

THE Portobello REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
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HOLYROOD MAY VOTE ON SCHOOL IN THE PARK

A MEETING of the City of Edinburgh Council on 22nd November accepted the recommendations of a Report by Council officials outlining the options for the building of a new Portobello High School. The report concluded that it would be quicker, more affordable and result in a better school if it were to be built in Portobello Park, the Council's preferred option.

On 12th September, three senior judges of the Inner Court of the Court of Session delivered their Opinion regarding the Appeal by Portobello Park Action Group against the ruling of an earlier Judicial Review that the Council was entitled to build a school on Portobello Park. They upheld the status of the Park as inalienable common good land,

and the provisions of the disposition drawn up when the land was conveyed to the council of the time in 1898, that it should be used exclusively as a public park and recreation ground and that no building of any kind be permitted.

The Council has accepted legal advice that a challenge to the common good status is unlikely to succeed, but intends to submit a Private Bill to the Scottish Parliament, which Parliament would consider and vote upon and, if passed, would circumvent the legal obstacles and allow the school to be built on the park. Council Leader Andrew Burns and Cllr Paul Godzik, Education Convener, met Derek Mackay, Minister for Local Government and Planning on 12th November, to discuss the issue, when it was

agreed that a Private Bill was a positive way forward.

Before a Bill can be submitted it has to be drafted for the Council, and the Council must satisfy the Parliament about the way in which it has tested local public opinion and whether passing the Bill would be preferable to alternative options. Consultations will therefore begin soon and will include road shows, adverts in the local press, exhibitions in Portobello, Piershill and Central libraries, leafleting of residents most directly affected, and public meetings in Portobello Town Hall on 9th January 2013 and Meadowbank Sports Centre on 17th January.

The report also recommended that a bid be placed for the former Scottish Power site at Baileyfield, which has

just come back on the market, as one of the fall-back options.

It recommended that the preferred fall-back option, however, would be a phased build on the existing site, extended to include the area occupied by St John's Primary School. As this would not entail a relocation of Portobello High School to another site, no statutory consultation on this would be required. This option, however, would depend upon St John's Primary School being relocated, which would itself require statutory consultation.

Should the Bill not be passed and building on Portobello Park not be possible, consultations will be carried out to explain the alternatives and to seek the community's views on which of the two other locations would be preferred.

BOOK FESTIVAL HITS THE SPOT

WITH 21 events spread over three days including something for everyone, Portobello Book Festival was a triumph of organisation. There was an excellent selection of authors, all of whom generously gave their time, and very appreciative audiences for all the events, which were free. The two main venues were the Library, and the Old Parish Church which opened its cafe all day on the Saturday and served many hungry and thirsty participants. All the catering was first rate but the soup and fruitcake got particular praise.

Friday's opening event, 'The Library at Night' was a great success. The Library was transformed into a candlelit grotto, with music performed by Bridget Blackmore, Laurence Dunn and Lynn Bulmer, and authors giving their inventive takes on the theme. Donations of around £120 were made to Book Aid International.

The Saturday began with a very informative Writers' Workshop led by Marianne Paget. Other highlights included a conversation between top Scottish authors Denise Mina and Christopher Brookmyre in the afternoon, and James Robertson's entertaining session in the early evening. The day finished with a Book Quiz won by a team of Steve Souter and Heather Morrison from the Library, with Bill Jameson and Louise Kelly of the Book Festival organising group.

The festival continued into the Sunday and finished with a discussion on 'Do Libraries Matter?' chaired by Kenny MacAskill MSP, when it was agreed that the answer was a resounding "Yes!"

Library team leader Paul Hudson said: "The Library was delighted to welcome 400 additional people over the festival weekend, so it does a great job of promoting the Library in the community."

Kathleen Byron

A REAL COMMUNITY EVENT



THIS year's Village Show proved to be as great a success and as enjoyable as in previous years. Crowds gathered in Rosefield Park on a gloriously sunny afternoon to take part in the Duck Race, Tug o' war, Dog Show and the various gardening and home produce competitions as well as to browse the many stalls which offered everything from antiques to artisan foods.

Live music and entertainment added to the friendly atmosphere and was provided by Puff Uproar (seen above), the Guerilla String Quartet in Blonde Wigs and Ukelele Pete on his toy horse.

"As in previous years," POD's Joe Madden told the Reporter, "such a nice mix of people came along to the Village Show and that made the day feel like a real community event".

THE PORTY LIGHT BOX PROJECT



Photo by Sarah Wheatley

PASSERS-BY may have noticed the slow transformation of the old red phone box at the top of Bellfield Street. It was decommissioned by BT and adopted by Portobello Community Council on behalf of the community, and is possibly the first to be adopted in a city.

The aim is to fix opaque diffuser screens inside, with fluorescent tubes within, creat-

ing a large light box to display images by local artists, schoolchildren or other groups.

Steve Wheatley, leading the project, said: "When I've been out working on the phone box, I've had many positive comments about it. Quite a few of the older people remember using it to phone loved ones and some of the youngsters are amazed when they realise what it was originally used for. I wanted the Community Council to adopt it because it is nostalgic and part of our local heritage. But I also wanted to do something a bit different with it. The light box project is just to get things going."

