

THE **Portobello** REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980.

PORTY ROCKS AS ROWING RETURNS



Photo by Peter Ross

PORTOBELLO relived past glories and added a new chapter to its story on Saturday 24th July, when hundreds of enthusiastic spectators turned out to see the first Portobello Rowing Regatta in over 40 years. There was local rivalry between Portobello, Port Seton, North Berwick and Newhaven, who were joined by teams from Anstruther, and Achiltibuie on the north-west coast, to compete over the 800 yard course.

Each team raced a St Ayles Skiff, a five-person rowing boat. These traditional wooden boats were built as part of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Project, which is generating renewed interest in traditional rowing races: 26 boats are now completed or in production. Portobello's boat 'Icebreaker' was built by local volunteers in workshop space provided free by BL Developments and

took part in the inaugural race, held at Anstruther earlier in the summer.

"There were more than 100 rowers here in Portobello taking part in 20 races, competing for the honour of calling themselves the best coastal rowers in Scotland", said Andres Leslie, Captain of the Portobello team. The Portobello teams acquitted themselves well, with the men's and women's squads giving it their all and tasting success in the Mixed Open, see above, but in the end Port Seton went home with the Porty Cup after winning four of the day's finals.

Andres continued: "It was great to see rowing return, and the people of Portobello showed how a local community can work together to deliver a successful event. It was a real team effort, with the Portobello Sailing and Kayaking

Club and its founder Jonathan Bendit, and the Beach House supporting its delivery".

Prior to the Regatta, a Heritage Lottery-funded exhibition and slide show was held at the library, with local rowing memorabilia dating back to 1898. There were also reminiscences from Bill and Derek Morrison, members of the old Portobello Amateur Rowing Club, started by their grandfather William Morrison in 1885, and Tom Forsyth and Francis Fusco from the old Eastern Amateur Rowing Club.

With so much interest in 'Icebreaker', a second boat is under construction, giving more people the opportunity to get involved in building and rowing these beautiful boats. Anyone interested in finding out more, or in seeing pictures from the Regatta, should visit www.rowporty.org.uk

Leon Thomson

VIRIDOR WASTE PLAN BINNED

THE Reporters from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals announced on 9th June that, following the public inquiry in February, they had rejected Viridor's appeal against the Council's refusal of permission for a waste transfer station at Sir Harry Lauder Road.

Their report said: "We find it difficult to conclude that there

is an explicit need in the public interest for a stand alone transfer station in this location and of the scale proposed."

They also concluded that the huge building "would be damaging to the character and appearance of the area around it and ... have a negative effect on the wider townscape and a detrimental impact on visual amenity".

Many thanks are due to all who contributed to the success of the PONGS campaign against the proposal, helping to raise almost £35,000 for professional representation; also to our planning consultant and QC, those who gave evidence at the inquiry, and our local elected representatives for their support.

Diana Cairns

EXCITING LINE-UP AT SECOND PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL

SPURRED on by the unqualified success of the first Portobello Book Festival in 2009, the organisers have put together a second programme of events to run from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th October.

An opening event in the Town Hall featuring poetry, music and song, will be followed over the next two days by readings and discussions with local authors, at various venues.

Ian S Wood will chair a discussion on *Why History Matters*, with fellow historians Donald Bloxham, Gary Dickson and Jenny Wormald; Anne Loughane and Margaret Stewart will discuss *Writing From Family History*.

'Rebus' creator, Ian Rankin, will chair a discussion on Scottish crime fiction with fellow

authors Allan Guthrie, Doug Johnstone, Alice Thompson and Caroline Dunford. Comic novelist and playwright Rosy Barnes will hold a Meet the Author session, and

Hibs supporter Ted Brack will discuss how his lifelong passion for the team led to the writing of two books.

For children there will be a jungle-themed event.

There is also Book Quiz, and a further survey of Portobello's Favourite Books to see how these may have changed since last year. Local journalist Jim Gilchrist will lead another Literary Walking Tour of Portobello.

All events are free, though some require tickets available in advance. The full programme will be available in mid September at Portobello Library.

BEST FRIENDS FOR EVER



Photo courtesy of the Friends

THE Friends of the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home marked their Silver Anniversary in June by getting together for a special celebratory lunch. Joining forces in 1984 to support the EDCH, the friends started small, raising £400 with a coffee morning. Over the last 25 years their hard work has made a big difference to the lives of the city's strays, using funds raised largely through their shop in Portobello High Street.

The Home's Manager David Ewing says: "Their efforts upgraded our sick-bay and grooming room, refurbished our cattery, provided a dishwasher for our kitchen, chairs for the lecture room, feeding barrows, vet beds and feeding bowls."

Last year the Home's staff cared for 3,239 dogs and 1,244 cats at its site on Seafield Road East where it has been for over 50 years. Founded in 1883, the EDCH first opened its doors in 1884 in Comely Bank Gardens. It moved to Broughton Road in 1900 before settling in Portobello in 1957.

