

THE **Portobello** REPORTER

35th Anniversary Issue

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

PORTOBELLO SET TO BE MECCA FOR CIRCUS ARTS



Full Cirque artists welcome visitors to their new circus arts centre in Baileyfield at its launch in May.

FULL CIRQUE opened its doors on 10th May, giving Portobello the first dedicated centre for circus arts in Scotland and a mecca for circus artists. It aims to become the home of seven circus companies and a host of individual performers, and to provide training and classes for the public.

The opening event was attended by jugglers, stilt walkers, clowns, acrobats and hundreds of local people who brought their children to try out some of the free workshops on offer. Adults too were offered taster sessions

by the many circus artists there at this very popular event.

Full Cirque is a community interest company that will focus on contemporary circus which combines dance, theatre, gymnastics, acrobatics and object manipulation. It will also provide a wide range of classes including hula-hooping, yoga, acrobatics and contortion.

The centre, which is housed in a large modern industrial building, will have state of the art facilities for training and classes in all types of aerial arts, with the

appropriate safety equipment. There is a dance and yoga studio and spaces for Parkour, more commonly known as free running, acrobatics and Chinese pole.

After years of looking for a dedicated circus space one of its core members Julie says: "I am hoping that this will become the hub for contemporary circus to develop the art form. We have complete beginners coming in to learn for the very first time and I hope that will lead to an exciting basis for circus into the future."

Peter E Ross

BRUNSTANE GREEN BELT THREAT

CITY of Edinburgh Council has signed off its Local Development Plan unchanged, clearing the way for housing development in areas in the west and east of the city, despite strong objections by residents during the consulta-

tion process. Green Belt land at Brunstane is threatened with 950-1330 houses and Newcraighall with 425-595. The plan will now be considered by the Scottish Government. The Brunstane residents group has taken legal advice

on challenging the validity of the local plan, and spokesman Martin Kelly says: "We hope the Scottish Government will take a different view, but if not, we'll ask the Court to reverse the decision."

HIGH TIME TO PUT BACK THE CLOCK

WE all put our clocks back this spring, but City of Edinburgh Council is refusing to put back the municipal clock on the Baptist Church on Portobello High Street. The building was erected in the early 1860s as the Town Hall and in 1868 Portobello Councillor, James Falshaw, presented the clock to the town. For over 130 years it was an important part of the skyline until it was removed by the city council in 2004 because its supporting structure had become dangerous.

Portobello Heritage Trust (PHT) and Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) say they have asked them many times to reinstate the clock. John Stewart of PAS says: "The clock belongs to the city council. They have owned it since 1896 when Portobello became part of Edinburgh and the council of the time took over the responsibilities of Portobello Town Council. It is believed that they have spent £50,000 taking down and restoring the clock which is currently in council storage."

The city council refuses to accept that they own the clock and their spokesperson says: "The council winds, maintains and repairs a number of civic clocks throughout the city, including this one, but it does not own all the clocks that it maintains. The council took the opportunity to refurbish the clock mechanism and housing while removed from the building. The Baptist Church has since advised the council that it does not wish to take ownership of the clock, which means there is no legal obligation for the Church to cover the cost of reinstating it."

Andy Scarcliffe, minister of the Baptist Church, which bought the building in 1920, says: "We have been working hard to secure funds to carry out much needed repairs and have recently received a government grant. For over 100 years the title deeds of the building have specifically excluded the clock, which was accepted to be the responsibility of the local authority. If they acknowledge ownership and legal responsibility for maintenance and insurance, an approach to reinstate the clock on our building would no doubt be looked on favourably."

PHT and PAS say they believe that they have identified who owns the clock but that the city council refuses to accept the evidence presented to them. Both groups are willing to seek funding to reinstate the clock, but this can't be done until the question of ownership is settled. John Stewart says: "As repairs to the building are due to start this July, now is the time for the council to put their clock back."

A spokesperson from the Council says: "We understand the local community's desire to return the device, but it will need to remain in storage until an owner has been identified."



Photo courtesy of John Stewart

PORTY PROFILE No. 58
PAUL KEIR

PORTOBELLO based abstract artist Paul Keir's work was recently shown at the prestigious Ingleby Gallery in Edinburgh as part of the group show ABJAD. He paints, creates floorworks, objects and walldrawings, sometimes combining these techniques to make his art. In his studio he creates about five or six walldrawings a year which he paints out after a month. He says, of his show at the Ingleby: "It's good to see my work in public, in a live space and out of the privacy of the studio."