The plastic windows have been removed and the box will be repainted in spring. There is a campaign to raise the £1785 needed for the materials and printing of the initial artwork. For more information, impressions of how it will look, and to make donations, see www.spacehive.com/theportylightbox



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

PORTY PROFILE No. 48 IAN MAXWELL

CYCLING campaigner Ian Maxwell and his wife Patsy James, an active member of Rowporty, moved to Portobello over 20 years ago, when the eldest of their two daughters was two years old. "Mainly," he says, "because it's an ideal place to raise a family, and is great for cycling. It now has one of the best cycles to school in Scotland, along the Prom."

Born in Edinburgh, Ian is the son of two historians, and has one brother who, like him has a campaigning career, working for the John Muir Trust. As a student at The University of York, Ian bought a bike for £5.00 from a police auction and discovered the benefits of commuting by bicycle. After university, he worked in information science and then moved into publishing, writing and editing for cycling magazines. His current job is National Development Manager for Families Need Fathers Scotland. Throughout his working life, however, he has sustained a very active parallel campaigning career reflecting his environmental ethos, promoting cycling as a sustainable transport solution.

As a volunteer with the Lothian cycle campaign Spokes for the last 25 years, he has been involved in producing the highly successful Edinburgh Cycle Maps. Recently, as one of the founders of The Bike Station - a Spokes off-shoot bicycle recycling charity and social enterprise - he has been nominated for the 2012 Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award in the environment category. He says he has seen the organisation grow from recycling and renovating a few unwanted bikes to having 20 employees, with stations in Perth and Glasgow, and having recycled over 35,000 bicycles.

"It's about wanting something to change. You carry on with the campaigning if you feel it's working", he says. "That's why Spokes has kept going for 30 years. The main thing is cycling is growing. We have reached the tipping point and made a change, although there is still a long way to go."

Karen Combe

CYCLISTS ALLOWED

UNDER new legislation the Promenade is a core path for pedestrians and cyclists, finally removing any confusion over whether or not cycling is allowed. The 'no cycling' signs have been removed and replaced with shared - use signs with a code of conduct for Promenade users.



Photo by Peter Ross

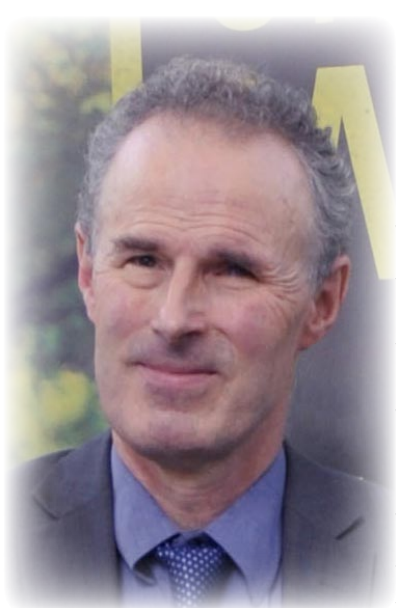


Photo by Sandy Young - sandyyoungphotography.wordpress.com

ON THE BEAT

PORTOBELLO'S local officers Constables Graham Pears, pictured on the left, and Scott McLennan are both part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Ward 17 area. They are always keen to hear the views of local residents, and hold various surgeries and meet and greet sessions throughout Portobello. Please check the Portobello/Craigmillar page of Lothian and Borders Police website www.lbp.police.uk for details of the next event and how to contact them direct.



By speaking to them you can help decide on local policing priorities set by the Neighbourhood Partnership. Every eight weeks the partnership decides on three priorities, which are specific to the area. We are constantly seeking your views, so please feel free to raise any issues with Scott and Graham.

One of our current priorities is to raise awareness of crime prevention in the area. We are focussing on thefts from houses and cars and encourage all residents to be vigilant. Make sure you have robust locks fitted and make use of them, even when you are inside your house. Never leave any items lying in view inside parked vehicles. Even if there is nothing of value within a jacket or bag always make sure they are taken in or moved out of sight. The majority of thefts from cars are committed by smashing windows and stealing items left on display.

If you do see anything suspicious please contact the police on 999 (emergency) 0131 652 4147 (office hours), 0131 311 3131 (24hrs) or email:

ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

The Safer Neighbourhood Team

BAPTIST CHURCH OPEN DAY

OVER 100 people took advantage of a guided tour when the Baptist Church in Portobello High Street had an Open Day on 17th November, to hear something of its unusual history. The most surprising thing about the church is that it is on the first floor, above what has just been converted into a new church cafe. The reason being that when Portobello Council Chambers were built on the site in 1863, shops were built underneath, presumably for the rent that

could be charged.

The Council moved in 1878 to what is now the Police Station, and since then the rooms have been used for dances and concerts, and as a cinema, reputedly called the Star Picture House, before being bought for the Baptist Church in 1920.

The café served soup, bread, cakes and coffee on the Open Day, for which donations to Portobello Older People's Project raised £270.