Winifred Bruce, chair of the Friends says: "The Group was originally led by Millie Connell whose husband was Manager of the Home at that time. Money was raised and friendships forged as the Friends started to make a difference by helping to pay vet fees and the cost of refurbishing a kitten house and a puppy house."

"We are proud of what the Friends have achieved for the Home over the last 25 years, but the fun we have had and the friendships that have blossomed have a value all of their own," she concluded.

PORTY PROFILE No. 40 DAMIAN KILLEEN

PORTOBELLO feels like home to Damian Killeen in a way that no other place has ever done, and he believes that this is what has inspired him to contribute to and care for his community.

After moving to the area 25 years ago, he continued to commute to Glasgow to work and says: "I remember telling everyone how wonderful Portobello was, but never spending any time here myself!"

During a long career in community development Damian campaigned on youth housing issues for Shelter, led The Poverty Alliance in Scotland through devolution, and accompanied the Scottish First Minister to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. He was awarded the OBE in 2004 for services to social inclusion.

He realised, however, that he was always promoting the benefits of community involvement, but never experiencing them fully for himself. Then, after a trip to Barcelona in 2003 with his wife, an idea of what he could contribute to Portobello began to form. He recalls: "We were taking a stroll down the Ramblas, and when we got to the beach at the end we were confronted by all these sculptures on the sand. One of us said 'what are all those big things on the beach?'"

The idea grew into the local arts trust, Big Things on the Beach, dedicated to the development of Portobello Beach as a site for the creation and display of public art. "We started talking about it as the 'City Beach' and here we are, six years down the line presenting an exhibition of people's thoughts about this city beach, in the programme of the Edinburgh Art Festival", he says.

Damian knows his group is not the first to create new stories in and about Portobello and enjoys the sense that there are many different ways of adding value to and caring for the place. He has found his way, which gives him personal pleasure, but is also about engaging with others to promote a positive image of Portobello. He concludes: "What this means to me is a place within the community to be myself and to share some feeling for it with others who want to look forward progressively and have interest and excitement in their lives".

Eilidh Bateman



Photo by EILIDH BATEMAN

ON THE BEAT

AS many people may be aware, a byelaw has recently been brought into effect in the area under which a fine of £40 can be issued to anyone who involves themselves in antisocial behaviour while drinking alcohol. During the summer, with the numerous visitors to Portobello and the beach, the byelaw has been a great success as a tool to deal with and deter such unacceptable behaviour.

Whilst drinking does take place in areas such as the beach and promenade, there are also a number of public houses in the area that are members of the Portobello and Jocks Lodge Pub Watch schemes. These schemes continue to be of great benefit, allowing communication between the public houses, police and council.

I would like to remind people once again of opportunist criminals in the area, and would ask everyone to remain extra vigilant now that the days are becoming shorter, allowing house-breakings and thefts to be carried out under cover of darkness.

Police Constable Graeme Buchan, our local crime prevention officer, is continuing with his efforts towards reducing such crimes in the area and, more recently, through local talks and presentations, has been concentrating on how best to deal with bogus workers and 'cold callers'. Should you be interested in further information about such issues, or would like advice on home security and personal safety, please contact PC Buchan at Craigmillar Police Station on Tel: 661 3362.

PC Matthew Higson

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A Parent/Carer Support Development Worker has been appointed to the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership, as part of the Supporting Parents and Carers in Edinburgh (SPACE) initiative. SPACE is about giving information, advice and support on everything to do with parenting. It's about ensuring that all parents/carers can access support when they need it, whether the problem is big or small, and whether the child is 1 year or 16 years old.

A Festival of events to launch this initiative will be held at Portobello Library

from 4th to 8th October, with workshops, stalls and speakers. All parents/carers and children are welcome and more information is available from the library, where there is also an Information Point.

Development Worker Steff Kaye will be available for drop-in sessions in Portobello and Craigmillar Libraries, and is keen to talk to you about what parenting support is needed in your area. For more information please drop in to your library, or contact Steff at: Steff.Kaye@green-gables-nur.edin.sch.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

EASY TO BE GREEN: Over 90% of the 900 visitors interviewed at Edinburgh's Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) said they were satisfied with the facilities, found them easy to get to and understood which materials can be recycled. There are two local CRCs: at Fillyside Road, Seafield and Old Dalkeith Road, Craigmillar. If you haven't been before, why not start now and recycle more. For more information about recycling see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/waste, e-mail waste@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 529 3030.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S Parish Church, Craigentiny, would like to thank everyone who attended the Garden Fete on Saturday 5th June. A special thanks to the Scouts, Browns and Badminton Group who helped out - it was very much appreciated. Everyone had a lovely time and the weather held out.