Photo by Peter E Ross

Originally from Aberdeenshire, Paul moved to Edinburgh after gaining a degree in English Literature from Aberdeen University. At first he worked as a book and magazine designer for the likes of Mainstream, Canongate and *The List*. At the age of 29 he studied painting at Edinburgh College of Art, where he gained a position as a lecturer after graduating with a Masters in Fine Art. After 20 years teaching drawing and painting Paul decided it was time to move on and gave up his position at the art college to concentrate on his own work.

His work has been seen widely, with solo shows in the UK, Canada and Switzerland, and he has contributed to group shows as far afield as the USA, Spain and Taiwan. As well as being awarded grants from the Scottish Arts Council (now Creative Scotland) Paul has undertaken residencies in the USA, Switzerland and closer to home in the UK.

He now works full time in his studio drawing, painting, mentoring and teaching and is currently collaborating with a group of Portobello based artists on Curved Stream, to create contemporary work that will be 'inserted' into the historical context of Traquair House in the Scottish Borders. Curved Stream will be on show later in the autumn. On having made the change from working as a lecturer to being a full-time artist Paul says: "I have a lot more space in my head to do what I want to do."

Paul and his "very hardworking and understanding partner" moved to Portobello over 16 years ago to "see the light and space that the sea gives you" and after a couple of years they decided to have a family. "Once my son was born I realised that this was the perfect place to bring up children," he says.

Peter E Ross

ON THE BEAT

AFTER ensuring that we respond appropriately to all crimes and incidents, our priority is to tackle the issues that you have told us concern you most. These are included in our ward plans and cover housebreaking, drug dealing, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Between April 2014 and March 2015 reported crime across the East Neighbourhood Area was reduced by 610: Housebreaking down 22%; business break-ins down 26%; theft of motor vehicles down 31%; break-ins to cars reduced by 24%; common assault reduced by 11%; and anti-social behaviour reports down 12%. Following some excellent information from the public, we recovered over £180,000 worth of drugs. Our work to protect victims of domestic abuse also continued apace this year, and in over 80% of cases we gathered enough evidence to ensure that the offender was reported to court.

'Operation Drift', Portobello Promenade summer safety initiative, will be running again. Police and Community Safety Team patrols, supported by CCTV, will take place throughout the school holidays to ensure both residents and visitors can enjoy Portobello in safety.

As summer approaches with lighter evenings and improved weather, we tend to see a rise in certain types of crime, especially anti-social behaviour, vandalism and opportunist thefts. Please help us reduce crime and prevent break-ins in East Edinburgh by taking appropriate crime prevention measures. If you see suspicious vehicles or people hanging around give us a call on 101, or if the crime is ongoing call 999.

For information, advice and updates 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 Community'.

The Community Policing Team

TOWERBANK CATCHMENT CHANGES

DUE to the significant increase in school age children in Portobello and Joppa the City of Edinburgh Council predicts that Towerbank Primary will not be able to accommodate all the children in the current catchment area in the future.

As a solution they propose four options, all of which would redraw the catchment map. The proposed options would see some children who would currently be entitled to go to Towerbank going to other schools in the area.

The city council is consulting the community on their preferred options and you can participate and find out more detailed information by going to Portobello Community Council's website at portobellocc.org, the consultation runs until Monday 22nd June 2015.

A decision is expected on 22nd October based on a report, which will be available to the public, to be published on 1st October. If any catchment changes are approved by the council they would be implemented to take effect for the start of the 2016/17 intake.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A LIVE music evening organised by local man Scott Greenan at The Beaten Docket on 3rd March raised £800 for St Columba's Hospice. Scott says he wants to give a big hand to all the superb musicians and singers, and a big "thank you" to the bar staff who provided stovies and sandwiches for donations to the charity.

A WATERCRAFTS Exclusion Zone: An exclusion zone for watercrafts has been reintroduced to Portobello beach this year to allow safer water usage for swimmers. An area in front of Portobello Swim Centre will exclude all water craft, while areas to the east and west of it will exclude only motorised water craft. A notice to mariners has been issued by the Forth Ports Authority.

HEAD TEACHER TO RETIRE: Peigi Macarthur head teacher at Portobello High School has announced that she is retiring from teaching this Summer. Mrs Macarthur who has held the post for nine years says she intends to work closely with the Council to appoint her successor.

THE SCOTRAIL Summer 2015 timetable includes a new Sunday service from 17th May between Edinburgh Waverley and Newcraighall. Trains depart Newcraighall at 30 minutes past the hour from 09:30 until 23:30, and from Waverley at 11 minutes past the hour from 09:11 until 23:11.

