

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Spring 2013

Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 12,500  
Also available online on [www.porty.org.uk](http://www.porty.org.uk)

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The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper  
produced by local people since 1980.

## FAIRTRADE AWARD OFFICIAL



**PORTOBELLO** was officially declared a Fairtrade Town at a ceremony at Towerbank Primary School on 14th December. Councillor Maureen Child is pictured presenting the Award certificate from the Fairtrade Foundation to Jim Baird, Chair of the local Fairtrade Forum.

Fairtrade Town status is granted to towns supporting fair trade by using and selling associated products in retail outlets, workplaces and community organisations. Portobello exceeded the qualifying criteria, with seven retailers and three catering outlets selling Fairtrade products, plus five local churches, four schools and five workplaces.

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 25th February to 10th March. It brings together consumers, retailers, licensees, businesses, producers and campaigners nationwide to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products and to campaign on issues of trade justice.

## PORTOBELLO MUNICIPAL CLOCK

**THE** working group set up by Portobello Heritage Trust, Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society to press for the re-instatement of the town clock on the Baptist Church building in the High Street has made some progress in recent months.

In an effort to gather information from the Council regarding the ownership of the clock and the repair of both the clock and its cast iron frame - repairs carried out by the Council in 2006, Portobello Heritage Trust made a freedom of information request to the Council asking for copies of all relevant documents. Initially no documents were sent regarding the repairs, so the Heritage Trust asked the Scottish Information Commissioner to review the Council's

assertion that, despite evidence to the contrary, no such documents could be found. Since the Commissioner agreed to review the case, some documents have been sent regarding its repair. These are currently being examined by the working group to determine the next move in the campaign to have the clock restored to its rightful position on the church building in the heart of Portobello.

The Council have spent over £50,000 restoring the clock and its frame, both of which are presently in Council storage ready to be put back on the building. This cannot be done, however, until the question of the clock's ownership and its future maintenance have been established.

John Stewart

## HUGE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

**THE** City of Edinburgh Council received over 12,000 responses to its public opinion survey regarding a Private Bill which, if passed, would enable it to build a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park. Council executives propose submitting a Bill to the Scottish Parliament to remove the legal constraints that currently prevent the building of a new school on the park, which is common good land.

The consultation period ran from mid-December to 31st January and included two public meetings, road shows, displays in Portobello, Piershill and Central libraries, press notices and leafleting of Portobello residents. Survey forms could be filled in by hand or online.

After detailed analysis of the responses, a report will

be presented to a full Council meeting on 14th March, advising of the outcome of the consultation process and recommending the next step and will be made public on 7th March. It could take up to 11 months before a Private Bill was considered by the Parliament and the estimated cost would be £60,000.

If building on the park is given the go-ahead, construction would start in Spring 2014. The Council also proposes to create a new area of green space on approximately 2.2 hectares of the existing High School site.

The remaining area would be added to the present St John's Primary School site to allow a larger school to be built. The Council has just committed £7m to building a new school and will consult on site options later this year.

## PHONE BOX - ALL DRESSED UP



**WHILE** awaiting its transformation into the Porty Light Box, the old red phone box at the top of Bellfield Street filled its first new function - It was dressed up and used to publicise late-night shopping in Portobello before Christmas.

Steve Wheatley, who is leading the Porty Light Box project, said: "I'd like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the recent fund-raising. We currently have just over £1500 in the fund for renovating the box and creating the first art installation. If anyone else would like to contribute, we are very happy to accept donations - please email me at the address below. The paint manufacturers recommend that the minimum temperature for painting is 10°C, so we will have to wait until early Spring, after which we will also carry out the reglazing".

"There's a lot of creative talent in Portobello", he added. "I've been speaking to a local artist who has some great ideas for the initial installation, but I also want to open this out to others and have a group to brainstorm ideas and suggestions on how best to proceed. Please get in touch by email to [portylightbox@gmail.com](mailto:portylightbox@gmail.com) if you want to get involved somehow or you have an idea".

## COCKENZIE POWER STATION SET TO CLOSE



**FOR** some its twin chimneys are a landmark and for others a blight on the landscape, but no matter what you think of Cockenzie Power Station it has been providing the national grid with electricity since 1968. At the end of March 2013 the turbines of this coal-fired power station will stop turning once and for all.

The economic recovery after World War II led to a growing

demand for electricity as more people could afford washing machines, vacuum cleaners and other white goods. At its peak Cockenzie could generate 1200 megawatts of power from its four generating units.

The future for the site is uncertain, but plans to convert to gas-fired electricity generation or build a cruise ship dock have been mooted, either way it is the end of an era.

**PORTY PROFILE No. 49**  
**MARIANNE PAGET**

**SUSTAINABLE** development policy officer, Portobello Book Festival organiser and mother of two Marianne Paget has her hands full, particularly since pursuing her dream of becoming a writer. The eldest of three, Marianne spent her early years as a 'Leither' before moving to the Meadows and settling down to school at Sciennes. She graduated with a degree in sociology and social policy from Stirling University, although she had intended to study film and media but changed course after a year spent studying the nuts and bolts of communication theory.



