

THE Portobello REPORTER

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

ELECTRIC BUNGALOW GARDENERS SHOCKED



Knitted flowers adorn the fence that bars the way to the now demolished Electric Bungalow Garden.

MEMBERS of The Electric Bungalow Community Garden, the volunteer project on the vacant lot in Bath Street, say they were shocked to discover bulldozers levelling the beds they had planted and the pizza oven they had built on Thursday 15th May. The demolition team allowed them to remove their tools but not to save any of their plants or their pizza oven.

The Electric Bungalow group started the project with the aim of transforming the derelict area of land to good use by growing food and hoped to develop a children's education project there in the future.

The group told *The Reporter* that they received verbal permission from the owners to use the land, but that they later denied this and said that they sent an email warning of their intention to bulldoze the site. "Nobody in the group received such an email" Eve Parsons says. As a protest to the handling of the demolition, guerrilla knitters have hung knitted flowers on the fence and the group are encouraging passers-by to draw flowers, with chalk, on the pavement at the site.

Though extremely disappointed at the turn of events, The Electric Bungalow group are looking for a new space to continue the project: "It has been a great project to be involved in and we have learned a lot. The group still exists and we hope it will continue and that more people will join us", says Eve. They will be holding an event on 20th June, to raise funds to cover the cost of the pizza oven and to help restart the project elsewhere. For more information about Electric Bungalow email electricbungalowcg@gmail.com or see Facebook page.

Peter E Ross

QUEEN'S BATON TO PASS THROUGH PORTOBELLO

THE Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay will pass through Portobello and Duddingston as it begins its progress around Scotland in Edinburgh on Saturday 14th June. The baton will be carried from Leith, along the Promenade from west to east, back along Joppa Road and Portobello High Street, then along

Brighton Place and Duddingston Road, before heading out to Newington. The route will include Meadowbank Stadium, which played host to the Commonwealth Games in 1970 and 1986. Details of events planned for the day in Edinburgh will be announced shortly by The City of Edinburgh Council.



Around 200 people attended the community event, arranged by Portobello Heritage Trust, to celebrate the completion of the pottery kiln rebuild. Professor John Hume, Chair of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, cut the ribbon. Dayle Salmon and Dave Martin, the bricklayers who completed the work to a very high standard, travelled from England with their wives to join the celebration. In the photograph are, left to right, Dayle Salmon, Professor Hume, Dr Margaret Munro, Chair of the Trust, Professor Ross Buchan, consultant to City of Edinburgh Council, and Dave Martin.

HAWK AYE THE NOO



EAGLE-EYED building surveyor Nick Watson spotted this wild sparrowhawk trapped behind netting on the eight floor of Portobello High School whilst carrying out a survey of the building. The netting is designed to prevent pigeons from landing on the roof and it appears that the hawk flew straight into it and then couldn't find its way out. The Scottish SPCA were called and after examining the hawk, they found it had suffered some minor injuries to its beak and also had an old injury to its wing that had become infected. It was taken to the SPCA's Wildlife Rescue Centre at Fishcross in Fife for some rest and recuperation.

PIANO MAN HITS A BUM NOTE



BEN Treuhaft, the pensioner who has been camping on Portobello beach since mid-March, relocated his tent and all its contents from outside Portobello Swim Centre to the foot of Jame's Street on 7th May.

Mr Treuhaft, the son of American civil rights lawyer Robert Treuhaft and Jessica, one of the notorious Mitford sisters, attracted considerable attention from the public and press after setting up camp. Initially well within his rights to wild camp under the Land Reform Act Act 2003, he soon exceeded the guidelines for responsible behaviour, which state that wild camping should be 'lightweight ...and only two or three nights in one place'. The tent was pitched in the same spot for in excess of 47 days and contained a piano, trombone, a book case and a sizeable collection of books, a chair, table, pictures and a host of other items, before it was moved. He was also reported to have sold two pianos that he kept in the tent, so was arguably using it as commercial premises.

The Council took court action to evict him and he has appealed after the decision went against him. He was reported in *The Evening News* to have said: "I have now got another 28 days, which is going to be stretched to 28 months or 28 years."

Mr Treuhaft may have supporters but some locals are far from happy. One of those is a resident who lives on the Promenade, close to the tent's initial location who says: "I would welcome a properly organised and managed music installation, but this is noisy, messy and not allowed. It sets a worrying precedent. We need to keep our beach clean, tidy and free from campers."

PORTY PROFILE No. 54 LAWRENCE MARSHALL

LAWRENCE MARSHALL is a familiar figure around Portobello, often seen hurrying from one meeting to another. Lawrence grew up in Montgomery Street and attended Leith Academy Primary School. He won a bursary to George Watson's College and went on to study Psychology at The University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1978.



