

THE Portobello REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980.

CYCLING BAN ON PROM ENDS

THE largely ignored cycling ban on the Promenade has been discontinued, as legislative changes require it to be reclassified as a shared path, for both pedestrians and cyclists.

The Promenade is now part of the Edinburgh Core Path Network which was approved by the Council's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in May 2008, and the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 therefore apply. For full information see the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk and enter Cycling on Prom in the search box.

Cyclists, including the lobby group SPOKES, argued that, under the Act, responsible use of the Promenade is allowed to all non-motorised users, including cyclists. The Council are now considering how best to signpost



Photo by Peter Ross

the Promenade to promote responsible cycling and meet legislative requirements.

They are consulting a number of groups affected by this change in legislation and a representative will attend the meeting of Portobello Community Council on

Monday 26th September.

Whilst recognising that the Promenade is a safe route for cyclists, many pedestrians have concerns about their own safety, arising from their inability to hear when a bike is approaching. A regular complaint is about the lack of

a bell or use of one. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code tells cyclists: "Be considerate to other users of the outdoors such as walkers and horse riders; slow down and alert them to your presence".

If all cyclists follow that code, tensions should be eased.

THE BIG PORTY WELCOME



Photo by Margaret Munroe

THOUSANDS of people thronged the Promenade on Sunday 24th July, in blazing sunshine, for The Big Porty Tea Time Welcome, organised by Big Things on the Beach as Portobello's contribution to a UK-wide celebration of the Cultural Olympiad 2012. Lots of people had made tablecloths on the 'welcome' theme to decorate the sea wall, and many enjoyed a picnic on the beach.

A portable football pitch and the library's story-telling bus were very popular with young folk, and young and old were entertained by the Commotion women's samba band. The energetic ones joined a Zumba session and danced a Strip the Willow at the 'cake stand' to music by Portobello's own Mairi Campbell and Dave Francis, pictured here with Damian Killeen, Chair of Big Things. The 'cake stand' itself looked magnificent, transformed by Maggie Le May, a member of Big Things, into a white '3-tier cake' with blue and silver decoration.

KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE

LOCAL dentist Jill Stevenson, who works at Portobello Dental Clinic, plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2012, in aid of Alzheimer Scotland and the Alzheimer's Society, and in memory of two of her grandparents who suffered from the debilitating disease.

"There are currently 58,000-65,000 dementia sufferers in Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland is Scotland's leading specialist dementia charity, working to improve the lives of everyone affected", she says. "Whilst local authorities pay for services such as day care and home support, the charity depends on fundraised income for their Information and Helpline services, courses for carers, campaigning activities and some specialist services. As I am funding the trip myself, all donations will go directly to both charities. Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/Jill-Stevenson0 - Thank you".

Alzheimer Scotland has a freephone confidential Dementia Helpline, 0808 808 3000, offering 24 hour information and emotional support.

For more information, see also www.alzscot.org



PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL

FOLLOWING last year's hugely successful and popular event, the third Portobello Book Festival takes place from 7th to 9th October. Another busy literary weekend is planned in four local venues: Portobello Library and Town Hall, the Old Parish Church Hall in Bellfield Street and the Dalriada Bar on the Promenade.

The Festival will start on Friday 7th with two events for children, followed by an evening of music and words *Let's Get Lyrical* in the Town Hall, with a range of local musicians and wordsmiths.

Saturday will see a series of events and topics, including genealogy, creating your own comic book, the secret lives of buildings, keeping children 'hooked on books' and the Prestonpans Tapestry. There will also be open talks by local authors Millie Gray and Douglas Johnstone, as well as Candia McWilliam, and Janice Galloway whose talk has been organised for members of Portobello book groups.

Three events will take place on the Sunday: for budding writers, on getting ideas onto the page; on the life of Britain's forest; and finally, a debate on health, wealth and wellbeing, all relevant to the times we live in, with invited specialist guests and audience participation.

Events are free, but ticketed. Tickets and the full programme will be available from the Library from mid-September.

The Festival is organised by a group of Portobello book enthusiasts, supported by Portobello Library staff, keen to maintain the Library as a focal point of community activity and engagement.

PPAG TAKE COUNCIL TO COURT

A PETITION for Judicial Review against the decision of the City of Edinburgh Council to build a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park has been lodged in the Court of Session by the Portobello Park Action Group. PPAG are challenging the Council's right to build on Common Good land. A date for a hearing is expected soon. Meanwhile work on the site could be delayed.

PORTY PROFILE No. 44 JOHN STEWART

BORN and brought up in Portobello, John Stewart has a great love for the place, especially its Georgian and Victorian architecture. A strong desire to help preserve these fine buildings and safeguard local amenity has resulted in his involvement in several local organisations.

After obtaining an Honours degree in English at the University of Edinburgh and a Dip.Ed. at Aberdeen, John taught English for many years at Firrhill High School, which he says was "hard work, but very enjoyable". He retired in 2009 and now has more time for his other interests, which include gardening, music and ceramics.

His community involvement began in 1979, when Abercorn Amenity Association was formed by a group of people who lived round Abercorn Park, aka the Daisy Park, in the same year as Portobello was designated a conservation area. The group changed the name in 1981 to Portobello Amenity Society (PAS), to widen its monitoring of planning applications and roads and traffic issues, and now has over 250 members.