Marianne began her career in local government on the west coast working on community grants, urban regeneration and community safety. Now living in Duddingston with her husband Graeme, Marianne's career has gone from strength to strength, and she is currently involved in the city's sustainable food project, but says she always wanted to write, "When I was younger I had the urge and inclination to do a wee bit of writing but I just let it drift," she says." Eventually I had a full time job and two kids and realised I was never going to have time so I had better do something about it."

Five years ago she took the plunge and studied creative writing with the Open University. She says: "As much as anything the course gave me ideas and deadlines which I would never have had otherwise with a young baby." With a talent for arguably one of the most difficult forms of writing, short story writing, she won coveted sponsored places on a series of writers' labs and courses run by the BBC and the Scottish Book Trust (SBT). And for the last three years has won places on the Story Shop programme run by the City of Literature Trust showcasing her stories including Oblation, Full House and Pulling Teeth at the Edinburgh Book Festival which she describes as nerve wracking. "It wasn't until I really thought it through that I thought : I'm going to be standing up in front of people performing a piece of work and a section of it includes a priest performing a rap in a night club, but it was fantastic, I really loved the opportunity." Her writing was well received at the festival and last year she had the further accolade of having her story Leith 1974 published in the SBT anthology My Favourite Place.

Marianne is also involved with Portobello's own book festival, talking about her experiences and encouraging others in her own writing workshop last year, with another planned for October. In the future, she hopes to find time to work on a novel, but for now says short story writing fits in well with her busy home and work-life. "I would love to write a novel but with short fiction you can keep it all in your head. It's an ambition and one day I hope I will get there."

Karen Combe

**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

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**JUNE DEADLINE 6TH MAY**



**Sheila Gilmore MP**

Your Member of Parliament in Edinburgh East

**MONTHLY SURGERIES (from April 2012)**

On the **second Friday** of each month

**Portobello Library (off Portobello High Street) Between 14.00pm – 15.00pm.**

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**ON THE BEAT**

WE have recently seen an upsurge in the East of thefts from motor vehicles. These have occurred mainly in public car parks, including the Jack Kane Centre, Fort Kinnaird and Meadowbank, but any unattended cars with valuables on view are vulnerable anywhere.



Don't leave items on show when you leave your vehicle. If possible remove all satnavs, phones and any other electronic gadgets from your vehicle before leaving it; try to take their holders and cables as well, don't just hide them in the glove compartment. Take out shopping and other bags. Never leave any means of identification or car documentation in the vehicle. Check that you have locked the doors and that all windows are closed. Just because you are in a shop or building a few yards away does not deter the thief. Try and park in well-lit areas with other people about.

Keep a lookout in your area and report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police; in an emergency call 999, or 0131 311 3131 for all other calls. Remember you can give any information regarding crime or criminal activity anonymously by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

For more crime prevention advice please log on to our website [www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk) and click on 'Crime Prevention'. Alternatively, to keep up-to-date with what's going on in your neighbourhood click on 'My Neighbourhood' and follow the links for your area.

And why not follow us on twitter@lbp\_police

The Safer Neighbourhood Team

**LIGHTS TO GO OUT DURING EARTH HOUR 2013**

ON Saturday 23rd March at 8.30pm, thousands of people across Scotland will join millions around the world in turning off their lights for one hour in a huge, symbolic show of support for action on climate change and for a more sustainable future.

In 2012 over 7000 cities in 152 countries and territories participated by switching their lights off for an hour and organisers, WWF, are hoping that even more individuals, businesses and cities will show their solidarity in 2013.

This year the Council will be turning off lights on some of the city's most iconic buildings and monuments.

Tell the world what you are doing to contribute to global environmental change at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) Sign up, tell Scotland that you are taking part and plot yourself on the interactive map of Earth Hour 2013 support at [www.earthhour.wwf.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.earthhour.wwf.org.uk/get-involved)

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**CHRISTIAN AID FUND RAISING:**

Nearly £1000 was raised at the Annual Christmas Carol Service for local churches, held at St Mark's on 16th December.

The annual Burns Supper held in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall on 19th January raised £1200.

**A LIST** of organisations that offer a variety of free and low-cost goods to community groups can be found on the Portobello Community Council website [www.portobellocc.org](http://www.portobellocc.org)

**COASTAL FLOOD WARNING:**

SEPA has launched a new Coastal Flood Warning Service for Portobello Promenade, and Granton and Leith. For more information see [www.sepa.org.uk/flooding](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding) or [www.floodlinescotland.org.uk](http://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk)

**MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.**

The National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, is holding various events to celebrate this. Details can be found at [www.nls.uk/events](http://www.nls.uk/events) or by phoning 623 3734.

**THE 45 BUS:**

This recently introduced popular route runs from Queen Margaret University, via Eastfield, Portobello, Meadowbank, North Bridge, Tollcross, Juniper Green and Currie to Heriot Watt Univ. at Riccarton. Monday to Friday only. For the timetable see [www.lothianbuses.com](http://www.lothianbuses.com)

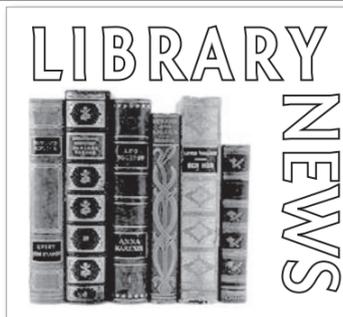
**HOUSEHOLD WASTE:**

The Council will no longer pick up any extra bags of waste beside bins, or empty bins if the lid cannot be shut. Any households that do this will have their bin tagged, advising them why.

