

THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Winter 2011
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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
 produced by local people since 1980.

A GREAT TIME AT THE VILLAGE SHOW



TRAINS, cakes and plastic ducks - just a flavour of the 2011 Porty Village Show. There were a few new attractions this year as well as some old favourites. The model trains proved a great draw for young and old, and Porty's canine residents impressed with some super tricks that made you paws for breath! For the more energetic the Running Club's run up Arthurs Seat seemed a great idea, and all were back at record speed

to the tea tent.

Porty folk proved once again that they are a talented lot. There were over 100 entries for baking, crafts, recycled models, a new category- Garden in a Box, and of course some brilliant recycled 'pets', all showing great imagination with innovative use of some unusual items.

Music by Horndog Brass and the Female Guerilla String Quartet got the party going a treat and kept the kettles boil-

ing and the corks popping in the tea and beer tents.

Sunshine, beer, frolicking dogs, misshaped vegetables, racing ducks, Japanese gardens and laughing children, that seems to sum the day up, along with the army of helpers, judges, musicians and stall holders.

For more information about Portobello Open Door's forthcoming events see www.the-pod.org.uk or Facebook.

Mark Tweedie

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER

IN case we have another severe winter, City of Edinburgh Council have produced a leaflet *Be Prepared for Winter*, which gives self-help advice, information on priority routes for snow clearing and a list of useful contacts.

It includes advice on how we can all help by clearing pavements in our area: "Try to clear snow or ice early. It's easier to move loose snow... [then] use salt or sand... Use more salt on steps and steep pathways. Sand gives a good grip, but won't stop the path

icing over". It also says: "There is no law stopping you from clearing pavements: see the Ready Winter pages on www.readyscotland.org for the Scottish Government's advice on clearing snow and ice and preparing for winter". It also urges us to look out for our neighbours, especially elderly ones.

The leaflet can be viewed online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/winterweather and is available from libraries.

The Council is enlisting volunteer snow wardens to

help clear snow and ice in their neighbourhoods, tools and training provided. Call Faye or Graham on 529 3032 for more information.

Last winter many people found that fitting ice treads or shoe chains to their footwear helped prevent slipping on icy pavements. These are now widely available in outdoor shops, on the internet and in offers in newspapers.

Let us hope that none of these measures will be necessary.

BOOK FESTIVAL GOES WITH A SWING



Host Dave Francis with local author and singer, Doug Johnstone at the opening event.

THE third Portobello Book Festival, on the first weekend of October, was very well supported, with over 700 people attending 19 diverse events in four locations. There were discussion groups, authors' talks and workshops and it was hard to decide which events to try.

Bookbug songs and rhymes at the Town Hall was one of the most popular activities for children under 5, while more than 60 people were eager to hear about the *Secret Lives of Buildings*, with Edward Hollis, at the Old Parish Church.

There was another good audience at the same venue for an inspiring talk on *Art in the Community - The Prestonpans Tapestry* and, at the Dalriada, local rowers talked about Por-

tobello's re-kindled enthusiasm for boat building and rowing.

A book quiz at the Dalriada was a big hit, and a large number of budding writers attended *From Ideas to Page*, a workshop on getting published, at Portobello Library.

Radio Scotland's 'Book Cafe' recorded a great session with the author Janice Galloway, featuring questions put by local book groups. If you're keen to hear the recording, it will be broadcast on 1st or 2nd January.

Feedback from all who came to the events has been overwhelmingly positive and the organisers, all local volunteers, look forward to the fourth Portobello Book Festival in October 2012.

Heather Morrison

APPLE HEIST

HUNGRY and healthy thieves took the pick of the crop at PEDAL's Donkeyfield Community Orchard at Brunstane Road South in October. Swiping most of the apples from the hundred or so trees planted last year by volunteers and school children, they picked the orchard bare, leaving few apples left for PEDAL's Apple Day event.



Photo by Margaret Munro

PEDAL volunteer Diana Cairns says: "I would not want to be too condemnatory as it is a community orchard with apples there for all to share. We are happy for people to help themselves as long as they leave some for others." She hopes that once the trees have matured and become fully productive, there will be more than enough apples in future years to go round.

The orchard was developed by PEDAL to supply the town with a source of locally grown food, supporting the group's aim of helping Portobello become more sustainable.



The **Portobello Reporter** wishes
 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
 to all our Readers,
 Contributors and Advertisers
portyreporter@btinternet.com



PORTY PROFILE No. 45 EVA SCHONVELD

SINCE moving to Portobello in 1997 Eva Schonveld co-founded PEDAL in 2005, which made Portobello the first Transition town in Scotland. Following the success of PEDAL, she set up Transition Scotland Support, to help support communities elsewhere in Scotland who wanted to do Transition.

Eva grew up in Edinburgh and went to James Gillespie's High School before spending a year at Edinburgh College of Art. She then moved to London, and then Leicester, where she worked at a theatre, making props. She eventually returned to Art College in Newcastle where she studied Creative Arts and then moved on to Sheffield, where she completed a diploma in Art Therapy.

