

THE **Portobello** REPORTER

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

CREATIVE TRIBE

TRIBE PORTY is a new creative hub that opened in Portobello in the spring of 2015. Local people and groups can hire space to work in a creative environment with like-minded people or can give or take classes. Many of the activities are focused on health and well-being, while others provide opportunities to learn arts or take part in music and drama groups.

Social entrepreneur Dani Trudeau thought of setting up the Community Interest Company after undertaking an online survey which showed there was a lot of interest in more creative workspace in the area. She gave up her job and secured £10K of Big Lottery Awards for All funding, which, together with £12K of her own money, was used to convert the upstairs at Earthy in Windsor Place into the creative hub she has called Tribe Porty.

One of Dani's first endeavours was to host a TEDx event. TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) are talks given by leading thinkers on topics as diverse as confidence building and



Dani Trudeau (front) with some of the creatives based at Tribe Porty

organically grown architecture and TEDx is its community version. There are almost 2,000 TED talks online that have had over one billion views. The Tribe Porty TEDx featured publicly nominated speakers who made their presentations to a live audience, while others could watch a live video stream of it elsewhere in Portobello before it was posted online. Another

TEDx is planned for May and a TEDx Youth event may be on the horizon.

Tribe Porty is one of a growing number of social enterprises being established all over Scotland, with Edinburgh alone having over 200. Like all social enterprises they must promote social good and any profits from their activities have to be ploughed back into the

enterprise or community. "We have a strong belief in connectivity, in health and well-being," says Dani. "Finding all these healthy connections can help you thrive in health, in work and in creativity".

For more information on what is happening at Tribe Porty go to www.tribeporty.org

Peter E Ross

ARTIST'S AWARD

PORTOBELLO artist and environmental activist Juliana Capes has won the 2015 Society of Scottish Artists (SSA) Exhibition Prize. Her winning installation, Aquifer, consists of a large number of balloons that playfully interrupt the viewers expectations. By including water when they were inflated they hang down rather than float up. The work was exhibited at the Scottish National Gallery, Princes Street, in December and January.



"It's great to be recognised by the Society," says Juliana of her award, "and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to make an ambitious installation for the fantastic spaces of the National Galleries in 2016." In addition to being supported by the SSA in this endeavour, she will be a featured artist in next year's exhibition and is also creating new work for this year's Cupar Arts Festival and Leith Late.

SETTBACK - Council decide against re-laying setts

THE Council's Transport and Environment Committee decided to remove the setts in Brighton Place and re-lay the surface with asphalt, at their meeting on 12th January. They rejected a Council officer's recommendation, went against Council policy for conservation areas - and reversed a previous decision to re-lay the setts.

Based on their 2015 consultation, Portobello Community Council had made strong representation for the removal of the setts and for the laying of asphalt. This would make a saving of £400,000 which is not trans-



Photo by Nigel Archdale

ferable to any other budget, but will remain in the roads budget to be used around the city. The setts will be stored and used on other setted streets in Edinburgh. Sean Gilchrist, Roads Renewal Manager, said: "The work is estimated to take around

16 weeks, depending on the type of traffic management agreed." No planning permission is required to remove the setts, which have never been completely re-laid within living memory.

Vic Michel, representing Brightons and Rosefield

Residents' Association, Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Heritage Trust, made a presentation to the committee in support of re-laying the setts. At the same meeting the committee approved the Proposed Capital Carriageway Programme for 2016/17, which included re-laying the setts in High Street, South Queensferry.

Following the decision an online petition for re-laying the setts was launched on the website 38degrees.org.uk There will be another meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 15th March.

SCHOOL MEMORABILIA WANTED

PORTOBELLO High School is asking former pupils if they have any photos, news cuttings, medals, cups, report cards or uniforms that they are willing to lend for an exhibition of memorabilia on open days to mark the closure of the old school. They are also looking for information on FPs who have gone on to successful careers or businesses, or have become celebrities in their field. For further details or to pass on any items please email Nicola.Todd@portobello.edin.sch.uk or telephone (0131) 669 2324. All items will be returned.