**LIDL**

plan to open a store on the old Landrover garage site at Wakefield Ave/Inchview Terrace.

WHAT better time to visit your library than on World Book Day, which is on Thursday 7th March this year. To celebrate, we will hold a special story time on the day, and children and teenagers will be able to enter our prize draw by completing our book quizzes. We aren't saying what the prizes are as yet, but they may well be book related!



World Book Night this year is on Tuesday April 23rd and we are very excited that three staff members at Portobello Library have signed up as book givers and intend to give away their books at the library. Hopefully all three will be selected and we will have three very different titles to give away on the night. We have also signed up as a collection point for anyone who would find it convenient to pick up their books at the library. You can find more information on World Book Night at [www.worldbooknight.org](http://www.worldbooknight.org)

The Easter school holidays start on 22nd March this year and finish on 8th April. Please remember that we only run one Wednesday Rhymetime over school holiday periods instead of the usual two, and that this is at 10.30am. We will be running two Easter Craft activities for children over Easter at 2pm on Thursday 28th March and Friday 5th April. For more information on what is on in the library over Easter, check out our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary)

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to get into the library? Do you know someone who is? We might be able to help you with this. We have a fortnightly service that will bus you in for books, a cup of tea, and a chat. We can also deliver books to your home. If you are interested, give us a call on 529 5558.

Laura Rennie will be displaying her photography in our gallery between 4th and 23rd March. If you are interested in displaying your work in our gallery area contact Paul or Lesley on 529 5558 or 5559; it is generally well booked in advance, so book early to avoid disappointment.

The Portobello Library Book Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month, and we will be discussing the following books:  
 5th March – *Are You My Mother* by Alison Bechdel  
 2nd April – *The Museum of Innocence* by Orhan Pamuk  
 7th May – *Gilispie and I* by Jane Harris  
 All books will be available from the library. If you are interested ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson

## COMEDY NIGHT HILARITY

THE headline act at Portobello's bi-monthly Comedy Night on 8th February at Mum's Cafe and Lounge at the Indoor Bowls Centre was Vladimir McTavish, a grown-up 'Oor Wullie' in a shiny suit. His hilarious act included stories about his bad experiences with a certain Irish airline.

Steven Davidson, 'The Joppa Japester', was on great form as Compere and at one point had the whole room on their feet playing rock, paper, scissors. Bemoaning the fact that there were no celebrities at the gig, he found a look-alike 'Harold' from Neighbours and a 'Patrick Stewart' and intro-

duced them instead.

John Gavin, a previous Scottish Comedian of the Year, replaced the advertised comedienne. This six-foot tattooed man had the audience in fits at his tales of life with his wife and three small daughters.

Special Guest, Sean Percival was really entertaining. Coming from the same town as Lenny Henry, he had many jokes about Lenny and his liking for Premier Inn Hotels. Les Sinclair, 'The Muckle Viking' from Shetland rounded off a great night, and I will definitely be going back to the next one on 12th April.

Kathleen Byron

## BILL DOUGLAS COMMEMORATED

TO mark the 40th anniversary last year of local director Bill Douglas's release of his iconic film 'My Childhood', which was set and filmed in Newcraighall, a six-foot sculpture titled A Place of Dreams was installed at Newcraighall Station. The sculpture was presented to Scotrail by Kinghorn based artist Kenny Munro.

A weeping silver birch tree was later planted nearby by Peter Jewell, Chairman of the Bill Douglas Centre at Exeter University, who performed the ceremony at the invitation of The Rotary Club of Portobello (RCP) who provided the tree. The club has also provided two rowan trees to further enhance the setting of this eye-catching sculpture.

At the tree planting ceremony, Bill Thomson, Community Relations Officer of the club, said: "RCP has been associated with this on-going project at Newcraighall Station for nearly four years now and is delighted that Scotrail has afforded RCP, Craigmillar Arts and Newcraighall Primary School the opportunity to enhance the amenity of the station for the benefit of the community". The project is part of Scotrail's 'Adopt a Station' initiative which now encompasses 150 stations all over Scotland.

The Rotary Club of Portobello meets at the Kings Manor Hotel on Wednesdays at 6pm for 6.30pm, when proceedings begin with an excellent meal. Visitors are always guaranteed a warm welcome. For further information see [www.portobellorotary.com](http://www.portobellorotary.com)

## HELP NEEDED IN THE GARDEN?

LOCAL charity Edinburgh Garden Partners work with people who have gardens but are unable to maintain them, due perhaps to poor physical/mental health or lack of time or knowledge. It helps to find a gardener from its bank of volunteers, the garden owner receives the help needed, and the volunteer is allocated a space to grow vegetables and/or soft fruits. Both often share the fresh food and, in time, may share good times in and around the garden. The benefits also include increasing fitness, gaining gardening knowledge, decreasing social isolation and better-connecting communities.