NEWS IN BRIEF

OPENING UP DEMOCRACY: Members of the public and local businesses are being given a voice to influence Council decisions in the city by way of a new Petitions Committee chaired by Cllr Maggie Chapman of the Green Party. If there is something you want considered, information and forms are available from the Council's website, libraries and other Council buildings. Petitions can also be submitted online on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/petitions

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Can you spare a couple of hours a week to help an older person find out what's going on in their community? Help someone to rebuild confidence through activities such as cinema, café trips and walks, or support them in social situations? To find out more, please contact Alison or Julie on 225 8508; email: juliedick@health-in-mind.org.uk or alisonmcghee@health-in-mind-org.uk or www.health-in-mind.org.uk

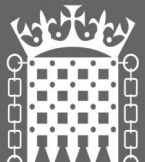
CHANGES TO REFUSE COLLECTION: If you are still having problems, call 529 3030 or email waste@edinburgh.gov.uk Details of your new schedule are available on www.edinburgh.gov.uk - click on Rubbish and Recycling.

REVISED BUS TIMETABLES for all buses serving the Portobello area are available on www.lothianbuses.com

CONSULTATION documents on the proposed closure of Castlebrae High School can be seen on the council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk This affects the wider area, including Portobello, since part of the proposals include a change to the catchment area of Portobello and Liberton High Schools.

WINTER WEATHER: Details of the council's "Be Prepared for Winter" campaign are available on www.edinburgh.gov.uk and social and local media. They will include daily plans for gritting, waste collection services and schools, and maps showing gritting routes and salt bin locations. Volunteer Snow Wardens are now being recruited - details on the website.

KILN UPDATE: To ensure that the rebuilding of the kiln takes place in the best possible weather, it has been agreed that work should begin in Spring 2013. The Council has arranged to carry the funding over into the next financial year to allow this to happen.




Sheila Gilmore MP
Your Member of Parliament in Edinburgh East

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WE would like to thank the organisers of the Portobello Book Festival for, yet again, delivering a fantastic book festival in October. For the first time the launch was held in the library and was a great success. The Portobello Book Festival weekend always brings something a bit special to the library and we loved every minute!

The library will host local author Max Scratchman on Tuesday 11th December at 6.30pm. Max will be talking about his book and personal memoir *The Last Burrah Sahibs*, a warm and funny look at the leisured imperial lifestyle of the East India British, as seen through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy, recording both the good life and the growing political unrest in the Indian sub-continent during those last stolen years. Tickets are free, from the library.

Local storyteller Beth Cross will be 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 will be two sessions: the first will start at 2pm for 5-8 year olds and their parents/carers, and the second at 3pm for 9 years and over. For more information contact Beth on 657 4626.

We are looking forward to Christmas and are planning our Christmas creative crafts for children. These will be run over the festive season. If you are interested, ask staff for details, keep an eye out for our posters and check our Facebook page.

Our Teenage Book Group will be reviewing and voting on the shortlist of the 12-16 years category of the Scottish Children's Book Awards, the winner to be announced on World Book Day next year. The Group meets at 4pm on the last Thursday of every month. They will be discussing *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* by Jennifer E Smith on Thursday 29th November. If you are interested in joining the Teenage Book Group contact the library for details.

Our adults' Book Group had a great time acting as Portobello Library's own Booker Prize judges. They nominated *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng as their winner, although they also enjoyed the eventual winner, *Bring Up The Bodies* by Hilary Mantel.

The Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm; we will be discussing the following books:

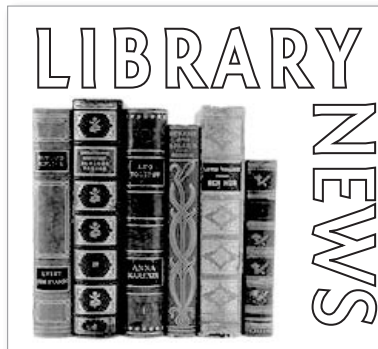
4th December – *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel

8th January – *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

7th February – *Transition* by Iain Banks

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

Paul Hudson



SHOP LOCAL FOR CHRISTMAS

THERE aren't many Christmas shopping days left, but if you still need last-minute presents, a trip along Portobello High Street could provide that elusive thing, inspiration! There are some first class shops for presents large and small, for adults and children: toiletries, jewellery, scarves and bags, toys and sweets, chocolates and flowers, wine and cheeses; and for someone who has everything - how about a gift voucher, for a beauty treatment for example. There is still a wide choice of cards and plenty of wrapping paper too.

Now for the Christmas food that we will all eat far too much of: meat and poultry, fish, fruit and veg are readily available, plus all the ingredients for Christmas cakes and puddings, and mince pies - and a wee dram for Santa!

AT THE FOREFRONT OF FAIRTRADE

GREAT news - Portobello is now officially a Fairtrade town! The local Fairtrade Forum received confirmation from The Fairtrade Foundation on 9th November that Portobello has been awarded Fairtrade status. The Forum has been hard at work over the past year to achieve the necessary criteria for the award. This required a resolution to be passed by Portobello Community Council in support of Fairtrade, a minimum of four retail outlets selling Fairtrade goods, two catering outlets using Fairtrade teas and coffees and an appropriate

number of schools, churches and workplaces using the products. Portobello passed with flying colours.

The Forum is grateful to the people of Portobello who supported us by signing our petition, and to the schools, churches and businesses that have all played their part in achieving this prestigious award. We would particularly like to thank the Community Council and our local representatives for their support.

An official ceremony will be arranged soon, when the award will be handed over.

