

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Autumn 2016  
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.

## “SAVE BELLFIELD”

THE local campaign to take Portobello Old Parish Church and halls into community ownership goes from strength to strength. In part this reflects local concern about a growing Portobello population and diminishing affordable community spaces. The Friends of Bellfield group will host a Drop In session on Saturday 24th September from 10.30am-3.30pm in Portobello Library, when members of the public can look at and comment on the emerging options for the premises.

Following a wonderful, fundraising cabaret night in Bellfield Hall, a team of volunteers have been gathering signatures for a ‘Save Bellfield’ petition, part of the process in registering a ‘community right to buy’ interest, which requires 10% community support. Over 1,500 people signed in just a few weeks, 25% of the target population, which is hugely encouraging.

To enable the buildings to be taken into ownership, the group have set up a company, Action Porty, and are inviting local people to join as members. A large membership will ensure that Action Porty works in the interests of, and is accountable to the people of Portobello.

A development grant from the Scottish Land Fund enabled us to engage a team of consultants, led by Urban Animation. They will work with us over the next few months, when immediate priorities will be an independent valuation of the property and a building condition survey. They will also consider how the suggestions and ideas put forward might work within the available space, and how the project can be made financially sustainable.

Their findings will be presented to the community for further consultation, to determine how the project is taken forward. To find out about more, follow SAVE Bellfield on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bellfield.scot) or see the website [bellfield.scot](http://bellfield.scot)

Ian Cooke, Secretary  
Friends of Bellfield

## PRESSES STOP ROLLING FOR THE REPORTER?

AFTER over 36 years this is set to be the last issue of *The Portobello Reporter*, your local community newspaper produced by a small team of volunteers. Circumstances beyond their control have forced the current group to consider the paper’s future and they have come to the conclusion that it is not sustainable. Peter E Ross of the editorial group said: “It has been a perfect storm of unfortunate circumstances that have forced us to make this very sad decision.” The current group – Karen Combe, Margaret Munro, Brenda Molony, Peter E Ross, Eric Wishart and Nigel Archdale – have between them given over 75 years of service to the paper.

*The Portobello Reporter* was first published in 1980 and has ever since – apart from a very short break in the early 90s – fulfilled its founders’ aims of serving the interests of the people of Portobello without formal links to any political party or other organisation, to report on the people and events in the area, to publish for *The Reporter’s* readers Portobello’s history and the reminiscences of its people and all as a not for profit company funded solely by its advertisers.

Recent years have seen dramatic changes in the fortunes of newspapers in the UK, with circulations falling dramatically and reduced numbers of journalists employed by newspaper groups as readers moved to the internet to get their news stories. *The Reporter* has not been affected by these changes because it has been a free newspaper run by volunteers and loyally supported by its advertisers, but there have been changes. Twice in recent years the companies who printed the paper ceased trading or were bought over and stopped printing newspapers and *The Reporter* also had to change distributor. New printers were found and the paper managed to continue publishing, but current circumstances have proved to be too much for the group.

*The Portobello Reporter* is published by the Portobello Reporter Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. The company will cease trading before the end of the year with a view to winding up by June 2017 unless sufficient volunteers offer to commit themselves in the long term to working for the paper. If this were to happen it may be possible to find ways to overcome the challenges currently being faced. The editorial group and company directors deeply regret the prospect of folding the paper and wish all their readers and advertisers a happy and prosperous future.

If you would like to volunteer email [portyreporter@btinternet.com](mailto:portyreporter@btinternet.com)

## PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL Exciting Programme - New Venue

ANOTHER year older and the annual Portobello Book festival goes from strength to strength, with a bumper line-up scheduled for a weekend bonanza from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th October.

Portobello Library is once again the base for most activities, but this year we also feature events in the Baptist Church Cafe on the high street as well as local primary schools and the Dalriada Bar. The full programme and tickets are available at the library.

The programme this year will include an appearance at our Friday night cabaret by former Scottish Makar Liz Lochhead. Sir Chris Hoy will read from his children’s books to children from local primary schools, and a Man Booker prize-nominated author will also appear.

There will be talks, readings and discussions on myriad subjects from family sagas, mountaineering, crime fiction and graphic novels, to corruption in sport, political analysis and dangerous women, to

name just a few, plus appearances by renowned Scottish authors and locally-based talent.

We are really pleased to have secured the use of the Baptist Church Cafe and thank them and all our hosts for their support and co-operation.