The charity has 30 partnerships in Edinburgh, with others looking for both gardens and volunteers. For more information call 220 5067 or email [info@edinburghgardenpartners.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghgardenpartners.org.uk)

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### Testing Times

**LATELY** I've been tense with exam nerves, and I'm not even sitting them! I'm just observing my studious children from a safe distance, trying to be supportive whilst not getting too close in case I get my head bitten off, or suffer some other nasty injury.

I'm not sure I am much help when it comes to Pythagoras's Theorem, but I do make sure there is always a good supply of chocolate biscuits at hand to sustain them through the "Mum I can't do this" days.

It's probably never advisable to come out with trite phrases like "fail to prepare, prepare to fail" - that's just asking for trouble. In fact, the only thing I can do is make sure I know the exam timetable back-to-front so that everybody turns up for their exams on the right day at the right time.

Of course it wouldn't be advisable either to draw attention to my own exam experiences. I don't want to give them nightmares, especially if I were tell them about the time my entire class failed 'O' Grade Geography because, for a whole year, our teacher forgot he was there to teach us, not drink tea in the store cupboard. I vividly remember turning over the paper and my heart sinking because I hadn't even heard of a synoptic chart, let alone a misfit stream, and my Snoopy mascot was no help. All I can say is, thank goodness for BBC Bitesize, but I have to resist saying "you don't know you're born. In my day..."

**WHAT** a wonderful Wassailing we had at the Community Orchard on Saturday 26th January when over 40 people gathered to sing and bless the trees in order to bring good luck and fruitfulness for the coming year. The ceremony can take many forms, sometimes being carried out at night, but it is intended to waken the trees from their winter slumber and marks the first fertility festival in the folk calendar.

Whilst this festival is more associated with the west country of England, we had our own slant on the celebration, especially with some of the songs, often sung in canons, as we gathered round the bonfire or processed around the various trees in the orchard. In particular our own Donkeyfield Orchard song, written by PEDAL member Jane Lewis, is a favourite. The cleverly arranged words of the song are apple varieties, all of which have been planted in the orchard, and the more we sang it the more the spirits of the trees were roused.

Other rites involve tying bread and coloured ribbons to the branches along with pouring cider at the base of the trees. We look forward to a bountiful year, although a warm spring, plenty of sunshine and little wind to blow the apple blossom off the trees might also help.

It was heartening to see the large number of children who came and made their own games or took great delight in stoking the bonfire and toasting marshmallows. The cold put no-one off from thoroughly enjoying the day, and offerings of spiced apple juice and traditional home baking (this time not to the trees) refreshed everyone. Look out for the work days on the last Saturday of the month from 10am until 2pm, or simply pay the orchard a visit; the entrance is opposite Brunstane Station. All are welcome and maybe we'll see you there.

Also creating a stir it would seem, is the research being done at Queen Margaret University on Portobello honey, which seems to indicate that the various anti-microbial properties of our honey are very similar to those of the famed Manuka honey. Not all honey, certainly not the treated kind, contains these properties and calls have been received from around the world enquiring about what our bees have produced. Unfortunately we do not produce enough yet for this to be available in the local shops but who knows?

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

## SUSTAINABLE PARTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



**ORGANISE** your seeds into sowing times and whether they need to be started off in the warmth or not. I also have a separate compartment for seeds to be sown a pinch every two weeks, such as lettuce, with a reminder to do so on the fridge door, otherwise it's easy to forget. This ensures a good constant supply.

A windowsill is a good place for seedlings if you don't have a greenhouse; if they stretch towards the light, put a mirror or piece of aluminium foil behind the containers and turn them every few days. Seeds started in this way still need to be hardened off, a process that should not be rushed and takes a few weeks. A cold frame of some sort provides cover for the in-between stage and can be made out of anything, such as an old cardboard suitcase or wooden drawer with a sheet of plastic or glass over. Even after planting out beware of frost and have net curtains and clothes pegs to hand for cover. A frost in May at 2am will easily undo your hard work.

I make nettle and comfrey liquid tea in spring to feed plants in the summer, when they may need it. As soon as there are enough leaves, fill a bucket, cover them with water and steep for a few weeks; it's smelly but a great use of nettles. Or you could make them into soup in a similar way to watercress soup; with a swirl of cream added, it's very nutritious. I use the nettle tea on plants that need a boost of growth, and the comfrey tea for tomatoes and anything that needs a boost for fruiting or flowering.

Weeding is another springtime job that is worth doing really well; it repays the effort with some extra spaces for those newly hardened-off plants or for sowing some hardy annuals. If you're short of space for a compost heap, weed an area as big as you can, but a minimum of about 30cm square, dig down 30cm and put the annual weeds in, cover with a few layers of newspaper and top with the remaining soil. Do not bury perennial weeds like couch grass, bindweed or dandelions, but immerse these in a bucket of water until a gloopy mess and empty out where you'd place a mulch. Newspapers are great, too, for putting on the compost heap scrunched up, especially if you have lots of grass clippings. This keeps the woody to nitrogenous ratio balanced and stops the heap from being too wet. Let's hope I'll be advising hosing the compost this summer!

By the way, just in case we have another damp summer and get blight warnings again, try not to tend tomatoes after potatoes, or vice versa. Use tap water instead of water-butt water for tomatoes and don't splash the leaves. Maybe too techy? - But you can get an app to warn of blight...