Jim Baird, Forum Chair

IMPROVED PATH, PORTOBELLO TO LEITH

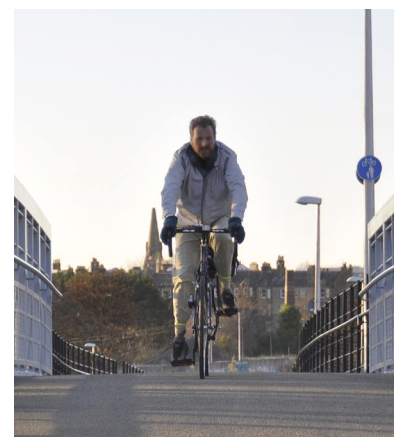


Photo by Peter Ross

AN improved route for pedestrians and cyclists connecting Portobello Promenade with the Shore in Leith was launched on 23rd October. The route, which is part of the Council's Family Network, also links into the Restalrig Railway Path which serves Leith Academy. Most of the route follows traffic-free paths and includes a new ramp and bridge across Seafeld Place, as well as an upgrade of the former railway path leading to a new access point at Seafeld Street. Along a section of Seafeld Road the pavement has been significantly widened to make it suitable for shared use.

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Lucky Chews The Piano!

MY youngest son set his heart on a rabbit for his sixth birthday and, realising that I had got off lightly because I'd have quite liked a palomino stallion for a pet when I was six, we got Lucky, a fluffy albino with one ear up and one ear down and he's been part of the family ever since.

Initially we were unaware of how destructive a hungry house rabbit can be. Lucky particularly enjoyed chewing cables, and unfortunately we lost power to the phone, washing machine and printer, not to mention the chunks he took out of the piano, before he learnt the meaning of the word 'No!'

The plan was that he'd get his own place outside once he'd settled in, but now that he picks up his bowl when he wants more food, dances around when he wants out and sulks if he doesn't get his favourite muesli, we don't have the heart to put him in the shed.

I have to be sensitive to my son's and Lucky's feelings when a cooking show is on or a recipe book is lying around, because unlike hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs etc., rabbits are (apparently) delicious. When an item about wild rabbits in Canna being made into burgers was on the news, well you can imagine our dismay. "Mum," said my son, "Lucky needs a big pair of ear plugs. Where can I buy them?" I tried my best, but sometimes it's hard to keep a straight face when you're trying to say the right thing!



with Susan Burns

AFTER such a prolonged wet period there will be more diseases, especially on fruit trees. Check all trees and cut out dead, diseased and crossing branches, trying to keep the middle clear to ensure good air circulation. Do not make leaf mould from any leaves that look diseased; either burn or bin, or bury at least one metre down - an excellent job for a cold day! Prune vines back to two to three buds from the main rod; this has to be done when the vine is completely dormant otherwise it can bleed to death (i.e. water will just keep oozing from the wounds and weaken the plant).

There will also be an increase in slugs and snails: a pond is the best control as it immediately attracts frogs. It doesn't need to be big - a baby bath size is perfect for a small garden, and a few stones piled up along one side from the base to the rim will enable other wildlife (e.g. hedgehogs) to climb out if necessary. A few small water plants will clear the water - try and cadge small bits from a friend, but don't include fish. Set up before February. Do not use chemicals in the garden, which disturbs the balance between prey and predator.

There is still time to plant bulbs (tulips, daffs, garlic, etc). On lighter soils just plant to the appropriate depth, but if you have clay soil make a ridge and plant into the top. This technique can be used for planting trees too, keeping the roots away from winter wet. Whether you have light or clay soil, add as much organic matter as you can to improve soil structure. Adding grit to clay soils also helps improve drainage.

Empty the compost heap and use to mulch around slightly tender shrubs or perennials and add to the vegetable patch. A new heap can now be started with anything that looks grotty as it dies down, but leave anything that looks good or that has seeds. These will be decimated with the winter weather, so there will be less to clear up by the time February arrives.

There's a rhythm about gardening due to the seasons, which means we get to try something new each year, so order seeds now. Although I lost my entire annual border (apart from a few hardy godetias) this summer due to the exceptional wet, I'm going to try again next year. Surely, we can't get another one like that.

And now is the time to check those Christmas hyacinths and bring them into warmer and lighter conditions.

(Finally, I would like to thank everyone who came to our Open Days for their generous donations for the charity Garden Organic.)

PEDAL were surprised and delighted to find that a comparative study of Portobello honey produced at the community orchard

has been found to have similar antimicrobial properties to the renowned Manuka honey from New Zealand. Local microbiologist Dr Lorna Fyfe led a team at Queen Margaret University which tested the local honey on *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *E.coli*, all of which can infect wounds, and found it was affective against all three. The research team wishes to develop this work to identify how effective the honey could be in dealing with antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as the superbug MRSA. This research has highlighted an area of untapped potential for Scotland and opens up exciting possibilities for the future. Clever bees!

Our third Apple Day at the Community Orchard was very well attended. Adults and children revelled in the fun of games such as apple-dooking, 'Bat the Rat' in which an apple is rolled down a tube and the batter has to hit it, and the competition for the longest single apple-skin peel. Not a computer game in sight! Despite the poor crop of apples this year, in common with other orchards, there were sufficient to produce litres of freshly squeezed juice, brown and cloudy but with bags of taste. Coffee and fresh home-baking were also available and, all-in-all, a very successful family event was enjoyed by everyone.

