

THE Portobello REPORTER

The independent voice of Portobello

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ANOTHER GREAT VILLAGE SHOW

THE sun shone, the band played and the crowds gathered in Rosefield Park on Sunday 26th September for the third Village Show organised by Portobello Open Door (POD). Someone described the afternoon as being like a wedding, a happy occasion that brought smiles to so many faces, young and old.

This year we were very lucky to have a fire engine, which was an extremely popular attraction, as were the duck races on the burn, the pedal-powered cinema and the dog parade. There were lots of fabulous entries in competitions ranging from best-dressed scarecrow to most weird and wonderful fruit or veg, and the tug-o'-war brought out the competitive spirit in the now legendary Portobello v Joppa challenges. Great music was played throughout the afternoon by Horndog Brass Band and the Spurtle Ceilidh Band.

The success of this event was due to the enthusiastic participation and support of local people: Sailporty, Woodcraft Folk, PEDAL, the Fire Brigade, Library, stall holders, the Brighton Park Massive football team who ran activities, and everyone else who helped. Tables and chairs for our café were lent by St James and St Philip's churches and lots of home baking was produced and served.

If you are interested in being a part of next year's event, or have any comments or ideas, please get in touch via our website www.the-pod.org

Mark Tweedie



'Sir Harry Lauder', aka Jim Morrison, joins in the tug-o'-war.

Photo by Andy McGregor

KILNS IN CRISIS

THE 1909 pottery kiln in Harbour Road collapsed in August 2006 and work to repair it finally started in earnest earlier this year after the severe winter weather was over. Portobello Heritage Trust, which has been working with City of Edinburgh Council during the restoration, have been concerned for some time about its slow progress, but matters now appear to have worsened. The main contractor left the site in November, and the scaffolding and Portakabin have been removed.

Urgent enquiries by the trust and local councillors, received the following response from a council official: "I can now confirm the performance of the contrac-



Photo by Peter Ross

tor has been of some concern to the project team....It is going to be necessary to rectify/redo some aspects of the work... It is understood the main contractor is unlikely to return to site... An alternative contractor is being organised. It is too early to indicate the

actual course to be taken until the contractual issues are resolved. Our intention is to have the works restarted and completed as soon as possible".

Archie Foley of Portobello Heritage Trust said: "We have to use all our efforts to ensure that this latest setback is overcome and that the crisis does not descend into disaster".

The kiln was the last from the entire Scottish pottery industry to have survived intact, the 1906 kiln next to it having been repaired some time earlier. In 1973 they were scheduled as historic monuments, and were granted List B status as Listed Buildings in 1995. They are officially known as bottle kilns, due to their shape.

BOOK FESTIVAL GOES WITH A SWING



Photo by Christine Hoy

Ian Rankin chairs the crime writing session.

THE second Portobello Book Festival, in October, was a runaway success and provided yet another reminder of how much fantastic talent there is in Portobello. Young and old enjoyed a great range of events covering topics as diverse as football, history, cooking and crime.

This year Towerbank Primary and Portobello High schools took part, with A Horrible History of Portobello at Towerbank and a Poetry Workshop at the High School.

The festival opened with a swing on the Friday evening with a cabaret, introduced by actor Mike Maran who was the perfect host, drawing together poetry and music. It was a real joy to sit by candlelight listening to poetry read by young people from Portobello High and established poets such as Ryan Van Winkle and Bashiba Fraser, and performances by local musicians Lee Paterson, Stairhead Gossip and Rosie Nimmo.

A string of events in the Library on the Saturday included children's story telling with face painting, a talk by local author Ted Brack about his book on his love of Hibs, and cookery demonstrations. A session on 'Why History Matters' with local historians Gary Dickson, Donald Bloxham and Jenny Wormald, chaired by Ian S. Wood, was an especially lively event, producing calls for "more of this sort of thing".

St John's Church Hall was packed to capacity as Archie Foley and Margaret Munro launched their latest book *Portobello and District Through Time*, with a fascinating slide show. The day's events ended with a book quiz at the Dalriada Bar, where the team from Portobello Library swept the board.

A large audience gathered at the Town Hall on the Sunday when 'Rebus' author Ian Rankin chaired 'There's Been a Murder', a session on crime writing. Ian fielded some really sparky questions from the audience to local authors Caroline Dunford, Alice Thompson, Allan Guthrie and Doug Johnstone and. The event was captured in cartoon form by artist Graham Ogilvie, who translated the panel's comments and ideas into an amusing exhibition.

The festival finished with the popular literary walking tour of Portobello led by local resident Jim Gilchrist. A surprising number of hardy souls braved the wintry breeze on the Promenade to hear some fascinating facts about Portobello's literary heritage.

The organisers were grateful to the authors and participants who gave their time free, and to the Library staff for their support and help - they reported an increase in Library visitors over the weekend. This was very much a community-based event and one the organisers are keen to continue next year.