The Festival is a free event, but we can only operate with your continued support, attendance and generous donations. We look forward to seeing you at one of the many events. The Book Festival Team

## BRUNSTANE CAMPAIGN SEEKS LEGAL ADVICE



Photo by Peter E Ross

THE Save Brunstane Green Belt group are raising funds for a legal challenge to Edinburgh Council’s decision to approve the building of up to 1,330 houses on the fields at Brunstane Farm, as part of the Local Plan. Following examination by Scottish Government Reporters, completed in July, the Plan went back to the Council for final approval, which is expected in October or November.

“The Reporters concluded that our objections had a great deal of force, but that the contribution that the development would make to the housing target effectively over-rode all the objections”, says campaign spokesperson, Martin Kelly “However, they didn’t consider the relative merits of different sites, including those not approved in the Local Plan, and didn’t take a view on the legal arguments we’ve made - that adopting the Plan, as it stands, would be unlawful”.

“Our strategy now is to obtain specialist legal advice on the strength of our case. But we need your help to do so. We aim to raise over £3,500 to cover legal fees, through an organisation called CrowdJustice. If you’d like to support us, please go to [www.crowdjustice.co.uk](http://www.crowdjustice.co.uk) and follow the link to Brunstane Fields. Any contributions, large or small, are very welcome”.



# PORTY PROFILE No. 63 SUSAN EDINGTON

SUSAN is the Lollipop Lady who watches over our children, and their parents and carers, as they negotiate the busy crossroads at 'Porty Central'. She has been standing at the junction of Portobello High Street with Bath Street and Brighton Place during school term times for the last four years.



Photo by Nigel Archdale

She is convinced that when the winter winds blow up Bath Street, it comes all the way from the North Pole. This chilly location in Portobello, she thinks, is the main reason why this crossing patrol has been so difficult to fill.

Every school morning, Susan is at her station outside the bakers, where she keeps her lollipop, from 8 till 9am, and is back there again to steward the nursery children across the road from noon till 1pm. From Monday to Thursday she returns one further time for the home run, but on Fridays everyone finishes earlier and her weekend begins at 1pm.

Susan loves her job and finds the pupils are always respectful while they are at primary school, but when they graduate to secondary they occasionally need a gentle reminder not to run across when the lights are changing. A kind warning of "Boys!" is all that is needed to keep them safe, she says.

Susan has lived here since she was a baby. She went to school locally and after leaving Portobello High School, worked as a clerk in an architect's office. Her daily bus journey into the city took on an added significance one week in 1974, when the conductor that week, called Alex, asked her out. They were married in Portobello two years later and brought up their two sons here. Their Ruby Wedding was a cause for a great family celebration this year.

Before becoming a lollipop lady, Susan worked in local shops. She loves this job though, despite the drivers and cyclists who ignore the red light. There is no surprise, however, about what she likes best about her job: "It's the children. They make my day, every day!"

Nigel Archdale

# ON THE BEAT

IN recent years throughout the UK there has been an increase in scams carried out online and over the phone.

One popular online scam is an e-mail claiming to be from your bank or Paypal, providing a bogus link for you to log in to your account, then when you log in, the scammer is able to obtain your password and details. If you receive any e-mails with a link embedded, always ensure you know what you are clicking on. If you believe you have received a scam e-mail, do not open it and delete it immediately.

Fraudsters can also make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information, or they might be offering you a deal or prize. You can protect yourself in the following ways: Become ex-directory. Don't give personal information, unless you know who you are speaking to. Don't give out your credit card or bank card details. Never tell somebody your PIN number. Don't tell callers that you live alone, are older or vulnerable. Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

For more advice check the Police Scotland Website at [www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/)

The Community Policing Team



Photo by Nigel Archdale

PORTY Art Walk in early September saw the crowds out in force as they appreciated the work of mostly local artists like the one pictured.

## LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

**BAILEYFIELD SOUTH:** Barratt Homes have published details of their plan for the former Standard Life site. Plans include 500 properties and commercial space. For more info see [portobellocc.org](http://portobellocc.org)

**CRAIGENTINNY & TELFER-TON ALLOTMENTS:** Developer Avant Homes has appealed against the rejection by the Planning Committee in April of its application for permission to build housing on the allotments site.

**BINGO HALL:** Permission to demolish the C-listed former George Cinema in Bath Street was refused in July, as the proposal did not comply with planning policies on the demolition of listed buildings and demolition in conservation areas.