THE PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY, a 104m long embroidery, created by volunteers across Scotland, tells the story of the 1745 Jacobite Rising, following the fortunes of Bonnie Prince Charlie as he raises an army and marches on Edinburgh, before the Battle of Prestonpans. It can be seen at Duddingston Kirk Hall on Sunday 19th September and Prestonpans Community Centre on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th.


VILLAGE SHOW: This popular event takes place again in Rosefield Park, Portobello on Sunday 26th September from 2-5pm with stalls, entertainments, competitions etc.

Would anyone able to provide baking for the tea tent, or help with stalls and games, please email: info@the-pod.org

OVERFLOWING DRAINS: The person to contact at the Council about drains that require clearing is Stuart Smith, Roads, tel. 529 3686 or email stuart@smith@edinburgh.gov.uk

THE JUNE TROPHY competition at Brunstane Bowling Club on 12th June raised £520 for St Columba's Hospice.

LIFEBOATS: The collection by volunteers in Portobello High Street on Saturday 1st May raised £433.



Sheila Gilmore

Your MP in Edinburgh East


SURGERIES

Every second Friday of the month
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10.00-11.00
Buses: 2, 23, 27, 41, 42, 45, 67

Restalrig Lochend Hub, Restalrig Rd
11.30 - 12.30
Buses: 19, 21, 25, 34, 49

Every fourth Friday of the month
Northfield Willowbrae Centre,
Northfield Road
16.00-17.00
Buses: 4 5 15 26 44 69

Portobello Town Hall
17.30-19.00
Buses: 15, 21, 26, 42, 49, 63



Contact your MP
T: 0131 667 8538
F: 0131 667 1029
sheila.gilmore.mp@parliament.uk

To contact

The Portobello Reporter

you can
telephone 669 3466
or email
portyreporter@btinternet.com

WE are delighted to support the Portobello Book Festival, back in October for its second year. Events will be held in the library and other local venues from Friday to Sunday, 8th to 10th October. The programme is available at the library.



Our new friend, the Bookbug, will appear at Rhymetimes for under-3s. Wednesday Rhymetimes are now so popular we are expanding into the weekends: Heather and the Bookbug will welcome all under-3s and their carers on Saturday 4th September and 30th October, and Sunday 3rd October and 28th November.

Following the success of television shows like *Who Do You Think You Are*, we are holding a series of talks on Family History and Genealogy over the autumn, covering everything you need to know to start researching your roots. Ask staff for details.

The Book Group meet on the first Tuesday of every month, when the following books will be discussed:

- 7th September - *The Storm* by Vince Cable
 - 5th October - *Ordinary Thunderstorms* by William Boyd
 - 2nd November - *Past Imperfect* by Julian Fellowes
- All books are available from the library. Ask staff for details.

We also have a Teenage Book Group that meets on the last Thursday of every month. Details from library staff.

City of Edinburgh Council's Children and Families Department will display the results of their consultation on the new Portobello High School, in the library, from 23rd August to 12th September.

The Telford College Art Group will display their work from 23rd September to 7th October.

The St James Art Group will hold their annual exhibition from 1st-13th November.

We now have a notice board for community information. Check this and our plasma screen for what's going on in Portobello.

COILLESDENE CROSSING CAMPAIGN



Photo by Peter Ross

CAMPAIGNERS from the Coillesdene Housing Complex Residents Association won their 15-year-long fight to have a crossing installed on Milton Road opposite their homes. The Association, which was formed three years ago, won the support of Craigmillar and Portobello Neighbourhood Partnership in their bid for the crossing. The Puffin Crossing was much needed to ensure the safety of the residents of the sheltered housing complex, many of whom have restricted mobility and some of whom are wheelchair users.

Encouraged by their success, the Association are now campaigning for reduced speed restrictions on Milton Road from 40 mph to 30 mph. "It is a very busy road," committee member Winifred Curran told the *Reporter*. "Motorbikes go up at a terrific speed and the cars and buses." They also want a bus shelter. "I hope we are not going to have to wait 15 years for that", said Nelson Johnstone, Chair of the Association.

BOOK REVIEW

'Tenterfield - My Happy Childhood in Care', by Margaret Irvine.

IN this true story, Margaret Irvine recounts her happy childhood at Tenterfield House, Haddington from the 1940s to 1960s. She was one of 40 children in local authority care, under the guidance of the matron, Miss Martin, a woman of vision and foresight. She tells of walks in the hills, camping in summer, boat trips and Christmas celebrations. It is a heart-warming story.

For copies, contact Fledgling Press, tel.343 2367, zander@fledglingpress.co.uk

DANGER CAUSED BY OVER-PARKING

THERE has been a problem with over-parking on Marlborough Street, Regent Street and Bath Street for some time. This was highlighted by the failure of a fire tender to gain access to the bottom of Bath Street during a recent fire there. Thankfully the tender not needed as the fire was minor.

