

THE **Portobello** REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper produced by local people since 1980.

DOORS OPEN AT ST MARK'S

WHERE do you think Portobello's Hidden Treasures are?

In partnership with the Cockburn Association, St Mark's Episcopal Church, 287 Portobello High Street will again take part in Doors Open Day. The church will be open on Saturday 22nd September from 10am-4pm, and, alongside some of the treasures of the church, will host an exhibition from Portobello Heritage Trust, revealing some of the hidden, or overlooked, treasures to be found in Portobello. Come and add your own treasures!

Last year there was huge interest in Portobello Heritage Trust's DVD of memories of Portobello, which will once again be shown. There will also be a café and a treasure hunt, for the young at heart.

Details from the rector, sophia.marriage@stmarksporobello.org or 629 1219.

BID TO MAKE PORTY A FAIRTRADE TOWN



THE Community Council is supporting Portobello's application for Fairtrade status. To promote this, John Stewart, Community Council Chair and Brenda Molony, Vice-Chair are pictured here at the Just World Shop with Morag Baird, Shop Manager and Jim Baird, Chair of the Fairtrade Forum. The Just World Shop is the main stockist of Fairtrade goods in Portobello.

GOOD NEWS ON POTTERY KILN

CITY of Edinburgh Council has found the funds to complete the rebuilding of the 1909 pottery kiln, despite current spending constraints. This unexpected but very welcome news was given to directors of Portobello Heritage Trust when they met council officials and members of the design team on 25th July. Readers with long memories will recall that the cone of the kiln collapsed on 24th August 2006, while under repair. So, one month short of six years later, does this news signal that the end of the saga is in sight?

Many of us were worried about the fate of the kiln following a year of erratic and unsatisfactory performance by the then contractor that climaxed with him abandoning the site at the end of 2010. This was followed by his dismissal. Apart from clearing up, nothing has happened on the site since, but a lot of work was going on behind the scenes before a new contractor could be appointed. The design team spent a great deal of time speaking to architects and other professionals experienced in working on kilns in the Staffordshire Potteries. Ross Buchan, Consultant to Property Conservation at City Development, who is heading the project said: "The procurement, tender and tender evaluation process has not been straightforward and as a result has been lengthy. The nature of the project has meant that we have had to make sure that we have been implementing practice and procedures that would prevent the mistakes of the past being repeated. Time has not been of the essence, but quality of the completed project has been."

There is an inevitable delay before work can begin in earnest, to allow for the manufacture and supply of the special bricks required, but this time will be used to take down the existing flawed work and for site preparation. Severe winter weather could delay completion, but assurances have been given that all concerned "are working hard to achieve a successful conclusion to the Kilns project and will exhaust all possibilities to ensure that success."

PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL HAS SUCCESS WRITTEN ALL OVER IT

AN exciting and varied programme is on offer during the fourth Portobello Book Festival, taking place over three days in early October.

The opening session, "The Library at Night", on Friday 5th will be a lively evening of music and readings in the library from writers and musicians from Portobello and beyond.

A range of readings, discussions and activities are planned for the Saturday: sessions by well-known Portobello based writers including Trevor Royle and the Mulgray twins, a discussion between Denise Mina and Christopher Brookmyre, two of Scotland's favourite crime writers and a writers' workshop for budding authors. The Book Festival has also landed acclaimed author James Robertson, winner of the 2010 Saltire Scottish book of the year for *And the Land Lay Still*, to give a talk. Three debut novelists who have recently had their work published will also be featured.

The programme continues on Sunday in the library, and covers a diverse field from Scotland's radical heritage, religion and faith, the role or value of Libraries, and Andrew Murray (Scottish Government physical activities champion) on marathon running and fitness.

This is just a taste of the programme. Copies of the full programme and free tickets for all events will be available from the library from mid-September. Contributors give their time and effort at no cost, so please support your local book festival.

The organisers thank Portobello Old Parish Church for the use of the Halls on the Saturday and for opening the café, and Portobello Library for their continued support and assistance in the Festival.

NEW WEB PRESENCE FOR POL 2.0

THE local community website, Portobello Online, officially re-launches on Saturday 8th September. The new look site will keep you up-to-date with all that's going on in the area, and offer more ways to be part of the online community, as the brand now extends to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Created by local unpaid volunteers, Portobello Online's latest stage of evolution has been dubbed POL 2.0. It includes a local groups directory, and a new business directory with free inclusion for all local businesses. Users can add their own directory entries and list their events in the 'What's On' section, though help is on hand for anyone who needs it. The Gallery section has a new look, and emphasis is also placed on promoting Portobello as a tourist destination.

The launch will be accompanied by an innovative promotional campaign, thanks to a grant of £1000 from East Neighbourhood Partnership, which includes the re-appearance after many years of Portobello seaside rock, on sale at Favers Candy Emporium. Other promotional activities, including a launch party, are still under wraps but are promised to attract attention.