Photo by Brenda Molony

After a spell of unemployment, Lawrence took a job as a bus conductor in Edinburgh, but was soon made redundant. As his father was a train driver, he decided to try the railways and, in 1982, became a guard on freight trains, mostly running coal from Monktonhall Colliery to Leith Docks. "Some freight trains went round the South Suburban line, and I realised how quickly you could get around the city on it", he says. This led him to campaign for the re-opening of the line, which had closed to passenger trains in the 1960s, and in 1989 the Capital Rail Action Group (CRAG) was formed, of which he is the Chair. "And that", he added, "is how I became involved in the political process, joined the Labour Party and stood for election".

Made redundant again in 1983, Lawrence became a carriage cleaner at Craigenfinny depot, then a passenger guard at Waverley, and by 1990 he was driving trains. He was elected councillor for the Portobello/Milton Ward on Lothian Regional Council in 1994 then, a year later, for the Portobello Ward on the new City of Edinburgh Council. Train driving in addition to council duties became too stressful, so in 1997 Lawrence returned to being a passenger guard, which he still is.

Free travel in Europe is a perk of the job and since the mid-1980s Lawrence has been all over Europe on holiday, "from northern Norway to southern Spain, and from the west coast of Ireland to the Turkish border with Iraq and Iran".

When PR was introduced for council elections in 2007 and he was not re-elected, Lawrence found he had time to do other things. He is Vice-president of the Scottish Association for Public Transport, and is on the Railfuture Scotland Committee and the Board of Transform Scotland (the national alliance for sustainable transport). He is a member of Portobello Community Council, representing Portobello Older People's Project, of which he is treasurer. He was President of Portobello Rotary in 2011-12, chairs the Edinburgh North East District Scout Council, and is on the Board of the local Orcadia Creative Learning Centre. He is also a session clerk at London Road Church of Scotland. A busy man indeed.

Brenda Molony

ON THE BEAT

DURING Police Scotland's first year in the East Neighbourhood area there has been an overall 34% reduction in violent crime, meaning 41 less victims, and a 65% reduction in robbery, with 29 fewer victims. By improving our investigations, we caught 75 more people than last year for common assault, and there were 18 fewer hate crimes in the area, with a 15% improvement in detection. There were 61 drugs supply cases, more than double the previous year, and our focus on this will continue with even more activity to target local dealers.

Crimes of vandalism and theft make up the majority of reported crime in the Portobello area. Unfortunately, despite arrests, bicycle thefts and thefts from garden huts and vehicles continue to occur. In response to this we have deployed extra uniformed and plain-clothed patrols. To assist us we would also appeal to people to take steps to protect their property and remove valuable items from vehicles and other items from open display.

Specific concerns to be addressed throughout the year in the Portobello area were identified during our most recent consultation and are contained within the Craigmillar and Portobello Multi-Member Ward Plan. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, to increase public reassurance within our community and to keep people safe. We will continue to work closely with our partners and find effective long-term solutions to the issues raised by the public.

For information on the Multi-Member Ward Plan visit the Police Scotland website and click on 'Your Community'. We also have a local community policing twitter account @EdinEastPolice that provides information on crime appeals, updates and matters affecting the local community.

The East Community Policing Team

ACTION ON DEMENTIA IN PORTOBELLO

A **NEW** Post Diagnosis Link Worker Service is available to everyone recently diagnosed with dementia in Portobello. The Link Worker offers emotional and practical help, also information on legal and welfare matters. For more information contact your GP, health care professional or social worker.

KEEPING connected to community is key to living well. Yet getting around, shopping and dealing with services are everyday challenges facing people with dementia. The City of Edin-

burgh Council is committed to creating 'dementia friendly communities' with Portobello being one of the first. A steering group is holding information displays in Portobello during Dementia Awareness Week, 2nd-8th June, and an open meeting on 23rd June, at 7.30pm at The Dalriada (meeting room) on the Promenade. People with a diagnosis of dementia and carers will be especially welcomed. For further information contact: Teresa Straczynski, Dementia Advisor, Alzheimer Scotland e-mail: tstraczynski@alzscot.org Tel. 0131 662 1204.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PORTOBELLO PARK BILL: Holyrood's City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Bill Committee published its Consideration Stage Report on 22nd May; all points raised by objectors were dismissed. It can be found at www.scottish.parliament.uk under Current Committees. The Committee is expected to consider any amendments to the Bill at Consideration Stage Phase 2 on 12th June.

THE BAILEYFIELD SITE: The former Scottish Power site at Baileyfield has been acquired by Crudens, the house-builders, in partnership with Aldi. To be recommended for planning consent, their proposals will have to conform to the area Masterplan. A planning application by Lidl for a store on the former Land Rover site at the corner of Wakefield Avenue was refused.