PORTY PROFILE No. 61 MAE SHAW

MAE says she had a “brilliant” send-off at her recent leaving do at the Pleasance marking the end of her 25 year career as a senior lecturer in Community Education at the University of Edinburgh. However, with a book out soon, the Portobello Book Festival, journal editing, lectures, hill walking and her renewed interest in singing, she is as busy as ever.



Photo by Karen Combe

Born and brought up in Northern Ireland with two brothers and a sister in the midst of the Troubles, for Mae “taped up windows and walking on the edge of the kerb to avoid flying glass” was the norm. As a teenager, she volunteered with the peace and reconciliation organisation, the Corrymeela Community, and says “the experience turned me into a political animal, with a lifelong commitment to peace and justice”.

Education, particularly fair access to education, has also been one of Mae’s guiding principles. She left school at 16 after doing O-levels, and began working in an office. “I was quite a good shorthand typist”, she says, “but I was always doing night classes - art, philosophy, politics. Then I heard you could get into teacher training as a mature student with a good interview”. Spurred on, she did an A-level and then studied primary school teaching at Stranmillis College, Belfast.

After graduating, however, Mae was keen to spread her wings and went to London for the summer, where her secretarial skills came in handy. Then she heard that the director of the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow was looking for a secretarial assistant and worked there for a year, which was “a fantastic experience”.

Mae returned to London to work as a community worker, then after a few years she came to Edinburgh to study on a post-graduate course, the same course she ended up teaching on after working for Edinburgh Council of Social Service for eight years. She moved to Portobello when her son was about to start school in the early 90s, and says: “It’s a vibrant place to live, a mixed place, and I love being near the sea.”

Alongside her career, Mae was a folk singer and performed regularly on the folk circuit and says: “I was involved in an organisation called Left Turns about bringing music into politics and politics into music and went on a singing tour in 1986 to East Germany”.

As one of the founding members of Portobello Book Festival, Mae is delighted that it remains free and inclusive. “A major move forward would be if we could get a care home as a venue, so it’s about getting deeper rather than bigger”.

Karen Combe

ON THE BEAT

AN issue with speeding motorists on Joppa Road was identified by local residents last November and reported to us. In December 2015 and January 2016 PC Sean McGarvey ran a local operation to address the issue, when he also addressed general safety on the roads, especially during winter months.

During the operation the speeds of over 100 vehicles were recorded on several different dates and times and we are delighted to report that no speeding offences were detected.

Over 40 vehicles were stopped as part of the operation and were given a thorough safety check for any defects. A number of these drivers were offered advice. There were also offences detected in relation to driving without insurance and the vehicles of these offenders were seized.

We would urge all road users to regularly check their vehicles, especially in bad weather, to ensure they are roadworthy.

There will be more local operations ongoing in the coming months; if you want to contact us about a local issue please call us on 101 or, if you want to remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

For information on the Multi-Member Ward Plan visit the Police Scotland website and click on [Your Community](#). We also have a twitter account @EdinEastPolice

The Community Policing Team

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

STRENGTH in the Community is a free resource for families, partners and friends affected by someone’s drinking, drug use and/or gambling. “The person you care about may not think they have a problem, they may be in recovery, have given up trying or stopped their behaviour. If you find it hard to cope with stress and your emotions, which are a by-product of their actions,

Strength in the Community offers support and advice, individually or in a group. Sessions will be held upstairs in Portobello Library from 6-7.45pm on 7th/21st March, 4th/18th April, 2nd/ 16th May. Coming to something new can be a daunting prospect but may be the first steps in your own recovery”, they say. For details visit www.strengthinthecommunity.org or call 07917456795.

CAN YOU HELP ?

DOES anyone know the whereabouts of Vic Adams, who was a member of an expedition to Easter Ross nearly 50 years ago to traverse the Black Rock Gorge crevice? He was a trainee chemist in Portobello at that time and was a Scout in the 1960s. The other members wish to invite him to an anniversary reunion in May and anyone who can help is asked to email David Bennet at davidandjoanbennet@gmail.com or phone him on 01450 870069.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE X15 BUS will stop at Morton Street in both directions, Monday-Saturday, from April. This was requested by Portobello Amenity Society, Joppa Residents Association and other bus users.