It is simply not acceptable that the emergency services be prevented from attending incidents in the streets between the High Street and the Prom by parked cars. The Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership, which brings together the police and various council departments, should be an ideal forum in which to solve the problem, and Portobello Community Council (PCC) approved motions in June that will allow the Partnership to take this up.

It may even be that the Partnership could sort out the bin situation at the foot of Bath Street, where wheelie bins stand facing the sea like the Easter Island statues. Synchronising collection times will substantially reduce disruption and increase quality of life for residents, at no cost.

This will give the Neighbourhood Partnership the opportunity to do something meaningful for Portobello for the first time in the three years since it was set up. Overlong meetings replicating the great work of the Community Council and a few public realm projects aside, it has broadly failed to achieve any real engagement with the Portobello community.

Peter McColl, PCC Rep.to NP

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LOST AND FOUND

ONE for sorrow, two for joy... the youngest member of the family is increasingly honing his magpie-like skills. His speciality is spotting stray mobile phones, lost and hidden from view for most of us, but easily spied by a seven-year-old into everything.

A walk along the Prom on one of the warmest nights in the summer yielded a phone half buried in the sand, clearly in good order and recently lost. In the hope the owner was still nearby we managed to navigate its lock and find a home number to ring. Minutes later the grateful owner appeared and rewarded a wide-eyed boy with a whole punnet of delicious strawberries just for him, which disappeared as quickly as you can say "don't eat them too... oh never mind."

Earlier in his life he had found a phone at the cinema and innocently popped it into his pocket, proudly producing it when we got home. "Oh no!" we groaned in the knowledge that a trip back out to the cinema was on the cards. A complicated explanation followed of why we didn't hand it in before, to an assistant who clearly had scant knowledge of the complexities of a four-year-old.

The last time we were on the beach he found a £1 coin and looked wistfully at it before handing it over. "I think you can keep it" was greeted by a puzzled look asking "But why, why, why?", followed by a swift change to "Nah, I'm keeping quiet in case she changes her mind," and a satisfied smile. I could tell from his face just exactly what he was thinking: keeping your eyes wide-open in most cases definitely does pay!

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



AUTUMN used to be the traditional planting time, but with container-grown plants it can be done any time, although establishment is easier in autumn when there is still some warmth in the soil. I collect old woollen socks, jumpers, blankets, or cotton T-shirts, towels, sheets or downie covers that aren't not good enough for the charity shop, to use as a mulch around newly-planted perennials, shrubs and trees. I soak them first, then add a layer of shredded material on top. This retains moisture and keeps the weeds down. It's amazing how a cotton sheet will disappear in just over a year, recycled by the soil microbes, but don't use man-made fibres unless you wish a permanent barrier.

I leave plants to die down over the winter, as seed heads are a great food source for the birds but, because I have clay soil, I lift dahlias once they've been blackened by frost. If you have sandy soil it would be worth the risk to leave them, but you'll still have the odd loss. Old wooden drawers are useful for storing dahlias, wrapped in newspaper, somewhere cool and frost and vermin free. Don't use wood substitutes as they disintegrate when wet; I once lost a whole tray of seedlings when the bottom fell out. Those wooden fruit boxes that greengrocers usually throw out make good seed boxes and can be easily stacked on top of each other. They also make great storage during the winter for gardening odds and ends, until needed in spring.

I don't let the birds get all the seed; I collect lots from plants and save in old envelopes, but remember to write on the outside what the seeds are or you may not recognise them when it's sowing time. Another must-do job is hard-wood cuttings - any deciduous shrub or tree is worth trying. Cut half-metre lengths, finger thick, from philadelphus or blackcurrants, for example, strip all the leaves off and cut off the top 10cm of soft growth, then stick in the ground, up to half their length. I've even had success with a quince.

Potatoes can be stored like dahlias, but leave leeks, carrots and turnips in the ground until needed. If you live in a flat, over-wintering salad leaf mix can be sown and kept on a sunny windowsill, and the outside leaves picked as needed. Another windowsill winter must-have are beans for sprouting, bought as certified organic of course! These only take about a week to sprout and are a great addition to a sandwich.

When growing hyacinths in bowls without drainage, use some crushed charcoal from the BBQ to keep the soil sweet. The perfume in the house at a dull time of year is well worth the effort.

HEALTHY EATING: EASY COURGETTE SOUP

You need:

1lb courgettes, half an onion, 1oz/25g butter, 1 garlic clove, ¼ - ½ tsp. currie powder, ½ pt/300ml veg. stock and ¼ pt/150ml milk.

Sauté the courgettes, onion and garlic in the butter until soft. Add the currie powder and stock. Simmer for 10-15mins. Liquidise, then add the milk and a little salt. (Serves 2-3).