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH HALL:** Planning applications have been submitted for three two-storey brick townhouses on the site of the hall.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**THE LEGAL SPEED LIMIT** across much of Edinburgh's city centre and rural west is now 20mph; it will be introduced in the East area, including the Portobello/Craigmillar Ward, in February 2017. For more information and a map of the 20mph network see [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph) and [www.facebook.com/edin20mph](http://www.facebook.com/edin20mph).

**PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL:** The new school is due to open on Wednesday 26 October. The opening was due in August, but was delayed as Scottish Water had to run a drainage pipe from the building across Portobello Golf Course. Demolition of the existing school will start shortly after the move, and construction of a new St John's Primary School and the Treverlen park will follow.

**THE JUNE TROPHY:** This year's event on 4th June at Brunstane Bowling Club raised £287 for St Columba's Hospice. A great day was reported with "fab" weather.

**NEW BUS ROUTES:** East Coast Buses: Service 107, West End to Dunbar via Willowbrae/Milton Rd, every 60 mins; 30 mins peak times. Service 124, Semple St. to North Berwick via Portobello High St, every 30 mins, Mon-Sat; 60 mins Sun; Limited Stop X24 peak times.

For details and timetables see [www.eastcoastbuses](http://www.eastcoastbuses), and click New Routes

**"NO" TO FRACKING:** The anti-fracking group Our Forth urge like-minded people to join them on Portobello Beach at the foot of Bath Street on Sunday 9th October at 2pm. They say: "Four days before the SNP conference, we need to send a clear message to the Scottish Government to turn their temporary ban on UCG and fracking into permanent bans".

## TOMMY SHEPPARD MP

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**CRAIGMILLAR**  
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Office, 18 Niddrie Mains Road

**CENTRAL**  
3rd Friday | 5pm-6pm  
Quaker Meeting House  
7 Victoria Terrace

**PORTOBELLO**  
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Office, 94 High Street

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Part Time Hub Office: 18 Niddrie Mains Road, Open Mon - Wed 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Westminster Office: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel: (0207) 219 6653

94 High Street, Portobello 0131 661 8023

[www.tommysheppardmp.scot](http://www.tommysheppardmp.scot)

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WE would like to say a big "well done" to all the children who completed The Big Summer Read. We certainly loved the Roald Dahl theme, and it's great to see that his books are still much loved 100 years after his birth. We hope everyone had as much fun at our summer activities as we did, and are looking forward to our Autumn and Winter activities.



If you are looking for something for the kids to do over the October holiday week, we will be running craft activities with an autumnal feel. Ask in the library for more information nearer the time, or check our Facebook page.

We are delighted to be once again hosting a number of events organised by the Portobello Book Festival which is back on 7th to 9th October for its eighth year. A full programme of events and tickets are available from the library.

A new and improved version of the extremely popular *From Steam to Diesel* exhibition of railway photographs from the 1950s and 60s will be held in the library from Monday 21st November. A book featuring a selection of photographs from the original exhibition is on sale in the library and authors and exhibitors, Archie Foley and Peter E Ross, will be available for a book signing and chat about it from 6.30pm on Wednesday 30th November in our Gallery Area.

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to visit the library? Do you know someone who is? If so, we might be able to help you. 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, call us on 529 5558 and ask about our Library Link and Housebound services.

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

4th October : *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

1st November : *Flame Alphabet* by Ben Marcus

6th December: *The Secret Mandarin* by Sara Sheridan

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

For any up-to-date information on what is happening in the library, check our [Facebook](#) page.

Paul Hudson

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

WITH the summer holidays over, the new cycle of Neighbourhood Partnership activity has started. Our first full meeting is on 28th September at 6.30 in the East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road. Our sub-groups have started already, and details can be found on our webpage - [edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships](http://edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships)

With the Council's Transformation Programme moving forward, our Neighbourhood Partnership will join with the Craightonny & Duddingston and Leith Partnerships to form the new North East Locality. The new Locality will deliver common geographical boundaries for the Council and our public sector partners such as NHS, police and fire services, together with Neighbourhood Partnerships. The aim is to be more effective and reduce duplication. We will keep residents updated as the process continues.

The Community Council election process is under way. We would urge as many

### PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### Join Your Community Council

PORTOBELLO Community Council, like others in Edinburgh, is looking for new members and invites people who care about Portobello to put themselves forward. Nominations opened on 5th September and close on 26th September. If there are more individuals or groups standing than there are seats on PCC (which happened last time), an election by public vote will take place on 27th October.

While a community council has next to no power compared to equivalent local authority areas in most of Europe, it can nevertheless play a key role. For example, in consulting with the community, to represent our unanimous or majority and minority views to developers or to Edinburgh Council.