Bill Jameson

PORTY PROFILE No. 41 MAIRI CAMPBELL

MUSICIAN Mairi Campbell moved to Portobello from Leith with Dave Francis, her husband and other half of their folk band The Cast, 16 years ago.

Evidence of the family's passion for music is present throughout their home overlooking the High Street, with a piano in the corner and sheet-music on the table. Mairi says: "I love Portobello. It felt like a great place to bring kids up and that's proved to be true." The couple have two daughters Ellen 11, and Ada 14, who has ambitions to become a musician too.

As a youngster, Mairi lived in Morningside with her three sisters and their mother, the artist Marjory Campbell and their father Archie, an academic at Napier University. With two violins, a viola and a cello between them, Mairi remembers the four girls forming their own string quartet when she was 11. "It sounds like we were some kind of Von Trappe family", she laughs.

Educated at Boroughmuir, Broughton High and The City of Edinburgh Music School, Mairi went on to study the viola at the Guildhall in London. On completing her studies she toured with an orchestra for five years before becoming a folk singer. "I was a trained classical player but I needed to find out about Scottish music", she says.

After meeting Dave in Edinburgh they ventured into ceilidh music together, forming The Cast in 1992. Juggling a career in music and bringing up a family hasn't always been easy she admits, but somehow she has managed to make three albums with The Cast, tour, teach, and play with her dance band Bella McNab. She also leads the folk-song choir Sangstream, rehearsing back at her old school Boroughmuir, runs fiddle retreats at their cottage on the Isle of Lismore in Argyll, and has just finished recording her first solo album.

The Cast had a boost when their version of Auld Lang Syne was chosen to accompany a scene in the hit film, *Sex and the City* in 2008. "I think *Sex and the City* gave me the confidence to make my latest album and do more song writing with Dave which is more of a focus now", she says. "There's one song called 'Portobello Sands', about a mother waiting for her son coming back from Iraq, walking along the sands and remembering him as a boy playing".

"It's music and family really", she says summing up. "It's a mixture of community and music, always to do with people, all about making connections".

Karen Combe



Photo by Carol Mutch

ON THE BEAT

THE change to the clocks and subsequent darker evenings have caused some issues for the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Portobello. Opportunist thefts have remained at a consistent level and the theft of unsecured bicycles has been significant. In the lead-up to Christmas, readers are reminded of the need to secure their possessions: not leaving bicycles in rear gardens or within common stairwells, and ensuring doors and stairwells are routinely locked, can have a significant impact on thefts. Officers will continue to patrol in both uniform and plain clothes in an attempt to deter and identify those who would be responsible.

Portobello officers were also heavily involved in this year's Bonfire Night celebrations. Increased patrols on that evening, and operations with our Trading Standards partners in the weeks leading up to it, ensured that the misuse of fireworks was kept to a minimum and calls this year were extremely low. We will continue to work with the Council and other agency partners in the future to ensure similar success.

Officers will also be involved in the annual festive season drink drive campaign. We wish all readers a very Merry Christmas, but would urge that the festive celebrations be enjoyed responsibly.

PC Matt Higson

ORGANIC MARKET A GREAT SUCCESS

BRIGHTON PARK has become home to a new event on the first Saturday of each month - Portobello Organic Market. The market, run by local group PEDAL, showcases the best in organic food and crafts from southeast Scotland.

The aim of the market is to complement Portobello's existing High Street shops by providing somewhere to buy organic and locally produced goods, and an outlet for new and existing retailers.

Tom Black, Project Manager, said: "So much of the food we eat is reliant on fossil fuels. Buying more produce that is grown, reared or made locally using organic methods can significantly reduce this, and is great for the local economy too".

So far, the market has been very busy, with some traders selling out of stock! Research has also shown the impact on High Street traders has been positive, if noticed at all.

Over 70 percent of shoppers at the September and October markets felt that there was a good range of produce and, interestingly, over 75 percent would like to see more organic produce available in local shops.

Portobello resident Fiona Paterson, 36, said: "The organic market has helped me to keep my shopping local, and has put me in touch with a range of great suppliers. It's something to look forward to at the start of every month".

The next markets are on Saturday 4th December and 5th February, there will be none in January. Contact Polly Cooke on 0131 258 4483 if there is something you'd like to see on sale, or if you're interested in taking a stall.



Photo courtesy of Cardoness & Lewis

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW HIGH SCHOOL: The planning application for a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park was submitted on 30th September. A decision is expected to be announced on 28th January, 2011.

STORM DAMAGE: The Council has agreed a £558,000 package of investment in repairing our coastal defences, in the current financial year. This includes repair of the damage from Seafield to Eastfield caused by the storms in April and the restoration of sand to the east end of the beach in January.