GENERAL Election result: Tommy Sheppard SNP overturned a 2010 Labour majority of 9181, to win the Edinburgh East Westminster seat with a majority of 9106.

SALTIRE AWARD nomination: Local architect Matt Johnson has been nominated for the Saltire Housing Design awards for two properties, one of which is in Rosefield Avenue Lane.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me. Whoever you voted for I will work hard to represent you to the best of my abilities and promise to make sure Scotland's voice is heard in Westminster. I'm holding drop in surgeries at 16a Willowbrae Road. 11am-12.30pm on Saturday 30 May and Saturdays 13 and 27 June. Planning to set up more around the constituency as soon as we can get things organised.

Tommy Sheppard MP | E: tommy.sheppard.mp@parliament.uk
Interim phone number: T: 07467 065 030

WE are already planning the annual summer holiday reading challenge, and this year our theme will be *Record Breakers*, in association with Guinness World Records. *Record Breakers* will bring together the worlds of fact and fiction, challenging young readers to explore some astonishing real-life achievements and world records as part of their Summer Reading Challenge 2015.



Collecting stickers as they go, readers will discover weird, wonderful and wacky records from around the world, in six categories: Cool Tech; Way to Go!; The Big Stuff; Animal Magic; Human Touch; Action! Adventure! At the library we are looking forward to this year's challenge.

We are also starting to plan our Summer Program. We will have weekly Record Breaker craft activities and a computer games competition, and Zoolab will be here with one of their animal handling workshops

If you know anyone under eight years of age who loves a good story, why not bring them down to our weekly Storytime, held in the library every Thursday at 3.30pm during term-time. Ian always has some brilliant stories prepared.

Do you have some creative work that you would like to put on public display? Perhaps you are part of an art or photography group and would like to promote your work. The library has a free bookable gallery area that is available to individuals or groups.

Our Book Group meets in the library on the first Tuesday of every month.

On 7th July we will discuss *The Testament of Gideon Mack* by James Robertson

On 4th August, *How to be a Woman* by Caitlin Moran

On 1st September, *Intrusion* by Ken MacLeod

All books will be available from the library.

We also have a Teenage Book Group that meets on the last Thursday of every month, and a Chatterbooks children's book group for 8 to 12 year olds that meets every third Saturday. If you are interested in this or any of the other events, please ask staff for details or check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary

Paul Hudson

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL A 'Promblem' others envy?

HOW do we ensure the safety and enjoyment of all Promenaders - pedestrians and cyclists? For starters, surely this 'problem' is the flipside of living with a fantastic beach and lots of walkers, cyclists, dog owners, and kids walking to school: a 'Promblem' others would envy?

Will this issue go the same way as dog fouling, which used to be a real menace when we moved here from Currie in 1998? It varies, but overall dog owners now take real care, and so we can enjoy the friendship dogs bring, just as much as we'd like to enjoy the low carbon joy bikes bring. What made the impact then? What can really help now?

How can two wheels and two (or four) legs co-exist better now? The problem has been around a while, but so have the benefits.

Slowing our bikes on the Prom (with local cycling groups talking with fellow cyclists?) watching our dogs (with dog walkers discussing how to take care with extendable leads on the Prom?), reminding our kids (with families discussing on the school 'run?') - none of this will make everything work perfectly, but if we keep taking care, we can all feel increasingly safe and welcome in Promtobello.

Justin Kendrick

BOOK FESTIVAL PLANS

THE seventh Portobello Book Festival will take place from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October, with 'fringe' events in local schools and at The Dalriada in the preceding week. Highlights include 'Portobello Produce' with a focus on local, home grown literary talent Max Scratchman, Jenny Renton, Graham Howard and Peter Ranscombe, and a chance to 'meet the author', Isla Dewar and the cook, Corina Contini. The focus of other sessions ranges from intelligence, security and surveillance to sectarian identities; from 'rewilding' the wilderness to different ways of thinking about language, culture and identity in Scotland today, and lots more.

YOU DECIDED

TO increase local influence, this year the Neighbourhood Partnership agreed that all its £21,737 Community Grants Fund would be decided by local people.

Local voting took place in Portobello and Craigmillar Libraries for two weeks before our main 'You Decide!' event, which was held in the East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road on Saturday 23rd May 2015. Local people aged 8 and up, viewed the displays and voted on all 29 bids received. The bids with the most votes were awarded up to £1,500. Details of the successful bids are outlined on the Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership web page: www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/portobello-and-craigmillar/

The Partnership will review this new approach, so please tell us if you have any suggestions to help improve the process in the future, or if you have any other comments about the process.