The design team wanted to promote the new website, which now provides a platform for online communities to come together, and at the same time celebrate Edinburgh's Seaside. We hope people will like the new look and improved functionality and continue to find www.porty.org.uk a useful source of local news and information

Bob Jefferson

PORTY PROFILE No. 47 SHEILA MACKAY

SHEILA MacKay has recently retired from her career as a community worker in East Lothian, but certainly hasn't slowed down. She has always been, and continues to be, very active in her personal and political life.

Sheila first came to the attention of the *Reporter* when she was part of a group fundraising and organising for the Wicked World Tour, a charity she helped set up to enable her nephews to go on a world tour. Patrick, and Ali who is sadly no longer with us, were both wheelchair users.

"There were so few opportunities for people with disabilities to do a gap year, and they both had a real passion for travel", explained Sheila as she went on to describe the "million different ways" that they raised the funds. The threeleg tour took the boys and their support team to the USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Hong Kong, South Africa and Hawaii. They travelled by plane, train and mini-bus as they crossed the globe. With the support of Sheila and the other volunteers the boys were able to have many great adventures not least of which were snorkling on the Great Barrier Reef and an African safari.

Sheila has been a life-long political activist and with her partner Margaret has campaigned against nuclear weapons at Faslane and Greenham Common. "The kind of protest that engaged me was snipping the fence at Faslane and symbolically reclaiming bits of the base by planting seeds", she said with a glint in her eye. Sheila and Margaret have been very involved in Against Violence Against Women, and Sheila worked for the Rape Crisis Centre for five years as a trainer and outreach worker.

One of her great loves is music and she is a member of Commotion, the women's drumming group who have performed at festivals, the Royal Highland Show and Edinburgh Castle. She is also a member of the San Ghan'ny Choir. "It was an amazing thing for us," she said. "The choir was formed specifically to go to sing in Palestine in solidarity with the Palestinians". During their 2012 visit to Ramallah the choir decided to join in one of the weekly protests that occur on Fridays all over Palestine. Instead of playing a supporting role they were encouraged by the locals to lead the march in Nabisaleh and ended up confronting the Israeli Defence Force, their tear gas, rubber bullets and skunk. "I felt when we were singing we could hold our ground in front of them". But when the Israeli Defence Force attacked the singing stopped and as the choir made a run for it Margaret was hit by a rubber bullet. Luckily it wasn't too serious and they escaped to sing another day. "The singing changed the dynamic in that village and for a couple of hours it stopped the onslaught of the Israeli forces. The villagers are amazing", she said. "They keep going back week after week".

Sheila and Margaret have lived on the Prom for almost 20 years. "We have been a lot of places but we love coming back to Porty. To hear and smell the sea and to always have this amazing view".

Wicked World Tours is accepting applications for grant aid for people with disabilities who want to do something adventurous. For more information: wickedworldtours@gmail.com



Photo by Peter Ross

ON THE BEAT

DUE to an unusually wet summer, Portobello suffered relatively fewer crimes than in previous years and Operation Drift, the Police summer Prom initiative, was one of the quietest on record.

As the dark nights approach we would like to remind people of some simple precautions to deter criminals, such as checking or installing outdoor lights and putting interior lights on timers.

Local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers PC Graham Pears and Scott McLennan have been meeting with businesses and residents in the Portobello/Joppa area and will be running a number of surgeries over the autumn/winter months.

Community Engagement – You Said, We Did: We continue to listen to local concerns working with partner agencies, volunteer groups and residents, seeking both short and long term solutions. Along with other agencies, SNT officers attend local meetings and community walkabouts to identify issues and engage with residents.

We continue to target those responsible for crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and provide a high visibility presence. We depend on community engagement and information and encourage all members of the public to report any incidents or information. Confidential information can be passed anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800-555-111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org.

If there are other local issues affecting you please contact the Portobello/Craigmillar Safer Neighbourhood team on 0131 652 4147 (office), 0131 311 3131 (24hours) or email:

ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

The Safer Neighbourhood Team

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

IF YOU are interested in what the Community Council does, there are now more ways to find out. One way is to go along to meetings, which are open to the public and are held on the last Monday of each month, except December and July, at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street.

Minutes and agendas of meetings and other information, are available at the display area and on the screen at Portobello Library. They are posted, along with lots more information, on the Community Council website www.portobellocc.org where there

is also a list of the current community council members.

If you have an issue or concern regarding the Portobello area you can contact the Community Council by going to the "Contact us" page on the website and completing the Comments box; you will receive a response. Alternatively you can write to Portobello Community Council, c/o Portobello Library, 14 Rosefield Avenue, Edinburgh, EH15 1AU.

The community council can now also be followed on Twitter - [@portobellocc](https://twitter.com/portobellocc)

NEWS IN BRIEF

PEOPLE concerned about the future of Portobello Golf Course will be pleased to hear that it has been nominated by City of Edinburgh Council for consideration by Fields in Trust for Diamond Jubilee Field status. If successful, it would be protected in perpetuity from development. It joins 24 parks and other open spaces, including Brighton Park, which will go head-to-head in a national poll to decide which of them will become Diamond Jubilee Fields. Fields in Trust is a charity dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor spaces for sport, play and recreation.


CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: £9318.85 was raised in the Portobello area during this year's collection, an increase on last year.

THE JUNE TROPHY: £320 was raised for St Columba's Hospice by this annual competition held on 23rd June at Brunstane Bowling Club.

LOOKING FOR POSTCARDS? Reproduction Portobello postcards are on sale at Hamilton's Sweetshop, McAlpine Jewellers, Joppa News and the Rockville Hotel.

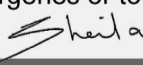
WOODWARES in Portobello High Street is set to close in about 12 months after over 40 years of trading. This will be a great loss to the area, as there is nowhere else with the same range of DIY and gardening goods. It is reported that the property is to be leased to Sainsbury's for one of their Local stores.

APPEAL DECISION: As *The Portobello Reporter* went to press no decision by the court had been announced regarding PPAG's appeal against the earlier judicial review




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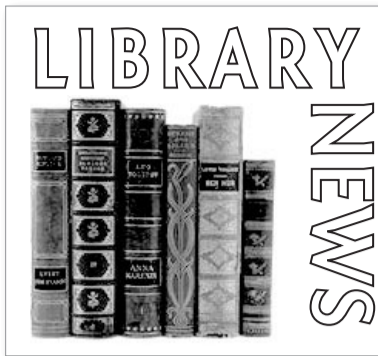
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WE are delighted to be hosting a number of events in the fourth Portobello Book Festival in October. The full programme will be available from the library in mid-September.



To mark National Poetry Day, on the evening of Thursday 4th October we are pleased to be hosting the Porty Poetry Bash. Organised in partnership with Inky Fingers and featuring top performance poets Robin Cairns and Sophia Walker and an open mic session, this promises to be a stanza extravaganza for absolutely everyone. If you are interested in performing your poetry on the night, please get in touch with library staff.

Need help getting back to work? Want help accessing online applications? Need support with CVs and interviews? Community Renewal is currently running a Workclub in the library on Thursdays from 1pm to 3.30pm, which aims to meet all of your job-seeking needs.

Looking for something for the wee ones to do after our Wednesday Rhymetimes? Kaleidoscope Kids are running Art and Craft sessions for toddlers upstairs in the library from 12 noon. If you are interested contact Marianne on 07584 650 983

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

- 4th September - *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry
- 2nd October - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- 6th November - *Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
- 4th December - *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel

All books will be available from the library. If you are interested ask staff for details.

We also have a teenage book group that meets on the last Thursday of every month and a Chatterbooks children's book group that meets on the first Saturday of every month. If you are interested ask staff for details.

From 1st October 2012, opening hours at Portobello Library will change. This is part of a city-wide change to the way library services are delivered, agreed following consultation with almost 10,000 residents. To meet customer demand, Portobello Library will be open Monday to Wednesday (10am - 8pm), Thursday to Saturday (10am-5pm) and Sunday (1pm to 5pm). By standardising opening hours across the city, savings will be made without closing any libraries - something that the Council is firmly committed to.

For up-to-date information on what is happening in the library, check our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary>

Paul Hudson

PORTOBELLO HOT AND COLD SEA WATER BATHS



THIS recently discovered photograph, taken between 1863-1867 by Kyles and Law, Photographer's of 33 Bath Street, shows a group of people in front of the eastern part of the hot and cold sea water baths which used to stand at the foot of Bath Street.

William Baird, in his *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello*, states that the baths were opened in 1806. He describes it as a "commodious building, having eight hot water and two cold water baths, with all the necessary conveniences for invalids"; additional warm water was supplied later due to the large demand. There was also an elegant reading room with magazines and pamphlets to amuse people while they waited to enter the baths. Baird cites an advert which states that "invalids are carried to and from the baths in sedan chairs", while there was a stable for a bather's horse for the use of those able to ride there. The baths were open from 7am until 10pm.

It would appear that the original building was altered in Victorian times, as a blocked-up window can be seen above the door, while bay windows were later added at first floor level - the edge of another bay window can just be seen at the extreme right of the photograph.

Soon after 1894 the baths were demolished and Windsor Mansions and Marlborough Mansions built on the site. Marlborough Mansions were demolished in the 1960s, as was the house with the gables further east which used to stand at the bottom of Marlborough Street.