The next 13 years were spent working in Edinburgh at Artlink, on their Arts for Mental Health project. She says: "Over those years I became increasingly concerned by issues surrounding the environment, and really wanted to help".

Eva then took time off to have three sons before co-founding PEDAL. The group works in Portobello to make opportunities for people to get and make more of what they need from the local area, which helps combat climate change and also helps make the transition to a lower energy future.

Eva believes that everybody can help stop climate change, and that rising oil prices will increasingly affect us all. She says PEDAL was waiting for more Scottish towns to achieve Transition status, but after three years Portobello was still the only one, so she started contacting other people around Scotland who were trying to achieve a similar goal.

Because of this Eva was approached by the Scottish Government when the new Climate Challenge Fund began, to set up Transition Scotland Support, which ran for three years. She is now completing a short research project, funded by the Scottish Government, looking at how the Transition project can reach even more people in Scotland.

Eva doesn't know what her future holds, but would like to help to develop a more local food system for Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside.

She says: "There are a lot of really good people in Portobello, and the school run along the Prom is, without a doubt, the best in Edinburgh. It's different every day!"

Lewis Dick



Photo by Brenda Molony

ON THE BEAT

AT this time of year criminals take the opportunities afforded them by the extra shopping we do, the hustle and bustle of town centres and the value of the goods we buy. We might also be more trusting and generous at Christmas when requests for charity are made, giving the unscrupulous a chance to collect for their own causes. So what can we do?

Don't make it easy for someone to steal from your home. Keep gifts out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve. If you 'hide' or store larger items, such as bicycles, in the shed, make sure they are very secure. Check that you know what you have in the house, both your usual items (TV, video etc) and the presents you have bought. Take the frame numbers of new cycles and the serial numbers of new electrical equipment for future reference. Remember, empty boxes left outside advertise that you have new goods inside. So dispose of packaging carefully.

Check strangers at the door. Genuine delivery personnel usually have uniforms and liveried vehicles and should not need to come into your home. Charity collectors will have identification and will not be offended if you ask to see it. If you are not sure about them, but want to make a donation, ask whether these can be made in other ways, perhaps through a bank.

Remember, Edinburgh and Portobello are essentially safe places to live, but the festive period is a very busy time for Lothian and Borders Police. So follow this advice and make sure your Christmas is one to remember for all the right reasons!

The Safer Neighbourhood Team

A WAR MEMORIAL FOR PORTOBELLO?

WAR Memorials are prominent features of towns and villages throughout Scotland, but there is none in Portobello. The National War Memorial at the Castle records all the Scottish dead, and the city's Remembrance Day services take place at the City Chambers.

A recent meeting of Portobello Community Council therefore decided to find out if there is local support for Portobello having its own war memorial. The obvious considerations are: who should be remembered; what form the memorial should take; where it should be located; and who would fund it.

The local branch of the Royal British Legion has a plaque listing those who died in the First World War and there are some 25 military graves in Portobello Cemetery. The National War Memorial, Edinburgh University's Centre for the Study of the Two World Wars and Edinburgh City Libraries could all help to identify the men and women of Portobello who died in wars. Then there is local knowledge: do you know of anyone whose name should be on a Portobello war memorial?

If you have any views on this, or can contribute any names, please email portycc@me.com or write to the Community Council c/o Portobello Library, 14 Rosefield Avenue, EH15 1AU.

Nick Stroud

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE MILTON QUILTERS

recently held a very successful exhibition of patchwork and quilting in Portobello Old Parish Church Halls. A raffle of quilts and cushions raised £1800 for Chest Heart and Stroke Association Scotland. The group thank everyone who supported the event.

PPAG COURT ACTION :

The petition for Judicial Review against the decision of the City of Edinburgh Council to build a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park, lodged by the Portobello Park Action Group, will be heard in the Court of Session on 9th December. PPAG are challenging the Council's right to build on Common Good land.

TURN HEADS, WEAR RED

on 24th February for British Heart Foundation (BHF) Scotland's National Wear Red Day and make a suggested donation of just £1 to help beat Scotland's biggest killer; see bhf.org.uk/red OR you could write your love a Love Note for a donation of £1 and have it posted in a BHF shop window!

BELLFIELD LANE ONE-WAY:

Bellfield Lane is now a one-way street, running north from Portobello High Street to Straiton Place.

TOWER STREET PHOTO SOUGHT:

Mrs C Nisbet (nee Doree) writes from New Zealand to ask if anyone has a photo of Tower Street as it was during and at the end of the war, before it changed. She lived there until 1965, next to Wallace the builders. If anyone can help, please email c.ross@extra.co.nz

Sheila Gilmore MP

MONTHLY SURGERIES

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WE would like to thank the organisers of the Portobello Book Festival for, yet again, delivering a fantastic event in October. The Portobello Book Festival weekend brings something a bit special to the library and we loved every minute.