PORTOBELLO TIMEBANK secured student support from the University of Edinburgh Business School to clean up the Brunstane Burn on Saturday 5th March. The local nature spot has suffered over the years from illegal fly-tipping and waste deposited along its banks. This is part of a new initiative for the Timebank, the aim being to boost membership by using team work and group activities. For the latest news see www.edinburghtimebank.org.uk

LET’S SING, is a new dementia-friendly singing group, meeting on Tuesdays from 11.00-12.30 in the Rehearsal Room at the Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, and is free. Singers and ‘can’t singers’ can attend as often as they like and may bring a friend. Singing is fun and good for the brain, and experienced song leader Penny Stone will teach familiar songs and simple harmonies from around the world. For details contact Jan Killeen on 0131 669 2888 or email Penny Stone: lets.sing.brunton@gmail.com

CONTACT THE ELDERLY, a UK-wide charity, runs free monthly tea parties on Sundays for those aged 75 and over who would otherwise have no-one to see and nowhere to go. It hopes people in North and North East Edinburgh will register their interest so that a new group can be formed. Drivers will take guests to a host’s home, and each host will welcome a small group once or twice a year. To become a volunteer or guest, contact Morna O’May on 01786 871264 or email: morna.o'may@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

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THE Easter holidays start on 25th March and we are hard at work planning our Easter activities for children. For more information on what we are doing in the library over Easter ask a member of staff before the holidays, or check us on www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary



Please remember that we only run one Wednesday Rhymetime over school holiday periods instead of the usual two; this is at 10.30am.

The Sporting Memories Network has launched a sports reminiscence group at the library. If you are over 50 and have always had a keen interest in sport and sporting activity, this group offers a great chance to meet up with like-minded people and share your sporting memories and experiences. The group meets every Monday from 2-4pm. More information at www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com

We are delighted to exhibit the work of artist Edward McLaughlin MBE. The exhibition will be launched at an event on 11th April at 6.30pm and will run until 9th May. It will explore how Edward's work has changed following his diagnosis with dementia

Are you between 8-12 years old and love books and anything to do with reading? Do you know anyone that would like to share their love of reading with like-minded children? Our Chatterbooks group is there for all young bookworms in Portobello and meets every third Saturday at 2pm. Speak to Lesley at the library if you are interested, or phone us on 529 5558.

If you know anyone between 5-8 years old who loves stories why not bring them down to our Storytime on Tuesdays at 4pm? Ian will be here every week, entertaining us all with a brand-new batch of magical stories.

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

- 5th April: *Casino Royale* by Ian Fleming
- 3rd May: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- 7th June: *Maggie and Me* by Damian Barr

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

Paul Hudson

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

YOU DECIDE! Last year's process to allocate the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership's Community Grants Fund of £21,737 gave the decision to local people. Nearly 500 voted in the libraries, by post and in person to decide which of the 29 applications would be successful, and 17 groups won an award.

This year voting will take place in Portobello Town Hall on Saturday 14th May from 1-3 pm. To encourage people to turn up, see what's on offer and engage with others in the process, there will be no library voting. For more information see www.edinburghnp.org.uk and come along to help decide who will benefit this year.

NEW PARK for EH15. After nearly six months of public consultation on the design and naming of the park, Craigentiny and Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership will make the choice at its meeting on Thursday 17th March at 6pm in Parsons Green Primary School.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HERE'S a brief overview of PCC involvement in local issues in the last few months and what's coming up in 2016.