Maintaining respect for each other when we differ may not be important at a national or even city politics level, but in a community it is vital: we are good neighbours, friends, a growing vibrant community - and we all want to keep it like that.

This is just one of the many ways in which people actively seek to take care of our community, but if you feel it is a good way to contribute, please put yourself forward. For nomination forms go to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils), or email the Returning Officer, [maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Justin Kenrick

people as possible to get involved and make your community's voice even stronger.

We will be delighted to see the opening of the new High School in October and wish pupils, families and staff all the best in securing an even better education in the future.

Mary Dunbar

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### Keyhole Blues

**WHERE** I grew up in Fairlie on the west coast, we weren't particularly security conscious. There was only one set of keys for the house, which would be hidden under a triangular stone in a flower bed by the last person to leave. It was a simple system and seemed to work and, as far as we know, nobody that shouldn't have ever let themselves in.

In our house here, everybody has a set of keys which often get mislaid. Sometimes they turn up when you are least expecting them to; at the back of the car boot or in the pocket of an old coat. If someone has forgotten their keys and nobody's in, we have found our house to be very secure, as we have all unsuccessfully tried breaking and entering.

So, the other day when I couldn't find my keys and we were in a hurry to get to a dental appointment and do the food shop, and somebody else was in but going out later, I said to my son: "Have you got your keys?" He assured me he had them in his trouser pocket. When we got back, it was pouring with rain, and I asked if he would mind unlocking the front door while I unloaded the car. "But I don't have my keys mum" he said, perplexed. "I thought they were in your trouser pocket", I said. "Yes, but my trousers are upstairs in the bedroom", he replied. "Oh", I said, and that's when I knew, I've still got a lot to learn!

## BIG BEACH BUSK JUST GETS BIGGER



Photos by Nigel Archdale

**ZERO** waste is a laudable aim, and several years ago The City of Edinburgh Council initiated the separation of food waste and recyclable material, with the rest going to landfill. But more can be done, as shown by our fellow Transition Town in Dunbar; it became Scotland's first zero waste town by working with residents and traders to further reduce their waste output.

Zero Waste Scotland now offers other towns the opportunity, one of the main areas being to work with traders to reduce packaging. This would require time and effort and, at present, there are not enough of us in PEDAL with the spare time to take this on.

Like many other organisations in Portobello, PEDAL needs more volunteers to keep our existing initiatives going. Are you interested in developing the Zero Waste Town idea or helping with our other work, such as the monthly market? If so, please contact us on [info@pedal-porty.org.uk](mailto:info@pedal-porty.org.uk)

The community orchard is looking excellent, with many trees producing a reasonable crop, although the fruit still needs time to ripen. After seven years we celebrated the first fruit from the fig tree by eating some at our last work session, which was wonderful, as the figs had been warmed by the morning sunshine. The brambles are just turning a rich bright black, meaning they are sweet and juicy for picking, but please leave some for others to enjoy, as with all produce.

We will be holding the annual Apple Day in the orchard, which is just opposite the south entrance to Brunstane Station, on Saturday 29th October, so look out for the posters. Apple pressing, dooking and tasting, with perhaps a Halloween element, will ensure a great event for all.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

## SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



**THE** colours of autumn give a great display before winter. It's worth spending money on an acer that will give guaranteed bright reds or yellows. They are great for small gardens, as they do well in pots and can be placed where they can be admired. Another lovely small tree or shrub is the "katsura", *cercidiphyllum japonica*, which turns yellow and smells of candy floss.

This is the time for harvesting, storing and preserving all sorts of fruits, vegetables and seeds. But have you tried fuchsia fruits? I think they have a delicate, exotic taste and make a nice light sauce for ice-cream and I'm trying a new bigger-berried variety. There's always something new to try, which makes gardening always interesting.

You could also eat your dahlia tubers, and there are varieties specifically grown for their flavour, but I want mine for their flowers. As we're on clay soil, I dig them up once blackened with frost, let them dry for a few days, then wrap in newspaper and store somewhere vermin- and frost-free. If you're on sand, you can mulch heavily with compost (home-made, of course) and they should overwinter, if we don't get a very hard frost.

It's also time to plant hyacinths for the dark days of winter and to give away as Christmas presents. If you've collected lots of seeds from your garden, pop them into envelopes, label appropriately (name and date of collection), perhaps cutting out pictures from old seed catalogues, and give to gardening friends as presents as well.