At our Annual General Meeting on 17th October, a presentation on Social Enterprise was given by Ian Cooke, board member of Development Trust Association Scotland. Ian gave examples of the varied activities and aims of social enterprises in Scotland, illustrating his talk with three successful but widely different trusts currently operating in Scotland. He then speculated on how a similar scheme might work in Portobello.

The Portobello Market is seeing something of a resurgence, with 22 traders taking a stall in November. In addition to our regulars offering organic fruit and veg, excellent meat - including mutton, and delicious bread, we now have hot burgers and sausages and freshly ground coffee to sustain you, and a chiropractor for those aches and pains.

Stephen Hawkins

CHRISTMAS TREAT: A Merry Christmas Cocktail

Ingredients:

1oz/3ml of the very best gin (for fruit cocktail omit the gin), 1oz/3ml of cranberry juice, 1 tsp of lemon juice, soda, crushed ice and fresh cranberries.

Method:

Pour the gin, cranberry juice and lemon juice into a tall glass filled with crushed ice. Stir thoroughly then top up with the soda and finally garnish with the fresh cranberries.

Then sit back, sip gently and enjoy. Ho! Ho! Ho!

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space hoppers and a whole lot more!

READERS RESPOND WITH MORE INFORMATION

VERY many thanks to the readers who responded to requests for information about the Krause family in our September issue. We discovered that two sons of Reinhold Krause are still living in the Portobello area. One of them made contact with us, and Archie Foley and I were able to visit him and his brother. We exchanged information and were given contact details for their niece in Australia, who sent us information about her mother, May Krause, an ice-skating star, to be featured in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

I was also contacted about our Garden Fete article and spoke on the telephone with a Portobello resident who remembers attending the fete and said it was a very enjoyable day. Another reader gave me access to the letters and papers relating to the fete which are featured in the article on this page.

It is always gratifying to be contacted about articles by our readers and to know that they are appreciated and often rekindle happy memories.

Margaret Munro

FROM THE ARCHIVE: SANTA



Andre Letta was Santa Claus in Patrick Thomson's, North Bridge, for several years before giving up in 1955 when he was in his 70s. Here we see him in 1951 with Peter Nicholls, aged five. At one time Letta had one of the most popular concert parties in Portobello. This was called Andre Letta's Royal Entertainers and they performed first in the Pavilion then, from 1921, in a large tented structure in Bath Street. One of his star turns was Dave Willis and among the artistes who got an early opportunity with Letta were a young Ella Logan, Jimmy Logan's aunt, who went on to fame on Broadway, and 'Cavalier of Song' Donald Peers. Letta was a colourful character, who wore a fresh flower in his buttonhole each day. Before turning to production he had been a celebrated conjuror and ventriloquist and was proud of his Command Performances at Balmoral Castle. He died in 1957.

FETE ACCOMPLI

AFTER the article on the garden fete appeared in the last issue of the *Reporter*, I was given access to papers relating to the arrangements for the fete in 1949. I thought readers would like to share this, so have summarised them as follows.

In his letter of 23rd May, agreeing to open the fete, Lord Wheatley comments to Mrs Amos, Honorary Secretary: "I shall be very happy to do so, and I trust that the weather clerk is on his best behaviour for the occasion." A hand-written letter from Agnes Wheatley to Mrs Amos thanks her for the bouquet of flowers she was sent on the day of the garden fete. She apologises for her absence stating: "but my latest baby is only 3 months old, and I find it impossible to get away, especially round about feeding times."

In another letter, dated 24th November, Lord Wheatley regrets that he is unable to attend Portobello Amateur Swimming Club's Annual Gala the following evening, "but unfortunately I have arranged to interview constituents at the actual time the Gala is taking place", reminding us that he was the MP for Portobello. He wishes them every success with the gala and says he is pleased that the fete was a great success.

Mrs Amos was organising the fete "to raise funds



to encourage the training of young members and to enhance the already high reputation of our Portobello swimmers" and, in a letter dated 19th May, asks for contributions to the stalls. The stalls listed are cake and candy, fruit, flower and vegetable and gifts. Handkerchiefs, at least four, to dress the 'handkerchief girl' are needed from each lady and they are asked to give their "enthusiastic help". A letter on 7th June asks for help erecting the stalls and assistance with the amusements. Mr Deane of Tower Amusements is offering his advice for setting up. Helpers are further informed that after the fete there will be a 'Flannel Dance' for club members and friends in the Loftus Hall, Wellington Street at 8pm, tickets priced 1 shilling (5 pence). Does anyone know what a 'Flannel Dance' is?

The Financial Statement for the fete shows that it raised a total of £127 11shillings and 5pence (£127.57p approx.), which was a good sum at that time, particularly given post-war austerity, with the average annual wage being about £470. A final letter dated 15th July thanks all those who helped with the fete and says: "The results will be evident in the future, when we hope the name of Portobello Club will continue to flourish in Scottish swimming." It has indeed flourished and I'm sure that those involved in this fund-raising event would be gratified to know that their contribution enabled the club to celebrate their Centenary this year.

Margaret Munro

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SERVICES AT ST MARKS

HAPPY Christmas from St Marks. Please feel free to come to any of our services over the Advent and Christmas period.