John Stewart, Portobello Heritage Trust

NEW SERVICES EXTEND TRANSPORT LINKS



WITH the loss of First Bus services in East Lothian new and replacement services have been started for transport links through and from Portobello. These new services are being provided by Lothian Buses, East Lothian Buses and Eve Coaches:

No.129 - Seaton Sands to Ocean Terminal, via Portobello, Fillyside and Gt Junction St, passes the Eastern General Hospital site and Seafeld Crematorium. (For details of times and route, see www.eveinfo.co.uk)

No.40 - Kings Rd to Penicuik, via High St, Musselburgh and IKEA. (See www.lothianbuses.com)

No.113 - Pencaitland to Western General Hospital, via Milton Rd and Meadowbank. (See www.lothianbuses.com/elb113)

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Autumn Daze

MY favourite time of year is autumn, so I'm glad it's nearly here, but it's always a busy time of year for us, with a flurry of birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. In fact, I seem to remember scooping out a pumpkin for the other two soon after my youngest son was born in the October. Weeks later, of course, the tiredness had kicked in and nothing much got done in the way of housework. But even I was shocked when one day my eldest shouted: "Mum come quickly, there's a dead rat under my bed."

Indeed, in amongst the haze of teddies and old socks there appeared to be a lifeless mound of oozing fur with a long tail, curled up beside a shoe. Feeling a bit queasy, I decided that the best thing to do was get dad, who dutifully poked and prodded it until he appeared with the poor beast on a shovel. "I don't think it suffered much," he said, pointing at the remains of the mouldy grinning pumpkin.

You would think I'd learn wouldn't you, but a few weeks later my son called to me with the news that our cat was lying apparently dead in the garden. Running out of the kitchen I fell over the step and twisted my ankle, only to look up in excruciating pain and see the cat stretch and amble off, settling on a better spot of autumn sunshine.

Nowadays, when there's a drama I take a deep breath, count to ten, and put the kettle on!

DURING a chance conversation on the Prom, I was introduced as being "very involved in PEDAL, Portobello's Transition

Town group". The person I was speaking to then outlined some great ideas for making our local transport system sustainable, involving electric bikes for hire, boosting the local presence of the City Car Club and making it more flexible, etc. She hoped PEDAL would get on and do these things, and was surprised to hear that we are a bunch of volunteers, and that for her ideas to become reality it would need her to step forward to make them happen!

PEDAL has had funding for only two of our seven years of existence - we are entirely reliant on voluntary work.

We are using the Transition model to help Portobello become more sustainable, and have begun in a range of ways. Our first major project was the Party Shopper, which is still going strong. Then our food group found a site for a community orchard, and we now have a beautiful, well-stocked orchard with monthly work-days and events. We're developing community growing sites, and also have a bee group.

The local market, on the first Saturday of the month in Brighton Park, began in 2010 when we had the grant from the Scottish Government and were working on a range of energy saving and food growing projects. The market sells a wide range of locally produced food and crafts, and received a boost recently when Graham Kitchener took on the role of co-ordinator.

Our energy group took on a very high profile project in collaboration with Greener Leith, with the Seafield Wind Turbine. We were bowled over by the enthusiasm and support this project received from local people and further afield, and we won the highly contested Energyshare grant because of it. We were devastated when the site landlord changed their mind (after nearly two years of support, and despite the hundreds of hours PEDAL volunteers have poured into it), but there's still hope that we will be offered another site.

One less successful project was the local currency, as there weren't enough people to make a go of it this time. The idea that we could print and use our own money is an exciting one, but it may need to be a city-wide initiative to succeed.

Our next AGM is in October (see www.pedal-party.org.uk for the date and place). Do come along to hear about the projects, propose your own, get involved, and hear Ian Cooke discussing how we could use social enterprise to help produce things that local people need, creating jobs and boosting the local economy.

PEDAL's third Apple Day will be on Saturday 29th September from 2-4pm at the community orchard, Brunstane Road South, with apple pressing, a bonfire, games and refreshments. All welcome.

Justin Kenrick

SUSTAINABLE PARTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



AFTER the very wet summer, if you had problems with drainage, check where water lay for periods of time. It may have been due to compacted soil that needed spiking or, as in our case, a high water table and clay. Raising the beds is a good option, if you can.

With sandy soil, although it drains well, the leeching out of nutrients means things starting to look sickly; a foliar feed of seaweed extract helps perk things up and a good layer of compost in spring helps the soil hold onto moisture and nutrients.

Wet summers usually mean a good harvest of brambles and raspberries, whereas strawberries don't do so well, unless in raised beds. Take the opportunity to plant a wider variety of fruit and vegetables, i.e. have some biodiversity in whatever you grow to mitigate the extremes of climate that we're having. Yes, there will be losses, but no feast or famine. I grow different varieties of tomatoes for this very reason.

Along with harvesting, autumn is the time to buy bulbs. Get them early so that you can get the best on offer, and remember to buy prepared hyacinths for Christmas. These can be easily forgotten when planted and hidden in a dark cupboard, so I always leave myself a note to remember to check them around October/November, in case they've dried out and need some water. Treat yourself to an early Christmas present now, and buy a winter-fragrant flowering shrub. It's lovely to bring in a sprig, even in an eggcup, to enjoy the smell.

The hardwood cuttings from last year should be moved to their permanent place now. I'll be taking lots of cuttings to replace the plants lost in the summer wet. I don't mind losing plants to winter wet, but summer wet is another thing....