Throughout the winter, empty the compost heap, mulch your most precious plants and add a layer to where crops are to be grown; the worms will drag the compost down and aerate the soil. Clear borders in February, once the birds have fed on the seed heads, start refilling the compost heap - and yet another gardening year begins.

Many thanks for the donations on our Open Days. We were able to send £100 to Garden Organic.

## HOME FOR HISTORIC PORTRAIT

A portrait of Alexander Brand, local baker, and last Provost of Portobello from 1894-96, has been moved from the library to a more appropriate home in the Town Hall foyer. When Portobello was amalgamated into Edinburgh in 1896, Provost Brand played a leading part in the negotiations. As one of the conditions of amalgamation,

Edinburgh promised the citizens of Portobello a new Assembly Hall with seating for over 800. The new building, known as the Town Hall, was opened in October 1914.

The portrait was purchased in 2003 by the City of Edinburgh Council, with contributions from local groups.

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### COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Portobello & Craigmillar Ward

**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) Receive regular Reports by email or view on [www.porty.org.uk](http://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](mailto:david.walker1@edinburgh.gov.uk)



# PORTOBELLO PROPERTY PRICES IN 1919



Photo by Margaret Munro

I WAS searching through the classified advertisements in The Scotsman for January to March 1919 and noticed that there seemed to be an increased number of properties for sale in Portobello. I don't know whether this was due to changes in family circumstances or post-war economic conditions, but I thought it would be interesting to look at a few in closer detail. I have given a rough equivalent to today's values in square brackets after the prices in the ads. Rents given are per annum.

No 18 Brighton Place was advertised four times

between 11th January and 15th February, described as "a detached villa containing dining room, drawing room, parlour, four bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, washhouse & c with garden behind and plot in front". The rent was £39 [£1,999] and the reduced upset price was £500 [£25,628]. It was to be

### 18 Brighton Place

sold at Dowell's Rooms, 18 George Street. The house was sold on 19th February for £530 [£27,166].

'Ravenscroft', 58 Regent Street (see photograph) was advertised five times

in January as "a self-contained cottage comprising two public and three bedrooms, kitchen with scullery, bathroom, servant's bedroom, garden & c". The rent was £32 [£1,640]. It could be seen Tuesdays and Thursdays by contacting Douglas & Smart, House Agents, Portobello. Unfortunately I found no details of the sale price, if it sold, but as the rent was slightly less than the Brighton Place property, it seems a fair guess that it went for around £500 [£25,628].

16 Melville Street [now Bellfield Street] was advertised five times between

### 'Public Roup'

25th January and 1st March to be sold by 'Public Roup' [Scots for public auction, often because of bankruptcy] on 6th March, unless sold privately beforehand. What is of interest is that this sale also included premises at 12 Bellfield Lane, with the properties described as follows: "No 16 a self-contained dwelling house with two public rooms, three bedrooms, kitchen, washhouse and conveniences", rent £26 [£1,332]. Bellfield Lane comprised a warehouse and work-

shop premises with a rent of £16 10 shillings [£845]. There was a low upset of £650 [£33,316] to ensure a sale. The sale price was reported on 6th March as £705 [£36,136].

### Sold for £705

Although it is impossible to accurately compare property prices, it is interesting to see the descriptions of the properties and their values. The chance to buy such properties today at these prices would need nothing short of a miracle!

Margaret Munro

## Malvarosa

Tapas as nature intended.

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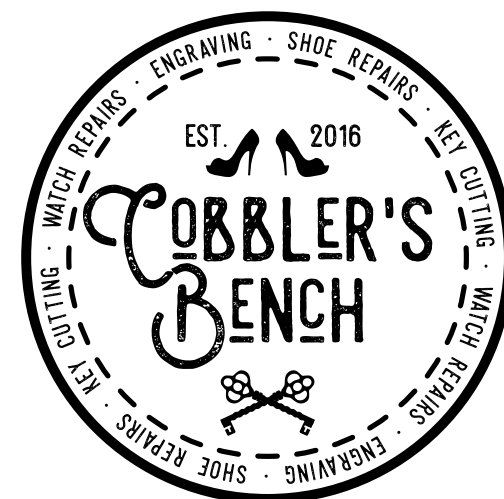
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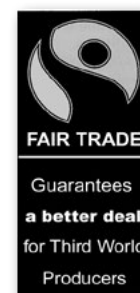
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## What's On

**CAR BOOT SALES:** (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sundays 25th Sept & 30th Oct, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** Sat. 1st Oct., 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Organic fruit, veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks etc. For details or to book a stall, contact [portobello.market@live.co.uk](mailto:portobello.market@live.co.uk) Future dates: 5th Nov. and 3rd Dec.