We would also like to congratulate the library book group team who won the inaugural Book Group Quiz at the Central Library on 27th October. Our team took the lead early on, and went on to victory with an excellent display of knowledge. We hope this will be an annual event so we can go back next year and defend our title.

We have recently launched a new Bookbug session on Saturdays at 11.30, as a lot of babies haven't been able to come to our Wednesday morning sessions because their mums and dads are working. All under 5s and their parents and carers are welcome at any of our Bookbug sessions of rhymes and songs.

Local storyteller Beth Cross is running her Story Maker Games Club for children at the library on the last Saturday of every month, helping children create their own stories and games. There are two sessions, the first at 2pm for 5-8 year olds, and then at 3pm for 9 years and over.

Portobello Library is now on Facebook. If you want up-to-date information on our events, book groups, and book recommendations you can find us on www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary. If you are on Facebook and you "like" the library, all our post updates will appear in your News Feed and you will be able to comment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Our Christmas creative crafts sessions for children will run throughout December. If you are interested, ask staff for details, keep an eye out for our posters and check our Facebook page.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month, when we will be discussing the following books:
6th December – *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant
10th January – *The Death of Lomond Friel*, by Sue Peebles
7th February - *Beyond the Blossoming Fields*, by Junichi Watanabe.
All books will be available from the library; ask staff for details.

We also have a teenage book group that meets on the last Thursday of every month.

If you are interested in any of the above, please ask our staff for details. Paul Hudson

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Cycling on the Promenade: proposed new signage

FOLLOWING the lifting of the cycling ban on the Promenade, the City of Edinburgh Council's Area Roads Team is consulting local people about the best form of new signage giving advice to pedestrians and cyclists, and to establish that pedestrians have priority. Representatives gave a presentation to Portobello Community Council at its September meeting and took note of comments made by members, and by around 50 members of the public who attended.

Two types of sign were proposed. One type would be displayed at access points onto the Prom, telling cyclists to give way to pedestrians, pass slowly and stop if necessary, and to use their bells. It would tell pedestrians to listen for bells and then allow cyclists to pass, and to control dogs. Smaller 'repeater' signs, showing a pedestrian logo above

a cyclist logo, would carry one of these messages. Ways of making access points safer for pedestrians will also be devised.

An extended question-and-answer session highlighted the concerns of pedestrians about cyclists who travel at speed, and the safety of children, the elderly and the disabled. PCC Chairman, John Stewart, requested that proposals for the new signage and safety measures, based on consultations, be brought to a future meeting before they are put in place.

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

The results of the recent survey on how people feel about living in Portobello will shortly be published in full on the website.

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

PORTOBELLO Heritage Trust will launch its new website - www.portobelloheritagetrust.co.uk - on 1st January 2012.

Our aim is to place as much text and as many images as possible online, so that anyone anywhere can get information on all aspects of Portobello's varied heritage. This will ensure that collections built up in the past by Portobello History Society, other organisations and individuals will be seen by a large local and worldwide audience. There is still much work to be done, but we felt that enough information was now uploaded to make our new site worth visiting for anyone interested in Portobello. As with all websites, it is a never-ending task to keep it updated and we hope we will receive new information from those who visit it.

Margaret Munro, Chairperson
Portobello Heritage Trust

DEMARCO PROUD OF HIS PORTOBELLO HERITAGE

RICHARD DEMARCO CBE entertained a large and appreciative audience in St Mark's Church on 9th November with a wide-ranging illustrated talk entitled *My Portobello Heritage*. He took snapshots of his audience, as he often does, during his introduction by Archie Foley of Portobello Heritage Trust.

Mr Demarco, renowned artist and promoter of the visual and performing arts, was brought up in Portobello, where his family had an ice cream parlour, Maison Demarco, on the Promenade until the 1950s, and is proud of his Portobello background. Of the many memories of his childhood that he shared with the audience, he said the most vivid was of playing on the beach in 1939 and narrowly missing being shot by bullets fired by a Spitfire that was chasing a German plane.

He also talked with great verve of his life in the worldwide artistic community and the artists he has known and promoted, about his involvement in establishing the Edinburgh Festival and the Traverse Theatre, and opening The Demarco Gallery. He believes passionately, he said, that art is about love and the common good, not about making money.

He also believes that Portobello should have its own festival based around its seaside.

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CHRISTMAS CABARETS Friday 9th December - Diane Murray
Friday 16th December 2011 - Julie Ann Alison

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A Toy Story - The Art of Letting Go

CHRISTMAS is coming, judging by the crinkled appearance of the Toys and Games section in our Argos catalogue. The children's daydreams coincide with reminders delivered via schoolbag courier, that preparations for the Christmas Fair are under way. "Have you any unwanted toys?", the flyers ask. Yes, we have, lots.

My next job, then, is braving the dreaded toy cupboard in the boys' room. It's in an awkward space under the eaves and I crawl in gingerly to avoid kneeling on stray pieces of Lego. I bypass 10 years' worth of school jotters that I can't bring myself to throw away, a basket of cuddly toys and my elder son's first wooden train set. This was going to be a tough job.