CHRISTIAN AID: IN the year ending 31st August, CA in Portobello raised £18,040.99, an increase of £3091.93 on last year..

CREDIT UNION: The local Credit Union is going from strength to strength, with increasing membership and a good team of staff and volunteers. For an application form and more details call Margaret Evans on 661 9942, on Thursdays from 9.30am-4.30pm or Fridays from 9.30am-12.30pm, or email craigmallarcu@googlemail.com

LOCAL PEOPLE LEADING is an informal alliance of national and regional networks, local community groups and individuals whose aim is to campaign for a strong and independent community sector in Scotland. Its two main functions are to promote the work of local people in their communities and to influence national policy development. It is based in Edinburgh. For more information see www.localpeopleleading.co.uk

GARDEN WASTE: Brown wheelie bins will be collected every 4 weeks during December, January and February. For details, enter your postcode at www.greenboxday.co.uk, e-mail waste@edinburgh.gov.uk, or call 529 3030.

If you have a real Christmas tree to recycle, cut it into 5ft lengths and place it beside your garden waste bin on your January pick-up date. If you don't have a brown bin, place your tree at the kerbside by 7am on Tuesday 11th, 18th or 25th January.

The **Portobello Reporter** wishes
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
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Sheila Gilmore MP

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WE have enjoyed a busy autumn and are looking forward to an equally busy winter at the library.

We would first like to thank everyone involved in organising the second Portobello Book Festival for all their hard work and to congratulate them for a hugely successful event. The library was buzzing with activity and everyone agreed that the atmosphere was tremendous.

We would also like to thank all those who contributed to Dae Ye Ken Whaur Ye Come Fae, our programme of family and local history talks. This was a great success and we will be looking at doing something similar in the future.

Are you between 8 and 12 years old, and love books and anything to do with reading? Do you know anyone who would like to share their love of reading with like-minded children? The library will be starting a Chatterbooks this winter for all young bookworms in Portobello. Speak to Lesley or Heather at the library if you are interested.

In partnership with the Festival Theatre, and with help from the Neighbourhood Partnership, we will be organising a Christmas trip for children to see the award-winning stage musical 'The Secret Garden', on Thursday 23rd December. If you are interested contact library staff for details. We will also be organising a programme of Christmas and winter-themed activities for children and will continue storytimes on Thursdays at 3.30pm.

If you enjoy knitting, sewing and good company why not try the three combined at our knitting group, which meets from 6.30pm on Thursday evenings in the café area of the library.

The adults' Book Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Why not read a book you may never have considered before, then come along and join in the friendly and informal discussions. In November, the group discussed *Past Imperfect* by Julian Fellowes. Future titles, which can be reserved at the Library, are:

7th December, *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy.

11th January, *Death of Lomond Friel*, by Sue Peebles.

1st February, *The 1000 Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*, by David Mitchell.

1st March, *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett.

Paul Hudson



WINTER WEATHER WATCH



Photo by Peter Ross

IF this winter brings more heavy snow and icy conditions, the council may be able to do even less road and pavement clearing due to budget cuts, especially in side roads, so we may have to clear our own pavements. The council have topped-up all the grit bins in the area which should help. As reported in our Spring 2010 issue, the idea that if someone slipped and injured themselves on a pavement cleared by a householder, they could sue, was dismissed as "nonsense" by Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill.

Last winter lots of people found that shoe chains, fitted to boots or shoes, gave good grip on ice and snow. These are available from outdoor activity shops or on the internet.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

LIFE has been as busy as ever at Portobello Community Centre. Our new groups include Zumba on Wednesdays at 5.40pm and a Justdance children's dance group on Mondays between 4 and 6.30pm.

We expect work to start on the stage, lighting and sound systems before Christmas. If all goes to plan our drama group will be performing their Christmas Cabaret on 18th December at 5pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our new web address is www.portobellocc.org.uk Please check for up-to-date information.

Gillian Dunn

COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

A LIST of Portobello Community Council members, and the Minutes of the latest meeting, are posted on the noticeboard on the right in Portobello Library; past Minutes can currently be read on www.porty.org.uk A Community Council website is under construction, however, which will include Minutes, other documents and an email address.

A recent in response to the planning application for a new Portobello High School, can be read on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning

Notices of meetings, with agenda, appear on the plasma screens in the Library a week in advance. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Monday of each month (except December and July) in the Baptist Church Hall in Portobello High Street, opposite Boots.

IT'S EASIER NOW ONLINE

MEMBERS of Edinburgh City Libraries can now use The Scotsman Digital Archive from home or their local library to search every *Scotsman* newspaper published between 1817 and 1950.