Sunday 16th December at 5pm: Christmas Carol Service for all the churches in aid of Christian Aid, with refreshments after.

Saturday 1st, 10am-4pm: Open for quiet reflection throughout the day. Come and go as you please to prepare for Advent and to get some peace and quiet away from the crowds.

Monday 3rd - Thursday 20th: A short reflective service at 9.30am daily.

Sunday 2nd, 10.30am: Holy Communion; 5pm, Advent Carol Service.

Sunday 9th, 10.30am: Holy Communion; 5pm, Quiet reflective service.

Sunday 16th, 10.30am: Holy Communion.

Sunday 23rd, 10.30am: Holy Communion with Nativity; 5pm, Reflective service as we enter Christmas.

Christmas Eve, 3.30pm: Crib Service, a family service; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day, 10.30am: All Age Communion for Christmas Day.

The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 30 local people. If you have something you would like to see in print call

669 3466

or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com

MARCH DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 6TH 2013

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

Cllr MICHAEL BRIDGMAN, SNP:

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

Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

Surgeries normally every Monday at 7pm in Portobello Library. Or phone 0131 529 3268/ 07718 666 481 for appointment.

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.
Cllr Walker may also be contacted at: City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ, tel: 529 4972, or e-mail: david.walker1@edinburgh.gov.uk

*A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

OUR annual Greetings Card stall will be on Portobello High Street on Saturday 8th December from 11am-12.30pm, when members of the public will have the opportunity to participate in this campaign to bring hope and comfort to prisoners, their families and groups working for justice.

At our stalls at recent Portobello Markets, 14 birthday cards were written for our special Turkish man, Ferhat; petition forms were signed regarding a prisoner on Death Row; and 58 cards were written on Forced Evictions in Kenya and Peru.

The Justice and Security Bill now before the UK Parliament will, if passed unamended, mean secret courts and the covering up on grounds of “national security” of UK complicity in rendition and torture. The Bill is being challenged by Amnesty and other human rights groups, and many individuals, including Portobello residents.

Our letter-writing sub-group has been featuring requests for appeals on human rights violations generally, and urgent actions to stop imminent executions in the USA and Palestine. It meets at the Dalriada bar on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm

A speaker on Burma updated us in September on the improving, but still fragile human rights situation there, and we hope to have a report in January from one of our members visiting Sierra Leone, a country facing enormous problems in recovering from the traumas of the conflict years.

Everyone is welcomed, without commitment, at our meetings on the third Monday of the month in Portobello Old Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Our meeting on 17th December will have a social element, with refreshments – It would be great to see you there.

David Turner

HELP LAUNCH A TIMEBANK

TIMEBANKS are a way of exchanging skills, knowledge and experiences, where everyone’s time is equally valued. For every hour of time a person contributes to help someone, they receive the equivalent in time credits, which are stored and then exchanged for services from others. If you help someone for an hour decorating their home, for example, you can ‘buy’ an hour of someone helping you, perhaps teaching you to cook. It’s that simple!

A small steering group has formed in Portobello and are on the brink of launching a timebank. Two volunteer time

brokers have been recruited, but for the timebank to move from being a wonderful idea to reality, more steering group members are needed. Would you like to help start this sharing pot that could contribute a new dimension to our community and the way it interacts?

Please email portobello@edinburghtimebank.org.uk if you are interested in joining the steering group or being kept up to date with developments. More information about timebanks can be found at www.timebank.org.uk and www.edinburghtimebank.org.uk

Laura Plumb

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Ghost in the Machine

by Ed James

MURDER! It may be a cliché, but *Ghost in the Machine* by indie crime author Ed James is a page-turner. If it were a dance, this book would be a raw Argentine tango, full of frantic action with a sinister dark side and a touch of romance. The story fast-steps you at a crackling pace through familiar local places and comes to a dramatic crescendo in an ‘expensive’ tenement somewhere near King’s Road.

Taking centre stage is DC Scott Cullen, three months into his post at ‘Leith Walk’. A thoughtful virtuoso amongst a somewhat lumbering troop of hapless colleagues, Cullen goes to bed in his flat just off Portobello High Street with a missing person incident swirling around in his head and wakes, deeply troubled by the evidence. You can virtually hear the ping when his thoughts crystallize and he can move the case on before anyone else is murdered.

Cullen is the kind of likeable chap you want on your side, and James’s skilled characterization and considered storylines with no sloppy loose ends are what keeps you reading and tweeting him, demanding to know when the next Scott Cullen Mystery will be available to download.

(Kindle edition £0.99, Paperback £8.09 ISBN-10: 1479124842 from Amazon).

Karen Combe

The Game on New Year’s Day, Hearts 0 Hibs 7

by Ted Brack

NO HIBS WIN over their local rivals has come close to the epic 7-0 victory recorded by the great Turnbull’s Tornados team on 1st January 1973 at Tynecastle.

As the 40th anniversary of this iconic encounter approaches, Ted Brack describes the great match and the events preceding it, and relates what has happened since to the players who took part. Ted’s book is written from his own experience and draws on the first-hand memories and reminiscences of other supporters and the outstanding players who wore the green and white of Hibernian on the day.