DIG PORTOBELLO: Portobello Heritage Trust is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant for a community archaeological dig in Portobello. The outcome of the application should be known by the end of June. Look out for details locally.

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE Community Council held its first meeting on 10th April, since being re-formed, and wants to build a list of interested groups in the area. Please contact the Secretary: gspearson@btopenworld.com

The Portobello Reporter
is produced by volunteers, with contributions in this issue from 35 local people. If you have something you would like to see in print call **669 3466** or email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com
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Please contact the constituency office for details of additional surgeries or to arrange an appointment *Sheila*

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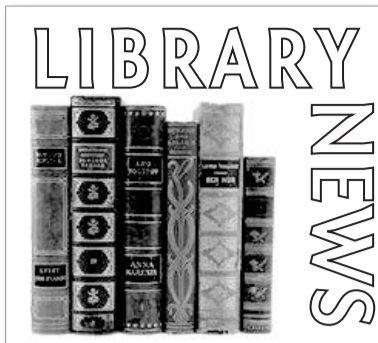
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WE are already planning the annual summer holiday reading challenge and are thrilled to announce that this year's theme will be The Mythical Maze. Children aged four to 11 will be challenged to find their way around a labyrinth that introduces them to fantastical creatures from the world of legend and mythology, collecting stickers of each character along the way. Children who read six books will win a medal and their very own Mythical Maze. We will also be running activities to keep the kids entertained throughout the holidays: craft and lego activities and a computer games competition, and Zoolab will be here with their Myths and Legends animal handling workshop. Ask staff for details or check our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary



We are proud to announce that the library is now running a monthly Spanish Language Rhymetime, when Spanish and non-Spanish speaking babies and toddlers are invited to learn and enjoy rhymes and songs. Come along at 10.30am on the last Tuesday of the month and you'll get a big ¡Hola! from us all. Our popular Rhymetimes continue, with half an hour of rhymes and songs for up to four-year-olds and their parents/carers, at 10.30 and 11.30am on Wednesdays and 11.30am on Saturdays.

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 into the library 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.

Our book group meets in the library on the first Tuesday of every month. The next books are:

- 3rd June, *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara Kingsolver.
- 1st July, *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett.
- 5th August, *The Waiting* by Regi Claire.
- 2nd September, *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson.

All books are available from the library; please ask for details.

We also have a teenage book group on the last Thursday of every month, and a Chatterbooks children's book group for eight to 12-year-olds, every third Saturday. If you would like to come please ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, PORTOBELLO AND JOPPA

A UNION has been proposed between St. James', Old Parish and St. Philip's. This new congregation will seek to build on the past, maintain and develop what is currently of benefit to our parishes, but also embrace new models of church. A team from the three congregations used seven agreed criteria to formulate a proposal. Our leadership teams voted on this proposal on 26th May and congregations will vote on 15th June.

The potential effect on the community is recognised and, indeed, members of our team have already visited Portobello Community Council to update and to listen. Informal conversations with organisations and community groups have taken place. We will do all we can to ensure that the decisions made are the best possible for the churches and the community. If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch by email to stewartweaver@btinternet.com

Rev. Stewart Weaver, St Philip's Church

ROTARY CELEBRATE 60 YEARS

SIXTY years ago, The Rotary Club of Edinburgh sponsored a new Rotary club to serve the district of Portobello. An inaugural meeting and dinner was held on 11th September 1953 for 28 founder members, and on 10th February 1954 the Charter was presented to President Robert A Scott at the Charter Dinner.

On 7th February this year, the Rotary Club of Portobello (RCP) celebrated the 60th anniversary with another Charter Dinner, with partners and guests, when the principal speaker was Kenny MacAskill

MSP.

Over 60 years RCP has raised thousands of pounds for charities and projects, which currently include the 'adoption' of Newcraighall Station, a monthly charity car-boot sale and several youth activities. RCP is part of Rotary International, the world's largest service organisation, whose international projects include the world eradication of polio.

The club meets in The Kings Manor Hotel each Wednesday at 6pm for 6.30pm. Visitors, male and female, are always welcome.

Bill Thomson

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

PORTOBELLO Community Council's role is to be a voice for residents and business owners on matters of significant community interest and that means gathering opinions on a diverse range of issues. Our recent consultation regarding dogs on the beach received more than 600 responses, possibly a record for Portobello Community Council and undoubtedly a significant response on a local issue.

We've also run three consultations in ScotMid, gathered views on a proposed pedestrian crossing for Abercorn Terrace and raised awareness of consultations on policing priorities, community empowerment, proposed school holiday changes, Edinburgh's parks manifesto and a host of other issues.