Ancestry, the world's leading genealogy database, is also now available free in your local library. This contains censuses; birth, marriage and death records; passenger lists and military records from all over the world, not just Scotland. Ancestry is available in libraries only by booking on to a People's Network machine. These and other resources are available from Edinburgh City Libraries electronic resources portal: <http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/heritage>



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C'est la vie!

PORTOBELLO seemed a world away as we sipped our rather extravagant coffees in Paris in October. We were in the café where scenes from *Amelie* were filmed and our holiday apartment was just around the corner from the Moulin Rouge. It was our first family holiday abroad and it was a delight to watch the children's expressions as they experienced one new adventure after another.

Apart from a few minor glitches, such as losing all our cash on the flight, including the deposit for the apartment, our cards being stopped by the bank's fraud department and no functioning mobile to sort out the latter, the holiday was a success!

A highlight for all of us was the Palace of Versailles, where the jaw-dropping Hall of Mirrors, the umpteen sumptuous rooms and the fabulous gardens had us imagining that Louis XIV must surely be looking down at Holyrood Palace thinking: "Call that a palace? This is a palace!"

Paris also proved to be the perfect destination for the train enthusiast in the family, with no less than five model train shops, the Gard du Nord stuffed with exciting TGVs and Eurostars and, of course, the Metro all within walking distance of our apartment.

A trip on the double-decker train was also a big hit, especially when four accordion players struck up 'New York, New York'; now that's something you don't see very often the 26 bus!

WITH cold nights upon us it's time to make sure your home is snug, and keep your energy bills down, through PEDAL's energy-saving projects. Portobello Warm Tenements scheme provides advice on energy saving and insulation to tenement residents. If you don't live in a tenement, our Hotspot insulation scheme can give you deals on loft and cavity-wall insulation.

How about some free hot water from the sun? PEDAL is offering a no-obligation survey to residents interested in solar water heating. If your home is suitable, you could get reduced price panels installed. For more information on our energy projects, see the leaflet delivered with your copy of the *Reporter*.

Portobello enjoyed its first Apple Day on a sunny Saturday 30th October. The Donkeyfield Community Orchard was filled with folk celebrating Scottish apple varieties with apple pressings, an apple peeling competition, and toffee apple making. Our next orchard event is a winter solstice party on Saturday 18th December from 2 to 4pm.

Our Fruitful Porty project has seen over 250 fruit trees sold to local residents, but we still have apple trees left. At £7.50 each, these make a super Christmas gift or addition to your garden.

For various reasons, PEDAL is no longer proposing a wind turbine on the Prom in the near future. Instead we aim to install solar panels on the roof of Lothian Buses' depot at Seafield. We've selected an experienced installer and applied for funding for this.

As part of efforts to help create a strong local food system, PEDAL held a lively event on 23rd November, at which people discussed having access to more locally produced food. We've also been asking people about their experience of trying to buy local food, via an on-line survey. This research will culminate in new projects next year.

For more information visit www.pedal-porty.org.uk or call us on 0131 258 4483.

Tom Black, Project Manager

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



USE the winter to prepare for the busy time to come, splitting jobs into inside or outside to take advantage of bad and good weather. Regularly check stored apples, potatoes, etc. for rot and remove. If it's been windy, check winter fleece protection on tree ferns, and tie up cordylines with old tights. If pots outside are not frost-proof put them close to a house wall or under a hedge, or put bubble-wrap round the outside if they are too big to move.

Although it's a big faff to bubble-wrap the greenhouse it is well worth doing, especially for January and February, when we get our coldest weather; it reduces the need for heating and makes a cosy place to contemplate your plants over the winter. Keep foost (Scots for mildew) down by regularly taking off dead leaves, keep plants on the dry side and don't splash water around; water pots without a rose on the watering can.

If you have a grapevine in a greenhouse or conservatory, once the leaves are off use an old toothbrush and soapy water to gently brush into all the nooks and crannies to get rid of any pests trying to over-winter. I use a well-known environmentally-friendly washing-up liquid that degrades quickly.

Peaches, apricots and nectarines should be brought into the greenhouse between Christmas and the end of May, or protected with some kind of rainproof cover; this helps to discourage peach leaf-curl, which is passed on by spores in the rain. We're trying a batten attached to the wall, with a plastic sheet draped from it.

Citrus plants are popular, but keep them frost-free and watch out for any black, sooty deposits - a sign of scale (an insect pest); again, a soft toothbrush and soapy water will remove both pests and foost.

Any dead branches on trees, fruit brushes and shrubs should be removed and roses pruned. If splitting large clumps of rhubarb, put one in a black plastic bag or cover with a large bin and force it for early tender pink shoots. Replant afterwards and give the poor exhausted clump a feed; it will recover, but don't force the same clump year after year.

After the New Year, if it isn't frosty, split and replant any perennial remains, taking care not to damage emerging bulbs, but leave grasses in place until growth starts in spring. Pot up any seedlings from plants that you'd like to keep, unless they are already where you'd like them.