The City of Edinburgh Council received a Proposal of Application Notice in December for a "Residential development, new primary school, new local centre including retail... community facilities, parkland and associated infrastructure" at the Brunstane site identified in the new Local Development Plan. Developer EDI Group will hold a public consultation at Kings Manor Hotel on Tuesday 8th March, 3-8pm. Information boards and feedback forms also available in Portobello Library. For more information see www.edigroup.co.uk/new-brunstane

On 12 January Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee voted to replace the road surface of Brighton Place with a full asphalt reconstruction, contrary to council policy to retain setts. Your responses to our consultation helped inform the decision.

A planning application to replace the existing signboard on the historical use of the Promenade was submitted in January. Fantastically, all costs were met by Scotmid Community Projects funding.

The CEC is reviewing Portobello's Conservation Area Character Appraisal. This defines the key elements, features and qualities that contribute to an area's architectural and historic interest. Unlikely to change significantly, new research will focus on the impact of recent development. Current timescales are to produce a draft by May for summer consultation (PCC).

For further information visit www.portobellocc.org, www.edinburghnp.org.uk or the PCC stand in Portobello library.

Clare Slifer

The park will be on the current Portobello High School/St John's Primary site, after the High School has been demolished and St John's re-built. Copies of the

three design options can be viewed in local libraries.

To find out more or become involved in the Partnership, please see our website.

Mary Dunbar

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TEENAGE KICKS

I AM beginning to think that Nicola Morgan, author of *Blame My Brain: The Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed*, has been in our house, as her description of teenage behaviour matches exactly with what happens here. It just can't be a coincidence.

In the name of keeping the peace and improving my parenting skills, I have been on a *Raising Teens with Confidence* course which was excellent, but I still struggle with diplomatic relations and long for a ceasefire. Trivial disagreements seem to escalate quickly, and even the goldfish appear to be disturbed by the drama, and swim up and down rapidly whenever the bedroom door just about slams off its hinges. In fact, I've considered taking it off its frame, which is what Jamie Lee Curtis does in *Freaky Friday*, a must see film for people like me in need of a laugh and some perspective.

"It's not like it was in the olden days, when you were growing up mum," the children say. Until recently, they thought I spent my time in Anderson shelters, gas mask at the ready, not pogoing with Jackie at the Glasgow Apollo, watching Siouxsie and the Banshees.

So, despite having been a punky teenager myself, I admit I didn't handle the septum piercing well, but I'm used to it now - it looks nice and I checked: the parlour has a 5-star rating. "Choose your battles", says my wise friend and with her wisdom and frequent reference to Nicola Morgan, I might just survive the next chapter!

TIM in the wine shop was intrigued by our wassailing event at the community orchard. Being an Aussie he was aware of indigenous peoples' seasonal rites but was amused with the idea of us continuing with an old 'fertility' rite. You may not think that singing to the trees will make them bear more fruit, but over 70 local adults and children thought it was great fun. Hot spiced apple juice and cider wet the whistle for singing round the fire and there was plentiful home baking. We even sang our own wassailing song, the *Donkeyfield Community Orchard Canon* composed from names of apples we grow.

It has been hard at times, but we now have a beautiful orchard for all the community to enjoy, young and old. In an urban area, we will never produce enough food to sustain us, but we are looking at other areas of Portobello for community growing. If you know of any please get in touch at www.pedal-party.org.uk.

We don't all need to make this connection with nature to face the challenges of the future, but we do need to retain a link with where our food comes from and its seasonality. Wassailing was a fun way of maintaining that link. Maybe Tim will come next year.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



GO OUT and look at the garden and imagine what you'd like to see - neat rows of veg, an eclectic mix of wildflowers, a beautiful sward of green lawn or just a tidy patch? Spring is a great time to decide, especially if you use your garden in the summer for sitting with a cuppa or a family/friends get-together. List what you will need to do to achieve something you'd like; no one else needs to like it, but it should match your lifestyle!

If it's veg you want, raised beds are great for lots of reasons and can be made from various bits of scrap; the internet can be a good source of inspiration. Then it'll be a choice of good, organic seed of the vegetables that you like and that will be successful in your microclimate.