Your views are important, so please keep in touch via our website: www.portobellocc.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil or Twitter: @portobellocc

We also have an email mailing list, which you can join at www.portobellocc.org/maillinglist.php

If you're not online, PCC meetings are open to the public and future dates include June 30th and August 25th. Our next Scot-Mid consultation is on Saturday, 14th June, and you can write to us at 14 Rosefield Avenue, Portobello EH15 1AU.

Geoff Lynn, Chair, PCC

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Moving Day

IT will be 15 years in June since we moved into our house. I can remember the exact date because it was the day my daughter was born and that's not the kind of day you easily forget. She was born a week early at 5.15am, and by 7.45am my husband was driving back to our old flat to meet the removal men who were waiting for him when he arrived. He hadn't had any sleep and remembers switching to autopilot to cope with the arrival of a beautiful new daughter and moving house, all within the space of three hours.

You may think we could have foreseen how the two major events might clash, as babies have a way of showing up when they are ready, with no regard for bridging loans and moving dates. Our new house was a wreck and had no hot water, kitchen or central heating, let alone a cosy nursery.

But 15 years on, it's been plumbed, painted and extended and generally dragged into the 21st century, and my daughter is choosing paint colours to update her room. She's hoping to have it finished in time for her 15th birthday and is planning everything meticulously. Fortunately for her, she hasn't inherited our daft organisational skills, so I know she will succeed. But she still tends to do things in her own time, so if I call her for tea she might just show up in an hour!

LONG-standing supporters of PEDAL will remember that we won a UK-wide funding competition, in partnership with Greener Leith, to help us build a community-owned wind turbine at Seafield.

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

Although the owners of that site, Scottish Water, subsequently pulled out of the deal, we did not give up and are now pleased to say we've secured a new site for the project - four kilometres south west of Inverness. The agreement follows a year of complex negotiations. The land deal gives us exclusive rights to conduct studies at the site and build two wind turbines of up to 800KW(peak) capacity each. Planning permission has also been granted to measure the wind resource at the site.

PEDAL and Greener Leith hope local non-profit groups near to the site will become partners in the project, and are offering them the chance to invest in it and become part-owners. We want this to be a project that brings real environmental and financial benefits, not just to our own communities, but to those where the turbines will be located.

The aim is to submit a full planning application to Highland Council sometime in August. If it gets planning permission, the project could generate an estimated £7m surplus over twenty years, to be distributed between the community groups who invest in the project, including PEDAL and Greener Leith. Find out more at www.pedal-porty.org.uk/energy/wind-project

Closer to home, we are about to launch Street Level PEDAL to encourage local neighbours to get together and share 'stuff' or do other things such as planting trees, bulk-buying of items, car sharing and anything else people think of that could be better done in a group.

This will encourage local-level ideas that work, to be shared with others and adopted if useful to them. It is in the full spirit of a transition town, where we come up with our own ideas, however small, rather than needing to be part of some big initiative. Look out for posters or an announcement on our website soon.

Stephen Hawkins

RECIPE: LEEK AND WENSLEYDALE QUICHE IN ITALIAN RUSTIC PASTRY

2 medium-sized leeks, 150g Wensleydale cheese, 3 eggs, 2tbsp crème fraîche, 150g plain white flour, 50ml olive oil, 50ml luke warm water, paprika, salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat the oven to 180C/375F/Gas Mark 5.

Filling: Chop and sweat off leeks in olive oil, whisk the eggs and creme fraiche and add salt and pepper to taste. Put to one side.

Italian Rustic Pastry: Sieve 150g plain flour in a bowl then make a hollow centre, add all the olive oil and water to the flour, with a little salt. Mix by hand until pastry is smooth and pliable. Roll out on a well-floured board then press it into a well-greased 10in flan tin. Blind bake for 15-20 mins.

Place leeks in pastry case, add egg mix then crumble Wensleydale evenly over mix. Dust with a little paprika then bake for 35 mins. Serve with a mixed salad and potato salad. Can be eaten hot or cold. Ideal for picnics.

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



EVEN if you don't have a pond perhaps your neighbours do, so frogs may come into your garden. If you have space for a pile of logs or prunings they can provide a space for any frogs, which in return will eat slugs and snails. If you like the formal look, put them into a box to make a neat pile; if you prefer the informal, just leave them in a corner or under a bush.

When weeding, do it one way around the garden and then change direction and do it the other way; it's amazing what you miss. If using a hoe, always do it on a dry day, otherwise you will just transplant the weeds. I still practise weed-balling - if I pass a weed or two and don't have the time, energy or inclination to put them on the compost heap, I roll them into a tight little ball and shove it into a dense shrub, where it will rot away over summer and won't be seen.

Anything planted through the summer will need lots of watering, but mulch too. I use a thick layer of wetted newspaper with mulch on top, which has the added bonus of keeping a certain distance between plants until they are established. Plants such as perennials like overcrowding, whereas annuals like to be spread quite thinly; bear this in mind when sowing seeds. Sowing thinly also discourages fungal diseases, giving plants room to breathe.