Order seeds, have labels and pots ready for the sowing season and put seed packets in order of sowing times. I always order my favourites and a few new ones to experiment with.

Wm Morrison (Portobello)

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BOOK REVIEW



Photo by Peter Ross

Portobello & District Through Time
by Archie Foley and Margaret Munro.

DO you know what used to be on the site of the present Scotmid store in Bath Street, or on the area now occupied by Fort Kinnaird? The answers to these and other questions can be found in this fascinating new book by two well-known local historians. Over 180 photographs, old and new, compare the changes that have taken place in locations in Portobello, Newcraighall, Craigmillar, Pierhill and Craigmillar, including long-gone industrial buildings, shops, streetscapes and recreational facilities. A short Introduction explains the reasons behind many of the changes.

(Amberley Publishing, £14.99. ISBN 978-1-84868-805-6)

LOOKING FOR ...

... relatives of Bonella Marr, who at one time lived at 8 Seafeld Road East. If you have any information regarding this family please contact Margaret Munro, tel: 657 2866, email: munroporto@hotmail.com.

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FROM THE ARCHIVE



Photo courtesy of Margaret Munro

RAILWAY enthusiasts have found this photograph from *Portobello & District Through Time* particularly interesting. The train standing in Duddingston and Craigmillar Station has a notice with a number on the front of the engine. The reason for this, and the fact that some of the passengers leaving the train are walking in a direction where no exit exists, is unexplained. We are seeking answers, so if you can help please contact Margaret Munro on 657 2866 or email munroporto@hotmail.com

CELEBRATING 650 YEARS

650 YEARS of beer, wine and skittles were celebrated at a civic dinner held in The Sheep Heid Inn on 15th November. The guests included City of Edinburgh Councillors, led by the Lord and Lady Provost, ministers - religious and parliamentary, and old and new friends of the inn, replicating the mix of customers over the centuries.

The highlight of a delicious meal was Powsowdie, or Sheep Heid Broth, a dish not served for several generations. This thick barley broth made with a sheep's heid, conforming to EU standards, was tasty and filling.

The speakers celebrated the long history of the inn and looked forward to another 650 years. Live music rounded off the evening, while guests could view a small exhibition and admire a stuffed sheep heid snuff mull, presented to the landlord of the pub in 1580 by King James VI and later sold. It was loaned for the occasion by the present owner, the Earl of Roseberry.

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PORTOBELLO
HISTORY
SOCIETY
NEWS

DR DIANA HENDERSON, from The Scots at War Trust, was our first speaker this session and gave an enlightening talk about *Scotland in the Front Line*. Dr Henderson's knowledge, interest and enthusiasm about her subject ensured an attentive audience. Her examination of military training in Scotland, particularly using our mountainous landscape, illustrated the important role Scotland played, and continues to play, in training all our armed forces.

Our speaker on 6th October was David Affleck with a talk entitled *The riddle of gravestone number 144 for William Jameson of Whittingham and the Portobello connection*. David illustrated the ways in which following certain historical trails can be misleading, whilst others can take the researcher in unexpected directions. The link with Portobello was not proven, but the research journey followed by David was itself fascinating.

Laura Brovard from Lothian Health Services Archive visited us on 3rd November to give *An Introduction to Edinburgh's Old Hospitals: Through the Eyes of an Archivist*. Unfortunately, due to problems with software, Laura was unable to give her presentation, to the great disappointment of members. Instead, Margaret Munro and Archie Foley gave a slide show of photographs from their new book *Portobello & District Through Time*. We hope Laura can return at a later date.

On 1st December Richard Demarco is giving a talk to the society, although the title has not been confirmed. All the tickets for this talk have now been allocated, with members given priority.

As usual, we have no meeting in January. Our speaker on Wednesday 2nd February is Neil Fraser from SCRAN. Neil will be discussing SCRAN/RCAHMS holdings on Portobello.

Kate Love returns on Wednesday 2nd March to talk about *John Buchan's Edinburgh*.

All are welcome to our meetings, with non-members asked for a donation. Meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall in Brighton Place and begin at 7pm sharp. Latecomers will not be admitted.

May we wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2011.

Margaret Munro, Secretary

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BOOK REVIEW

A Death in the Family
Caroline Dunford.
EUPHEMIA Martins is the novice sleuth at the centre of this light-hearted Edwardian mystery by local author Caroline Dunford. Young, spirited and with an innate sense of justice, Euphemia goes into service in a country house to support her family after the death of her father. Not only does she discover a body in the library on her first day, but soon becomes a prime suspect in the crime. She embarks on an adventure as an undercover maid to clear her name and follow the clues to the real murderer. Witty and compelling, and with an entertaining cast of characters, *A Death in the Family* is a fun read and Euphemia Martins is a charming heroine.
(Eprint Publishing. £6.99. ISBN978-1-905637-90-4)

NEW WILDLIFE WEBSITE

LOCAL resident, Anthony Robson, has set up a website to gather photos and locations of the wildlife in Edinburgh. “It has had a great start with a huge number of pictures and quite a bit of interest”, he says.
www.EdinburghWild-life.com is not-for-profit and intended as a resource for people living in the city who are interested in wildlife, and anyone visiting as a tourist. Some of the Bawsinch/Duddingston and Craigmillar Country Park wildlife are already featured. Portobello photographers may want to add some shots of seaside and other local wild-life.