THE first Portobello Organic Market will take place on Saturday 4th September, with locally-produced and organic food, drinks, arts and crafts for sale, plus face painting and live music. This will be the best place to be to start both Organic Fortnight and Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight. See the flier delivered with your copy of the Reporter for details.

The GREEN COLUMN

On Saturday 18th September we're running a breadmaking course, and on the 19th Porty's annual Car Free Day event will take place at the foot of Bath Street. Then there'll be a celebration of Scottish apple varieties and fun activities on Apple Day, Saturday 16th October, at the Donkeyfield Orchard. We'll also be selling low-cost indigenous varieties of fruit tree in October and November.

Could we start producing food for Portobello, right here? PEDAL have appointed Whitmuir Organics to work with residents to see if a community farm would succeed. Over the coming months there'll be open discussions and local walks to look for potential sites. Contact Polly if you'd like to get involved.

We hope as many folk as possible will take up the low-cost cavity and loft insulation one-off deal detailed in our recent letter. Those who live in a tenement flat can still do plenty to save energy and money. Contact Charlotte for details of the Warm Tenements Scheme. 45 people have shown interest in whether solar water-heating might work for their home. PEDAL will now get some bulk prices from accredited installers, to see what kind of reduced installation price we can negotiate.

Finally, our plans for a wind turbine on the Prom have changed and we're now looking at two smaller ones. We'll submit planning applications before Christmas, and consult the community prior to this.

For more information or to get involved in any of our projects, visit www.pedal-porty.org.uk or call us on 258 4483.

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60 YEARS ON - NED BARNIE

SIXTY YEARS ago, at the age of 54, Portobello-born Ned Barnie competed in the first Cross-Channel Race organised by *The Daily Mail*. He finished a very creditable fifth, arriving in Cap Griz Nez in France in a time of 14 hours 50 minutes, becoming the oldest person and first Scot to complete the crossing.

The next year Ned did a solo crossing from England to France. Only three weeks later, in the second Channel Race which started from France, he finished in 17th place in a very respectable time, thus becoming the first man to have swum the Channel in both directions in one season. When he arrived back at race HQ in the late evening he amused the waiting crowd with an impromptu jig.

Ned was an experienced sea swimmer, frequently swimming from Portobello to Fisherrow as training. He swam from Granton to Burntisland in 1924, and did the double crossing in 1935. He swam across the Forth again in 1955, and in 1959 - now in his 60s, when he was sustained by a mug of rum. Always active in the sport at club level, Ned was elected President of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association in 1946.

Born in 1896, Ned served with the Royal Scots and the Royal Engineers in the First World War, and was awarded the Military Medal. He later taught science at various Edinburgh schools.

Ned could be seen swimming in the sea until late in his life. He died on Christmas Day in 1983. A plaque at his home at 7 Straiton Place commemorates his life in Portobello.

R K Mackenzie

FROM THE ARCHIVE: HENDERSON'S GARAGE IN THE 1960s



Photo courtesy of Dorothy Counts

Philip Christieson is seen here checking a customer's tyre at Henderson's Garage in Portobello High Street. Philip was employed as a mechanic and later went on to become manager of the garage. This photograph was taken in the early 1960s. The garage was later demolished and Portobello Health Centre is now on the site. Phoenix House replaced the workshop and block of flats in the background.

A LETTER FROM CANADA

Hi Folks!

I've been looking for pictures of 'old', as you ask for in the paper - which I love, by the way. I send it on to my brother Harold and his wife in Australia - they too love it! Thank you again for sending the 'Joppa' news. Cheerio!

Doreen

THIS is part of a letter from Doreen Jukes, who was born and raised in Bedford Terrace, Joppa, but has lived in Canada for many years. She first came across *The Portobello Reporter* while visiting her old haunts in the 1990s and has been receiving it ever since. This 1944 photo shows her St Philips Sunday School class; she was then Doreen McDowall. Does anyone recognise any of the boys?



OLD PHOTOS

IF you are enjoying the series of photos from our archive, please remember that we are always keen to add to this. We can make copies from originals. If you have any photographs, postcards or letters relating to Portobello, or objects you would like to donate, please contact Margaret Munro on 657 2866.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

DO you have any memories of Portobello in the 1930s, 40s or 50s that you would like to share with our readers? Perhaps of a special day at the seaside; an impromptu concert on the beach or a special treasure that you bought for your Mum or Granny on a day visit. We would love to hear from you. Contact Margaret Munro.

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PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

OUR 2010/11 programme of speakers begins on Wednesday 1st September, when Dr Diana Henderson, from The Scots at War Trust, will talk to society members about *Scotland in the Front Line*. Dr Henderson is very experienced in military history and this promises to be an informative and interesting talk.

David Affleck visits the society on Wednesday 6th October to talk about *The riddle of gravestone number 144 for William Jameson of Whittingham and the Portobello connection*. This enigmatic title promises to connect Portobello in unexpected ways to the surrounding area.

