sarah had a successful trip to Ulster at Easter with the Development Squad.

FOOTBALLING SUCCESS FOR TOWERBANK



Photo by Paul Cooke

The boys who took part in all the rounds of the competition: left to right: James Clark, James Pinkerton, Morro Bajo, Declan Knox, Jack Smith, Brandon Wiseman, Hamish Bain, Declan Sands, Jack Thayers, with coaches John Thayers (left) and Kenny Bain.

TOWERBANK Primary School's P7 Football team won the Scottish Schools 7s Cup at the Toryglen Football Institute, Glasgow on 29th April, beating last year's winners St Josephs of Blantyre 2-1. In numerous round robins, Towerbank won all their semi-finals to reach the finals, which involved two groups of four teams from the East, West, North and South. They also made it unbeaten to the semi-finals of the Inspectors Cup.

This is the first time in the school's history that any team has achieved so much. The boys have been playing together for the last three years and their success is due to their hard work and commitment.

Kenny Bain, Coach

A VERY SPECIAL LADY RETIRES

FREDA WARD is retiring from Seabeach Nursery after 20 years.

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Ask any child who has attended the nursery over the past 20 years what they remember of their time there and without exception the answer is "Freda and her music".

A truly special lady!

Jeanne MacMillan



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3.00 - 4.00pm

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FUN SUMMER!

LOTS of fun activities are planned for this summer in Portobello. The activities are being organised as part of the Active Schools Edinburgh Programme. Sport Scotland and the city council have got together to provide these fun opportunities for the young people of Edinburgh.

The benefits of taking part are great, not only are the activities fun, but there are opportunities to make new friends and get fitter at the same time.

Apart from the holiday programme Active Schools also organise out of school activities and other chances to have active fun in the community. There are a whole lot of things going on around the city both during term time and during the holidays.

In Portobello there are after school activities open to all school-aged children. If you want to find out more about them, or any of the other city wide activities, call Colin McMillan on 07884216213 or you can email him to colin.mcmillan@ea.edin.sch.uk

This summer the local activities will be at Portobello High School. All the activities are for the full week.

13th - 17th July

Basketball Camp for P3-P6
9.30-11.30am (£15)

Mini-Kickers Camp for nursery children 11.30-12.30pm (£10)

Mini-Kickers Camp for P1-P3
1-3pm (£15)

Dance Camp (various types) for P3-P7
1-3.30pm (£20)

20th - 24th July

Hockey Camp for P3-P7
10-12noon (£15)

Cycle Training (on-road) for P6
1.30-3pm (free of charge)

Active Schools are also looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children and taking part in sport and physical activity. If you are interested contact Colin at the number above.

The council are also providing temporary trampolines will be set up on the Prom, at Straiton Place in mid-June.

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Next Issue June 2009

PROGRESS FOR PORTOBELLO RUGBY CLUB



Photo by Stuart Fraser

PORTOBELLO have enjoyed a successful season this year, clinching second place in Edinburgh League Division 1. The season began with mixed results, but by Christmas Porty were sitting second to eventual winners, unbeaten Hawick Linden. Over the season Porty fielded over 35 players, often dipping into

the resources of the super-successful 2nd XV, the Porty SXY2s. The 2nd XV managed to go the whole season losing only one match and winning their league convincingly. One of the highlights of the season for the 1st XV was an exciting 13-15 victory over local rivals and high flyers, Edinburgh University at Peffermill, in the third round

of the Scottish Cup. Skipper Chris Thomas believes Porty can still improve: "This year we have built on last year's cup run to Murrayfield and have drastically improved our league position", he says. "I feel we are ready to push for promotion next year into the national leagues, as we now have the players and the structure to

compete at a higher level. On top of that we have the motivation and desire to keep improving, which is the important factor" Portobello train on Tuesday and Thursday at Cavalry Park, Duddingston at 6.45pm. New players are welcome at pre-season training, which begins on 2nd July.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A LOT of new things are going on at the Community Centre: A Food and Fitness group meet on Tuesdays at 9.30am for a walk in the local area, followed by a cup of tea. On Thursdays we have healthy eating classes between 9.30-11.30am. They include understanding food labels, trying new foods and eating healthily on a budget. There are now three Tai Chi groups, meeting on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. The Telford Art Outreach Group have their first art exhibition in Portobello Library from 4th to 18th June. The group will start up again after the summer. Please call if you'd like to join. We are hoping to have a variety of activities for children over the summer, including a week's drama workshop for P4-P7s. Councillor Bridgman has secured some funding for these, but plans have yet to be finalised and details will be put on our website www.portobellocc.btik.com when available. Please contact Gillian on 669 8275 for more information about activities, or e-mail enquiries@portobellocc.co.uk