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

If you want a proper wildflower meadow it will be hard work, just like a lawn, not an easy option. The spent foliage must be cut down and collected after it has seeded, so that soil fertility is not increased: instead of a lawn cutting every week of, say, a centimetre, one big cut of stems nearly a metre long will be required by September. To achieve a wildflower meadow in an established lawn buy the largest plug plants you can afford, flowers and/or grasses, and clear a patch 30cm square for each. Do this by edging the square with a spade and lifting only the top five cm. The bare earth around each plug can be sprinkled with annual seed of the wildflower mix of your choice. The most important plant is yellow rattle, which will weaken some of the grasses to give the flowers a chance to compete.

If you prefer a green sward, one tip that works well is to pee (and yes, I said pee) into a pot, add to a large watering can of water and sprinkle onto your grass; try it along a strip and see the difference. If you aren't so inclined, then order some seaweed liquid from the organic catalogue. This can be watered on and used on everything in the garden without danger of harming anything. I think most people have realised by now that the use of herbicides, pesticides and artificial fertilizers should not be used, due to increasing information about their effects, big subject I know. No *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson for us, I hope; read it if you dare! I use *The Organic Gardening Catalogue*, www.organiccatalogue.com, tel. 01932 878570, who I've used for years and found excellent.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION



Photo by Nigel Archdale

PORTOBELLO beach was the venue for Our Forth Portobello's demonstration in support of National Anti-Fracking Day and against unconventional gas extraction. The event on 31st January saw over 100 activists and local people join hands along the beach after writing messages in the sand against Fracking.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN at Brighton Nursery raised £450 for Recovery Kidz from ticket sales and sales of the dvd of their Christmas show. Kidz in Recovery provides fun activities and social outings for children whose parents are in recovery from addiction. Nicky McLeod from Recovery Kidz says: "This money will help make many kids smile because it will help us pay for this year's summer trip."

THE BURNS SUPPER held on 16th January in Portobello & Joppa Parish Church Hall was a great success, with outstanding contributions from the top table and tasty traditional fare. £1765 was raised for Christian Aid, which was doubled by a contribution from a government fund, UK Aid.

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Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour:
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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

“LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT”



Photos courtesy of Eleanor Brown

ELEANOR BROWN, who lives in Italy, contacted Portobello Heritage Trust to tell us about her Granny who worked for AW Buchan of Buchan Pottery. After lengthy communications, an interesting family story emerged, beginning over 100 years ago.

Eleanor's Granny, Euphemia (known as Tot) Kirkwood Thomson, was born on 21st February 1887 at 9 Mentone Avenue. She was the eldest of four surviving children. She

attended Towerbank School and left when she was 13 years old. We think the school photograph was taken in her last year at Towerbank. Tot is on the extreme right of the second row from the front.

She entered service with the Buchan household and worked her way up to become the cook. The Buchan's regularly held soirées for invited guests, when Mr Buchan played his violin. One evening a group of officers stationed at Piershill

Barracks were invited to dinner. Afterwards, one of the officers, Charles Addy, asked who had cooked the meal and Tot was sent for. After complimenting her on his meal, Charles asked if he could walk out with her and she agreed.

Apparently it was love at first sight and Tot ran off to London to be with him, something almost unheard of at that time. She found a job as a lady's maid and they were married in Woolwich Barracks on 27th August 1914. They

can be seen together in the studio photo. Charles had made his career in the Royal Field Artillery and was a Lieutenant, but Acting Major, through much of World War One. He was awarded the Military Cross and the Greek Military Cross, possibly for his actions in Salonika.

They had two daughters, Dorothy and Helen, Eleanor's mother, and a son, Charles, who died from meningitis at only 18 months old. By 1923 Charles had been inva-

lided out of the army with tuberculosis and the family moved from London to Dagenham and then Dorset, hoping the air would be better for him. Sadly, Charles died in 1932 leaving Tot to bring up the girls on her own and they returned to Portobello to start a new life. When Eleanor's mother went out to work during World War Two Eleanor's granny Tot brought her up. She died in 1960.