We want your input. Come to our meetings or join one of the sub-groups which drive local progress and deliver more effective local solutions. Contact us by phone on 529 6374, e-mail: neighbourhood.partnerships@edinburgh.gov.uk, social media, or via your local councillors or community council.

Mary Dunbar

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Birds of a Feather...

TWO new families have moved in near us, into our garden to be precise. A family of blue tits and a family of wrens have settled into the bird boxes my sons made at Beavers over ten years ago. Up until now they've been unoccupied, so perhaps our neighbourhood is finally on the up.

Somehow, I discovered that the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is running a Nest Box Challenge and registered the boxes on their website to participate in their monitoring project. Following BTO guidelines you can peek inside to see if there are any new arrivals, and I know that would be fine, but it seems a bit rude to look straight in with no introductions. I already imagine that our neighbour is giving me funny looks since we started using binoculars to keep a closer eye on the boxes.

All this excitement about the nests has made me realise how much we miss our rabbit that was killed by a fox. I notice that even the goldfish, Evil Knievel, Effie and Eli have been receiving extra care and attention and all seem to be about a foot long. Perhaps it's time to get the dog that everybody has been begging for. My youngest son has even started researching the Kennel Club and drools over golden lab pups, although I think a rescue dog is more us. In the meantime, I will introduce myself to the new neighbours and put up with funny looks from the old ones!

ONE of the proposals PEDAL looked at in 2010 for Portobello was the development of a community hub that would provide a space for groups and form a focal point for other activities in the community.

A possible location was the gap site in Bath Street before it was taken over for a short period as a community growing space and now has residential planning permission. This wasn't progressed, partly because of the difficulty of developing a viable business plan that could generate enough income at charges affordable by small local groups thereby ensuring the sustainable future of a high quality carbon-neutral building for the community.

The amalgamation of the three Church of Scotland congregations is likely to have an effect on the availability of spaces for community groups. Many people have benefitted from the facilities of church halls over the years and it is to be hoped that some arrangements may continue with any new owners. The Washhouse, for example, is so well used that unless other spaces are found there could be real pressure on finding halls to hire in the future.

Other organisations in Portobello have also been interested in some form of land transfer. The council-owned toilet block at Pipe Street is possibly coming up for sale and there could be many advantages for the community if this unique building was transferred from public to community ownership. In Otley, Yorkshire, the local pubs have just been listed as Assets of Community Value under localisation legislation. Whilst we don't have the benefit of the same legislation, can we do the same for at least one of the churches?

A start has been made on identifying assets, not just the tangible assets of buildings but intangible assets, through Our Forth's Community Charter, but we fear that this will come too late for the church halls and that unless a concerted effort from a small group of local residents is made soon we may lose valuable community spaces. Is anyone willing to help - if so, please contact PEDAL at info@pedal-party.org.uk

Stephen Hawkins

SUSTAINABLE PARTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



IF you have a big clump of perennials that's going woody and unproductive in the middle, instead of digging it all up and splitting it, try planting a new one in the middle. Although autumn/winter is the normal time for splitting perennials, I've had success doing this with Michaelmas/Shasta daisies and phlox. It requires extra watering through the summer and a bit of compost added to the hole, but does save time and effort.

Cut down the stems of perennials that have put on lush growth to half their size, with shears, at the end of May/beginning of June (Chelsea-chop time). I collect the stems and either put them around the plant as a mulch (as they're soft they disappear quite quickly) or compost them. If you've a large clump, try chopping back the outside, leaving the inside, and as the outside regrows it will support the inside without the need of staking, and the plant will flower for longer.

There's still time to plant some tender vegetables. Start them off on the kitchen windowsill and plant out mid-June. Try nine sweetcorn, planted in a grid (never in a row, as they are wind pollinated), then train pumpkins or courgettes in a circle around the sweetcorn. This only takes up a square metre, so is great for a small garden, but do plant in the sunniest spot. Mulch, feed and water regularly, as these are hungry and thirsty plants. A bit like young kids - can't eat huge meals, so need to have a few rather than a big dinner at one go.

If you've a small greenhouse and it heats up quickly, damp down the floor early in the morning. I have a mesh door made from an old bed spring that I use each year; it lets in air, but no cats.