**FROM STEAM TO DIESEL** exhibition: from Mon. 21st Nov, Portobello Library; Meet the authors, Wed. 30th, 6.30pm. (See Library News, p3, for details).

**PORTOBELLO HERITAGE TRUST** annual lecture titled *St Kilda: The Last and Outmost Isle* by Angela Gannon, Monday 21st November 7.30pm, St Mark's Church. Entry is free and all are welcome.

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Weds, 7.15-9.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St. £6/£4 concess. All welcome. See [portobellocommunitychoir.org](http://portobellocommunitychoir.org) for details.

**AFTERNOON DANCING:** Ballroom, sequence, line dancing, with Duncan McBain, Weds/Fridays, 1-4pm, £3 incl. refreshments. Beach Lane Social Club.

## AMNESTY - LOCAL ACTION

**INITIATIVES** to highlight female genital mutilation (FGM) as a human rights issue in a number of African countries, Sierra Leone and Burkino Faso included, were featured in a film *Desert Flower*, shown at Tribe Party in late May. Over £188 was raised at the event and added to later, and the total was government-matched. The circle of concerned people has widened significantly.

Our group made representations to Tommy Sheppard MP on the need for the UK to take a strong lead in international peace talks, and to Ash Denholm MSP on Police Scotland "training projects" in United Arab Emirates, states with appalling human rights records and impunity from prosecution for those using torture. A meeting is planned with the head of Police Scotland, Ash Denholm, representatives of our group and, it is hoped, a staff member from Amnesty Scotland.

New member Vinnie Verdicchio has given us a valuable outline of Amnesty's work and organisation in Italy, based on her experience in an Amnesty group there. She now represents our group on Amnesty's Scottish Committee.

From October, our group meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month in Portobello & Joppa Parish Church (formerly St Philip's), Brunstane Road North. For further information contact Theresa McMurtry: email, [smiley.laughran@gmail.com](mailto:smiley.laughran@gmail.com); tel. 0131 669 0295.

David Turner

## NEW BOOK RECALLS WW2 CHILDHOOD IN CRAIGENTINNY AND PORTOBELLO

### MY EARLY DAYS

by Stuart Edmond

**THIS** new publication is an account of what it was like growing-up during WW2 in Craigentenny and Portobello. Despite the threat from German bombs and the deprivations of a war-time economy, young Stuart Edmond enjoyed a fulfilling childhood with the many other children in the crowded, bustling "stairs" of the new housing estate in Craigentenny.

This delightful collection of memories and reminiscences will be of interest to young and old and will jog memories of those who were lucky enough to grow-up in the tumultuous 1940s and 50s.

Priced £5.99, the book is available at [www.russellturner.org/myearlyyears.asp](http://www.russellturner.org/myearlyyears.asp)

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WITH the squeeze on public spaces in Portobello and Edinburgh, The Wash House (aka Porty Community Centre) in Adelphi Grove is a hidden gem, with cheap and accessible activities on offer, and great space for community gatherings.



Though we held our AGM in May, anyone interested in getting involved and supporting the Wash House is still very welcome. Get in touch with us to find out more. Meetings are held once a month and always involve tea and cakes!

Brass Blast is an exciting new youth brass project led by Oi Musica and launching at The Wash House this autumn. For more information check out [www.oimusica.co.uk](http://www.oimusica.co.uk) or ring 07968 491835.

Fun Fiddle is up and running from 15th September, and look out for their ever-popular family ceilidh on 27th November. See [www.funfiddle.co.uk](http://www.funfiddle.co.uk) for more information. And more Ceilidh Collective benefits will be happening later this year - see [www.ceilidhcollective.org](http://www.ceilidhcollective.org)

Enjoy-a-ball, puppy training, art, language, indoor soccer, badminton, yoga, zumba, are all on offer too.

For more details on all classes and activities get in touch with Val Stokes, Facilities Coordinator at Portobello Community Centre, Tel: 0131 669 8275, on Tuesdays and Wednesday from 8am-5pm.

Gica Loening

## THE SUN SHINES ON THE VILLAGE SHOW



Photo by Nigel Archdale

LOTS of fun was had at this year's Portobello's Village Show held in Rosefield Park on the first Sunday of September. With a wide range of stalls, competitions, music and entertainments the crowds were kept very happy all afternoon under the glaring sun. The organisers came up trumps once again.