Soon I'm on a roll and have three bags full of toys. The kids are due home from school any second, and thinking they might be upset at parting with some old favourites, I quickly stash the bags in the car ready for delivery tomorrow. But by the morning, I've had second thoughts and retrieve some toys I just can't bear to part with.

In the end, it's my children who surprise me with their non-sense approach. They ask for some bin bags and minutes later have cleared lots of toys for the fair and the school jotters have gone. "Mum, there has to come a time when you need to have a clear out to make some space", they say firmly. "For new toys," they add with their noses back in the catalogue. I might have guessed!

AS previously reported, PEDAL and Greener Leith have secured 90% of the funds needed to take the proposed community-owned wind turbine at Seafield to planning submission, through a loan from the Scottish Government. We hope to raise the rest through grants and donations from local people; please visit our website www.pedal-party.org.uk to make a donation. We need your help and every penny counts.

The wind turbine project was also in the shortlist of 20 out of 1000 that registered interest across the UK, competing for funding from EnergyShare. Voting for projects closed on 3rd December and the outcome will be posted on our website. A huge "thank you" to all who voted for us. We have also posted some updated Frequently Asked Questions; take a look to see how the project is progressing.

PEDAL will be holding a winter solstice celebration at the community orchard on Saturday 17th December from 1-4 pm. All are welcome to come along to help with wassailing the trees (sprinkling them with cider!) to encourage their fruitfulness next season. There will be a bonfire, storytelling and seasonal goodies. More information and directions to the orchard are available on our website, or by emailing orchard@pedal-party.org.uk

Portobello Organic Market continues on the first Saturday of each month, and we have some great new stalls including several selling hot food and gifts, as well as the staples. Please note that the January market will be on the 7th. We are recruiting a part-time co-ordinator for the market and hope local folk will apply. See our website for details.

PEDAL have produced a guide to saving energy in the home, written with advice from energy experts. The booklet will be available from the PEDAL stall at the market, the library, church halls, other local venues and the PEDAL website. Grab your copy to stay warm and save energy and money.

The Food Group is starting to develop unused garden space for community food growing. About 10-15 people will clear the space, which has been neglected for many years, and then make small plots and possibly keep chickens and bees as well. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such sociable and productive spaces around Portobello.

Tom Black

SUSTAINABLE PARTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



WINTER can be viewed as catch-up time, as well as a time to plan for Spring.

If you haven't cleaned or cleared out your greenhouse, then winter is a great time to do it. I wash everything down with a soapy sponge, on a dry day, and ruthlessly inspect every plant for pests and diseases. The usual remedy is to squash any pest, or wipe off with a damp cloth. The most common disease, botrytis, which manifests itself as grey, hairy fuzz, is caused by foosty conditions, i.e. lack of air circulation. It can be reduced by good ventilation, clearing every fallen leaf and petal, and by reducing watering to a minimum. If you have a vine, wait until the leaves all drop, prune to shape and clean the branches (rods as they are called) with a soapy toothbrush. Make sure you don't keep plants that you know won't survive.

To free up space in the greenhouse, don't keep tools, old pots and so on there if they could be kept elsewhere, and line the glass with bubble wrap to help keep temperatures up. If you don't have a greenhouse, tender plants can be placed by a house wall or even under a hedge for frost protection. I leave anything that keeps its shape, like grasses, in the ground, but remove sludgy leaves, like hostas.

Bulb planting is another job often overlooked, but if you haven't got around to it, it's not too late. If the ground is frozen, plant them into pots and put them into gaps in the borders later. Garlic can be started off like this too, then planted out when the weather is suitable.

Check apple and pear trees for dead, diseased or crossing branches and cut them out. Don't prune any stone fruits, such as plums, damsons and apricots now, but leave them until the summer.

Empty compost heaps and worm bins before tidying the borders. Compost can be stored in a heap until needed, although I have done this and lost half the heap to worms taking it into the soil. If you've been adding compost for years on the vegetable patch, which increases the acidity, then a dressing of lime which reduces acidity will benefit many vegetables; add it a few weeks after compost, never both at the same time.

Dahlias will blacken with the first frost. If you have sandy soil you could risk leaving them in, but I always lift them, as we're on clay. Cut stems down to about 10cm above the tubers and leave to dry upside down for a few days. Wrap in thick layers of newspaper and store under the greenhouse benches, or in a shed which doesn't need light but must be frost free.

Finally, order seeds and have a rough plan for Spring.

CHRISTMAS TREAT: MARZIPAN BOMBS

Ingredients:

1 Packet Maltesers; enough marzipan to cover Maltesers; ground cinnamon.

Method:

Cover each Malteser in marzipan and then roll them in ground cinnamon. Serve in petits fours cases, or pack in a hand-made gift box for a scrumptious home-made Christmas gift.