John became Chairman of PAS in 1993 and five years later he joined Portobello Community Council (PCC) as its representative. He now writes to Planning on major development issues on behalf of both organisations, and was elected Chair of PCC in 2008.

John also represented PCC in the campaign against a superstore at the west end of Portobello High Street, and PAS in the campaign against a waste transfer station on Sir Harry Lauder Road, giving evidence at both public inquiries. "The Council," he says, "doesn't always value the Portobello Conservation Area as highly as it should. The planning department actually recommended that the application for the waste transfer station be approved; fortunately the inquiry Reporter agreed with the objectors and rejected it." "Portobello is a great community with its own identity", he adds, "and I am delighted to be part of it".

When the City of Edinburgh Council produced the Portobello Conservation Area Character Appraisal in 2000, John wrote the sections on 'Georgian and Victorian Development'; he also wrote the text for a revised and extended Portobello Architecture Heritage Trail leaflet, just published by Portobello Heritage Trust and PAS.

When Portobello Heritage Trust was formed in 2010, to secure the future of the kilns and other local historical and architectural heritage, it was logical, given his interest and experience, that John should be asked to become one of its directors.

Brenda Molony



Photo by Brenda Molony

ON THE BEAT

DURING the summer, Lothian and Borders Police's annual Promenade initiative, Operation Drift, focussed primarily on anti-social behaviour on Portobello beach and Prom. Police officers on foot patrol were a common sight on the beachfront, as well as PCs McLennan and Pears patrolling on their bicycles. Local crime prevention officer PC Graeme



Photo by Margaret Munroe

Buchan was also on the Prom to offer members of the public the opportunity to have their bicycles security-marked.

A number of under-age youths believed to be in possession of alcohol or tobacco were stopped and searched, items were confiscated and, where appropriate, the individuals were reported.

Providing a police presence at the Rowing Regatta and The Big Welcome were some of the highlights for our officers, especially as both events were such a success.

Looking forward, to Halloween and Guy Fawkes night, we initiated Operation Draft in the Spring. This multi-agency operation follows the PIER model, and allows Police, L&B Fire and Rescue, City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Scotland, schools and university staff to Prevent, Intervene, Educate, and Review practice and procedures. In recent years this has enabled everyone to enjoy local activities, while minimising the risk of harm.

As the winter approaches, with increased hours of darkness, we would remind people that it is not uncommon to see a rise in house break-ins. Being extra vigilant about security can really make a difference, even simply putting an internal light on a timer to activate as darkness falls. If you are interested in having a home security or crime prevention survey carried out, please contact PC Graeme Buchan at Portobello Police Station on 454 4226.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team

SCOUTING IN PORTOBELLO

SCOUTING in Portobello has a long history and the 3rd Portobello Scout Group at St James Church is one of the oldest in Edinburgh starting in the spring of 1908.

The South East Scotland Scout Region, of which Portobello is a part, has recently employed Scott Burton as the Local Development Officer to raise the profile of Scouting in Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. He is also involved in an initiative to recruit adults to support existing Scout Groups and start new groups or sections.

There is a local need for additional leaders to support current Groups and a need to start a new Beaver Scout Colony for 6 – 8 year olds in the centre of Portobello. We know the young people are there and wanting to join, we just need some keen volunteers. Training is given, as well as on-going support and mentoring.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help young people in Portobello through Scouting, please call Scott Burton on 229 3756 or email development@southeastscotlandscouts.org.uk.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HOME-START Leith and North East Edinburgh have been supporting local families with pre-school children since 1985, for reasons including poverty, isolation, multiple births, lone parenting and illness or disability. Last year alone 32 volunteers supported 76 families and 157 children. After training, volunteers are asked to commit two hours per week working with their assigned family, and as the charity looks for more volunteers, they report that 96% enjoy their experience. If you are interested, call 553 7819 or email anne@homestartleith.co.uk. See also www.homestartleith.org.uk

FREE BOOKS: Edinburgh City Libraries have launched Library2go, a virtual library where ebooks and audiobooks can be downloaded at home, FREE! Found yourself stuck somewhere with nothing to read? Download a book on the spot! Or listen to audiobooks at the gym, during the daily commute or while you're doing the housework. See <http://your-library.edinburgh.gov.uk/library2go> for full details.

LIFEBOATS COLLECTION: The collection in Portobello High Street on 30th April raised £410.60 – a great result. District organiser Patricia O'Neill thanks all the collectors and everyone who gave a donation.

LEARNING FOR WORK: 10 unemployed people living in EH15 and EH16 have been helped to find jobs through a 4-week General Building Operatives course, run by Edinburgh Cyrenian Trust Learning & Work, with Parc, Lovell contractors and other employers. They learned about house-building and the trades involved, and had mock job interviews and work experience. Information on similar courses for unemployed people aged 18+ will be available at a Learning & Work Open Day, Thursday 15th September, from 12-3pm in Portobello Library. Drop-in sessions will follow, every Thursday from 2-4pm.