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# A GLOBAL VISION



A 'Peace on Earth' programme is taking place in Portobello primary schools and in their Twende Pamoja Trust Tanzanian partner schools during September and October. Children from each local school here will

join a Peace Walk to the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 21st September, the International Day of Peace, followed by a picnic in Holyrood Park.

Twende Pamoja, which in Swahili means "Let

Us Walk Together", promotes the development of a global vision of relationships between communities, schools and places of learning in Tanzania and Scotland. All Portobello primary schools now have partnerships in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania, which was celebrated in a Primary School Pupil Council conference on 1st June in Portobello Town Hall. Learn more at:

[www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com](http://www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com) and [www.twendepamoja.org.uk](http://www.twendepamoja.org.uk)

## A WALK AND A 'BLETHER'

**WALKING** is a good way to keep body and mind healthy and Ageing Well, run by Edinburgh Leisure and funded by NHS Lothian, has started a free scheme open to everyone over 50, with qualified walk leaders. Meet in the upstairs café at Portobello Swim Centre on Wednesday mornings for a 10.30 start for a walk along the Prom. "If you walk in a group you can meet new people and have a chance for a good 'blether', followed by a cuppa and chat", they say. For more information call 0131 458 2183 or e-mail: [ageingwell@edinburghleisure.co.uk](mailto:ageingwell@edinburghleisure.co.uk)

## BOOK REVIEW

**TIME FOR HEROES: A Celebration of Hibs' Glorious 2016 Scottish Cup Victory**, by Ted Brack.

IF you were there "When the Hibs went up to lift the Scottish Cup", this book might just be essential reading. It is a personal journal by a former Portobello "Hibby" headmaster of the complex season that ended with the first Scottish Cup triumph for 114 years, and is ideal for any member of the Hibernian family.

Taking its title from the banner that greeted the team as they ran onto the pitch that Saturday, Ted Brack's sixth Hibs book is a blow by blow account of the season's ups and downs under "Stubbsy". He describes month by month the events that led to disappointment in the Championship and the League Cup, before the Scottish Cup triumph, in the context of the club's recent and distant past. These are interspersed with the highs and lows of his family life, world events and even the weather.

After the euphoria, this book is an invitation to remember, reflect and celebrate.

(ISBN-10: 1785300784, Paperback;; ISBN-13: 978-1785300783, Kindle. Black and White Publishing.

J H

## TEDxPortobello at Tribe Party



OUR second TEDxPortobello at Tribe Party marked our second year of trading. It was another event packed with talented speakers who make big differences in their communities. Go to TEDxPortobello.com to watch.

Tribe Party is a community interest company, a social enterprise aiming to connect, support and build on the assets already in Portobello. Although we are still in our infancy we are often asked what's next. So far the community at Tribe is made up of around 60 members who use the space for work, classes and workshops. What's next depends on who joins us and what people want to bring to the local community. If you would like to start a group at Tribe Party, we want to support you to make it happen. If you want to join our existing activities, check out [www.tribeparty.org/events](http://www.tribeparty.org/events) We have over 20 classes a week.

Tribe Party's co-working hub is filling up but we still have some hot-desking packages available. Sign up for our newsletters to stay in touch, <http://tribeparty.org/subscribe-to-our-newsletter>.

Dani Trudeau

Tribe Party, [www.tribeparty.org](http://www.tribeparty.org)

## NEW MINISTER AT WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH

"Never Say Never" is not just the title of a Justin Bieber song, but rather a philosophy to live by. This has proved true for the Rev. Mike Marsden, who has recently been inducted as the minister of Wilson Memorial Church, Kekewich Avenue. Rev. Mike and his wife Yvonne have recently returned to Scotland from serving with the Presbyterian Church in Canada for almost 15 years.

They 'never' thought they would return to Scotland, but the lure of two grown-up children and seven grandchildren proved to be a powerful attraction. Although missing their friends in Canada, they are happy to be back, and look forward to making new friends as they share together in the ministry of Wilson Memorial Church.

George Smith, Session Clerk

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## PORTOBELLO GOLF CLUB

AFTER a great start to the club's 160th Anniversary year, things deteriorated quite rapidly. A new school pathway perimeter fence was installed in the spring, bisecting the No.2 Hole, and drainage works for the school were carried out across the golf course. These rendered the busiest months in the golf calendar unplayable for competitions, including our own Sir Harry Lauder Open Competition.