Ted quotes at length players like goalkeeper Jim Herriot, full back John Brownlie, centre half Jim Black, sweeper John Blackley, midfielders Alex Edwards and Alex Cropley, goal scorer Jimmy O’Rourke and captain Pat Stanton. This book is a must read for Hibeers and is guaranteed to fully restore their feel-good factor after their recent Scottish Cup Final disappointment.

(Black & White Publishing, ISBN 978 1 84502 4819. £15.99 Hardback).

COMPETITION: Ted has donated a signed copy of the book to be won by the sender of the first correct answer opened, to the following question: Who was Hibs substitute when they beat Hearts 7-0 on New Year’s day 1973? Answers in an envelope marked Competition, with contact details, to The Portobello Reporter, 9 Bedford Terrace, Edinburgh EH15 2EJ by Saturday 15th December. The draw will be made by Library staff.

SEARCH FOR WAR MEMORIAL

IN the 1970s, when Windsor Place Church and the Old Parish united, all the records and artefacts were transferred to the new united church. Amongst these was a brass plate memorial, bearing the names of five members of Windsor Place Church who made the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War. It was stored in a safe place, so safe that nobody now knows who took it or where it was stored. A search of the old Kirk Session and Board minutes for the period proved fruitless, and sadly there are now fewer folk around with any memory of the details.

Can any *Reporter* readers help? Can you suggest where the memorial might be? Do you know who these men were? Can you suggest where to look for the details? If so, please call me on 669 1331 or contact me at the Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street.

Alex McDonald



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

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



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IN THE SADDLE



Photo by Andrew Mylne

THE local cycling club Porto-Velo has seen groups of up to a dozen or so cyclists turn out for its Sunday 'fitness rides'. Co-founder Andrew Mylne said: "As the club has developed, people have got to know each other better, some have definitely gained in confidence, and I think everyone enjoys the varied routes and the camaraderie of the group. We are also building up a lot of expertise on where the best coffee and cakes can be found within a 30-mile radius!" Sunday rides will keep going (weather permitting) throughout the winter. For further details, see the club website - www.porto-velo.com

AFRICA WEEK AT ST JOHN'S

ST JOHN'S Primary School launched their annual focus on Africa Week on Friday 5th October, with special guests from Tanzania and members of the Twende Pamoja Trust.

The visitors included the Tanzanian High Commissioner Mr Peter Kallaghe, and Wilfred Moshi, who this year became the first Tanzanian to climb Mount Everest. They were welcomed by senior pupils accompanied by the two P1 classes who waved both Tanzanian and Scottish flags.

At an assembly the guests were thanked for their visit, and a farewell was said to Wilfred and his family, who had lived in Portobello for the past five weeks. Wilfred had spent time in school talking about his ascent of Everest and his children had attended some classes, learning about Scottish culture. A highlight of the assembly was the choir's rendition of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough", which truly resonated with Wilfred and his family.

During the following week, pupils were involved in activities such as mask making, Gumboot dancing and African drumming, along with the rich literature, art and craft activities provided for them. Head teacher Barbara Service said: "This was a special week which enriched the lives of all our pupils and also raised awareness of African culture."

Lewis Dick

HEARING DOGS BOWLED OVER BY WILLOWBRAE LADIES



Photo by Karen Combe

HEARING DOGS for Deaf People volunteer Sue Durie and her hearing dog Gerry, received a cheque for £1600 from Willowbrae Bowling Club Ladies' President Sandra Walker towards the training and care of hearing dogs. Sue received the cheque at the club's charity closing day dinner with Gerry, a 'Cockapoo' (a Cocker Spaniel and Toy Poodle cross) who stole the show in his uniform of 'halite', and lead.

Sue gave a fascinating talk about the charity's work and the way in which Gerry has been a great friend and help to her in her everyday life, listening for the phone, the doorbell and alarms, although she said that as he is not a 'morning dog' he doesn't always wake her up as early as she would like! She explained that as it costs at least £4000 to fund the lifetime of each dog the charity accredits, the cheque will go a long way to funding more dogs to help people with a hearing loss. For more information go to www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Karen Combe

HELLO Porty People, from your very own Wash House Community Centre in Adelphi Grove.

We end a busy year of sprucing up the Centre and its activity board with a flourish! As well as all our usual classes, activities and Youth Clubs, we welcome our new Soccer Academy and the return of Fun Fiddle. Also, due to popular demand, we now host three different age-groups of Youth Theatre. Their Christmas Show will be staged on the evening of Saturday 8th December - tickets on the door.

The next day, Sunday 9th, from 11am till 4pm we are excited to announce our own End of Year Fair, where you will find Arts, Crafts and rummage stalls just in time for Christmas, lovely sweet things from Porty Cake Club, Kids Creative Christmas corner, homegrown musical talent, refreshments and some fantastic taster sessions and displays from our wonderful Wash House Activity Leaders. Entrance is FREE and there will be a Grand Raffle. What better way to spend a Sunday in your Community?

Looking forward to 2013, we will again host Row Porty's Fundraising Winter Social on Friday 25th January, from 7.30pm till midnight.

For more details of all our events and activities see our brand-new website www.portobellocc.org.uk, join our Facebook group Porty Wash House or call us on 0131 669 8275. Or just drop by! It's your Community's Centre!

Warm wishes for the festive season and a very Happy New Year from all of us at The Wash House!