On Wednesday 3rd November our topic will be *An Introduction to Edinburgh's Old Hospitals: Through the Eyes of an Archivist*. Laura Brovard from Lothian Health Services Archive will give this talk. This archive is now held in the University of Edinburgh library, where Laura is based.

On Wednesday 1st December we have a visit from a member of a well-known Portobello family. Richard Demarco has agreed to give a talk to the society, although the title has not yet been confirmed. We expect this talk to be very popular and, because seating numbers are restricted, admission is by ticket only, with members given priority.

Our membership subscription is £6 per year. Non-members attending talks are asked for a donation. All are welcome to our meetings, which are held in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place and begin at 7pm sharp. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Margaret Munro

POPP SEEKS NEW HELPERS

ON 27th July, at the Portobello Older Peoples Project (POPP) summer lunch, Project Organiser Rita Aitken thanked volunteer helper Margaret Goodall for 17 years of service and presented her with a framed certificate in recognition. Margaret has decided it is time to retire and says: "I've really enjoyed helping run the club and have made some very good friends".



Photo by Brenda Molony

Two other volunteers retiring after long service, Ray Lang and Jean Wilson, were unable to be present. The three ladies have helped run the club for 51 years between them, and Rita says: "We now need some new helpers, and I hope the fact that Margaret, Ray and Jean were happy to help for so many years will encourage other people to volunteer".

POPP meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10am to 2.30pm, and provides a welcome break for the frail and elderly. Would anyone with a few hours to spare on just one day a week, please contact Rita during these times, on 657 4264.

MAGDALENE COMMUNITY GARDEN

YOUNG people living in Magdalene have helped to work an amazing transformation at the back of their Community Centre. They have created raised beds and borders, built garden furniture and fences from recycled wood, and laid paths from slabs that were saved from those replaced at the re-landscaped shopping area on the Drive.

People of all ages and whole families are now getting involved as volunteers and enjoying growing their own vegetables and flowers.

The growth in interest in gardening crosses generations and seems to be present in many communities.

ADAM McALPINE RETIRES

AT the end of June, Adam McAlpine retired from the Watchmakers and Jewellers at 190 Portobello High Street, the family business started by his father in 1954. After his father died Adam and his mother, Jenny, ran the shop, but since Jenny's death in 2000 he had run it on his own.

Adam was born and grew up in Portobello, and although he moved away when he got married, he also spent his working life here. "I'll really miss the people, the chat, the banter", he said, "and I would like to thank people for their support over 40-odd years". The business will continue, however, with a new proprietor.

Adam was a regular advertiser in *The Portobello Reporter* for over 20 years. We wish him a very happy retirement.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

ON Sunday 26th September, the three Church of Scotland congregations in Portobello (St James in Rosefield Place, St Philips in Brunstane Road North, and the Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street) are taking part in Back to Church Sunday 2010, with services at 11am.

This is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world and last year almost 82,000 people across the UK accepted the invitation to come to church and experience worship. Gone are the days of 'Sunday best'; simply wear whatever you feel comfortable in. Hymns and songs are sung, a variety of worship books are used, and there are prayers and readings from the Bible. The Minister will talk to the congregation and share his thoughts.

All are always welcome. Children are welcome at any service and, if they wish, they can go to crèche or join in with the Junior Church groups.

Paul Mitchell

The Portobello Reporter is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 40 local people. If you have something to publicise or would like to advertise call 669 3466 or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com

Dec. deadline 7th Nov. 2010.

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

AN important aspect of Amnesty's Stop Violence Against Women campaign is that women whose right to live in the UK depends on their husbands' legal status cannot access women's refuges, if subjected to domestic abuse. The Group have asked our new MP, Sheila Gilmore, to take this up with the Home Secretary, with a view to making permanent a temporary measure for addressing this.

This year sees the 65th birthday of Aung San Suu Khi, still under house arrest in Burma after many years. An election is pending, but the military will ensure that their oppressive regime remains in power. The Group have taken part in action involving sending paper boats, with the logo "Release Political Prisoners", to be launched on the river that flows from Thailand into Burma.

The Group has adopted a Turkish man, a victim of police shooting that has left him paralysed, as a long-term case for pursuing justice and sending him regular supporting letters.

The Group have invited former MP, Gavin Strang, and Brenda Molony of *The Portobello Reporter* to become patrons. We are delighted that both have accepted this honorary position and are grateful for their support.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th September at 7.30pm. At our meeting on Monday 18th October at 8pm, there will be presentations by Kate O'Brien and Paul Yates on some of the major issues of human rights in our asylum system, with a strong focus on the Sanctuary Pledge.

Meetings are held in the Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street and all are welcome.

For further information please call 669 1308.