BOOK REVIEW

There is a Bonny Fitba Team. 50 Years on the Hibe Highway, by Ted Brack
THIS is an affectionate and honest account of the trials and tribulations of a devoted Hibs fan, as well as a history of the club, over the last 50 years. The story starts in April 1958 when the 11-year-old Ted left Hampden in tears after Hibs had lost 1-0 to Clyde in the Scottish Cup Final. He has since been to over 1000 games and has got to know lots of players, officials and fans, and recalls events in great detail. He still hopes to see Hibs win the Cup for the first time since 1902. This very personal and funny book, with a foreword by Pat Stanton and 24 photographs, is a 'must read' for all Hibs supporters. ISBN 978184502255-6. Black & White Publishing, 2009. £11.99. (Ted Brack is a former headteacher at St John's Primary School and lives locally).

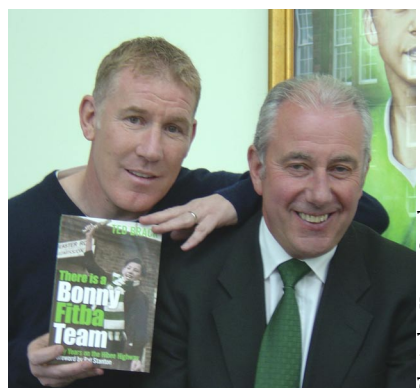


Photo by Karen Combe

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

- PORTOBELLO** Amenity Society: AGM, Wed. 10th June, St Marks Church, Portobello High St, 7.30pm. PEDAL will give an illustrated talk on *Moving to a Post-Carbon Portobello*. All welcome.
- PAS monthly meetings: Weds 24th June, 22nd July, 26th August at 7.30pm. Call 669 6466 if wishing to attend.
- COFFEE MORNING:** Sat. 13th June, 10.30am-1pm, a PONGS fund-raising event in St James Church hall, Rosefield Place. Home baking, books, plants, bric-a-brac, tombola. (If you can help on the day or donate to a stall, please email francesisobelwraith@hotmail.com or 'phone 669 5790).
- BEACH VOLLEYBALL** at foot of Bellfield St: Sun. 14th June - East Coast Junior Festival. Sat/Sun. 20/21st June - Scottish Beach Tour event.
- ROAD RACE** organised by Portobello Running Club, Thurs. evening, 18th June on Prom and nearby streets. 4 mile race and 1 mile fun run. Start/end near Bowls Centre. For more info and entry forms see www.portobellorunners.co.uk/roadrace.htm
- MALECON MATINEE:** Next dates: Sun. 21st June, 3.30-6.30pm; Sat. 15th Aug, 2.30-5.30pm. Traditional Cuban music, fun and dance in the Beach Lane Social Club. £5 incl. free drink. Accompanied under-14s free.
- MUSIC ON A SUMMER EVENING:** Tues. 23rd June, 7.30pm, Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St.
- ANNUAL GARDEN FETE,** St Christopher's Parish Church Craigentiny, Sat. 27th June, 1pm-3pm. Watch the Just Dance Group, listen to the Jazz Band, and enjoy refreshments. Lots of stalls and craft activities for children.
- CRAFT FAIRS:** Portobello Town Hall, Sat. 4th July and 8th August, 10am-4pm. For more info. call 07956897095.
- CAR BOOT SALES:** Newcraighall Station car park on last Sunday of each month. 9am to 2pm. For pitches contact Portobello Rotary Club on 661 9570 or 077 892 205 83

TARDIS LANDS IN HOLY ROOD

HOLY ROOD pupils got a real surprise recently when it appeared that the Tardis had landed in the school library. One brave 1st year got a real shock when he opened the door only to set the light on the Tardis flashing and the familiar theme tune playing. Inside the Time Lord's familiar decor has been replaced by 42 feet of shelving for Sci-fi and Fantasy novels. Holy Rood's Tardis was inspired and built by Dr Who fans: David Burns, Sarah-Ann Dalgleish, Sean Ibbotson, Rory McIlhone, Feargus Magill, Ossian Picton, Ryan Stark, Staci Shiels, Ryan Stark and Samantha Turner. Rachel McCabe

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