## RECIPE:

### CHEAT'S STUFFED TOMATOES

4 beefsteak tomatoes, 1 packet express tomato and Italian herb risotto, garlic and herb cream cheese (individual portions or 200g pack), dried oregano, 25g butter, seasoning, optional fresh basil.

Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas Mark 5.

Slice the top of each tomato to make a lid and scoop out the seeds, lightly season the insides and add a little oregano and butter to each. Stuff the tomatoes with the prepared risotto and add a portion or 50g of cheese and top with lid. Bake for 25 minutes until golden and bubbling. Sprinkle with chopped basil and serve.

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# MAY KRAUSE: THE WONDER GIRL ON SKATES



AT 13 years old, May Krause was Scotland's youngest professional skater and had also won a National Skating Association (NSA) silver medal. This Portobello girl would later be described as 'The Wonder Girl on Skates'.

Born on 8th May 1923 at 8 Southfield Place, May Isabella Krause skated from an early age and was coached by Mr A E Morris, described as a "noted international skating tutor", at Haymarket Ice Rink. In a newspaper interview when she was aged 15, May said that she was

training hard to win the NSA gold medal. She was also touring with the St Moritz Ice Spectacle Company who were appearing at the King's Theatre. The company toured for a year, visiting England, Ireland and Wales but only had two Scottish dates, in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. "This week I'll have a little audience all of my own, for my Mum, Dad and Grannie are coming to see me", she said. "I'll be more worried about pleasing them than anybody else."

May was also skilled on roller skates. She appeared

at The Gliderdrome, Kidderminster where, in an undated programme, she was described as 'an acrobatic skater of great skill'. Glider skating was described thus: 'This fascinating pastime has now become the most popular indoor sport in the British Isles, and new Rinks are continually opening throughout the country'. The Gliderdrome was described as 'the Brightest Spot in Kidderminster, with its Wonderful Polished maple floor, Special lighting effects, comfortable seating for spectators,

Stan Tipper's well known Dance band provides music each evening'.

In a programme dated 16th January 1940, a Grand Cabaret was advertised, with 'A Host of Stars' including May Krause, 'England's Finest Acrobatic Skater, who can also Tap Dance. Come up to see her this time!' H.M. Forces in uniform were admitted free to this cabaret. The Gliderdrome was later converted to a dance hall.

In a Grand Celebrity Concert in the Regal Cinema, Musselburgh on

23rd March 1941, May appeared on the same bill as Sir Harry Lauder. She was described as 'The Wonder Girl on Skates'. Female performers dominated this bill, with others including Ella Wilson, 'The Whistling Girl Accordionist' and Lillian Martin, 'The Girl with the Guitar'. The concert was in aid of Local War Charities.

May returned to Haymarket Ice Rink as an instructress and the *Edinburgh Evening News* dated 22nd November 1949 had a photo of her 'guiding Miss Muriel McGarrol in a "spiral" during an opening session of the East of Scotland Figure Skating Club's competition for the Dundas Trophy at Haymarket Ice Rink last night'.

The NSA has few pre-war records and is unable to confirm if May did win her gold medal. Nevertheless, May was obviously a talented ice and roller skater and had successful careers as a performer and instructress.

Margaret Munro.

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## HAPPY MEMORIES

WEDDING dresses, christening robes and photographs will be exhibited in Portobello Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street, followed by a reception in the Hall on Saturday 11th May from 10am-4pm, all are welcome.

Brides who were married in Windsor Place Church or the Old Parish Church have kindly lent their dresses for the exhibition. Robes of babies christened in either church will also be displayed. Come and share the memories of those happy days over many years of the churches' history.

Look out for posters with more information.

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## COMMUNITY CONNECTING

**PLACES** for People Scotland Care and Support, in partnership with Volunteer Centre Edinburgh, are providing a free, council-funded Community Connecting service for people aged 65 and over in Southeast and Northwest Edinburgh who have become, or are at risk of becoming, socially isolated. It aims to support people who might otherwise be wrongly allocated longer-term support, but are still able and, with support, motivated to reconnect to places and activities they once enjoyed or to discover new skills and talents.

A community connector will match anyone who is referred with a volunteer for a period of four months, the aim being that they will then feel able to proceed independently, with renewed confidence and new friends.

If you know of anyone who might benefit, or would like more information, please call 558 3728 or email [community.connecting@placesforpeople.co.uk](mailto:community.connecting@placesforpeople.co.uk)

If you could volunteer for a minimum of two to three hours a week for four months, please contact Gwen James on 225 0630 or [gwen.james@volunteercentreedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:gwen.james@volunteercentreedinburgh.org.uk) You will receive a free PVG check and be fully trained. All expenses will be reimbursed.

## DUDDINGSTON EASTER PLAY

ON Easter Sunday, 31st March, the picturesque gardens of 12th century Duddingston Kirk will be the setting for an open-air performance of the Easter play *To the Cross*. Theatre Alba will lead you on an emotional journey as you become part of the crowd following Jesus of Nazareth during his last few days on Earth. The play is performed by 10 professional actors with around 40 adults and children from the local community in supporting roles. This promenade performance of *To the Cross* will make its way through Duddingston Village and back to the tranquil garden for the final crucifixion and resurrection scenes. The performance is free, but booking is essential as there is a limited capacity of 1000. To book call David Fleming 661 2598 or e-mail [info@no25.co.uk](mailto:info@no25.co.uk) For more information see [www.duddingstoneasterplay.weebly.com](http://www.duddingstoneasterplay.weebly.com)



Photo by Phil McCrossan

IT'S Spring - hurrah! And what better way to shake off the winter blues than to come try out some of the activities on your doorstep at your local Community Centre - Porty Wash House!