Sheila Gilmore MP

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"WELL DONE" all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge; we know it's not always easy to read your six books when the sun is shining outside! We hope everyone had fun at our summer activities, and remember - we will have more activities over the October Week and Christmas holidays.

We are delighted to be hosting a number of events during the Portobello Book Festival, back in October for its third year. A full programme of events will be available from the library in September.

Author Gavin Knight will visit us on Thursday, 11th October, at 7pm to talk about his exciting debut book, *Hood Rat*. Gavin has written for *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Newsweek* and *Esquire*. He spent two years embedded with undercover police researching his book, which tells three very different stories of real-life street crime in Glasgow, London and Manchester. *Hood Rat* has been described as gripping, fast-paced and visceral and was Radio Four's *Book of the Week* in July. We are sure anyone who enjoys reading contemporary crime and true crime will find Gavin's talk fascinating.

Commonwealth Games fencing silver medallist, Keith Cook will visit us during Dyslexia Awareness Week (31st October to 4th November), offering a taste of the sport to a group of children and saying a bit about his own life story. We will also mark the week with a display of the works of Edinburgh artist, Andrew Crummy.

The Monday Art Group will have a display in our Gallery area from 19th September, and St James Art Group will display their work from 20th October. If you would like to display something in the library simply contact staff to book a space.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month, when we will be discussing the following books:

6th September - *The Spirit Level* by Richard Wilkinson
4th October - *Parrot and Olivier in America* by Peter Carey
1st November - *Restless* by William Boyd

All books will be available from the library. Ask our staff if you would like more details.

We also have a Teenage Book Group that meets on the last Thursday of every month. Again, ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson

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AWARDS FOR LOCAL PARKS



Photo by Peter Ross

FIGGATE PARK and the Community Garden on Portobello Promenade each recently received a second Green Flag Award. The awards scheme, launched in 1996 by Keep Britain Tidy, sets a benchmark standard of excellence for parks and green spaces in the UK.

They could also be included in a list of parks and open spaces being selected by City of Edinburgh Council to take part in a nation-wide competition, The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. In the run-up to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Fields in Trust is organising the competition for a special award which will see the winners protected for years to come.

More information is available on www.qe2fields.com where residents can also vote for their favourite park from the Council's list, from 14th October.



Photo by Peter Ross

A STAR in the making, Theo Barrie-Douglas keeps the beat for his dad William Douglas as they play their part in the musical extravaganza that is the **Big Beach Busk** on Portobello's Prom. The event on 27th August drew large crowds.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

PORTOBELLO Community Council (PCC) is carrying out a survey to find out how people feel about living in Portobello and to raise awareness of the Community Council itself.

PCC has been in existence for over 20 years and has benefited the community by providing a focal point for gathering the community's views and representing them to the city council and other organisations, for example, by commenting on planning applications.

Whilst PCC has no funding to carry out projects, it can act as the voice of the community to argue for action by the city council or other service providers. A recent example of PCC involvement in addressing a local issue was a city council consultation event on local traffic problems, organised at the request of PCC in response to residents' concerns.

Please let us know your views by completing the questionnaire, either on-line on the website below, or by filling in a paper copy, which is available in the library, and posting it in the suggestion box there.

More information on the work of Portobello Community Council can be found at our display area in the library and on our website www.portobellocc.org

John Stewart, Chair

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HEAD OVER HEELS

WHILST his boundless energy is soaked up by hours of swimming, football and rugby, it's the exercise opportunities off the field that seem to hold the most appeal for my eight-year-old son.

The other day at the supermarket I caught a glimpse of his whirling form out of the corner of my eye, somersaulting over a nearby barrier that was at exactly the right height to satisfy his relentless desire to hang upside down like a fruit bat.

Before I could chastise him, the supermarket manager had spotted him and given him a ticking off, before giving me a stern glare. I left the supermarket wondering how I could explain to my wee dynamo, yet again, why his version of urban acrobatics was risky and antisocial, and got Mummy into trouble.

His antics stood out most when we were in Paris last year, where it seems that all the children are extraordinarily well-behaved. Admittedly, the low barrier beside the Mona Lisa in the Louvre is perfectly placed for letting off steam by a small boy trapped in an art gallery. My French isn't great, but it didn't need to be - I could tell from the guard's face exactly what he meant! Now I think I know why the Mona Lisa has that enigmatic smile: she must have had an unruly eight-year-old son, running around just out of her reach, brandishing Leonardo's best brush. No doubt my son will grow out of his loopy stunts but, in the meantime, I'm perfecting my enigmatic smile!

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



IT'S BULB planting time again. If you've nowhere to put new bulbs or can't remember where existing ones are in the borders (I regularly dig up bulbs accidentally when putting in new plants), pop them into one litre pots until Spring. Remember to water them if we get a dry winter (some hope!) and then, when the spears of the bulbs in the borders start poking through, you can see where the spaces are and fill in the gaps. Remember that hyacinth bulbs need to be potted up and stored in a dark cool place until that pale 5cm volcano shape pokes out of the top. Then bring them into a slightly warmer place and await that fragrance.