Margaret Munro

Malvarosa

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What's On

PORTOBELLO MARKET: Sat. 5th March, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. For details or to book a stall, contact portobello.market@live.co.uk Future dates: 2nd April, 7th May.

PORTOBELLO COMEDY NIGHT: Fri. 18th March, 8.30pm, The Dalriada, 77 Promenade. Starring Stu Who? MC Steven Davidson. Tickets £10 from www.brownpapertickets.com or Dalriada. (Part of Edinburgh's Festival of Ireland).

AMNESTY COFFEE MORNING & BOOK SALE: Sat. 19th March, 10am-12noon, Bellfield St. Hall, with Woodcraft Folk, music group, stalls. Donations of books, bric-a-brac and baking welcome.

CAR BOOT SALES: (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sundays 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

PORTOBELLO HERITAGE TRUST AGM: Thurs. 14th April, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street. Followed by a talk entitled *Portobello Gala Days*.

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN, part of Scotland's Gardens Open for Charity: Sun. 15th May, 2-5pm, at nos. 4, 7, 13 & 14 East Brighton Crescent, and 36 & 38 Brighton Place, £5 entrance covers all.

Dr Neil's Garden, Duddingston Village, Sat/Sun. 21st/22nd May, 2-5 entrance £3.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR: Weds, 7.15-9.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St. £6/£4 concess. All welcome. see www.portobellocommunitychoir.org

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

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

OUR 2015/16 Greeting Card Campaign was rather limited, as the Portobello Market where we take a stall was cancelled due to bad weather and Portobello High School did not participate this time. At a street stall and a table in Bellfield former church, however, 82 cards of comfort and support were written and sent to three victims of human rights abuses in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

At the Scottish Amnesty Regional Conference on 16th January, 60 members gave high priority to the raising of public awareness of Amnesty's work. One way will be to ensure that groups are working together more effectively, and the Portobello Group's first contribution to this aim will be to help the Edinburgh University Group make their Student Conference in March a success.

A number of new members in 2015 have brought fresh energy and ideas to our group, such as a Human Rights quiz in January in the Artisan Lounge, London Road. Our local businesses donated many of the prizes and our musician, Brendan, was an added attraction. As well as raising awareness of human rights, we raised over £300 for Amnesty's work.

Our regular meetings are now held on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Bellfield former church coffee lounge. Everyone is welcome, without commitment. Further information from secretary, Theresa McMurtry, email: smiley.laughran@gmail.com or tel. 0131 669 0295.

David Turner

JOPPA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

JOPPA Residents Association, formed in 2014, is open to all households in the Joppa area and welcomes new members. So far the committee have dealt with security concerns, condition of roads, traffic speeds, flooding at Joppa bus stop, the closure of Joppa toilets, graffiti on Morton Street footbridge and Joppa Pumping Station and pavement weeds. It has

also supported Brunstane residents over the proposed loss of green belt land at Brunstane Farm.

To join JRA (£1 per household per annum), complete the contact form on www.jopparesidentsassociation.org.uk or write to Chairperson, JRA, c/o 38 Coillesdene Crescent, Edinburgh, EH15 2JL.



THE range of activity on offer at The Wash House, Adelphi Grove, remains as wide and vibrant as ever, including puppy training, art, language and music classes, indoor soccer, badminton, meditative yoga, and other one-off events across the year.

There are exciting new projects including a youth brass group led by Oi Musica. They are seeking donations or loans of brass instruments. Please get in touch if you can help, by emailing marcus@oimusica.co.uk or see www.oimusica.co.uk.

The Ceilidh Collective (www.ceilidhcollective.org/) is coming to Porty and running a ceilidh benefit for Rape Crisis Scotland and Women's Aid on 20th May, followed by regular benefit ceilidhs through the year.

Puppy classes start on Tuesday 12th April, for vaccinated puppies aged up to 19 weeks. For bookings ring 0131 669 1108.

Fun Fiddle is running five-week courses, including Klezmer and Americana, from 14th April. See www.funfiddle.co.uk for more information.

The Wash House AGM is on Wednesday 11th May at 7pm. All welcome! Come and find out how you can get involved. Tea and cakes guaranteed.