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FROM THE ARCHIVE: PREPARATION FOR DOMESTIC BLISS

PORTOBELLO History Society was given a jotter from Peggy Hume's Domestic Science classes at Portobello Higher Grade School, which covers lessons from 4th October 1916 to 18th April 1917. Here are a few examples:



Photo courtesy of Marjorie Brown

Peggy loved Sid, her Pomeranian dog, enough to include him when she had her photograph taken at Elsmere Studio, 223 High Street, Portobello. Margaret (Peggy) Hume was born in 1904 and lived in 101 High Street, Portobello.

Nov 16th 1916

Fig Pudding

- 1oz flour
- 1oz bread crumbs
- 1oz suet
- Pinch of sugar, cinamon, [sic] and spice
- Pinch of baking powder
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- Milk
- 1oz figs

Method

- 1 Chop suet finely
- 2 Cut figs into small pieces
- 3 Mix all dry ingredients together
- 4 Add enough milk to make the mixture drop from the spoon
- 5 Turn into greased bowl and cover with greased paper
- 6 Steam steadily for 1 to 1½ hours

Jan 25th 1917

Beef Tea

- ¼ lb lean beef
- Pinch salt
- 1 teacup or 1 gill water

Method

Wipe, scrape finely and put into cold water and salt; cover with greased paper and stand for 15 minutes; place jar in pan of cold water and simmer gently for 2 to 2½ hours strain when ready

remove fat and serve hot.

Quickly Made Beef Tea

Turn meat and water into a clean pan beat with fork over a slow fire till meat changes colour; strain remove fat and serve.

Feb 15th 1917

Preparation for Washing Day

- 1 Tuesday is the best day for washing as all the preparation can be made on Monday
- 2 Collect all clothes and sort into heaps
 - a) All coloured and woolen [sic] articles
 - b) Body linen
 - c) Bed linen
 - d) Table linen
 - e) Fine articles such as lace, muslin, etc.
 - f) Handkerchiefs
 - g) Course articles such as kitchen towels, etc
- 3 Steep articles which require steeping
- 4 Make soap-jelly

- 5 get in all stores necessary such as soap, blue
- 6 Set boiler and boiler fire

Feb 19th 1917

Washing and Dressing of Handkerchiefs

- 1 Soak handkerchiefs from 12 to 24 hours in cold water and salt
- 2 Wash by rubbing in two hot waters with soap till clean
- 3 Boil for 15 to 20 minutes to whiten and purify
- 4 Rinse (1) in lukewarm water to remove soap
 - (2) in cold water to freshen
 - (3) in blue water to whiten
- 5 Wring and hang up till half dry
- 6 Iron and fold
- 7 Air well

Life is so much easier nowadays with automatic washing machines offering delicate washes, energy-saving washes, fast spin speeds and tumble-drying at the touch of a button.

WEBSITE REVIEW - WHOSE TOWN

Whose Town is a website which explores individuals and eras in the history of Edinburgh, using images to illustrate past lives and experiences. To access it, log on to www.edinburgh.gov.uk and search for Whose Town.



A series of six pages will come up, covering four eras: Victorian Edinburgh 1870s to 1890s; Brave New World 1900-1914; Carrot Jam and Pudding Pie - during Second World War, and Change in the Air - in the 1950s. The stories of the lives of various Edinburgh residents living then are told, with related images. There is further information under topics such as places, business and transport.

The website, which won the Chairman's Award for Design at the Scottish Design Awards 2011, was created as a teaching tool for schools, and is available to students via the schools' Glow intranet site. The historical information brings to life individual stories and images, but a considerable amount of clicking backward and forward is needed to follow one story and return to follow another. It is well worth a visit, however, to find out more about the city we live in.

Margaret Munro

PROGRESS ON KILNS

AFTER pressure from Portobello Heritage Trust, backed by our councillors and MSP, the City of Edinburgh Council has begun the process of restarting work on the repair and restoration of the collapsed bottle kiln. There have been promising meetings with Ross Buchan, who is in charge of the project, the architects and other members of the design team but, apart from removing the bricks to safe storage and taking down the wooden top framework, it will be some time before any work is visible on the site. The contract is not expected to be awarded until early next year after a comprehensive tendering process and there is a determination not to repeat past mistakes. Further consultations will keep the Trust fully involved and informed at all stages.

CHRISTMAS RETURN FOR PORTOBELLO FILM

PORTOBELLO History Society launched the best selling "It always seemed to be sunny", *Memories of Portobello* as a VHS video in 2004. The film proved a great hit as the centrepiece of St Mark's contribution to the last Doors Open Day so, responding to numerous requests, and with cassette tapes and VCRs now museum pieces, Portobello Heritage Trust is re-issuing it as a DVD.

Using audio and video interviews with long-time residents, photographs, home movies, archive film and new footage, it spans the years from the 1920s to the 1990s. There are memories and images of the concert parties, open air pool, where a young Sean Connery makes an appearance as a life guard, the beach and dancing at the bandstand on the promenade. The film also celebrates the efforts of local people who organised the Galas, Festivals and Victorian Extravaganzas, all of which are shown, illustrating what can be achieved with community spirit and hard work. This is the theme of the last part of the video in which many people will be able to spot themselves, family and friends. Local children are also used to re-enact scenes and games from the past.