All sorts of seeds are worth collecting now. I sometimes just cut down a whole stem, place in a paper bag and clean the seed off when I have time. Stored in junk mail envelopes, in an airtight container in the fridge, they must be labelled. Big seeds like sunflowers are easy to recognise, but other small ones are impossible to tell apart.

Hardwood cuttings are another regular autumn job. They don't need much space; not all will take, but five would take up just a small row if separated by 15cm. Take 500cm lengths, about finger thickness, with leaves stripped off and the top 10cm of soft growth removed, and push them about 15cm deep into well-drained soil. If trying willow or dogwood use an area with wetter soil. I use gaps where I've removed salad crops and leave the cuttings alone for a year before planting out. The rose cuttings I took two years ago gave a good show this summer, so definitely worth doing.

Once crops are harvested and turned into jams, chutneys, cider/wine or frozen and potatoes are stored in paper bags, there will be bare earth, so either sow a green manure (mustard or phacelia works well) or try some winter salad crops - we may be lucky and get a mild winter. The manure can be dug in sometime in Spring, a little at a time if you have a bad back.

Bring in patio peaches or cover well, to avoid peach leaf curl which shows up as reddish, curled-up distorted leaves. The protection blew off my peach last year and it succumbed, so this autumn it'll go in the greenhouse where I'll keep it and hope to wall train it. The spores of this disease are carried in the winter/spring rain so protection must be waterproof.

Plants need to get ready for the winter shutdown, so sprinkle a handful of potash around the base of fruit trees and shrubs of dubious hardiness. This helps to toughen them up.

Our Open Weekend in August went well considering it was very wet and people gave generous donations, for which Mike and I wish to thank them very much. Hopefully next year the weather will be better.

PEDAL'S consultants have completed a feasibility study which shows Seafield Sewage Works to be a good site for a large wind turbine; see

our website for updated FAQs on the project. We have secured a loan for 90% of the cost of further studies and a planning application and hope to secure grants to cover the remaining 10%.

We'd like to thank the many local people who supported our stage one bid to EnergyShare for funds for the turbine. The project was the fourth most supported of nearly 1000 across the UK and, as a result, we've been invited to submit a full funding bid. We'll need you to show your support again when all the finalists go head-to-head in a public vote. Support us at www.tiny.cc/porty-leith-wind if you haven't already.

We have not yet been able to secure mains power for the market, but this hasn't stopped several new vendors selling delicious hot food, and many folk have enjoyed a picnic in the park on market day as a result.

Car Free Day is Saturday 24th September and coincides with Moving Planet Day, which focuses on moving beyond fossil fuels; see www.350.org. At 2pm we'll cycle from the 'cake stand' at the bottom of Marlborough Street to the beach near our potential turbine site at Seafield for some story telling. Kids are welcome, but this year you'll need to ask your parents to help you to dress up your bikes beforehand. Canoes and rowing or sailing boats are also welcome. PEDAL's work day and Autumn Equinox celebration is at the community orchard from 10am, so some of us will cycle from there at 1.30pm and be at the 'cake stand' for 2pm.

You may have noticed local folk sporting this summer's must-have fashion item - our new T-shirts, available in two designs, 'I [heart] Porty' and 'Home Sweet Home' - can you work out the co-ordinates to locate 'Home Sweet Home'? You can buy the T-shirts at the market or on Car Free Day. Various colours and sizes are available.

For more information visit www.pedal-porty.org.uk

Justin Kenrick/Tom Black

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CENTENARY OF FIRST FORTH FLIGHT