There should be no danger of frost now, so if you're tempted by new plants they can be planted out straight away and will only need watering. For feeding special plants I use seaweed liquid sparingly as it's expensive, but worth it. For general use, especially for tomatoes, I use comfrey leaves laid on the soil, but I prefer to make the tea as it seems to be absorbed better by the plants. Just stuff some comfrey leaves or nettles into a pail, cover with water and leave for a few weeks until broken down - you'll smell it when it's ready! Dilute a cupful in a full watering can.

We will open our garden again at 39 Nantwich Drive, on 1st and 2nd August from 2-5pm. Entrance £1 and donations for tea, with all proceeds to Garden Organic.

OUR FORTH CONSTITUTED

OUR FORTH held its inaugural General Meeting on Saturday 25th May in Portobello Library. The agenda included the election of committee members and office bearers, adoption of a group constitution and a campaign update. Juliana Muir was elected as Chair, Callum McLeod as Vice Chair, Irvine Allan will be Treasurer and Carah Johnson, Secretary. A constitution was agreed.

This is a really important step for Our Forth as it enables the group to clearly set out its purpose, objectives and the responsibilities of all group members. It was also agreed to accept the Broad Alliance code of conduct and protocol into the constitution. Our Forth is a member of the Broad Alliance, a collective of nearly 30 community groups from across Scotland who are all campaigning in relation to the Unconventional Gas industry. Visit www.ourforth.org to view the constitution and meeting minutes. Get in touch at ourforthportobello@gmail.com and visit Our Forth on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ourforthportobello).



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

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



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Cllr MAUREEN CHILD,
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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

REGENT STREET MYSTERY

WHEN I went to look at 20 Regent Street, I was surprised to find that it no longer existed. There was a wooden door set into a wall between numbers 18 and 22, but no number 20, which, according to a neighbour, had been demolished. It had been located through the door and behind the existing villas. Why was I interested? I had just purchased these photographs from ebay and wanted to see the house where, I presumed, the people had lived.

Intrigued, I wanted to find out more. I checked the Valuation Roll for 1920-1921 and found that the proprietor of number 20 was Mrs Jane Proudfoot of Monkton, Oaklands, Park Weybridge, who rented out the property through Brown & Grieve, 258 Portobello High Street. She also owned numbers 3, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 Regent Street along with 210, 212, 214 and 216 Portobello High Street, as recorded on the 1915 and 1925 rolls.

The tenant occupier of the ground floor, back of 20 Regent Street was Mrs Janet D Dick, as recorded on the 1925, but not the 1915 roll; the Yearly Rent



Photo courtesy of Portobello Heritage Trust

The photos on the left and right were taken at 20 Regent Street in June 1921. The photo in the centre was taken in Portobello Park in 1921

or Value in 1921 was £5 11 shillings. She was also listed as the owner occupier of 14 Wellington [now Marlborough] Street. Why then, did she rent a property in Regent Street when she owned a property in Wellington Street?

Listed in 1920-21 as occupier of the ground

floor, back of 20 Regent Street was Mrs Elizabeth Pryde, who paid rent of £8 15 shillings a year. In the 1915 roll, there are two addresses for Elizabeth Pryde – 2 Rosebank Cottages and 8 Pitt [now Pitville] Street. Whether they are both the same lady is unclear. In the 1925 roll,

she is given as the tenant occupier of 34a Tower [now Figgate] Street.

It appears, therefore, that in 1921 these ladies were sharing a rented property. As is often the case, my research raised more questions than answers. Do you recognise anyone in these photo-

graphs? Do you know when 20 Regent Street was demolished? If you have any information, please contact munroporto@hotmail.com or phone 657 2866. I would love to know more!

Margaret Munro

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What's On

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY A.G.M., Baptist Church Hall, Thurs. 4th June, 7.30pm, with an illustrated talk by Tom Parnell, Forth & Borders Cases Panel Convenor of Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland. All welcome.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: Sat. 6th 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 Future dates: Sat. 4th July/1st Aug.

SUMMER FAIR: Saturday 6th June, from 2pm, Queens Bay Lodge, 49 Milton Road East (opposite Kings Manor Hotel). Teas, burgers, Luca's ice cream, tombola, raffle, guess the weight, bric-a-brac, crafts, jewellery, baking, plant and book stalls, face painting, children's games, live music, dance display etc. Free entry - inside if wet. For information: 669 2828 or queensbay@crossreach.org.uk

CAR BOOT SALES: (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sundays 28th June, 26th July, 30th Aug. Newcraighall Station car park, 9am-2pm. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

BIG BEACH BUSK: Sat. 29th Aug. from 12 noon, Portobello Prom. See [Facebook](#) for details.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR: Weds, 7.15-9.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, 189 Portobello High St. £6/£4 concess. All welcome. Sing in harmony in a fun and relaxed environment.

www.portobellocommunitychoir.org

AFTERNOON DANCING: Ballroom, sequence, line dancing, to the sound of Duncan McBain, Weds/Fridays, 1-4pm, £3 incl. refreshments. Portobello Masonic Hall (behind Police Station).