Sooz Scott Glen, Chairperson



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PORTOBELLO RUGBY



PORTOBELLO FP are playing in the Scottish Hydro East League Division 1 this year which is another big step up from previous years. The season started very brightly with a comprehensive bonus point victory over Berwick and since then Porty have played some excellent rugby but have narrowly lost several games. They now sit mid-table but have a game in hand. The team's recent form would suggest that they have managed to find that missing winning ingredient and hopefully they can now rise up through the league positions.

Porty train on Tuesday and Thursday nights; for more information phone club captain Michael Ridd on 07724361688.

Matches are played at Cavalry Park, Duddingston and are 2.30pm kick-offs. Come along and support your local team and enjoy the club atmosphere in the legendary Porty club house.

Chris Thomas

ON THE GREENS

THE AGM of the East Edinburgh Bowling Association will be held at Portobello Bowling Club on 24th January 2013 at 7.00pm. All past Presidents and committee members are invited to attend. The President for 2013 should be Fred Neilands of Jessfield BC. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their help during the past

season, Portobello, Jessfield and Willowbrae for the use of their clubs, and all who played for us.

The Association also thanks sponsors McKenzie & Millar and Belhaven Brewery for looking after us so well.

We wish all bowlers a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

A Skirving

ANOTHER YEAR OF TAKING TO THE WATER

ROWPORTY have been competing all round the UK this year, ending the 2012 season with a win. They participated in several regattas and rowing events, starting in April with a mammoth row up the River Tay. Other highlights included the Achiltibuie Regatta in the north west of Scotland, the Dalriada Regatta in Northern Ireland, their own regatta and the Great River Race on the Thames.

The final regatta of the season, on the last weekend in October was at Lochwinnoch, Ayrshire where they won the Gallagher Heath Shield.

They also took part in an event at which dredg songs, traditional to Forth fishers dredging their oyster beds, were per-

formed in their home waters at Portobello for the first time in a century.

Rowporty's Emma Griffiths said the highlight for her was the Dalriada Regatta. "As a Northern Ireland native," she said, "it was lovely for a stack of reasons: it was amazing to see the Antrim coast road from the sea side. Every single Porty rower there won a medal, and dressing up as the Porty Pirates for the fancy dress parade, evening concert, and fireworks display made for a totally brilliant experience! But a post regatta row to the Summer Isles with many children, dogs and a huge picnic in Achiltibuie in May was equally life affirming!"

Kathleen Byron

WATER POLO TEAM IN SUPER 5s!

PORTOBELLO Water Polo Team is in a tense fight this season to retain the British Water Polo League (BWPL) championship which they won in February.

"We have been playing in the league for 20 years and to finally win the championship was the best and biggest achievement, and a truly great feeling", said team captain Neilson Rutherford. "This year the competition is a bit different", he added, "as a lot of Olympic swimmers who were playing professionally have come back to their clubs and teams, but Portobello are going to do their level best to retain their title."

They received the Scottish Swimming Achievement and Commendation Award at the

Scottish Swimming Awards in Glasgow in September. Team member James Scobie was also awarded the Senior Water Polo Player of the Year.

Portobello were the proud hosts for BWPL Division 1 fixtures at the Commonwealth Pool at the beginning of October. They lost their first match against Bristol, but defeated London Polytechnic to gain fifth place in the league and qualify for the Super 5s competition.

They are always looking for both adult and junior members and hope to start a ladies team shortly. They can be contacted via their website www.polo.portobelloasc.com or at their 8pm Tuesday night sessions at Portobello Swim Centre.

Kathleen Byron

WHAT'S ON in Portobello

PORTOBELLO MARKET, Brighton Park. 1st Sat. of each month, 9.30am-1.30pm except January. Organic fruit, veg, meat and more. For more info. or to book a stall contact info@pedal-porty.org.uk

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

PORTOBELLO COMEDY NIGHT, Friday 7th December, Mum's Cafe Bar & Lounge, Indoor Bowls Centre. Doors open 7.30pm, 8.30 start. £6 from the venue, www.brownpapertickets.com or on the night, subject to availability. Following a brilliant launch night, this comedy extravaganza returns, bringing guaranteed indoor sunshine in the form of four very funny comedians and a top MC.

NEW LOCAL POLICING PLAN consultation event: Wed. 12th Dec. 7-9pm, Town Hall. Drop in for information and have your say on how the new national service, Police Scotland, will change policing in Edinburgh.

MALECON MATINEE: Sun. 17th Feb. 2-6pm, classes 2pm, Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello. £5/£9 combo.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Fri. 21st Dec., 7pm, Portobello Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High St. A multi-media service with carols, mulled wine, mince pies and lots of candles.

BURNS SUPPER & CEILIDH, Portobello Burns Club: Fri. 18th Jan, 7.15pm, Duddingston Golf Club. Immortal Memory by Jean Thomson, Toasts by Head Boy and Head Girl at Portobello High School. For tickets at £20 call 669 4471.

BURNS SUPPER for Christian Aid: Sat. 19th Jan., 7pm prompt, Portobello Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield St. Immortal Memory by Alan Taylor, Asst. Editor of The Herald. For tickets costing £12.50 call 669 5257.

CINEM8, new local cinema at Edinburgh College, Milton Rd East. Screenings Sat. and Sun. afternoons. For details see www.cinem8.co.uk

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