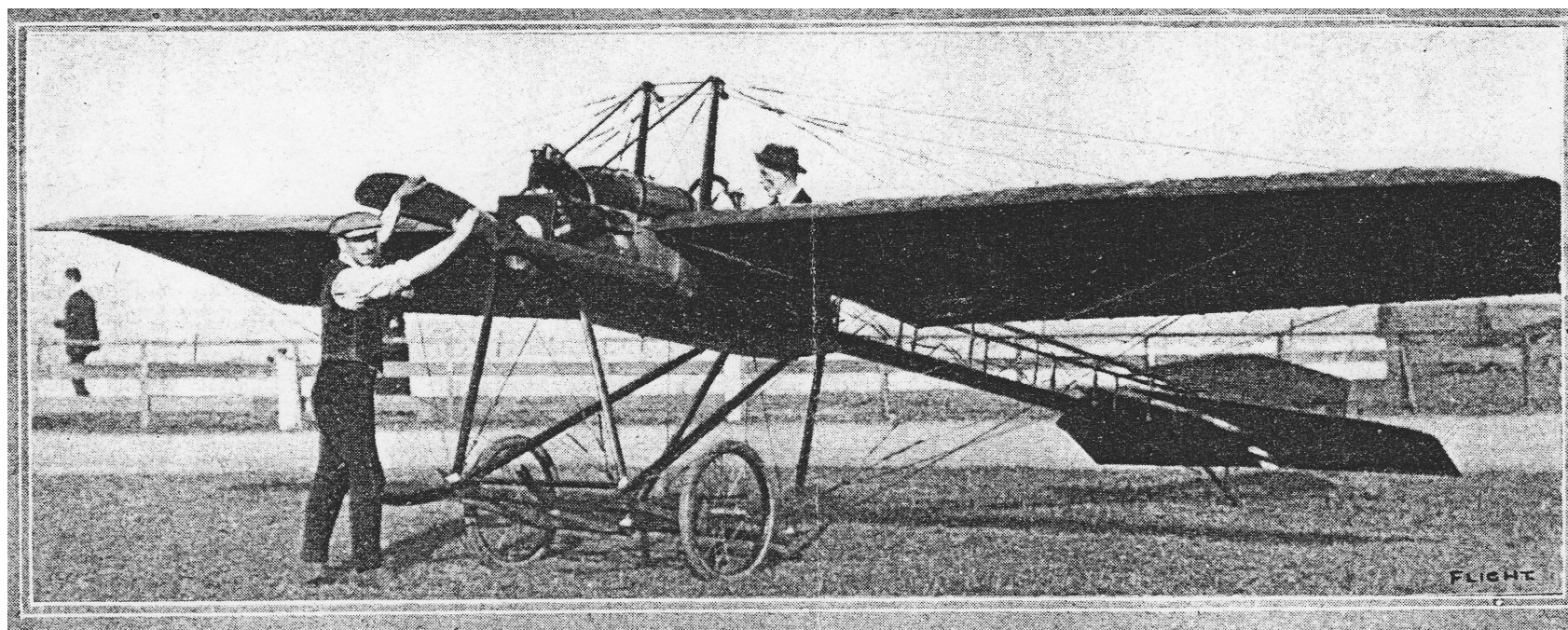


Photo courtesy of James McNahon

A contemporary newspaper clipping of William H. Ewen in his monoplane.

30th AUGUST was the centenary of the first ever flight across the Firth of Forth, successfully piloted by W.H. Ewen in a monoplane which took off and landed in Portobello.

According to *The Scotsman*, at 7pm on 30th August 1911, dressed in black oilskins, William climbed into his Duperdussin monoplane, which was powered by a three cylinder Anzoni engine. It made a short run across the sports ground in the Marine Gardens and took off, just clearing the boundary fence. There was great excitement as many of the spectators had never seen a plane in flight.

Wind was causing problems and William flew to a height of 1000 feet hoping this would improve his prospects. He headed for Fife

with the wind behind him, flying over Inchkeith Island. When he reached Kinghorn he turned and headed back across the Forth. Halfway across the water, crosswinds again caused him problems, making the plane rock and dip.

William flew along the south side of the river until he saw the Marine Gardens and began his descent, intending to land in the sports ground, but it was quite restricted and wind was gusting. He did not want to damage his monoplane, so he landed in a field west of the ground. His machine was wheeled back to the Marine Gardens where he received a rapturous welcome.

The following Saturday evening, William was presented with an inscribed

silver bowl from the directors of the Edinburgh Marine Gardens (Ltd). He thanked them and said he believed that in two or three years everyone present would have flown, if not by themselves, then as passengers.

Previous attempts to fly over the Forth had proved impossible due to bad weather. William had been giving exhibition flights in the Marine Gardens, in Seafield Road, but strong winds had curtailed even them. He was determined to attempt the crossing, however, and did so when the wind died down.

William Hugh Ewen was born in Shanghai on 1st December 1879. His parents were Scottish missionaries who returned to Edinburgh in 1882. William studied at the University of Edinburgh

and gained a Bachelor of Music. He was a well-known organist and played at the Scottish Exhibition in August 1911. He gained his Royal Aeronautical Certificate flying in a Bleriot monoplane at Hendon on 14th February 1911. His certificate was No. 63, making him one of the earliest flyers and one of the first Scottish pilots.

He then established the first Flying School in Scotland in Lanark, and a second in Hendon. He was very involved with his company W.H. Ewen Aviation Co. Ltd. By July 1912, William was delivering airmail. He became a Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps in November 1915 and transferred as a Major to the Royal Air Force in April 1918. He died on 26th November 1947.

PORTOBELLO HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

IT IS with great regret that I have to report that Portobello History Society was dissolved on 1st June 2011. Portobello District Local History Society was founded in 1987 and the name was later changed to Portobello History Society to allow a wider range of subjects to be included, reflected in the diverse and informative talks greatly enjoyed by members. Editions of *Past Times*, giving information on the history of Portobello, were published between 1991 and 1995. The popular video, *'It Always Seemed to be Sunny' Memories of Portobello*, was produced in 2004 by society members and sold well locally and worldwide.

At the AGM in 2010, the Treasurer and Secretary informed members that they would be retiring at the AGM in 2011 and hoped this would provide ample opportunity for new office-bearers to come forward. In February 2011, the Chairperson indicated that she would also be retiring. With a healthy membership of 75, it was hoped that new office bearers would stand for election at the 2011 AGM, but no nominations were received and the remaining committee members then also resigned.

Members had been informed at the May meeting that if no new office bearers were elected at the AGM, it would be followed immediately by an Extraordinary General Meeting to decide the future of the society, thus ensuring that the EGM would be quorate and able to take the necessary decisions.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed to dissolve the society as detailed in the constitution, with its financial assets passing to Portobello Amenity Society (PAS). It was also agreed that all equipment and the care of the archive would pass to Portobello Heritage Trust. PAS has since transferred the money to the Trust.