For more details on classes and activities get in touch with Val Stokes, Tel: 0131 669 8275. Working hours are Monday 11-2pm and Tuesday-Thursday 11-4pm. Email: val.stokes@ea.edin.sch.uk

Gica Loening

TODDLERS HUT - LOOKING FORWARD

PORTOBELLO Toddlers Hut has been open since 1931 and has welcomed generations of Portobello toddlers. It hopes to continue to do so, and has some exciting refurbishment plans.

Planning permission had been granted for a fantastic new building of which the local community were very supportive but, unfortunately, funding could not be found for such a large capital project. Last year the group decided to roll out a refurbishment plan instead.

Funds have already been raised for new windows, which were fitted last October, and further fundraising is going ahead for Stage 2 of the refurbishment: insulation, larch cladding and a new roof. We hope to involve the Portobello community in some of these events: dads and daughters hairstyle tutorials and a family ceilidh. We will keep you posted on www.toddlerhut.org, our Facebook page and Porty People at www.porty.org.uk.

The Toddlers Hut Group

RAILWAY PHOTOS ON SHOW

THE popular *From Steam To Diesel* exhibition of 1950s to 1960s railway photographs will open at the Museum of Scottish Railways, Bo'ness at the end of March. With a large number of new images added to what has been seen before the display will run until the end of October.

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The Rockville Hotel is now owned by the British Legion Portobello Branch, but it is business as usual, with bar, restaurant and accommodation and everyone is welcome.

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The Quarry Boys



Photo by Nigel Archdale

FOR over 50 years Joppa Quarry Park has been the home of The Quarry Boys Football Club. The club has no membership fee or fancy clubhouse. To become a member all you need is to enjoy playing football and anyone, of any age and footballing ability, is always welcome. Games start at 11.30am on Saturdays throughout the year and regular players come from Fife or the banks of the Tweed to play in Joppa Quarry Park. There are

especially large turnouts on Boxing Day and 2nd January. "Social media is used to keep everyone informed about whether the match is on or not," says Brandon Whales. He has been playing regularly since he was 14 and so has his father. "Our oldest player is almost 80 and we have some regular players who still enjoy their weekly football into their 60s and 70s." Before he took over the co-ordination of the weekly arrangements this vital role

was carried out for many years by Gordon Moyes. From this humble sporting crucible on the old raised beach above Joppa some illustrious footballing careers have sprung. Brandon says, with modest pride: "Billy King, who now plays for Hearts and Scotland Under 21, began his footballing career here as did Billy's brother, Adam, who now plays for Swansea City." If you enjoy your football and are looking for a regular

place to play a full game with like-minded fans of the beautiful game, you need look no further than Joppa Quarry Park. But you will have to hurry, as the Quarry Boys are very hopeful of a free transfer to the football pitch being built at the new Portobello High School when it opens just along Milton Road later this year. For more information please contact Brandon Whales at brandonwhales@hotmail.co.uk

Nigel Archdale

A VIVID INSIGHT



SCOTTISH artist Edward McLaughlin is to exhibit his inspirational work at Portobello Library. Diagnosed with dementia in 2002, Edward found to his astonishment that he now saw the world quite differently, particularly colours. He has created a body of work which celebrates his enriched sense of colour and explores his emotional and intellectual experience. It has been lauded as a vivid insight into the inner life of someone with dementia, but with its illumination of the complexity of individual identity it also asks what it means to be human.

The exhibition highlights the evolution of his art and ideas and includes a short film, *Things I Like about Dementia*. It will be launched on 11th April at 6.30pm, when there will be an opportunity to meet the artist himself, to experience the power and range of his work, and to enjoy the music of local musician, Wendy Weatherby. It runs until 9th May.



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IN THE SADDLE



In early February the club went up Fa'side hill, through Pencaitland to Garvald, then back past Gifford to the Humber Hub for coffee, home via Cousland. 49 miles.