David Turner

HOLISTIC THERAPIES AVAILABLE TO ALL

THE Holistic Community Health Project, run by the Community Foundation for Planetary Healing (CFPH) in Portobello, offers a variety of complementary therapies, paid for by donation, to people who are economically disadvantaged. The aim of the Project is to be as inclusive as possible, ensuring access to high quality holistic therapies for all who need it. All therapists are volunteers who are fully-trained professionals, insured, and governed by a code of conduct.

CFPH, a registered charity, began in October 2003, when co-founders Claudia Goncalves and Mark Halliday opened what was then known as The Shamanic Centre in Portobello High Street. "We believe that complementary therapies should be available for everyone, regardless of financial circumstances", says Claudia.

In October 2009, the Foundation was invited to the Scottish Parliament to receive the Investing in Volunteers Award.

For more information see www.planetaryhealing.co.uk, call Claudia on 449 3266, or visit the Foundation at 288 Portobello High Street.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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1st Monday of month:
Bingham Community Complex, 6pm
Magdalene Community Centre, 7pm
2nd Monday of month:
Portobello Library, 6pm
St Francis Primary School, 7:00pm
OR call 529 4233 or email michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk

Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk
Receive regular Reports by email or view on www.porty.org.uk

Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:

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ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER



LOCAL girl Julia Dransfield, aged 17, won the top prize in an annual photography competition organised by Rotary International and Keep Scotland Beautiful - to take part in a professional photo-shoot with Edinburgh-based Maverick Photo Agency.

The theme for this year's competition was 'Are We Waste Aware', and Julia's photograph of a rose in a discarded Costa Coffee cup titled 'Just add water to re-use and revive', also won first place in her age category.

At an awards ceremony on 16th June, Julia was presented with an engraved trophy and a certificate from Keep Scotland Beautiful, and a £25 voucher from Jessops.

A TRIP TO TANZANIA



SIX final year pupils from Holy Rood High School have just returned from a five-week stay in Tanzania, a follow-up to last year's visit to Edinburgh by six students from Lombeta School, Holy Rood's partner school. Lois Collins, Julia Kinane, Catherine Reilly, Hannah Macpherson, Conor Dempsey and Andrew Connarty stayed first with families in Legho Village and then at the boarding school in Lombeta.

"It was a marvellous experience", Andrew told the Reporter. "Everything was so different and people were very welcoming. They have time for each other and there is no rushing around. They only eat what they can produce - rice, potatoes, savoury banana and chapatis. There are only a few TVs, with old programmes in English and national channels, and western music is very popular, but everyone also really loves their own music and dance".

A highlight of the visit was a hike up Mount Kilimanjaro. "It took five days to climb up and two to come down, camping every night, and it was freezing at the top", said Andrew. "It was exhausting and the most difficult thing that I have ever done, but also the most rewarding".

"It was really good to see some of the boys and girls who stayed with us last year", he added, "and they were excited about us coming, talking about it with their friends at school. While we were there, Lois, Julia and Catherine celebrated their 18th birthdays, which made it really special for them".

£2.5 MILLION FUND FOR YOUTH GROUPS

YOUTH projects in Scotland are invited to apply for funding from a £2.5 million pot of cash created from the proceeds of crime. Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill announced on 15th July that a fourth round of funding for youth projects from the CashBack for Communities scheme is now open.

The cash is the first portion of £6.5 million, recovered earlier this year from a Russian money launderer with dealings in Scotland, which is now being invested back into local communities to provide free activities for young people.

The scheme is administered by the national agency YouthLink Scotland. Details of how to apply can be found on its website: www.youthlinkscotland.org.

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PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

IT was a very busy summer at Portobello Community Centre. The Youth club ran a weekly programme during the holidays for primary school-aged children, and activities for young folk aged 11+, both on the beach and off, were funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund.

Portobello Community Youth Theatre took part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, playing to near packed houses for a week, and doing a fantastic job. The group will start again, meeting from 2-5pm, on 25th September, when Primary 4s and upwards are invited to join us at 3 Adelphi Grove. We would also like to hear from anyone interested in an adult group.

We have received £10,000 from the Lottery Awards for All fund, which together with money pledged from the Community Centre management committee, will be spent on building a new stage and lighting and sound equipment. We hope this will be ready in time for the Christmas show.

A number of new groups have started:

PILATES: Classes primarily for new mums, but open to all, are run by Sabrina, a new mum herself, on Tuesdays from 4.30-5.30pm and Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Just come along or call her on 07922202968 or 620 0396 for more details.

TAI CHI: A beginners' Taoist Tai Chi class starts on Monday 6 September, 1-3pm, in addition to the regular group who meet on Mondays at 7pm.

Derek Smith continues his two Tai Chi fitness sessions on Wednesdays from 12-1pm and Thursdays, 11.30-12.30. Beginners welcome.

ART: Local artist Jemma Derbyshire has a beginners' class on a Wednesdays from 7-9pm. She is also starting a children's group on Fridays from 1-2pm, in addition to her Friday morning adult class, 10-12 noon.