The printed DVD comes in a slim case with illustrated cover and costs £10.00. It can be purchased at Portobello Library, Artisan Gifts and Joppa Newsagents.

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RAIN FOREST TREK FOR CANCER RESEARCH

TEN years ago, local woman Christine Kelly was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a year of treatment. Since then she has worked hard to raise awareness of the disease, as well as money for the research done by Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Breakthrough now have a research centre attached to the Western General and, Christine says, have started to discover new treatments after just two years.

Last year Christine turned 50 and walked the 50 miles from Glasgow to Edinburgh to raise money for the centre. She now plans an eight-day trek, next March, through the rain forests of Sumatra, paid for herself, to raise even more money. Christine would be most grateful for any donations, which can be made at www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ChristineKelly1

"As 1 in 8 women in Scotland will have breast cancer at some stage in their life", she says, "this disease and the work the centre is doing will touch many Reporter readers in some way."

WELL-TRAVELLED

WE have been contacted by a reader who wonders if their edition of *The Portobello Reporter* is the most travelled. It is first sent to St.Catharines in Ontario, Canada and then forwarded to Hobart, Tasmania. Does your copy travel further?

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

MRS MARY OLLSON, who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 26th September, received over 230 cards, including one from the Queen. In addition to a family party, she celebrated the occasion at Portobello Older Peoples Project (POPP) and the St John's Social Club, both of which, she says, are regular highlights of her week. She is seen here enjoying a POPP gathering.



Photo by Brenda Molony

Mary has lived in Portobello for much of her life and attended Towerbank Primary and Portobello Secondary schools. She met her late husband Bob when she was a waitress in the restaurant at the Central Bar and he was a barman there. They married in 1929 and had two daughters. Bob died 24 years ago, but Mary still lives in their marital home. She now has two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren..

Mary worked in munitions during the war, then as a wages clerk, and after her retirement she enjoyed sequence dancing, bowling and keep fit for many years.

WELL DONE POSTIE!

A READER in Tasmania responded to our request for information on Portobello during the war. She didn't know where to send it, so took a chance on the Reporter group being well known to the local postman, and sent it to *Portobello Reporter*, c/o Ms. Mgt. Munro, Portobello History Soc., Portobello, Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K. She was right! It arrived within several days. Well done to our local sorting office.

An earlier letter from England, addressed to The Editor, Portobello Advertiser, Portobello, Midlothian, EH15 was correctly delivered the day after posting. Well done indeed!

PORTOBELLO BURNS CLUB

THE Portobello Burns Club is a venerable (but not very large) society, instituted in 1892 and is proud of its tradition in supporting local Portobello schools with annual book prizes.

This year's supper and dance will be held in Duddingston Golf Clubhouse, Duddingston Road West on Friday 20th January 2012 at 7.15 pm. The toast to the Immortal Memory will be given by Cammie Goodall, vocalist and musician with the band Houghmangandie, the head boy and head girl from Portobello High School will perform the toast to the lassies and the reply, respectively, and musical entertainment will be performed by Alex Hodgson and Friends

Further information and tickets, price £20, are available from the Treasurer on 669 4471 or from members of the Burns Club committee.

Colin Mackay (President)

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

TO mark the 50th Anniversary of Amnesty International, our local group held a tree-planting ceremony at Portobello Community Orchard on 29th October, attended by some 15 members, supporters and friends. Constituency MP Sheila Gilmore did the honours, adding spades of earth around the apple tree and unveiling a commemorative plaque. She paid tribute to the enormous impact made by Amnesty worldwide over these years of campaigning for the release of prisoners of conscience, challenging human rights abuses and supporting defenders. Also present were Amnesty's Scottish Region representative, Alison Cosgrove, and group sponsor Brenda Molony of *The Portobello Reporter*.



Photo by Brenda Molony

Our autumn programme included stalls at Portobello Organic Market which drew great public interest and aided our appeals in respect of people in countries such as Turkey, Iran and Nicaragua. We also held a workshop on responding to difficult questions sometimes asked by the public.

We visited local schools in November in connection with the annual Greetings Card Campaign, and our Human Rights Day stall will be set up on Portobello High Street on Saturday 10th December, when people can send cards of support to human rights victims and their families.

Posters illustrating Amnesty's major campaigns over 50 years will be displayed in Portobello Library from 5th-19th December.

For further information please call 669 1308.

David Turner

NEWS FROM ST MARK'S

ST MARK'S Episcopal Church, Portobello High Street, will have a busy December as the congregation welcomes a new Rector and holds special services for Advent and Christmas.

The Rev. Sophia Marriage took up her post at a special service at St Mark's on 22 November, attended by members of the congregation and representatives of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the local community. Dr Marriage was ordained in 2006 and has worked as Curate, then Associate Rector, of St Martins in Dalry. She says: "I am delighted

to be taking up this role at St Mark's and am really looking forward to getting to know the congregation and local community in the coming weeks".