CHURCH SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS

St James’, off Brighton Place:
Christmas Eve:11.30pm, Watchnight Service. Christmas Day: 11am, Family Service. Sunday 26th: 11am, Service of Readings and Carols. www.stjamesparishchurch.org.uk
St Philip’s, Brunstane Road North.
Christmas Eve: 4pm, Carols for Kids - songs for the under 5s; 6.30pm, Family Service; 11pm, Community Carols; 11.30pm Watchnight Service. Christmas Day: 9.30am, Communion; 10.30am, Family Service. www.stphilips.co.uk
Portobello Old Parish, Bellfield Street:
Christmas Eve: 6.30pm, Family Service; 11.30pm, Watchnight Service. Christmas Day: 10am, Christmas celebration and Holy Communion. Sunday 26th: 11am, Christmas worship. www.oldparishchurchportobello.org.uk
St Mark’s Episcopal Church, Portobello High Street:
Christmas Eve: 4pm, Crib Service and Nativity Play; 11pm, Midnight Eucharist; Christmas Day: 10.30am, Morning Eucharist..
Boxing Day: joint services with St Philip’s: 9.30am in St Mark’s and 11am in St Philip’s.
For further information go to www.stmarksportobello.org , call 669 9258 or see noticeboards outside the church.
See websites for more information on all the above and other services.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PORTABLE TOWN HALL!
NO LONGER a resident, but as someone who grew up in Portobello and tries to keep in touch with family and friends, I was pleased to pick up on my travels a promotional leaflet for the apparently underused Town Hall.
My, how the memories flooded back to past sell-out occasions, such as when the Clyde Valley Stompers came to town!
Obviously the leaflet is trying to attract more use of the Town Hall and describes the facilities and the variety of events that can be catered for. Unfortunately there is a glaring error in that the carefully detailed full-colour map directs the unwary to a location that could be Joppa Salt Pans! Typical of the way Portobello has been treated over the years. Whoever is responsible should hang their head in shame!
Mike Brown
(The Town Hall is underused because it is too costly for local groups to hire, especially for fund-raising events. - Ed.).

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE Group has recently been active on behalf of a Burmese man, Zarganar, said to be that country’s most popular comedian, sentenced to 35 years imprisonment for making fun of the government. We are also drawing public attention to a petition to the Georgia Ministry of Justice, USA, asking for a new fair trial for Troy Davis who has spent 20 years on Death Row. He has always protested his innocence, but is required to ‘prove it’.
Our big undertaking this autumn was a Protect the Human Week concert at the Bongo Club, Holyrood Road, with Samba Sene and the Diwan group giving an outstanding performance of Africa-style music. £800 was raised for Amnesty funds.
At a special Open Meeting we had a workshop on the Sanctuary Movement, adding fresh momentum to our work on behalf of destitute asylum seekers, to bring about a more humane system of hardship allowance and the kind of legal support needed to present their cases.
Our Greetings Card campaign stall will be on Portobello High Street, on 11th December from 11am-1pm. The campaign asks people to send messages of cheer and hope to prisoners of conscience and their families worldwide. Towerbank and Portobello High schools will be involved.
Our Group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall at 7.30pm. Why not pay us a visit, without commitment of any kind? A warm welcome is assured.
David Turner

CENTENARY CASH FOR CHARITIES

ESTABLISHED in 1910, Willowbrae Bowling Club celebrated its Centenary this year. As part of the celebrations the club raised money for three charities and, at the end of a successful season, presented them with cheques amounting to almost £2500.
£1422, raised in August on the Ladies Section Charity Day, was presented to St. Columba’s Hospice.
At their Closing Day Event in September the Centenary Committee gave £750 to Donna Hastings, the Senior Project Worker at Richmond Hope, a church-based child bereavement centre in Niddrie.
Following the members’ annual Hibs v Hearts end of season bowling match, £250 was raised for the Sick Kids’ Hospital, which included money raised by auctioning a signed Hibs shirt.
Ian Paterson, Club President, commented: “As a Club we had a wonderful season celebrating our 100 years. We are delighted that we are able to help others by making these donations to three excellent organisations.”
Lewis Dick

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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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Ewan can be contacted on (0131) 529 3261 or at ewan.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk

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PHS PUPILS ATTEND RSAMD



FOUR Portobello High School pupils are attending the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama's junior music school in Glasgow each week, to further their music study. They will be performing alongside students from all over Scotland. Michael McGeary, Sally Simpson, James Parr-Burman and Herbie Loaning, seen here with Head Teacher Peigi Macarthur. They were awarded their places after competitive auditions.