Mow the grass, which will pick up fallen leaves at the same time, and put in punctured black bags. Keep it for a year and then either use as a soil conditioner or sieve and use in a potting mix.

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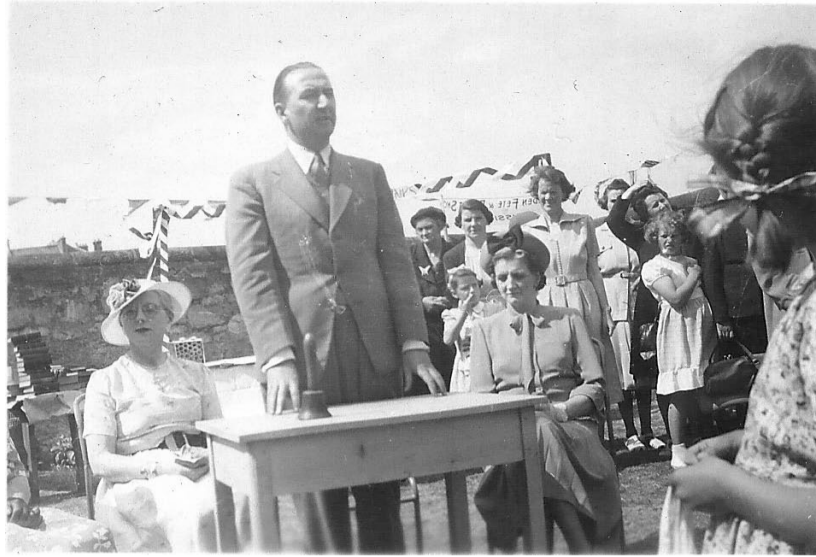
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FROM THE ARCHIVE: GARDEN FETE



AS Portobello Amateur Swimming Club celebrates its Centenary this year, it seems timely to show two photographs, from a set of four, taken at a Garden Fete held on 25th June 1949 by the Ladies Section. The fete was held in Rabbit Hall, Hamilton Street (now Brunstane Road North), Joppa.

At that time Rabbit Hall was owned by Ethel White, who was a champion swimmer and Honorary Vice President of the

Ladies Section. The left-hand photograph shows Lord Wheatley opening the fete, with Miss McRae, Honorary President, on his right and Ethel on his left. Lord John Thomas Wheatley was the Labour MP for Edinburgh East from 1947 until 1954. He became Baron Wheatley in 1970, serving as Lord Advocate from 1947 until 1951 and Lord Justice Clerk from 1972 until 1985. His daughter, Kathleen, married Tam Dalyell in



1963. Lord Wheatley was a nephew of John Wheatley, the Scottish socialist politician, who was a prominent figure in Glasgow during World War I.

The photograph on the right shows a general view of the corner of the garden and the gift stall, with the promenade and sea beyond. It appears to have been taken from an upstairs window, as part of the eaves obscure the bottom, left-hand corner.

If anyone has further information about this fete or the people in the photographs, please contact Margaret Munro: tel. 657 2866; email munroporto@hotmail.com

PORTOBELLO AND THE GREAT WAR

LOCAL historians, Archie Foley and Margaret Munro, are researching material for a new book to be published in late 2013 showing how World War I affected our town and some of its families.

They would like more information on the family of August and Christina Krause who were both German. August was a bottle worker and brought his family to Portobello from Glasgow in the 1890s. He died in September 1900 leaving Christina to bring up their five youngest sons, all of whom had been born in Britain. During World War I they would have been liable for service in the British armed forces. One son, Richard Krause, was a Private in the 5th/6th Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and was killed in action in France on 14th September 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras War Memorial in France and locally on the War Memorial in St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

One of Richard's brothers, Reinhold Charles, appeared before a tribunal on 21st March 1918 to appeal against his call-up to the armed forces. He was a baker's van driver and it was his employer who submitted the appeal, stating

that Reinhold suffered from ill-health and was the main support of his mother, but the appeal was dismissed. Presumably Reinhold went off to war as perhaps his brothers, Hubert, Gustav and Frederick had done, but no evidence for any of this has been found. The eldest brother, Alfred, had been born in Germany and no information about his fate has been found either.

The authors know that all this happened many years ago, but Christina lived on until 1947 and died aged 83 while living at 30 Bath Street. Reinhold is thought to have died in the mid-1970s. Perhaps there are descendants or friends of the family who can fill in the blanks. If you have any information, please contact Margaret Munro, tel: 657 2866; email: munroporto@hotmail.com

PORTOBELLO

MUNICIPAL CLOCK

A WORKING group has been formed by Portobello Community Council, with members of Portobello Heritage Trust and Portobello Amenity Society, to secure the reinstatement of the municipal clock which used to be positioned on the Baptist Church building on Portobello High Street. This building was designed in 1862 as Portobello's first town hall. The clock was removed by the Council in 2006 on the grounds of public safety, as parts of the decorative cast iron structure surrounding the clock had fallen off. The clock has been much missed since its removal as it formed an important focal point to this part of the High Street. It is gratifying that the Council has now carried out the necessary repairs and is undertaking its safe storage, but there are no plans at present to reinstate it. All three groups are determined that this important part of Portobello's history should be returned to its rightful position.