For the young and sporty we have Enjoyaball and Soccer Academy, for the adults we have Zumba and Badminton, and for the elders Gentle Exercise. For the arty amongst you we have both a daytime and evening Art Class. For the musical, Fun Fiddle runs both children's and adult classes. For the technologically challenged we run a Computer class. For the canine challenged our Puppy and Dog Training classes are very popular! Our Junior Youth Club meets every Tuesday evening, Seniors on Thursdays. Our Youth Theatre holds three different age group sessions, P1-3, P4-7 and Seniors every Saturday.

Would you like to sing out in Porty? We hope to begin both daytime and evening Singing groups. Don't worry if you've only ever sung in the shower - we're not looking for next X Factor winner! All you need is enthusiasm and a love of singing. You'll learn harmonies for a range of songs from pop to folk to world music, all performed in a light-hearted atmosphere. At the moment we're assessing how many might be interested, so please do get in touch via our contact details below.

And ending on a musical note, there will be a benefit show by The Stoned Holy Rollers Les Bof! - for Towerbank Parent Staff Association and the Toddler Hut at the Wash House, April 13th from 6pm till 11.30pm, tickets £8. Then on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd June we will host a Community Ceilidh in collaboration with The Belle Star Band and Fun Fiddle, so dust off your dancing shoes and find the spring in your step!

As usual you can contact us on 0131 669 8275, drop by at 3 Adelphi Grove, check out our website [www.portobellocc.org.uk](http://www.portobellocc.org.uk) or join our Facebook page, 'Porty Wash House'.

Sooz Scott Glen, Chairperson



## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE 2012 Greetings Cards Campaign in December was presented to three classes of Portobello High School and featured at the Human Rights Day stall in the High Street.

There was also an opportunity for people to participate in the Old Parish Church Hall, and among those who took this up were Cllr Maureen Child, Brenda Molony from *The Portobello Reporter*, Kenny MacAskill MSP and Sheila Gilmore MP. In all, 173 cards of cheer and comfort were sent to victims of human rights abuses in China, USA and Egypt, while appeal letters were sent on behalf of more than 12 people featured in Amnesty's Campaign brochure.

Links with Portobello High School teachers involved in running an Amnesty Young People's Group at the school will be further developed this year.

The Letter-writing sub-group, which proved so worthwhile last year, will meet again on Wednesday 6th March at 7.15pm in the Dalriada Bar, and thereafter on the first Wednesday of April and May, for about an hour. Anyone interested in this can just drop in.

Our stall offering opportunities to support human rights in particular ways will appear again at the Portobello Market in Brighton Park at the beginning of April and May.

Our local Amnesty Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in Portobello Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street. Why not come along and visit - You will be very warmly welcomed.

David Turner

## FILM 2013 AT THE WASH HOUSE

POD and the Wash House Community Centre are looking to start screening films in 2013. If you are interested in film and would like to help with this project then they would love to hear from you. Please get in touch by email to [info@the-pod.org](mailto:info@the-pod.org) or find Portobello Open Door on Facebook.

## BOOK COMPETITION

THE winner of our Winter Issue book competition was Ian Wilson, who gave the correct answer "John Hamilton" to the question "Who was Hibs substitute when they beat Hearts 7-0 on New Year's Day 1973?"

Ian is seen here receiving a copy of *The Game on New Year's Day, Hearts 0 Hibs 7* from author, Ted Brack.



Photo by Stuart Wilson

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### 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](mailto:michael.bridgman@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:

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

or mob 07718666481 or email [maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
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### Cllr DAVID WALKER, Labour:

1st and 3rd Mondays in March;  
2nd and 4th in April and May at Magdalene Community Centre, 5.30-6.15pm and at 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](mailto:david.walker1@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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## ST JOHN'S PUPILS SING AT USHER HALL

ON Saturday 9th February, St John's Primary School Choir performed at the Usher Hall in the Lord Provost's People's Concert: A Little Book of Monsters. This was part of a family day which was full of monster-inspired events, music workshops, storytelling, magicians, balloon-sculpting and more. The choir, which is made up of 30 P5, P6 and P7 pupils, was supported by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The school felt it was a real honour to be part of this event and that the choir had done it great credit.

## MORE TOYS AT LIBRARY

THE Toy Library, upstairs at Portobello Library, is open from 10-11.30am every Monday, including school holidays. It is a nice place for parents and toddlers to play, have a snack and a cup of tea, and all the toys can be borrowed. If you haven't been for a while, you will find some new things to play with. To further increase the selection, donations of any toys your babies and toddlers have outgrown will be gratefully received.

## NEW LINKS WITH TANZANIA



Photo by Mike Knox

THE young people of Portobello have formed strong links with their Commonwealth partners and the links are getting stronger. Mike Knox, local resident and former Deputy Head at Holyrood High School, has recently returned after a three month visit to Africa developing further partnerships between Scottish and Tanzanian schools.