THIEVES FOILED BY FAIR

UNSUSPECTING thieves were caught out by Parsons Green Primary School janitor John Williamson when he arrived early on a sunny Saturday morning to open the school for the Autumn Fair. The thieves, who escaped empty handed, had clearly failed to check our 'What's On' column for local events. The fair went ahead as planned, with organisers raising £1300 for school funds.

GENETIC STEREO STEAL THE SHOW AT GRV

JUDGING by the audience's reaction, Genetic Stereo stole the show on 6th November at the GRV on Guthrie Street.

Formed last year by four 5th year pupils from Holy Rood High School, the band have spent their time together making a name for themselves both in school and the local community. Now, a year later, they appear to be achieving this, and deservedly so.

Although Genetic Stereo were not the only band performing that night they clearly had the largest following, and the uncontrollable crowd obviously enjoyed their Britpop style, jumping and dancing along with every song. At times, it was hard to decipher one song from the next, with each appearing to follow the same structure, as frontman Liam Clark appeared to steal the show. Perhaps this could have been countered by allowing the other members to showcase their wealth of



musical talent. The momentum of their set increased with every piece, however, starting with the aptly named 'Finding My Way', and brilliantly finishing with the catchy 'Rovin' On'.

There's no denying the musical talent of Genetic Stereo, but it seemed their stage presence needed working on. I'm not suggesting a fully choreographed dance but a wee bit of movement

on stage, or some interaction with the crowd would have made a big difference.

In the end it should be about the music, and with Genetic Stereo, this appears to be the case. Their songs are enjoyable and easy to listen to.

If you wish to hear the band, check them out by typing Genetic Stereo into Facebook, MySpace or YouTube.

Lewis Dick

HOLY ROOD DRAMA AT NEWHAILES

THE Advanced Higher drama class at Holy Rood High School was given an exciting opportunity recently, when invited to write plays and perform them in Newhailes House, Musselburgh.

The school was approached through Illuminate UK to take part in the National Trust's pARTicipate Project, and

gratefully accepted the offer. On the 14th and 15th of October, the class (with help from other Holy Rood drama pupils, past and present) showcased their plays for an eager audience made up of friends, family, teachers and other special guests. Each of the four authors also performed in another play written by one

of their class mates and each story, although based on real characters from the house, was purely fictional.

The performance proved to be a fantastic success with all audience members, and the cast thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Lewis Dick

A DAY TO REMEMBER

TWENTY P7 pupils from St John's Primary School waited in Waterloo Place on 16th September, with a crowd of other people, for a very special visitor making an historic visit to Scotland - His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV1.

They waved their flags, ate their sandwiches and shared their sweets with a friendly policeman! Then the sounds of the pipes heralded a parade of bands, characters from Scottish history and lots of children from across Scotland from schools named after St Ninian, whose feast day it was.

A roar went up as the 'Popemobile' arrived, moving slowly along, right in front of the St John's group, who couldn't believe they were seeing Pope Benedict himself, waving at them and smiling. Once the excitement was over, everyone agreed it was a really amazing day, one that they would remember for years to come.

Linda McGee

TOWERBANK NEWS

TOWERBANK pupils Etta Waters (P5), Emily Addis (P6) and Janey Murdoch (P7) gave a 30 minute talk at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel to primary school and nursery teachers on 2nd November. They spoke about our whole-school approach to Global Citizenship, children's leading of learning throughout the topic, and the next steps, which will involve working with Learning and Teaching Scotland on Global Footprinting.

The children had prepared their own presentation, spoke confidently and answered questions from the audience.

A No Energy Day was held on 29th October. Members of the Eco Council took a meter reading in the morning, then all power was turned off throughout the school. This meant no lights, no computers, no SMART boards, no heating etc. Luckily, it was an unusually warm autumn day, so there wasn't too much discomfort. Another meter reading was taken at the end of the day and was compared with a full-energy day.

Gordon McIntyre

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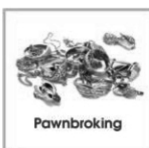
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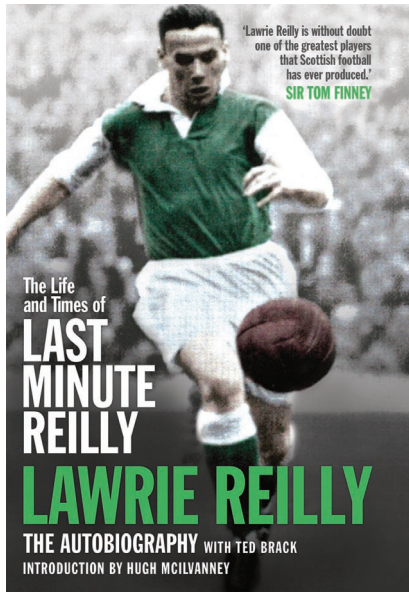
The Life and Times of Last Minute Reilly

by Lawrie Reilly with Ted Brack.