There is still time to sow some veggies; salads will crop until Christmas if the weather is kind. Home-made cloches are perfect for getting a bit of extra harvest; if you've a small or formal garden make something that looks beautiful; if you have more space then recycling some bricks/wood/glass or plastic can really extend the growing seasons. Pigeons can be a nuisance, so I hang old CDs over the beds.

We mostly cut the grass at the highest setting, so clippings are another great source of mulch spread over a weed-free patch of soil. They soon turn brown and I don't find grass weeds growing in the borders. Spring-flowering shrubs like forsythia, etc. can be pruned now, but leave clematis until after flowering, if required.

Our garden at 39 Nantwich Drive will be open again on 2nd and 3rd August, 2-5pm, entry £1 and concessions, for the charity Garden Organic.

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FROM CLAY PITS TO POPULAR PARK

FIGGATE Park was formally opened on 30th April 1938 by Sir Thomas and Lady Mabel Whitson. But where did the Park come from? The land which is now the Park contained large clay deposits which were excavated to supply clay to the Portobello Brickworks and the pottery. The clay pits flooded in 1907. In 1925, The Scotsman reported that Councillors Whitson and Brown asked the Parks Committee to consider the formation of a public park up the valley of the Figgate Burn. The following year Councillor Whitson asked for consideration of that motion to be delayed. Then all went quiet.

Meanwhile Whitson was working hard. He had been an accountant and, as honorary accountant of the 1902-1904 Scottish National Antarctic Expedition led by William S Bruce, has a headland named after him in the South Orkney Isles. By 1931 Lord Provost Whitson had been knighted.

Then the pace picked up. In 1932 Sir Thomas Whitson wrote: "For many years, people passing Portobello station in the train must have been distressed

by the ugly outlook across the old clay pits below the railway line".

The Council bought the land from the Abercorn Estates for £2,500 in 1934 and started a major clean-up, which involved filling the clay pits, thought to be 70 feet deep, with 'screened refuse'. Some areas were levelled up with ash, trees were planted and the burn dammed and widened to make ponds and islands: the bill for pumping the water out of the clay pits was £200, landscaping came to £1,850 and fencing topped the lot at £2,000.

On 21st December 1937, The Scotsman reported that night skating was in full swing and was to be allowed at Figgate Burn if the ice thickness reached four inches – enough to bear the weight of a crowd. On 30th April 1938 Sir Thomas opened the Figgate Burn Recreation Area, in warm sunshine and mentioned the National Keep Fit Campaign. Councillor Sawers proposed votes of thanks and a bouquet was presented to Lady Whitson by Master Ronald Hay.

Gradually the surrounding area was built



The clay pits, in about 1900, at one end of the overhead cable system which carried the clay from the clay beds to Portobello.

up and Duddingston Primary and the current Portobello High School were built alongside; St John's Primary School had been built in 1924.

The Park became a quietly appreciated but almost secret haven for the community, but has not been without threats. In 1948 the Council sought permission from the Abercorn Estates to build "school dining accommo-

dation" in the corner at the end of Hamilton Terrace. For which school and how big is still to be discovered, but it was not done. In 1959 the Council again asked for permission to build in the Park – on the same site as the abandoned school dining accommodation. As a result six garages appeared, now gone; even today that corner is in mixed ownership. In the last decade or so there

have been proposals to build car parking around the Air Training Corps Hut and murmurings about sites for schools.

Today, the Park has a Facebook page, an unending stream of walkers, dogs, bikes, scooters, runners and wild life experts – there are over 140 different plants growing there. All this through the imagination of an accountant and tons of refuse.

Geoff Pearson

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What's On

CONCERTS: 31st May/6th June, St Mark's Episcopal Church, Portobello High St, 7pm: Edinburgh Renaissance Band, Dalkeith and Monktonhall Colliery Brass Band, Portobello High School cello ensemble and Sally Simpson, the Philomusica of Edinburgh, the Honest Singers and Capital Ensemble. Tickets £5, at the door. For more information, see www.stmarksportobello.org or tel.629 1219.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: Sat.7th June, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Organic fruit, veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks etc. For more information or to book a stall, contact portobello.market@live.co.uk Next dates: 5th July, 2nd Aug.

SUMMER FAIR: Sat.14th June, 2pm, Queen's Bay Lodge, Milton Rd East (opp. Kings Manor). Teas, burgers, ice cream, tombola, raffle, guess the weight, face painting, children's games, stalls. Free entry - inside if wet. For info: 669-2828 or queensbay@crossreach.org.uk

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY AGM with guest speaker Dr Andrew Brownlow, Director of The Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, who will give an illustrated talk: *A Whale Tale. Stranded Cetaceans in the Firth of Forth*. Wed. 18th June, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. All welcome.