Towerbank Primary School has just begun a partnership with Msufini Primary School in the foothills of Kilimanjaro. Msufini is next door neighbour to Legho Primary

School, which has a long-standing partnership with St John's. Suzanne Gilhooley, a teacher at Towerbank, visited Msufini during the February break. The Royal High Primary School also begins a partnership with Maua Primary in July.

All the schools are part of the Twende Pamoja family of friendships. Twende Pamoja means Let Us Walk Together. For more information see [www.twendepamoja.org.uk](http://www.twendepamoja.org.uk) or [www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com](http://www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com) to find out more about Suzanne's and Mike's adventures.

## REV. ANDREW PATTERSON RETIRING



Photo by Alex McDonald

and served on various local committees, including the Community Council.

Four years ago Andrew married Jeannie, who the congregation were delighted to welcome into their midst. He now also has two lovely grandchildren.

Andrew's other passion is following in the footsteps of the early pilgrims. He has led groups from our three Church of Scotland congregations to Inchcolme and Lindisfarne, and leads an annual pilgrimage from Wigton to Whithorn. In retirement he plans to go to Luss on Loch Lomond to help the minister develop the 'Green Pilgrimage', a world-wide alliance of major religions and conservation and part of the WWF. Luss is the Scottish Centre.

During his time in our midst Andrew has touched and influenced many lives and made many friends. He and Jeannie will go with our love and best wishes for their future.

Alex McDonald

ON Sunday 7th June Rev. Andrew Patterson will step down as Minister of Portobello Old Parish Church, having served the seven years of his appointment,

Andrew came to us shortly after the death of his wife, Elizabeth, in 2005. Having lived a fairly Spartan life aboard his barge 'The Cuddy' for three years, moving into a seven-room manse was quite a change, but he quickly turned his front garden into a vegetable patch, and became a familiar sight around the parish on his electrically powered bike.

In addition to his normal pastoral duties, Andrew has organised art exhibitions in the church, been Chaplain to Towerbank Primary School,

## 'LOSE THE LITTER'

PUPILS at Portobello High School, Holy Rood High, Craigmount High, Leith Academy and Queensferry High are taking part in a pilot project to wipe out littering in their neighbourhoods. The 'Lose the Litter' project is being delivered by Changeworks' Waste Education Services, with funding from Zero Waste Scotland. The three-month project runs until the end of March.

Each school's eco-team has been conducting litter audits and attending workshops and assemblies about preventing litter. They then have to create an action plan and put it into practice, with support from Changeworks. They will also measure their success, with help from their local environmental wardens.

The school that demonstrates the greatest improvement locally will be awarded £1,000 for their eco-team to use for other green initiatives.

## FREE YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENT

THERE will be lots of free activities for S1's to S6's at Meadowbank Sports Centre on Friday 8th March from 6.30-9pm. They will include football on new 3G outdoor pitches, Zumba, Sha Bam, head massage, SUMO Suits, Speed Shot and Twilight Basketball.

Just go along, and vote on what you do and don't like and maybe have a say in future decisions. For more information e-mail: [liz.wilson@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:liz.wilson@ea.edin.sch.uk)

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## MINI RUGBY FOR P2s

PORTOBELLO RFC are currently fielding rugby teams from Primary 3 through to Under 18 level, but with the better spring weather approaching the club are recruiting for the Micros, their P2 age group rugby. New players and coaches at this level would be welcome.

The Portobello Hornets, for players aged 7-12, can sometimes be seen training on Portobello beach which Fraser McGowan, the Mini Rugby Convenor, describes as: "Our own 'all weather' surface". Their season runs from August to May. "Players gain a great deal of confidence by playing rugby and get the opportunity to make friends and play sport in a structured, disciplined and safe environment," said Fraser.

The club competes for trophies and medals and visits other clubs in and around Edinburgh, Lothian and the Borders. All



Photo by Fraser McGowan

their coaches are SRU qualified and combine match playing with the longer-term development of the young players. The club has appointed a child protection officer and all coaches undergo annual disclosure checks.

The Hornets play at Cavalry Park which is the home of Portobello FP RFC. The Hornets train there on Sundays at 11am and at Holyrood High School on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm.

If your child is interested in giving it a try, contact Fraser at [mccowans@virginmedia.com](mailto:mccowans@virginmedia.com) or 0754 999 4584.

## THERE'S SNOW STOPPING ROWPORTY

ROWPORTY have been out on the water all through the winter, with sessions every Saturday to improve fitness, stamina and technique, and more social rowing on Sundays. Some hardy souls take a skiff out at 7.30am on Thursday mornings and there were even rowers out on New Year's Day!

*Icebreaker*, their original skiff, is in the workshop getting a new rudder and footrests fitted, and newly-honed oars. The other skiff, *Jenny Skylark*, goes into the workshop next.

The annual winter social, a Burns Supper on 25th January, raised over £400. "This is a great event. It lets everyone have a chat, socialise, dance and generally see each other without 20 layers of thermals", said club member Emma Griffiths. "The winter socials have been great in meeting our expenses for wood, life-jackets, petrol for the generator and people to tow the boats to regattas etc."