A service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas will be held on Sunday 18th at 6.30pm, a Nativity play at 4pm on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Eucharist from 11pm on Christmas Eve. A sung Eucharist will be held at 10.30am on Christmas Day. Visitors are welcome at these services and further information can be found at www.stmarksportobello.org

Ian Gardner

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Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

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

Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

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Cllr STEPHEN HAWKINS, Liberal Democrat:

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Duddingston Primary School
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Ewan can be contacted on
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GIRLS INTO SPORT

S2 GIRLS at Portobello High School and P7 pupils at Brunstane, Royal High and Towerbank primaries kick-started an Active Schools 'Girls into Sport' project in October with a visit from Katharine Brown (Miss Scotland/ UK, 2009/2010).

Katharine did some simple toning exercises that the girls can do at home to keep in shape. Her message was that being too thin was not healthy and that the girls should aim to tone their bodies instead. She talked about how sport made her more focused on school work, increased her confidence and energy levels, and lifted her mood. The girls also did Zumba and Belly Dancing with instructor Lorna Bruce and said Zumba was their favourite part of the day.

The project, funded by Awards for All, continues until March 2012 and will give the girls a taste of other activities, such as rock climbing, seen here.



PORTY MINI RUGBY

OUR season is well under way and fixtures have been played against Stewarts Melville, Linlithgow and Penicuik, amongst many others. We're always looking for new blood and new talent at the club and would be delighted to welcome new players from P1 to P7. The micros section takes youngsters from P1 to P2 and the mini section looks after players from P3 to P7. We can pretty much guarantee all players plenty of game time over the season and we still have plenty of matches to play. In addition, we attend development sessions run by the Scottish Rugby Union at age-group level, and at Portobello we have been lucky to have been invited to perform mascot and trackside demonstrations prior to Edinburgh rugby matches. If your youngster would like to give rugby a try, please contact the mini's convenor- Fraser McCowan at mccowans@virginmedia.com who will be delighted to provide details.



ST JOHN'S PUPILS ENTERTAIN

ST JOHN'S Primary School pupils will make their annual visit to the Portobello Monday Centre on 12th December. Primary 6 pupils will sing a selection of Christmas Carols and seasonal songs for the elderly people who attend the Centre, all of whom suffer from Alzheimer's Disease.

St John's has a long-standing connection with the Centre, which is run in the Baptist Church Hall and staffed by Nell Graham and a team of other committed volunteers. The occasion is always a happy festive time for young and old, with a chance for a chat and a few Christmas jokes after the community singing.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR SPORT



TWO Holy Rood High School pupils, Michael Burgess and Kelly Vaughan, have been appointed the school's Young Ambassadors 2011/12, for sport. With the Olympics and the Paralympics approaching this is an exciting time to be involved in the Young Ambassadors Programme.

Their role involves helping to increase extra-curricular sport and activity, promoting active and healthy lifestyles and spreading the Olympic and Paralympics values of respect, friendship and personal excellence.

Kelly and Michael are pictured with Olympic hammer thrower and ex-Gladiator, Shirley Webb, at their first Young Ambassador's conference at Spartans Football Club.

FOURTH GREEN FLAG FOR TOWERBANK

TOWERBANK Primary School was awarded its fourth green flag in October. Only a few primary schools in Scotland have achieved this and the whole school have worked very hard for it.

Last term we all took part in a climate change global footprint project, when Primary 1 did a Litter Muncher project and P3 completed a project on energy, for example. Every year the Eco Council organises a No Energy Day, when we turn off all the electrical items in school and keep a chart of energy used. Last year P5 worked hard to keep our playground spick and span by creating our very own Towerbank Litter Prevention Society, and the school and parents were involved in a beach clean-up, along with our friends from Prospect Bank School.

We are currently trying to get pupils to walk or bring their bikes to school and not come in a car, to help stop further pollution and damage to the environment.

The Eco Council began a gardening club last year where we grew vegetables and learned how to look after plants. This year the school will be developing a new wildlife garden, learning about the importance of growing our own produce and saving on food miles, and keeping up our efforts with litter.

Abbi Taylor,
Lucy Cunningham
and Katy Butler,
Eco Council members

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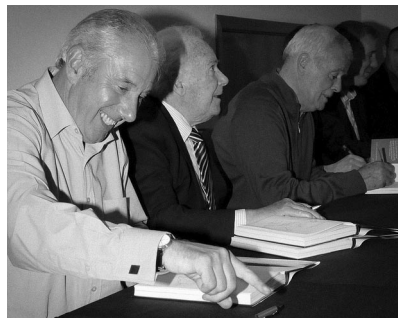
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BOOK REVIEW

THERE IS ONLY ONE SAUZÉE

– *WHEN LE GOD GRACED EASTER ROAD*, by Ted Brack



LOCAL author and life-long Hibs fan, Ted Brack, has produced another insightful look into the bonny team from Leith, highlighting a significant event in the more recent history of Hibernian FC, the signing of Franck Sauzée in 1999.