Margaret Munro

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100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

MRS. JOSEPHINE Maud Adam (known as José) celebrated her 100th birthday on 15th August with family and friends at Marian House, Oswald Road..

Originally from London, José has lived in Edinburgh since 1934, after marrying an Edinburgh man, William (Bill) Adam. They lived briefly in Leith before moving to Duddingston Square East, where they stayed until Bill died in 1980. José remained there until autumn 2009, when she moved to Queen's Bay Lodge.

José was an active member of St Mark's Episcopal Church and had many friends there. She played golf regularly, becoming Lady Captain at Portobello Golf Club, and enjoyed swimming, diving and bowls. She also practised yoga and could do the splits until well into her nineties.

José and Bill had two children, and José now has four grand-children and four great-grandchildren.



NEW MINISTER AT BAPTIST CHURCH

THE Baptist Church in Portobello welcomed their new minister, Rev. Andy Scarcliffe, on 2nd July. The Portobello church is the third in Edinburgh that Andy has led, the last one meeting in a gym in Corstorphine instead of a traditional building.

Music has always been his passion, and he has played in various bands over the years. His first spawned members of Slik and Simple Minds, while his own path led to the Church.

"We sometimes speak a different language from the man in the street", Andy reflects, "using words that are hard to understand for those who have

never experienced church. I am excited about the fact that decline in church attendance is surpassed by an increasing interest in spirituality. We want to create a space for people to explore spirituality without pressure. I have ideas about what that might look like in Portobello. Watch this space."

Andy is developing a style of worship that draws heavily on the visual, incorporating video clips and songs, with tunes from artistes such as Dylan and Leonard Cohen. "If you want to check out what's happening", he says, "the church is on the High Street and meets at 11.00am and 6.30pm. You are welcome".

WHAT'S GOING ON AT WILSON MEMORIAL?

IT'S 4.45pm on a Friday afternoon and the church is buzzing with adults and children, laughing as they struggle to glue googly eyes on a cotton-wool sheep. Exuberant singing, excitable participation in the story (climbing ladders as a pretend mountain) and then the huge collage is ready...Yes, just another 'Messy Church'.

We have held six 'Messy Churches' this year and they will continue, at 3.30pm, on Friday 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, then 13th January 2012.

The afternoon begins with supervised games such as air hockey, table football and table-

tennis, with jigsaws and lots of toys for younger children. Then there is singing and story-time, followed by craft work based on the story theme, and at 5pm we end with a cooked meal and lovely desserts.

So, that's it. 'Messy Church' is a time for families to come together, making things, eating and celebrating God's love through music, story-telling and prayer.

Children 3-11ish, parents, teen carers, grandparents, this is for you - It's great fun.

For more information, contact Rev. Ralph Dunn, 7, Keke-wich Avenue, Portobello. Tel. 669-6636.

BIG THINGS PUBLIC ART FEST

BIG THINGS on the Beach, Portobello's community based public art trust, presents a week long, free programme of participatory public art projects, workshops and discussions. The Public Art Fest has been developed with the Edinburgh College of Art and GeoArte, a cultural exchange organisation based in Puglia, southern Italy.

GeoArte is bringing three Italian artists to engage the public in art projects located in a number of sites in Portobello, including a mass participation human installation on September 3rd.

The Edinburgh College of Art is coordinating three workshops, led by UK artists, that take the Portobello townscape to explore what makes art public and what public art might become.

On September 3rd at 2.00pm Big Things on the Beach invites everyone to join Rocca Gutteridge in Mum's Café at the Edinburgh Indoor Bowls and Leisure Centre, Westbank Street and Promenade to discuss the question 'What Makes Art Public?'.

For more information see: www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk

WERE YOU THERE?

ON 4th August 1940, five bombs, which failed to explode, were dropped around Abercorn Park. 150 people were evacuated to St. Philip's Church Hall. If you belong to one of the families concerned, we would like to hear from you, in particular members of the Dick family. Mrs Dick

took 2 lbs of sausages, bread and other supplies for her family with her so that "we won't go hungry!" Please contact Margaret Munro, tel; 657 2866, email: munroporto@hotmail.com or Archie Foley, tel: 669 0184, email: Alfoley21@sky.com

AMNESTY LOCAL NEWS

A NUMBER of events took place this summer in the Group's "Amnesty at 50" programme.

Portobello Library provided display stands and a table for literature and publicity, and made books with a human rights connection available in June and July. Our special leaflet was prominently displayed, which contributed to a significant public presence at the Group stall on 25th June near the Town Hall.

This ensured a great response to the case of Ferhat Gercek, a young Turkish man shot and seriously injured by police while handing out leaflets in Istanbul three years ago. Over 30 people signed greetings on a large card, beautifully illustrated by one of our members, and many took cards to send, calling on the Turkish authorities to ensure he receives justice.

We hope to have an Amnesty stall at the Portobello Organic Market on Saturday 1st October, and a commemorative tree-planting will take place at the Community Orchard on Saturday 29th October, which it is hoped will be attended by local political and community figures.