Our established art classes on Monday evenings with Mike Kinane, and Tuesday mornings with Jean Temple continue.

If you would like more information about any of our groups, please check on www.portobellocc.btik.com or call 669 8275.

Gillian Dunn

BOWLING COMPETITION RESULTS

BOWLING: The winners of the East Edinburgh Bowling Association Pairs, sponsored by Belhaven Brewery, played at Brunstane BC, on 8th August, were D Anderson and A Mackenzie (Brunstane BC); runners-up were Frances and John Wood (Willowbrae BC). The Association Dance will be held at Willowbrae BC on Saturday 16th October at 7.30pm.

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A GAME OF TWO HALVES

BECCA ALLISON left Portobello High School last summer to study and play basketball at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. This summer she was selected for the GB under-20 women's team and after six weeks preparation, the team travelled to Macedonia for the European Division B tournament. Great Britain won gold and promotion to Division A - a first for any GB basketball team!



Becca made her mark and was voted best guard of the tournament and was picked for the tournament first team. Another former pupil, Rose Anderson is currently playing for GB women. Both girls started playing basketball with City of Edinburgh Basketball Club who train at the school.

Club members feel that the club is under threat because the gymnasium facilities planned for the new high school are smaller, and inadequate for the development of new talent and the continued success of the club. With a budget of £41 million for the new school and with Sport Scotland prepared to invest £130,000, all that is required, they say, is another £130,000 to ensure that the current excellent facilities are matched. Club chairman, Trevor Lodge commented: "The benefits the club has brought to the community are beyond dispute, but that connection is being jeopardised if current plans for the new building go ahead." The club may have to move from Portobello if the estimated additional money cannot be found. "We should be celebrating the success of our club and making sure it continues to operate at a high level from Portobello", said Becca.

'BLACK SWAN' ON BEACH

THE third Imagine Porty Prom artwork, commissioned by Big Things On The Beach, was a controversial installation of 13 flashing fruit machines titled 'Black Swan' on Portobello Beach, at the foot of Kings Road. It was launched on 31st July, as part of Edinburgh Art Festival 2010.

The aim of the artist, Miles Thurlow, was "to challenge our conventional expectations of a monumental public artwork". Black Swan Theory is put forward by writer and Wall Street trader Nassim Nicholas Taleb to explain the existence of high-impact and rare events that lie outside the realm of expectations.

A proposal by Big Things on the Beach, for Portobello Beach to be developed as a major venue for public artwork, was revealed to an audience including Andrew Dixon, Director of Creative Scotland, and senior City Councillors at an Imagine Porty Prom event in August. Details can be found on www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk

Susan Grant (BTOTB)

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

COFFEE MORNING, Sat. 4th Sept., 10am-12noon, Old Parish Church, Bellfield St. Ticket £1.50.

EDINBURGH OPEN WATER SWIM FESTIVAL: Sunday 5th September, 10am-2pm, at the Joppa end of Portobello Beach, by the Dalriada Bar. Comprises a 400m sprint swim, an 800m medium-distance swim, and a challenging 2k swim from the Musselburgh Quay to Portobello Beach.

BRIDGE recommences on the first Monday of September at 10am in St Mark's Church. New players welcome.

DUDDINGSTON KIRK Horticultural Society meets in the Kirk Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, September to April, at 7.15pm, with speakers on a variety of gardening topics. Visitors welcome. £2.50 per meeting (incl. refreshments.)

MALECON MATINEE, Sun. 12 Sept; 10 Oct; 14 Nov 2-5pm (not Dec.), Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello, £5/£9 Combo. Scotland's only Buena Vista Social Club. Cuban class 1pm. Details on www.salsaceilidh.com

AUTUMN FAIR, Parson's Green Primary School, Sat. 11th Sept., 12noon-2pm. Stalls and activities incl. plants, home-grown produce, home-baking, tombola, football games, cycling activities, and more. All welcome, admission free.

CAR BOOT SALES (Portobello Rotary Club): Sundays 26th September, 31st October, Newcraighall Station Car Park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am - double pitch, £10. Enquiries to 0131 661 9570. All pitch fees go to charity.

HARVEST FAIR, Sat. 30th Oct., 10am-1pm, Old Parish Church, Bellfield St. Coffee, tea, stalls etc.

JUMBLE SALE for Portobello Guides, Sat. 6th Nov., 1-3pm, Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St.

GUILD COFFEE MORNING, Sat. 20th Nov., 10am-12noon, Old Parish Church, Bellfield St. Ticket £1.50.

ST ANDREWS NIGHT DANCE, Fri. 26th Nov., 7pm-midnight. Old Parish Church, Bellfield St. Music by West Telfron Ceilidh Band. Ticket £8, incl. light supper, from the café, Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm in the 2 weeks prior to event.

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