POD FILMS will recommence after the summer holidays. Details on www.the-pod.org or [Facebook](#).

The Portobello Reporter

is looking for local people who would like to take photos or write for our community publication. If you are interested in finding out more you can email us at portyreporter@btinternet.com

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DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUPS

PORTOBELLO MONDAY CENTRE in the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street offers friendly, informal and affordable day care on Mondays for people with mild to moderate dementia. The team of trained volunteers aims to "improve the quality of life for our members in a modest way and to provide some respite for their carers". If you know someone who would benefit from attending, please contact the Centre on Mondays between 9am-1pm on 657 4264, or call in around 10.45am for tea, coffee and a home-made scone; or call

Trudy on 258 0734 or Ann on 669 3582.

ST MARTIN'S Dementia Friendly gathering offers an opportunity for those with dementia to meet, make friends and enjoy activities and entertainment, while giving families and carers time to talk, share and unwind. It meets on the first and third Monday of each month from 10.30am to 12noon at St Martin's Church, Magdalene Drive. If this sounds like something for you or yours, contact Nell on 669 4351 or visit on one of the meeting days.

SHARING MEMORIES AND PHOTOS ONLINE

EDINBURGH Collected is an online photography and memories site that allows anyone who has photos of Edinburgh, its people and its life to share them, caption them with their memories and add them to the City's cultural collection. By signing up you can upload your favourite photos and make an online scrapbook. Those unwilling to sign-up can still browse the expansive collection of photos and memories.

The project was set up by the council with the support of innovation charity Nesta and is managed by Edinburgh Libraries who already have the biggest collection on Edinburgh in existence. Participants retain copyright, but must agree to allowing others to use their images for non-commercial purposes, and the council make no ownership claims over the photos.

The collection contains a wide range of images and memories such as 'Burst water-pipe in the Lawnmarket' in 1912, 'Fun on the beach at Porty' in 2006, 'Granny in fishwife's costume' in 1929 and 'Yo-yo' in 1970. Edinburgh Collected is keen for more people to add to this resource and to share their memories and images of life in Edinburgh. If you are interested in joining this online community go to www.edinburghcollected.org

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

OUR OUR Coffee Morning and Book Sale on 21st March was more strongly supported than ever this year, and a record sum of over £500 was raised for human rights work here and worldwide. Many thanks to the Woodcraft Folk for their significant contribution to this result, to the merry music-makers and all who helped make the event such a success.

The Group took part in a 'body bags' action on Portobello beach on Sunday 26th April, to highlight the urgency of enhanced rescue operations in the Mediterranean seas, where so many desperate refugees have drowned while fleeing from conflicts and other unbearable conditions in North Africa.

At our April meeting, Cathy Crawford told of her experiences during a six-week teaching project in Bangladesh. She vividly portrayed some of the dangers ahead for a country facing great challenges from climate change, poverty and, now, a serious internal split that has potential for violent conflict. Cathy found great friendliness everywhere and counts the experience a high privilege.

The next meeting of our letter-writing sub-group will be held on Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm at The Dalriada Bar; so far this year 24 appeal letters have been sent, including some very urgent ones.

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the church hall in Bellfield Street. Visitors are warmly welcomed, without commitment. For more information, call 0131 669 1308.

David Turner

THE Wash House (aka Portobello Community Centre) is one of those gems that every community needs – a great community space for things to happen, badminton to play, fiddle to learn, kids sports, vintage fairs, dog training, art classes, exercise programmes, and a vital and active youth club. Let's make sure we all treasure it and see that it stays a vibrant place and a great community resource.



Its existence is pretty fragile, and much voluntary time is given to keep it afloat, alongside part-time council support. So if you have any time and would like to find out about how to get involved, watch this space for our Autumn AGM, and our fun Open Day when cakes, tea, vintage stalls, and good company are guaranteed.

We are recruiting for three volunteers to oversee evening events and to keep up the website. Grateful thanks to Calum Macdonald for his commitment to this over recent years. Generous expenses are available for these vital roles. If you are interested, please contact us.

It may run on a shoestring, but the Wash House programme continues to expand, with BeeSpanish for children, and a new yoga class. Come and find out more, and see our Facebook page to keep up with summer and autumn plans.