Sauzée, was a surprise introduction, but grew in stature as both a player and a captain. His influence has lingered in the memories of both the fans on the terrace and his fellow professionals who speak fondly in the book, of the short time he spent with the “Hibeeez.”

As a player, Sauzée brought with him “another level” in quality and experience that was born of a successful career in France. His pedigree was known by those welcoming him to Easter Road, but what was not known was how he would guide the team to success from the doldrums of the first division back into the SPL and Europe. Regard for Sauzée has grown over time and he is acknowledged by legends such as Laurie Reilly and Pat Stanton, who, let’s face it, know a thing or two about football.

Overall this book is a great read for all Hibs fans.
[Black and White Publishing, ISBN 978 1 84502 35 15. £17.99.]

Scott Combe

PORTOBELLO AUTUMN AQUATHON



OVER 200 competitors took part in the Autumn Aquathon on Sunday 25th September. A 750m race in the sea for experienced swimmers was followed by a 5km run along the Promenade, to the Eastfield bus terminus and back. A round of the TriathlonScotland Kid’s Aquathon League and a Novice Adult’s Aquathon also took place, in the Swim Centre, and there were shorter races for juniors.

YOGA TEACHER BOWS OUT



Helen (centre) was presented with a bouquet by Roseanna McLaughlan (right) and former Centre manager Maggie LeMay.

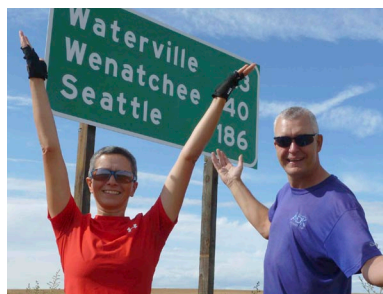
AFTER teaching yoga for 21 years at Portobello Community Centre, Helen Robertson decided that 90 was a good age at which to retire. A farewell tea party was held at the Centre on 14th October for Helen and her class, who will all really miss her.

SLEEPLESS ‘TIL SEATTLE

ON 15th May, local man Graham Kitchener began a cycle ride across America, starting just south of Boston, filming a documentary en route. He was accompanied by friend Pauline Symaniak, who helped with the filming. On 22nd September they pulled into Pike Place in Seattle, having pedalled 4,300 miles in just over four months.

“It was a relief to arrive”, he tells us, “but as we enjoyed a coffee in the original Starbucks, we also felt sad that we were at the finish line. For the entire journey, the kindness and generosity of the American people knew no bounds. We were welcomed into their homes to stay numerous times and were even given the use of someone’s house for a weekend while they were away.

The contrasts in the landscapes in the nine states we cycled through made us feel as though



we had passed through different countries. The extreme weather patterns, especially across the prairies, regularly challenged us, but our biggest challenge was the mosquitoes.

We will return in March 2013 for another long-distance cycle, but over roughly half the distance of this epic adventure.

The edit of our full-length film is under way, but will take months to complete and we hope to release it around mid-2012. If you’d like more information please visit our website at www.sleeplesstilseattle.com”.

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

THE ANNUAL CHRISTIAN AID CAROL FESTIVAL, Sunday 11th December, 4 pm, in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Brighton Place. The theme is ‘Look Around You’.

A WINTER’S NIGHT, Fri.16th Dec.7.30pm, Town Hall. Portobello’s Christmas show for all the family, celebrating seasonal traditions in music, songs and stories. Featuring Mairi Campbell, David Francis, Towerbank childrens choir, Lucy Pringle, Sangstream folk choir, Beth Cross and Russell McLarty. Tickets at £8/£5(conc) from The Beachhouse on the Prom, Home Hardware, Portobello High St., or at the door (U-5s free).All profits to Towerbank school camp funds.

BOXING DAY DIP FOR CHARITY, Mon. 26th Dec 2.00pm, Portobello Beach. Fun event to raise money for children with cancer. Min. sponsorship of £100 per person. Contact Emma Bashford on 07903 934 928 or email emma.bashford@clicsargent.org.uk for further details and entry form. Website: www.clicsargent.org.uk

ORGANIC MARKET, Brighton Park. Sat.7th Jan, then 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@pedal-party.org.uk or call 258 4483.

BURNS SUPPER for Christian Aid, Sat. 21st. Jan. 7pm prompt, Portobello Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St. Immortal Memory by Rev. Dr Dane Sherrard of Luss Parish Church. For tickets, at £12.50, call 669 5257.

A TALK on Recent Archaeology at Joppa Salt Pans, arranged by Portobello Heritage Trust, St. John’s Church Hall, Brighton Place, Wed.25th January, 2012, 7.30pm.. John Lawson, Curator of Archaeology, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, and Don Wilson, Site Supervisor, will discuss their findings. All welcome.

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

POD presents Michael Marra in concert on Sat. 28th April, 2012 at Portobello Community Centre/The Wash House. Tickets at £12 could make a good Christmas gift. For more info, see www.the-pod.org, or find Portobello Open Door on Facebook.

The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 30 local people. If you have something to publicise call **669 3466** or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com
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