On Monday 17th October, Mike Perrins of St Mark's will lead the Group in a workshop on "answering awkward questions".

Our special events and local networking with churches and other bodies have resulted in an increased membership, and visits from people passing through, including a delightful couple from Detroit USA, both Amnesty members, with whom we shared experiences of human rights campaigning.

The Group's next meeting is on 19th September at 7.30pm in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall. Please call in and hear more of our work. For more information call 669 1308.

David Turner

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

From 1st April, except public or school holidays:


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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Craigentinny Community Centre
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Duddingston Primary School
3rd Wednesday of each month.

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Constituents who have a problem or an issue they would like to raise with Kenny MacAskill are welcome to attend his 'MSP Surgery'.

Alternatively you can contact Kenny MacAskill using the address and details below.



The Scottish Parliament

The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 30 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
8th Nov. 2011.

A PLUMB JOB FOR EMMA



Photo by Karen Combe

FORMER Holy Rood High School pupil Emma Brown has graduated as a Gas Safe plumber after four years of study at Jewel and Esk College. She is the third generation of plumbers in her family and now works alongside her father Chris in the family business, established in Portobello by her grandfather Douglas.

Women plumbers remain under-represented in the industry and locally Emma is one of only a handful of women who have chosen plumbing as a career. She says: "I was in a class with 15 guys at college. Now, when I'm working on a building site, everybody takes a second glance when they see a female plumber on the job."

Being female has its advantages. Emma says she loves to chat and can quickly build a rapport with her female and elderly customers and put them at ease. The down side of the job is the heavy lifting and the under-floor work which can be claustrophobic and Emma says with a smile: "It wrecks my hair."

A more rewarding aspect of the job for her is gas work, including fitting and analysing boilers. It is technically demanding and in college, tough assessments required consistent 100% pass rates. Emma says: "Now I know what I'm doing, I can discuss things with my Dad. We have a conversation about work and Mum just can't believe it."

Karen Combe

DUDDINGSTON WIN SCHOOL BOARD CUP



ON A drizzly and overcast evening in June, Duddingston P6s cruised to a 8-2 victory over St Mary's of Leith at Warriston playing fields to win the 2011 Edinburgh Primary School Sports Association School Board Cup.

Taking control of the game from the kick-off and scoring early, Duddingston denied St Mary's the chance to establish their normally free-flowing style of football, and were 4-0 up at half time. It looked as if St Mary's might mount a comeback in the second half, but they only managed to claw back two goals, while Duddingston scored another four. In the end it seemed it just wasn't St Mary's night when a lob from the half-way line by one of the Duddy defenders went in over the head of their goalie, resulting in an unlikely goal, while, after driving through the Duddingston defence, one of the St Mary's wingers, with only the goalie to beat from a few yards out, managed to shoot wide.

Robin Tarry, parent/coach

ROYAL HIGH 80TH ANNIVERSARY

THE Royal High Primary School, Northfield Broadway, celebrates its 80th anniversary in September. If you went to or had connections with the school, and would like to go along and share

your school memories with the pupils, then here's your chance! For more information please call 0131 669 3200 or email admin@royalhigh.pri.edin.sch.uk.

FAIR TRADE AT ST JOHNS

ST JOHN'S Primary School in Portobello has just been awarded Fair Trade status after submitting two years worth of evidence at the end of the last academic year.

During the 2010/11 school year, St John's Primary School's P5 and P6 fair trade group ran a stall at the school fair in the Summer term and sold over £250 worth of Fairtrade and Traidcraft goods, including jewellery, chocolate bars and handbags, supplied by the Just World shop in Portobello.

In Health Week in the Easter term, the group promoted the fair trade message at a Fair-trade smoothie stall. Supported by Scotmid, they served over 200 happy customers and plan to make this a regular feature of Health Week.

As part of the new curriculum, Primary 5 studied fair trade as a topic and held an assembly for parents during Fairtrade Fortnight. Other classes were encouraged to write letters to local MSPs and played games designed to improve their understanding of the benefits of fair trade and the Fairtrade premium.

Mark Burgess,
P5 Class Teacher

HIGH SCHOOL DUX

THIS year's Dux at Portobello High School is Madeleine Grant of Joppa. Madeleine gained five As in her Highers and, after Sixth Year Studies, hopes to study Engineering. Her family are naturally very proud of her.

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RACING ROWERS VIE FOR GLORY



Photo by Peter Ross

ON the last Saturday in July, in brilliant sunshine, 11 boats from eight coastal communities took part in the second Rowporty Portobello Regatta for Scottish Coastal Rowing Association skiffs. Teams came from Achiltibuie, Anstruther, Cockenzie, Dunbar, Newhaven, North Berwick, Port Seton and South Queensferry, along with a team member of the Royal West, over to show support.

The sea started out fairly calm, but grew more choppy until, in late afternoon, the race course had to be shortened. This year the course was a 3km triangle, the last leg running parallel to the shore to let onlookers enjoy the sprint to the finishing line.

One of North Berwick's pair of bright blue skiffs won the first race - the men's 40+, and the men's 55+; Port Seton won the women's 40+ and the

under 25s; Portobello won the men's open, followed by the women's open, then the women's 55+, the mixed 40+ and the mixed open; North Berwick completed the day's racing by winning the mixed 55+.