Our office is open Monday to Thursday, 7.30am – 12noon, tel. 0131 669 8275. Website: <http://thewashhouse.org/>

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STILL IN PRINT 35 YEARS ON

THE PORTOBELLO REPORTER celebrates its 35th Anniversary this June, still going strong thanks to all the volunteers who have helped produce it and contributed to it, and all the local businesses that have made it possible by buying advertising space.

The Reporter was set up to report on people and events in the news locally and to record Portobello's history and reminiscences, and when it was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 1983, it was declared "editorially independent of all government and statutory bodies, local authorities, and voluntary, commercial and religious organisations".

The first issue was produced in June 1980 by Bill Davidson, Nick Child, Paddy Ross and the late Hazel Reid. It consisted of four photocopied A4 pages, with five adverts to cover costs, and 100 copies were sold in local shops for 10p each. It included articles on proposals for a Portobello Bypass and rumours that the Kings Road tenements were to be demolished in a revamp of the area. The second issue appeared two months later in tabloid form, with the columns being typed and pasted up before going to the printer; during the 80s, layout involved crawling around on the floor, fitting in columns, photographs and adverts.

By 1983, edited by Maureen Child, the Reporter was



Brenda Molony, of the current editorial team, with Bill Davidson, who helped produce the first issue in 1980.

produced every two months, selling 1300 copies at 15p. By 1987 it was a free paper and 9000 copies were delivered by volunteers.

After a short break the paper was re-launched in December 1991 as *The New Porty Reporter*, by a team led by Penny Haywood, and was designed and printed by Scottish County Press. It was professionally distributed, with a circulation of 12,500, as it has been ever since. It reverted to its original title in June 1995.

Since then the editorial group has included many volunteers. The current members are Karen Combe, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro and Peter E Ross, with long-time company secretary Eric

Wishart keeping his eye on finances. The paper has been produced in-house since the award of a Lottery grant for desktop publishing software in 2001.

During its first decade, stories included a controversial plan by the community council for illuminations along the Prom during the Festival, which gave rise to fears of "another Blackpool". Towerbank Primary School's Centenary was reported in 1983, "the UK's biggest pancake race" on the Prom the same year, and the building of Portobello Bypass in 1986. The 1980s also saw several Portobello Festivals, Victorian Walks and Fringe at the Seaside events. Features during the 1990s

included the campaign to have Portobello Baths refurbished instead of being demolished; the opening of Joppa Pumping Station, which would make the sea cleaner; and Portobello's award of Urban Community of the Year 1999.

In June 2005, the success of the campaign against a large superstore at Baileyfield made the front page, only to be followed ten years later by having to report planning consent for a retail store and housing on that site. Then came the campaign against proposals for a waste transfer station on Sir Harry Lauder Road, and controversial council plans to move Portobello Library from the centre of the community, which were

both overturned. And finally, the recent campaigns for and against building a new high school on part of Portobello Park were featured, followed by the passing of a private Bill to allow it to go ahead.

On a lighter note, we've covered art installations on and around the beach; the Book Festival, the creation of the Community Garden on the Prom with a place for the Coade stone pillars; the Village Show; the creation of the Community Orchard and setting up of Portobello's monthly market, and the restoration of the collapsed pottery kiln.

Founder member Bill Davidson says: "I was 35 years old when we started *The Portobello Reporter*. I am now 70 years old and never dreamed it would still be going at my age. What an achievement for the paper and our community".

With the ongoing support of local businesses, regular columnists, like Susan Burns who has been helping us 'Grow Organic' for the past 12 years, and all the community groups and individuals who send in their news, we hope that the Reporter will be keeping you up to date with local news for many years to come.

If you would like to read more about Portobello's recent past, there is a complete set of bound copies of *The Portobello Reporter* in the library, and on www.porty.org.uk from Summer 2001.

Karen Combe & Brenda Molony



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IN THE SADDLE



Photo by Andrew Mylne

THROUGHOUT the spring, local cycling club Portovelo has tried to take advantage of the better weather with a wider range of activities. The fitness rides leaving at 8am each Sunday morning have ranged far and wide, though those of us brave enough to venture out in shorts paid for it when the weather turned much colder and wetter again in late April and early May.

As well as the fitness rides and our more entry-level leisure rides, we organise occasional family outings. The first one of the year was from the Glenkinchie distillery in mid-April and involved a gentle 9-mile circuit on railway paths and minor roads, which the children and adults

all enjoyed.

A new innovation is our Wednesday film nights, roughly once a month in the Skylark, a chance to see a cycling-themed film while enjoying a coffee or a beer.