John Stewart

The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 32 local people. If you have something you would like to see in print call

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STRAIT-ON FOR IKEA

AT the beginning of June, two local residents, taking their dogs home after a morning outing and having just left the Promenade, were stopped by a puzzled lady, also with a dog, who asked them: "Can you show me where IKEA is? I left Inverness early this morning to come down. I put Straiton into my satnav, followed all the instructions and this is where it brought me. I didn't expect to see a beach". It was gently explained that she had reached Straiton Place, Portobello, and she was advised to put in Loanhead and start again. "Ah well", she said, "at least the dog got a run on the beach."

GARDEN GOLD



Photo courtesy of www.playingwithflowers.co.uk

LOCAL garden designer Sheena Seeks has won a second Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Tatton Park Flower Show. At this year's show, in July, her display was also voted "Best in Show" in the visionary garden section.

DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATED



PORTOBELLO couple, Liz and Bill Laidlaw, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 14th June, are best known locally for their association with Portobello Swimming Club. They were each President of their respective club at the same time in 1974/1975 before the ladies and mens clubs amalgamated. Bill still coaches two nights a week. The highlight of their celebration was a card received from the Queen.

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

AS an Amnesty Group, we continue our long-term relationship with Ferhat Gercek, who, when an 18-year-old Turkish youth, was shot and paralysed for life by police while peacefully distributing literature, legally. We will celebrate his birthday in October by handmade cards which the public will be invited to sign with messages of solidarity, at our Portobello Market stall in September and October.

From 3rd to 15th September there will be a display in the library of posters for one of Amnesty's current campaigns - against forced evictions, an increasingly serious human rights issue, in Africa and India particularly. Powerful corporate businesses are grabbing land for cultivation of bio-fuels and mineral extraction, displacing communities and reducing food production in areas already suffering severe hunger and health problems.

In that connection we welcomed the visit to Edinburgh of Dr Binayak Sen, one of the major critics of land grabs in India. He was here to receive the International Gandhi Peace Prize and faces possible imprisonment on return home.

At our letter-writing sub-group meeting in June, letters written brought the half-year total to 68. The next meeting will be on 5th September at 7.30pm at the Dalriada, then on the first Wednesday of each month. All help is welcomed - no experience needed.

Group meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Portobello Old Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Anyone may just drop in to hear of our work, without commitment.

At our September meeting we will welcome a speaker on Burma from the St Mark's Group, and in October Shabnum Mustapha, head of Amnesty Scotland, will pay her first visit to us since her appointment. David Turner

REGULAR activities at The Wash House (formerly the Community Centre) in Adelphi Grove:

Art Club, Mon. 7-9pm

Badminton, Wed. 8-10pm; Sun. 7.30-9.30pm

Dog Training, Tues. 7-9.30pm

GenEx, Mon. 10.30-11.30am; Thurs. 10-11am

IT Classes, Wed. & Thurs. 1-3pm

Italian Classes, Wed. 7.30-9.30pm.

Kids Drama, Sat. 11am-5pm

Puppy Class, Wed. 6.45-7.45pm

Soccer Academy, Tues. 3-5pm; Fri. 10.30-11.20am

Taoist Tai Chi, Mon. 7-8.30pm

Tai Chi Chuan, Wed. 12noon-1pm; Thurs. 11.30am-12.30pm

Youth Club, Tues. 5.15-7.15pm; Thurs. 6-8pm;

Zumba, Wed. 5.40-6.40pm; Fri. 9.15-10.15am; Sat. 10-11am

NEW:

Hula Hoop Fitness Classes, Thurs 8-9pm.

Power Hoops, Tues. (from 18th Sept.) 1.45-2.45pm.

For more information call 669 8275 or see

www.portobellocc.org.uk



BIG BEACH BUSK 2012



Photo by Brenda Molony

"Commotion", Edinburgh Women's Samba, were among the dozens of performers who turned up on Portobello Promenade on Saturday 25th August for the third annual Big Beach Busk. Although the weather wasn't quite good enough for picnics and BBQ's on the beach, the rain held off for most of the afternoon and a good crowd came to listen and applaud the guitarists, drummers, singers and story-tellers.

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Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

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Magdalene Community Centre, 7pm

2nd Monday of month:

Portobello Library, 6pm

St Francis Primary School, 7:00pm

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Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268

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Cllr DAVID WALKER, Labour:
1st and 3rd Monday of each month (during school terms only):
Magdalene Community Centre, 5.30-6.15pm.
Craigmillar Settlement Community Centre, 6.30pm.
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TOWERBANK'S NEW TANZANIAN TIE

TANZANIA and Portobello have had connections for over 25 years and recently these have grown in strength. Beginning with Legho and St John's parishes, there are now 17 partnerships between schools and churches in the two countries. Most recently Towerbank and Msufini schools have brought a new partnership to Portobello. This is particularly special as Msufini and Legho are neighbouring schools, just like St Johns and Towerbank.