LOCAL cycling club Portobello is certainly not a 'fair weather' operation - we do rides in all weathers, all year round. If you have the right clothing, the cold is not a problem, and there is something special about being out on a bike on a clear crisp winter's day. It's a lot less fun, of course, when it's wet and windy, and we had our fair share of that this year. On a few particularly cold days we had to stick to lower ground and bigger roads to avoid the risk of ice. The routes weren't quite so interesting, but the upside was spending more time chatting in the cafe!

Spring is now upon us and

we are back to 8am starts, which opens up the possibility of longer and more varied routes. A reminder, too, that on the first Sunday of each month we offer a choice between the usual fairly brisk 'fitness' ride and a slower and shorter 'leisure' ride, ideal for newcomers. We are also starting to plan our annual weekend trip away, and many of our regulars are planning other cycling trips over the summer. The most ambitious plans seem to emerge over a pint at one of our monthly social evenings.

For information on what we have planned and how to take part, see www.porto-velo.com

Andrew Mylne

PORTOBELLO GOLF CLUB

PORTOBELLO Golf Club, instituted 1856, is based at Portobello Golf Course, Stanley Street (beside the new High School). This nine-hole course, recently granted Jubilee Field status, has easy access just off the A1 and, with its flatter terrain, is ideally suited to juniors, seniors and players of all abilities, from scratch to the total beginner. A good round will still be required, however, to play to par. Due to its excellent drainage, it is sometimes the only course open in Edinburgh. Why not give it a try?

New members are always welcome, with fees for 2016-17 set at £40, concessions available, to include SGU membership and more. Green fees can be paid online at www.edinburghleisure.co.uk or at the course on the day. For details contact the course starter on 0131 669 4361 or see the [Facebook](#) page.

Lyal Scott

ON THE GREENS

Bowling, a sport for all ages



Photo by Nigel Archdale

PORTOBELLO Bowling Club in Lee Crescent has a junior section of nine boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 15, and the oldest member, Jackie Shields, is 95 and playing well. The youngest, 10-year-old Paige Whyte, is seen here with her grandfather Alex Macpherson, the current club secretary. Membership is open to women and men, and people of all ages are encouraged to go along and give bowls a try at the weekly coaching sessions on Saturdays from 10.30am-12noon.

WANT TO RUN A MILE?



Photo by Nigel Archdale

FEELING stressed? Want to run a mile? Look no further than Portobello Promenade, where 'Measured Mile' markers have been set into the tarmac. Starting at Tumbles at the west end, the Prom is marked in distances of 200 metres up to 1 kilometre by the Community Garden, a 1500m marker can be found along Esplanade Terrace and a Mile marker (1609 metres) at the east end. The Coade Stone markers were made by local potter Alison Robinson

and funded by Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership as part of the devolved roads budget.

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile event takes place on Sunday 20th March in Princes Street Gardens when you can run a sponsored one, three, or six miles; or you could have your own event on Portobello Prom, using the new measured mile. For entry packs see www.sportsrelief.com/events/mile

Gemma's Gym

WHATEVER your goal or reason for joining a gym, there are many benefits to using a lot of the different areas.

The cardiovascular machines, such as treadmills, bikes, rowers and x-trainers, focus on your heart and lung function and are important and encouraged for everyone. How long and how much you do varies for everyone; the main thing is that you are exercising and getting out of your comfort zone. When engaged in any of these activities you are aiming to increase your heart rate, and get a bit sweaty and out of breath. The results can be noticed quickly as your fitness level improves.

Next are the fixed-weight machines, which include leg press, leg curl, shoulder press and lat pulldown, for example. These have you in a seated position, offering more support so you can work specific muscles individually.

Free weights make up the other main area and include dumb-bells and barbells. Using extra weight adds resistance, making you work harder, and can be done standing or sitting. You are encouraged to stand as, by challenging your centre of gravity, you use a lot more muscle groups, including the core and other stabilising muscles (the smaller muscles that assist the larger ones).

Before using any of these areas, as always it is recommended that you get advice from an instructor.

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JUNE DEADLINE - 7TH MAY.