NATURE WALK: Sun. 22nd June, 1pm, around Figgate Park, organised by the Friends of the park with Buglife, a nature conservancy group. Entrance £2 per person/ £5 for a family group. Further details from billredmond67@hotmail.com

CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sundays 29th June, 27th July and 31st August in Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220583 or see www.portobellorotary.com

AFTERNOON DANCING: ballroom, sequence, line dancing, to the sound of Duncan McBain, Weds/Fridays, 1.30-4pm, St James Church Hall, Rosefield St, £2.50 including refreshments.

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Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:
Portobello Library, most Mondays, at 7pm. To check availability or make a different appointment, call 529 3268 or mob 07718666481 or email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk Receive regular Reports by email or view on www.porty.org.uk

Cllr DAVID WALKER, Labour:
2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Magdalene Community Centre, 5.30-6.15pm
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

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE annual Coffee Morning and Book Stall held in March, with the support of The Woodcraft Folk, raised £524.47. This enabled the Group to send £600 for the work of Amnesty worldwide. The Caleerie Buskers played a much appreciated selection.

The Wool Against Weapons workshop at the event contributed to the target of seven miles of knitted sections to be assembled and displayed from Aldermaston to Burghfield in August, as witness to the need for nuclear disarmament. A section will stretch along the Royal Mile on 28th June, but help is still needed - please contact Jane on 0131 669 5591.

Our stall at Portobello Market in April featured Norma Cruz, founder of a refuge in Guatemala for women victims of violence who is now, herself, at risk of attack. A petition asking Guatemala authorities to give her adequate protection was signed by 112 people.

At our stall in June we will make available to the public the 'Rights Referendum' being promoted by Amnesty Scotland. The organisation takes no stance on the independence question, but will highlight four major issues that need to be addressed during the period of debate.

A delegation from the group met Sheila Gilmore MP in April to discuss two issues, which she agreed to raise with Government figures: Women Human Rights Defenders in Afghanistan; and the need for safeguarding rules in respect of the deportation of failed asylum seekers, at every stage of the process - there is evidence of abuse of vulnerable people in the current system.

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month in Portobello Old Parish Church hall at 7pm. Visitors are very welcome.

David Turner

BAPTIST CHURCH RE-INVIGORATED

FOR almost 100 years, 189 Portobello High Street has been home to the Baptist Church. After some years of decline, there are signs of new life and activity, evidenced by a growing attendance at the 11am Sunday Service and Kids Space, and Cafe Quench which opens on the second Saturday of each month from 11am to 2pm. This is run on a donations basis and recent beneficiaries have included Haiti Clean Water Project and Amnesty International.

Other new ventures include Celebrate Recovery, a course for anyone struggling with hurt, habit or hang up; and First and Third (from 1-3pm on the first and third Tuesday of the month) which provides a relaxing space, with tea and coffee, in which to play board games, do some art, bring knitting or take advantage of the free wi-fi.

For more information or to speak with the Minister, Andy Scarcliffe, call 657 4847 or email portybab@gmail.com

IT has been another year of growth at the Wash House as we press on with sprucing up for events and activities. All our usual classes continue to inspire: gentle exercise, enjoyaball, dog and puppy training, zumba, rugby tigers, soccer academy, badminton, baby peeps, baby and toddler music groups, fun fiddle, three different art clubs and more. Our language classes now include German and Spanish. Capoeira classes will now run on Friday evenings from 7-8pm.



Junior and Senior Youth Clubs run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings respectively. For a taster of our summer programme for young people, see Summer Beach Bonanza on page eight.

The Street Band run by Jenny Gardner, that you may have seen on the Prom in early May, is now building, with sessions every Monday from 7.30-8.30pm. Some instruments are provided or you can bring your own, and tuition will be given.

POD film nights will be back in the autumn, but in the meantime we're planning some new events for summer and the rest of the year.

If you have an idea, event or activity you'd like a venue for, or want to enquire about any of our activities, please call 0131 669 8275, drop by at 3 Adelphi Grove, check our Facebook page Porty Wash House, or see www.thewashhouse.org Have a great summer!

Sooz Glen, Chair

PORTOBELLO OPEN DOOR

POD Film are taking a break for the summer, after successfully screening nine films between September 2013 and May, but plan to return in the autumn. Thanks to everyone who supported our venture into the world of films. A special thank you to our venue at the Wash House and Popeye's Sandwich Bar for acting as our box office each month, and to Malcolm Thompson for designing our fabulous posters, flyers and tickets. If you haven't made

it along to any of our screenings, we hope to see you in the autumn.