Portovelo aims to be a friendly club that encourages cycling at all levels - it's not just a club for the committed lycra-clad hard-core - and new riders can be sure of a warm welcome. We are now looking forward to our annual 'weekender' in June when we travel further afield to sample new roads. Full details of this and all our other activities are on our website, www.porto-velo.com

Andrew Mylne

ON THE GREENS Summer Competitions

THE Bowls Scotland Senior Gents finals will be played on Thursday 11th June at 2pm at Mayfield Bowling Club; the Gents finals on Friday 12th June at 7pm at Craigentiny; the Ladies finals on Sunday 14th June at 2pm at Goldenacre.

During August, Bowls Scotland will hold a Super Singles and Pairs competition, open to all club bowlers.

Portobello Bowling Club in Lee Crescent will have a Linton Trophy match on Monday 8th June at 2pm, and will be home to the Scottish Bowlers Fellowship on Saturday 13th June at 2pm.

If you would like to give bowls a try, why not go along to Lee Crescent, where a warm welcome is assured, or call 669 0316 for more information.

Alex Skirving

FUN FUNDRAISER RETURNS?

THE Great Scottish Walk returns to Holyrood Park, as part of the Great Scottish Walk & Run Festival on Sunday 21st June.

The family-friendly event kicks off with The Great Scottish Summer Run at 9.30am, which includes a 5k and 10k challenge in and around Holyrood Park. At 11.00am walkers can take part in either a 10k or 20k route through Duddingston, Bingham and Figgate Parks, Milton Road and Stanley Street. There is also a more leisurely Golden Mile Walk offering one, two or three mile routes, suitable for elderly and disabled participants. In the afternoon The Great Scottish Toddle will give children aged six and under the opportunity to join in and raise money for charity.

Pipers and drummers from George Watson's College will line the starting point to get competitors off to a flying start. All participants will receive a medal and goody bag.

To enter any of the events contact: 0131 208 2500 or visit: www.greatscottishwalkandrun.co.uk

BEACH BONANZA

HERE Comes the Summer, a fun and free event for all the family, takes place on Saturday 20th June from 1-4pm on Portobello Promenade, outside the Swim Centre.

Come along and try lots of sports and activities, tasters of what you can do over the holidays and beyond. Port Edgar Watersports are sponsoring the event, so there will be lots

of water sports to try, such as sailing, paddleboards and kayaks, with loads of other fun activities - pony rides, bungee run, speed shot, athletics, equaliser, boccia, circuits, arts and crafts, bubble footballs, mobile football pitch, archery, music, face-painting and more, including a market place for local agencies.

PICK UP A RACKET

TENNIS is well under way at your local courts at Joppa Grove. Last season we had a record number of members, and are hoping for even more this year.

We have kept our fees unchanged for several years now and they are really great value for all year round tennis, at £65 for a family, £40 for a single and £25 concessions. For membership forms contact Sonja Mclean at sonjabrd@blueyonder.co.uk

We will be running our Pay and Play scheme during the summer holidays, when children and adults can just turn up and play, adults for £1 and children for 50p. Rackets and balls and short tennis will be available free of charge. As Judy Murray said, this is the time for parents to invest in tennis while we have a world star in Scotland and, indeed, the UK.

We will also be running coaching throughout the spring and summer, and a junior tournament.

Details of all events, and membership forms can be found on our [Facebook](#) page. Do come along and see for yourself what a great asset we have here, pick up a racket and have a go.

Marjorie Thomas

Gemma's Gym

I HAVE now been working in the gym for two years and can't quite believe where the time has gone. It's the best job in the world when you meet people who want to improve themselves and they let you be part of that.

One thing I find, that must be mentioned, is that exercise can only do so much. It's what we eat, the lifestyle choices we make and what we do outside the gym that matters.

The word diet is often used when we talk about following an exercise regime and a healthy diet. The only issue I have is that when people go on 'diets' which restrict food groups, they eat too little and can end up feeling miserable. Who wants that?

You can, however, eat a balanced, varied diet, which can be exciting. So take a look at the three food groups and eat something from all of them; carbohydrates, fats and proteins, for example. Different types of food are included in these groups. The key is to find what the best types are for you and eat well, remembering that exercise requires fuel.

Moderation and balance are also crucial. Looking at the amount we eat can be an eye-opener, as we can easily over eat and find ourselves getting out of shape because the balance between what we eat and how much exercise we do isn't right.

Hopefully you have been given food for thought!

Gemma Hopewell

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