With the growing number of partnerships, the Twende Pamoja Trust was set up to help maintain the connections. The English for 'Twende Pamoja' is 'Let us walk together' and was chosen to emphasise the equality in the partnerships. This inspired the "Hand in Hand" campaign launched from the top of Mount Everest by Wilfred Moshi, the first Tanzanian to reach the highest point on Earth.

The Scottish launch by Wilfred Moshi, on Arthur's Seat on 23rd June, was attended by Cardinal O'Brien and Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill with representatives from many of the partnerships. including six pupils and four teachers from Lombeta who were visiting Holy Rood HS. There were also messages from well-wishers such as the Tanzanian High Commissioner Peter Kallaghe, and actor Liam Neeson who said: "We need young people to work together to shape the future of the world".

Lewis Dick

SWIM CLUB CENTENARY YEAR

PORTOBELLO Amateur Swimming Club celebrates its Centenary this year. The club competes at national level and the water polo team are British Champions.

"Portobello ASC has had an extremely successful 2011/12 season with an increasing membership and huge results in the pool at various District and National meets", said Darren Ward, Head Coach. "The club will be playing its part in encouraging children

to participate in swimming and to promote healthy living through sport and exercise in this our Centenary year and beyond". Young water polo player, Rory Gallacher, has just been selected for a five day Team GB training camp in Somerset.

The club are holding a fund-raising Jumble Sale in Portobello Town Hall on Saturday 17th November from 10.30-12.30. There will be teas/coffee and home baking.

SLOW RIDE TO TURIN

MADDY CORBIN and Nick Johnson will cycle 800 miles, from Devon to Turin, in memory of Maddy's sister Philippa. They will be joined by 26 other cyclists to raise funds and increase awareness of the often fatal mental illness, depression.

Maddy and Nick are members of RowPorty and will be joined for the first 60 miles by fellow RowPorty Pirates as they raise money for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust and The Human Givens.

Leaving Devon on 13th October their aim is to arrive in time for the opening of the Slow Food Festival 'Salone del Gusto' in Turin.

"Philippa's passion in life was good, interesting, exciting food and she was a great follower of Slow Food. We aim to follow in her footsteps on the cycle - eating and celebrating fresh, local and traditional foods and helping to promote Slow Food" said Maddy.

(For more information and sponsorship: www.slowridetoturin.co.uk)

OPEN WATER SWIMFEST

THE 2km race, from Musselburgh Quay to Portobello Beach, in the Edinburgh Open Water Swimming Festival on Saturday 4th August attracted 200 entries. The race was won in 28min 13sec by local man Neilson Rutherford who

belongs to Portobello Amateur Swimming Club and is a member of the water polo team. An 800m and 400m sprint followed. For full results see:

www.edinburghracing.co.uk

STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT LAUNCH

A NEW stand-up comedy night will be launched in Portobello on Friday 5th October at Mums Café, the Indoor Bowls and Leisure Centre, by local comedian and MC Steven Davidson.

The headline act will be Bill Dewar, co-founder of The Stand Comedy Club in Edinburgh, with around 700 appearances to his credit. Main support will be Graeme Thomas, a Stand and Fringe regular. A short spot will be offered to anyone from the Portobello area brave enough to try stand-up comedy for the first time (contact info@monumentalentertainment.co.uk for details).

If the launch goes well Steven hopes to hold events every three months or so.

Steven was brought up in Portobello and after a spell abroad he's now back. He has done stand-up in the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand over the last few years, including solo shows at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2006 and the Melbourne Festival in 2008. He also appeared on this year's Fringe.

(Tickets from £6 from the venue, www.brownpapertickets.com or at the door. Doors open 7.30 for 8.30pm).

ON THE GREENS

THE East Edinburgh Bowling Association's past season started with a game at Postal Bowling Club against Edinburgh and Leith Secretaries Association who are celebrating their Centenary year. Congratulations and thanks to them.

We thank Belhaven Brewery for sponsoring a trophy for our game against West Edinburgh, played at Portobello and won by the East. We also thank McKenzie & Millar for sponsoring our East Edinburgh competitions and our umpire for these

games, Colin Flower.

My personal thanks to the East Edinburgh clubs for their help during the season and my Vice-President-Secretary, Fred Nielands.

The East Edinburgh pairs, played on 5th August, was cancelled half-way through due to severe weather. The prize money will be donated to the Blind Bowls charity.

The Association dance will be held at Willowbrae Bowling Club on Saturday 20th October; tickets from East clubs.

A Skirving, President

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ACHILTIBUIE DOMINATE REGATTA



Photo by Peter Ross

ROWPORTY, Portobello's coastal rowing club, held their third annual Regatta on Saturday 28th July. There were a few short heavy showers when the wind got up, but mostly the sun shone and showed Portobello at its best. Ten competing crews pitched their tents on the beach and took their skiffs down to the water.