THIS year's Village Show will be held on Sunday 7th September in Rosefield Park. Details of competitions will be posted on our website www.the-pod.org and [Facebook page](#). If you would like to get involved in the Village Show or POD Film screenings, please get in touch by email to info@the-pod.org

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JOPPA TENNIS

JOPPA Tennis Courts are looking good right now, following landscaping work done in April.

Weeds have been removed, walls rebuilt and tons of new gravel laid. Plant pots have been planted up, and are looking great. Membership continues to rise and, of course, this pays for most of the work done.

Our Facebook site is proving popular and most up-to-date information can be found there.

Coaching for children on Friday afternoons will continue throughout June, and it is intended that coaching for most age-groups will continue during the school holidays. Calum, our coach, can be contacted on calumtontennis@gmail.com

Pay and Play starts on Monday 30th June, from 10am-5pm, for the duration of the school holidays. During this time, the courts will be manned and children and adults are most welcome; non-members are also very welcome to come and try it out. Balls and a limited number of racquets are available, so do come along and enjoy this local facility.

A mobile number is available for court bookings. Check [Facebook](#) for details.

We cannot guarantee the sun, but we can offer a warm welcome.

Marjorie Thomas

TANZANIAN TIES THRIVE



Photo by Mike Knox

Pictured from left to right, Alois, Nancy, Hassan, Agripina, Peter, Lightness and Moses visiting Edinburgh from Tanzania.

THERE has been a connection between Portobello and Tanzania for almost 30 years, and the relationships continue to develop. As part of this, seven young Tanzanians arrived here on 8th May to begin a seven-week adventure. Since they arrived, they have been visiting partner schools, including St John's, Towerbank and Royal High primary schools and Holy Rood High School. In some of the schools, the group have been running workshops with the pupils, helping to form a vision for the future of both our countries and the world as a whole.

Also part of this, the Twende Pamoja Trust, which promotes such partnerships, will present *Makutano* from 17th-21st June at 7.30pm in the Queen's Hall. *Makutano*, Swahili for 'a place where we meet', will feature everything from music and drama to break-dance and poetry, performed by a mix of young talent from Scotland and Tanzania. Tickets will cost £7.50 for adults, £5 for concessions and £20 for a family ticket (two adults and two children).

Following the *Makutano* performance each night, at 9.30pm, there will be *Global Cabaret* featuring a different variety of Scottish and Tanzanian music, dance, poetry and more (tickets £5).

For more information on the *Makutano* performances or the work of the trust in general, visit www.twendepamoja.org.uk and www.makutano.net

Lewis Dick

ALL ABOARD THE MUSIC TRAIN



Photo by Brenda Molony

THE new Portobello community street band led the Fun Fiddle Portobello Music Train along the Promenade on Sunday 4th May, playing traditional music. A good crowd joined the Fiddlers and band, some playing their own instruments. The event was part of Tradfest, a multi-arts festival of Scottish culture, traditional, Gaelic and folk arts. The train paused at the 'cakestand' for some dancing and music before moving on to The Dalriada for a session.

SPURTLE KEEPS ON STIRRING

CONGRATULATIONS to *The Spurtle*, the community newspaper for the Broughton area, which celebrated 20 years of 'stirring' in February. This not-for-profit free-sheet depends on adverts and readers' subscriptions to cover the costs of production and distribution of 2,000 copies every month. It can also be read on www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk

There were once community papers across Edinburgh, including *The Craigmillar Chronicle*, *Wester Hailes Sentinel*, *Tollcross Times*, *Gorgie-Dalry Gazette*, *North Edinburgh News* and *South Edinburgh Echo*. Over the last 10 or so years they have all gone out of print as council funding has been withdrawn. They are a great loss to their communities, although most now have an online version.

The other survivors are *The Speaker*, which aims to improve the quality of life in Restalrig, Lochend and Craigentenny and receives financial support from several sources; and this paper, *The Portobello Reporter*, which has been covering local news and events for 34 years this June. Also not-for-profit, it continues thanks to the support of the local businesses who advertise in it.

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REGATTA RETURNS

ROWPORTY would like your support at their annual Regatta on Saturday 14th June. The one-day event, starting at 10am, will have a packed programme of 17 races, including the usual open and age-group events. There will also be the inter-club mixed race, for which names are drawn out of a hat to form teams in a skiff chosen at random.

"The Portobello Regatta is a great day out on the water - the beach is abuzz with boats and rowers", says Serena Park of Rowporty.

The winners of the relay race will be awarded the Jonathan Bendit cup, named in honour of the late founder of Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club where Rowporty started.

There will be tea and cake available, and a barbeque. Donations of cakes will be warmly welcomed

As in previous years, there will be a sea shanty competition in The Dalriada at 7pm, when each team will try to out-sing Port Seton, who have won every year since its inception.