Once the summer season started each 'medal' saw a different winner, with plenty of competition amongst members. The annual Porty Ladies/Mens Stableford competition was well attended despite grey clouds and drizzle, and though competition was fierce there were no recriminations in the clubhouse after, with too many sandwiches and cakes to eat. Thanks again to the Ladies for such wonderful hosting.

Our Annual Golf Away Day features a friendly match against Musselburgh Links, and our annual rivalry with Lochend Golf Club has another chapter to unfold. Presentation Night will be arranged for October.

New members are always welcome and the course caters for all levels of ability, from scratch to total beginners, junior and senior. Membership fees for 2016/2017 (April-March) are £40 (concessions available). Green Fees are not included, but can be paid on the day or by Edinburgh Leisure Golf Season Ticket (see [www.edinburghleisure.co.uk](http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk)). For more information contact Portobello Golf Course starter on 0131 669 4361 or see our [Facebook](#) page.

Lyll Scott

## IN THE SADDLE



Enjoying a short break during the family ride around the Dalmeny Estate and South Queensferry.

THE summer got off to a good start for local cycling club Portovelo, with 14 of us heading to the Yorkshire Dales for the annual 'weekender', the first one outside Scotland. This involved a long ride all day Saturday and a shorter one on Sunday morning, before heading home on Sunday afternoon. Both routes took us up some classic climbs, including Buttertubs (which featured in the 2014 Tour de France) and Fleet Moss. But the weekend was memorable as much for the scenery and the company, both on and off the bike, as it was for the hills.

Sunday rides have ranged far and wide, as usual, and included a century ride (100 miles) in July that went down to Talla and Megget reservoirs, returning via Traquair and the Tweed valley. In August, the club organised a family ride around the Dalmeny Estate and Queensferry, and also had the company of a journalist and photographer on one of its rides, as the basis for a forthcoming feature in *Cycling Weekly* magazine.

The club always welcomes new members. Full details can be found at [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

## ROWPORTY APPEALS

ROWPORTY is the coastal rowing section of the Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club based in the boatyard on the Prom.

Rowporty appeals in two ways. First, to lots of people who have joined the club to take up coastal rowing as an enjoyable form of exercise, a competitive sport and a social activity. With around 150 members, it is now by far the biggest coastal rowing club in Scotland. It remains open and inclusive: everyone is welcome. The only requirement is to complete two novice training sessions on a Sunday morning. Rowporty also appeals to people on the Prom

who just like to "stand and stare" at its beautiful St Ayles skiffs, with their distinctive white hulls with aquamarine trim, out on the water, come rain or shine. Rowporty's appeal has turned it into a unique community asset and resource.

Second, Rowporty appeals for your help. Its two skiffs, *Icebreaker* and *Jenny Skylark* (built by local enthusiasts), need to be properly serviced and maintained. In the past, this was done over the winter months in a rented workshop on the Baileyfield estate. With the advent of Aldi and new housing developments, the club has lost its workshop, so

your help is needed in finding suitable alternative premises. A skiff is about 22 feet long and 5 feet wide, and there needs to be space to work around it. Lighting and power would be useful, but are not absolutely essential. Rowporty would be happy to pay the going rate for the right premises for a limited/negotiable period in the winter months.

If you think you can help keep Rowporty afloat, please contact Ian Martin ([iansmartin1@gmail.com](mailto:iansmartin1@gmail.com) or 07963956504) or Larry Foster ([larryfos@gmail.com](mailto:larryfos@gmail.com) or 07747073450). And if you fancy having a go, book in for a free novice session.

## Gemma's Gym

HAVING worked in the fitness industry for three years now, people still amaze me by what they can do when they put their minds to it. I meet people from all walks of life, who have such varied lives, but still manage to maintain a good balance of eating healthily and exercising to keep them fit. It's still by far the best part of what I do, hearing how well people do when they achieve what they set out to and witnessing the change in them, as it's so empowering when you reach your goal.

Giving advice and meeting people allow me to keep learning as well. It is important for me, as a gym instructor, to admit that I don't know everything, as it keeps me moving forward and growing as a person and an instructor.

One thing that I hope has come across in my columns is the importance of being good to yourself and looking after yourself both physically and mentally. I really hope people take note and remember to enjoy themselves, whilst making good choices when eating and exercising. Consistency and moderation really do work. There are no short cuts, and getting the balance right makes it much more likely that you will stick to it and maintain the results you have earned.

I would like to wish you well with your fitness journey and thanks for reading.

Gemma Hopewell

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