The first race was the Men's Open, won by the Achiltibuie team, who then proceeded to win the Woman's Open (pictured above), the Men's 40+, both the Men's and Woman's 50+ and finally the Combined 230. In the Combined 230 the ages of each team add up to 230 years. North Berwick won the Mixed 60+ and the Mixed Open, which left the Women's 40+ for Port Seton and Cockenzie.

Newhaven and South Queensferry made a return visit, while this was the first

regatta for the Crail, Pittenweem, Newburgh and North Berwick clubs. All the clubs were given a warm welcome, as were rowers from Troon and the Royal West Boat Club.

Alan Pendred of Achiltibuie said: "It was good to do so well, as last year Portobello seemed to win everything."

This year's Regatta was sponsored by The Dalriada, The Espy, The Skylark, Earthy, Brighton Nursery and The Beachhouse. Sausages and burgers were courtesy of Findlay's and the cakes were baked by the Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club.

Portobello's Stan Reeves did a great commentary on the PA supplied by Northern Light.

It was a great day, enjoyed by all.

Kathleen Byron

ON THE ROAD WITH PORTO-VELO

PORTO-VELO, Portobello's new cycling club, has been attracting growing numbers of local cyclists. Sunday mornings have seen groups of up to 12 heading off to Gifford, Lauder, Peebles and other destinations. Founding member Andrew Mylne said: "We've had some experienced and fit riders, and others who are relatively new to cycling. Everyone seems to get on well and get something out of the experience." Occasional beginners' rides, and family rides on traffic-free routes have also been organised. The club's identity has now been enhanced by the arrival of its own club jerseys, thanks to in-house designer Patrick Hall. Young Robert Mylne is seen here proudly modelling his. Keep up with the club via its website, www.porto-velo.com



Robert Mylne (age 6) modelling the new club kit.

Photo by Andrew Mylne

RELAY WELL DONE



(L to R) Shery Johnston, Jenni Owens, Emily Ramsay and Mary Hunter

Photo by Alex Oliver

THE Hairy Haggis Relay may not be an Olympic sport but, if it were, The Porto Belles would be medal favourites judging by their success in the Edinburgh Marathon event. The Portobello Running Club ladies team finished the race in a superb time of 3hrs 9mins, winning their category and securing free entry to next year's relay as well as some sport shop vouchers to stock up on kit.

Next year the team, who train every Wednesday, aim to finish at Pinkie Park in 3hrs flat. Team captain Shery Johnston says: "We are constantly in training for something, which probably contributed to our win. Emily and I are training for the NYC Marathon in November, Jenni for Loch Ness and Mary does a lot of hilly/ultra stuff. But to echo Mo Farah after his amazing 5000m win, it's all about hard work, graft and confidence!"

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

VILLAGE SHOW: Rosefield Park, Portobello, Sun. 2nd Sept 2-5pm. Games, competitions, music, stalls, refreshments. A fun family day.

MALECON MATINEE: Sun. 16th Sept; 21st Oct; 18th Nov, 2-5pm with classes 1-2pm. Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello. £5/£9 combo.

BEEBLE DRIVE: Tues. 18th Sept, 2pm, St Philips Church Hall, Portobello "Rural" (SWRI) celebrates 20 years this autumn and would welcome you at their Beetle Drive. Tickets £3.50 incl. free raffle ticket and refreshments. Programme for 2012/13 will be revealed.

CAR BOOT SALES (Portobello Rotary Club): Sun. 30th Sept; 28th Oct. Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am - double pitch £10 -all fees to charity. Call 07789 220583 or see www.portobellorotary.com

DERUMBA: Dance and exercise to your favourite songs, Portobello Bowls and Leisure Centre. Free taster session Sat. 6th October, 10-11am and regular sessions at £4 start 13th October.

OCTOBER FAIR: St Mark's Church, Sat. 27th October, 10.30am-12.30pm. Cafe, filled rolls, teas, coffee and cake. Home baking, raffle, children's games and crafts, second-hand books, jewellery, crafts, Jamie Oliver goods, homemade cards, Indian Head Massage, Christmas wreaths and mugs. Admission free. For information: 629 1219 or editor@stmarksportobello.org

FILM EVENING: *Music in the Movies*, presented by Ian Rintoul. This will be augmented by the first showing of Ian's new documentary, *Welcome to Portobello* which shows aspects of contemporary Portobello and some of its people, with glimpses of its past. Monday. 19th Nov, 7.15pm, St Philip's Church Hall. Tickets £7.50 (incl. refreshments) from sandrabbinnie@yahoo.co.uk or 629 3457, or at the door. Proceeds to Church Guild charities.

THE ANNUAL LECTURE of Portobello Heritage Trust will be given this year by John Hume, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, on the subject of *Protection & Preservation of Scotland's Industrial Heritage*. It will be held in St Mark's Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21st November.

PORTOBELLO 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@pedal-porty.org.uk

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