The club is looking forward to the World Championships in Ullapool in July and selected their teams on 6th February, so they can train together and maximise their potential.

Kathleen Byron

## PROMATHON 2013

315 runners participated in the 26th Annual 4 mile Portobello Promathon. The winner was Ross Matheson, Lasswade AC, in 19min 34sec; second, John Newsom, Central AC, 19.58; third, Thomas Adams, Ilkley Harriers, 20.16. The fastest woman was Nicola Duncan, Portobello Running Club, 22.30. Full results at [www.scottishathletics.org.uk](http://www.scottishathletics.org.uk)

## ROCK'N'ROLL RUN

THE Rock 'n' Roll Edinburgh Half Marathon attracts around 7,000 runners and walkers. The race will take place on Sunday 14th April at 9.10am, starting and finishing in Holyrood Park. The route goes through Portobello and Duddingston, with road closures and parking restrictions. For more info see [www.uk.competitor.com](http://www.uk.competitor.com)

## IN THE SADDLE

THE winter weather has not deterred Portobello cyclists from their regular Sunday rides with local club Porto-Velo. Founding member Andrew Mylne said: "Turnout has barely dipped, even on snowy days. There have been some Sundays when we've avoided higher ground and minor roads as a precaution, but if you're dressed for it, winter cycling can be fantastic. And the café stops are appreciated all the more when it's freezing outside!"

Sunday rides, which leave from the bandstand at the east end of the Prom, start from the earlier time of 8am from the beginning of March. The club is planning more variety this year, including some longer rides and possibly weekend trips further afield. There will also be family rides and shorter ones for the less experienced. More information on the club website [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com)



Photo by Andrew Mylne

## WATER POLO TEAM OUT OF BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE preliminary rounds of the British Championships in Manchester on 2nd and 3rd February saw the end of Portobello Water Polo Team's hopes of defending last year's win.

They had hoped to defeat Manchester, as they have been evenly matched all season, but were down key players, particularly captain Neilson Rutherford, which contributed to Manchester winning 11-9. They lost to Caledonia 11-10, which again was disappointing, as that team is a mix of players from the rest of Scotland. The last match was against Cheltenham, who have been playing extremely well all season, and defeated Portobello 17-12.

Coach, Alan Anderson said:

"We have had our best season ever in the league, but are disappointed we could not put up a stronger defence of the British Championship." Portobello have played in the British Water Polo League (BWPL) since 2004. The season runs from September till the end of January and a fourth place finish for the team was their best ever.

They will now regroup and work on strategy for next year. They need more training in a regulation-size pool, which will be expensive to hire. Portobello pool is the correct depth, but is too short and narrow.

Portobello have won the Scottish Championships for the last 16 years and also play in the Scottish National League.

## ON THE GREENS

AT the Annual General Meeting of the East Edinburgh Bowling Association held at Portobello Bowling Club on 23rd January, all member clubs were represented.

Fred Nielings of Jessfield BC was appointed as the new President, George Smith of Postal, Vice-President and Kenny Payne of Portobello BC, Secretary. We hope to select a Treasurer in the near future. Anyone interested should apply to the Secretary.

Our first game of the new season will be against Edinburgh and Leith Secretaries at Jessfield in May. We would like to thank McKenzie & Millar and Belhaven Brewery for their support.

Portobello BC welcomes new members and thanks Booker Cash and Carry for sponsoring a Mixed Pairs competition in September.

A Skirving

## WHAT'S ON in Portobello

**COFFEE MORNING/BOOK SALE** for Amnesty: Sat. 2nd March, 10am-12, Old Parish Church Hall. Donations of books, baking and bric-a-brac welcome. You are also invited to "bring and/or buy" a toy. Fun activities with Woodcraft Folk and music.

**COFFEE MORNING** with stalls: Sat. 9th March, 10am-12, Portobello Old Parish Guild. Church Hall, Bellfield St. Entrance £2.

**MALECON MATINEE:** Sun. 17th March; 21st Apr; 19th May. 2-6pm; classes 2pm. Beach Lane Social Club, Portobello. £5/£9 combo.

**MAME:** Wed.20th to Sat.23rd March, 7.30pm. A musical presented by St Philip's Church Drama Group in the church hall, Brunstane Rd North. For tickets at £10 / £5 U-16s and students, call 669 3123.

**CAR BOOT SALES:** (Portobello Rotary Club). Sundays 24th March, 28th April, 26th May. Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am - double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220583 or see [www.portbellorotary.com](http://www.portbellorotary.com)

**JIM GILCHRIST** talk entitled Literary Portobello: Fact, Fiction and a Few Surprises at the Annual General Meeting of Portobello Heritage Trust. 7.30pm, Thurs. 18th April in the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street. All welcome.

**THE PROM ON THE PROM:** Mon.6th May, 2pm. Join the live music train along the Prom, led by Fun Fiddle, with Pathhead street band Kaboodle. All instruments and ages welcome. Meet at the bottom of Figgate St. and join the march to 'The Cake'. For more info. and to sign up, find Fun Fiddle on Facebook or see [www.funfiddle.co.uk](http://www.funfiddle.co.uk)

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** 1st Sat. each month, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Organic fruit, veg, meat and more. For info. or to book a stall contact [info@pedal-party.org.uk](mailto:info@pedal-party.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.

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