THIS autobiography of Lawrie Reilly, one of Hibs and Scotland's greatest players, is written with Ted Brack, one of Hibs most committed fans.

Lawrie was a member of Hibs legendary Famous Five forward line, scored 234 league and cup goals for the club and played in three of the teams that won the national championship. He also scored 22 goals in 38 games for Scotland, the highest goals per game ratio of any Scottish international player. He scored five times against England at Wembley, including a famous last-minute equaliser in 1953, which earned him the nickname Last Minute Reilly. Such is Lawrie's prestige in the game that this book has an Introduction by Hugh McLivane, the doyen of Britain's sports writers, and a Foreword by Sir Tom Finney, the all-time great English international.

Both Lawrie Reilly and Ted Brack live in Portobello. (Black and White Publishing, £17.99, ISBN 978-1-84502-329-4).



PORTOBELLO BEACH ATTRACTS FUN SEEKERS

THE attraction of Portobello's seaside as a free recreational area is growing, with more and more people and groups taking advantage of the beach and promenade

This year has been busier than usual, with the Regatta, Festival Beach Buskers, Tea Dance, Car Free Day parade, Aquathon (pictured above) and Edinburgh Marathon being just a few of the officially organised events that took place here.

The beach also attracts many sports: football and rugby clubs train on it to build up their stamina and strength, and race horses train on it when it is too frosty to run on the turf. Beach volleyball has increased in popularity and people train and compete on it during the summer. There are also kite-flyers, beach yachters and frizzbee throwers.

On the water we find rowers and canoists, sailors, sail-boarders, para-surfers and swimmers.

Edinburgh's Seaside is becoming so much more popular with Edinburgh people and visitors that surely it is time the council found more funds to invest in it.

Peter Ross



Photo by Margaret Drysdale

Portobello RFC Hornets Mini Rugby Section



Photo by Jacqueline Pantony

THE club have been running a mini rugby section for several years and numbers are at a record high, with teams from P1 through to P7.

The club is based at the newly refurbished club house at Cavalry Park on Duddingston Road West and minis train each Sunday (games permitting) from 12:30 pm to 2.00 pm. All teams from P3 to P7 have a full fixture list from September to May, and Portobello hosts its own Tournament each year. There is also midweek training for all age-groups on Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

Boys and girls are welcome across the whole age range and of all abilities, from complete beginners to those who may already play and are looking for a change of club.

All training and games are played in a safe and supervised environment and coaches are qualified in line with SRU requirements; the club also operates a child protection policy in line with government guidelines.

Rugby is a fantastic sport for kids; it builds confidence and strength, and engenders friendship and respect for players, referees and the sport in general

If this sounds like something your child may like, please contact either of the following and he or she will be made most welcome at Cavalry Park: Fraser McCowan, Convenor - mcowans@virginmedia.com or Paul Macpherson, Assistant Convenor - paul.macpherson@blueyonder.co.uk

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

LANTERN MAKING Workshop for all, Sun. 5th Dec, 2-5pm, Community Centre. Make a lantern to bring to 'A Winters Night' or just take home. Cost £3 per person

A WINTERS NIGHT, Fri. 17th Dec, 7.30pm, Town Hall. A Christmas event for all the family - Christmas/Yule/Solstice/Winter, in song, story, music and poem, with Mairi Campbell, Dave Francis, Sangstream folksong choir, Towerbank children's choir, David Campbell (storyteller), Lucy Pringle and others. Mince pies and warm punch in interval. Tickets from Woodwares, Portobello High St & Beach House café, Promenade: £8/£5 concs. £3 under 12yrs.

BURNS SUPPER for Christian Aid: Sat. 15th Jan. 2011, 7pm prompt, Portobello Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St. Tickets £12.50. Call 669 5257.

PORTOBELLO BURNS CLUB Burns Supper, Fri. 21st Jan. 2011, 7.30pm prompt, Duddingston Golf Club. Immortal Memory by Alex Hodgson. Tickets £20 from Marjory Taylor (669 4471) or David Scott (660 4664). Transport available to Portobello at end of night.

MALECON MATINEE, Sun. 20th Feb & 20th Mar, 2-5pm, with class 1-2pm. Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello, £5, £9 combo. Scotland's only Buena Vista Social Club. Details on www.salsacelidh.com

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