Lustre-glazed pottery medals, hand-made by local potter Alison Robinson, were awarded to the winning teams and Rowporty won the new trophy, donated by the Dalriada, for best overall results, keeping up this season's run of regatta wins. For full results, see www.rowporty.org.uk,

Links to film footage of the event and photo galleries can also be found on the website and on flickr.

Morag Edward

ON THE GREENS

THE East Edinburgh Pairs, sponsored by Belhaven Brewery, were played at Portobello Bowling Club on Sunday 7th August, when P McVey and N Rooney of Postal BC beat P Robertson and S Robertson of Seafield in an exciting final. We are very pleased that Belhaven are also sponsoring a new trophy to be played annually between East and West Edinburgh associations.

Our Annual Dinner will be at Willowbrae BC on Saturday 19th November; tickets are available from local clubs at £8, good value for a night out.

We were saddened by the death on 8th August of umpire Alan MacDonald, who officiated at many matches in the area. He will be greatly missed.

A Skirving

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

AN EXHIBITION by Portobello Heritage Trust, in Portobello Library until 11th September, highlighting some of the buildings and people included in the new Portobello Architecture Heritage Trail leaflet. Additional information is provided using books, photographs and artefacts.

"DOSHDAY" - Wed.14th Sept, 10.30am-3.30pm, Hays Business Centre, Hay Avenue. (Buses No. 2, 21, 30). Free advice, money-saving ideas, etc: Citizens Advice; Castle Rock Edinvar financial inclusion team; Volunteering and looking for work with Volunteer Centre and Cyrenians; Advice on reducing gas and electric bills; Castle Credit Union - open a savings account; Marc 2 and Fab Pad - second time around furniture, paint and furnishings, and interior design demo; Greenspace - look after your cash and the environment; Healthy living and saving cash.

CAR BOOT SALES (Portobello Rotary Club): Sundays 25th Sept & 30th Oct. Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am - double pitch £10 -all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220583.

CRAFT & TABLE SALE: Saturday 1st October, 10am to 2pm in St James Church halls, Rosefield Place, with a wide variety of goods. Start your Christmas Shopping early and beat the rush. Entry free. Tea, coffee and bacon rolls for sale.

ART EXHIBITION, 24th Oct-3rd Nov, Portobello Library: St James Art Group 10th Annual Exhibition, "Images of Portobello and More". New members welcome. For more information call 669 6731.

TEA DANCES to the sound of Duncan McBain, Weds/Fridays, 1.30-4pm, St James Church Hall, Rosefield Ave. £2.50 incl. refreshments.

ORGANIC MARKET, Brighton Park. 1st Sat. of each month, 9.30am-1.30pm. Organic fruit, veg, meat and more. For more info. or to book a stall contact info@pedalporty.org.uk or call 258 4483.

BRIDGE: Mondays at 9.30am, in a comfortable room, in St Mark's Church, Portobello High St. Beginners to a reasonable standard welcome. Contact Bert McCall on 669 8040.

OPEN WATER SWIM FESTIVAL



Photo by Antonio Sanchez

THE second Portobello Open Water Swim Festival, organised by Edinburgh Road Club triathlon section, took place on Saturday 13th August.

202 swimmers took part in the main 2km race from Musselburgh to Portobello.

The winner, in 29min 25sec, was Roddy Horne, Perth City Swim Club, in the youth age-group (under 18); second was Rory Downie, Stirling University, in the male senior age-group, in 29min 39sec; third was Chris Roy, also a senior, in 30min flat.

The first woman home was Kimberley Preston from Fleet Feet Tri, in 31min 54sec; second was Lorraine Wheatley in 34min 28 sec; third was Ester Comaramos from Stirling Triathlon club in 36min 21 sec.

Altogether 75 women and 127 men took part, including two women and four men in the over 60s age-group. It's never too late to start!

There were also three children's aquathons and two adult races of 400 and 800metres off the beach at Joppa.

SWIMMING CLUB CENTENARY

ONE OF Scotland's leading swimming and water polo clubs is looking for new talent as it prepares to celebrate its Centenary next year.

Portobello Amateur Swimming Club (PASC), founded in 1912, is at the heart of the community and still based at historic Portobello Baths. With a track record of producing international class swimmers and water polo players - the water polo team are current holders of the Scottish Cup, and our swimmers won two of the leagues in the Lothian Leagues championships - PASC also prides itself on combining top level coaching with a family-friendly ethos which can develop swimmers to reach their full potential. Trial sessions will give any future Rebecca Adlington, Liam Tancocks or water polo players the chance to see how the club can help them.

Anyone connected to the club in the last 60 years or so will know of PASC's long-serving member, Jack Snowdon, who still coaches and is a judge at swimming galas in the region. Jack, who was awarded an MBE for services to swimming, was in the support boat which accompanied Ned Barnie in his historic swim across the English Channel in 1951. Club members still compete in the Ned Barnie 1500 m challenge.

With plans being put together for the Centenary celebrations, PASC is inviting former swimmers and polo players to help mark the occasion. For more info visit www.portobelloasc.com

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