Other Rowporty news includes their gold win in the slalom and silver in the under-14s race at Port Seton Regatta on 25th and 26th April. Then they rowed home!

On the weekend of 9th May, 25 rowers and one skiff went to Shawbost on Lewis to help An Eathar, a fledgling club there.

Rowporty are also renovating a 'jolly boat' donated by Broughty Ferry. Would anyone willing to help please contact Andres@rowporty.org.uk

Kathleen Byron

PORTOBELLO VITAL TO SCOTLAND'S BRONZE

PORTOBELLO Water Polo team played a vital role in the Scotland men's team's bronze medal win at the Commonwealth Water Polo Championships held in Aberdeen's brand new Sports Village in April. They provided the coach, Ramon Valvona, and most of the team including James Scobie, Ed Grundy, captain Neilson Rutherford, Bojan Donveski, named goalkeeper of the tournament, Keith Anderson and Fraser Rutherford.

"I think it's been absolutely fantastic, and as a Scotland team playing in Scotland with a crowd this big, it's just amazing", says Ed Grundy.

In the women's competition, Portobello's Gael Logan (captain) and Victoria Vitko were part of the Scotland team that won two matches against Wales.

Eight countries took part in the competition. Scotland, England, Wales and South Africa sent men's and women's teams; Singapore, New Zealand and Malta sent men's teams, and Canada a women's team.

Both England's teams won gold medals, and Malta's men took silver, as did Canada's women's team. The bronze medal matches both featured Scotland v South Africa; Scotland won the men's match 6-5 in a hard-fought exciting battle, while South Africa easily won the women's match 16-1.

The competition was widely held to be a great success. The organisation was excellent, the games were played to packed stands and there was a great atmosphere.

Kathleen Byron

IN THE SADDLE



MEMBERS of Portobello's cycling club, Porto-Velo, have made two trips to the Chris Hoy velodrome in Glasgow to try out track cycling. We all found the steepness of the banking quite intimidating at first, but the coaching was very good. We were soon riding round pretty confidently and each of us finished the session with a big grin - it's great fun.

We're getting good numbers out on the road for our faster 'fitness' rides on Sundays, while the new 'nice 'n' steady' rides are attracting people looking for a more leisurely pace, but still enjoying cycling in a group. With the warmer weather, we've held the first family ride of the year - complete with impromptu mid-ride football match, and more are planned. And in June, we're heading to Aviemore for a weekend of cycling in some of the most dramatic scenery in Scotland. To find out more about the club's activities, visit www.porto-velo.com Andrew Mylne

SUMMER BEACH BONANZA

WITH free activities for all the family, an event organised by several local agencies will be held on Portobello Promenade, around the Swim Centre, on Saturday 21st June from 1-4pm. Lots of taster activities for all ages will be on offer, to give an idea of what will be available for young people and their families over the summer holidays in the Portobello and

Northfield areas. They will include bungee run, clowns, balloons, archery, music, the equalizer, football, beach circuits, mountain bike assault course, face painting, sumo suits, speed shot, ponies, crafts, The Buz football pitch, volleyball, boccia, sand sculptures, soft play etc. and information stalls. The organisers promise great fun for all.

ON THE GREENS

BRUNSTANE Bowling Club pays its own tribute to Scotland's Commonwealth Bowlers with a Family Open Day on Sunday 8th June from 1-4pm, in a drive to introduce new players to the sport of bowls. The Club's accredited coaching team will be on hand to give expert tuition, and special-terms membership is on offer.

Brunstane enjoys a full range of sporting activities competing against Edinburgh rivals at men's, ladies' and senior levels, and runs a promising junior section. An extensive programme of entertainment and social events is also held throughout the year. For details see www.brunstanebowling.co.uk

Gemma's Gym

IT'S finally getting brighter and the sun is coming out, so we may want to get active and enjoy the outdoors.

Physical activity is easier for some than for others. It's just about doing what we can, and if we can make day-to-day activities easier by exercising, then it should be top of the to do list.

Walking is great and we live in a wonderful country, so enjoy those walks and aim to get out daily if you can.

Another important activity that can help when we are feeling unfit is a water aerobics class or even just going for a swim. The water is a great help in supporting us and not allowing a lot of force through the joints. We need to take care of hips, knees and ankles especially, so being in the water enables us to get the benefits of exercise without too much pain. Give it a try.

It is also a good idea to take part in flexibility classes, including yoga and Pilates. These work on giving you a strong core and also help keep joints healthy and able to move in a full range of motion.

Conditions like arthritis, heart disease and respiratory problems can be helped through being active, so if you suffer from any of these, it's really important to move your body and fit in exercise, along with a healthy balanced diet.

Gemma Hopewell,
gemma.hopewell@edinburghcollege.ac.uk

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