

# THE Portobello REPORTER

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

## GREEN LIGHT FOR BELLFIELD PURCHASE

ROSEANNA Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, visited Portobello to celebrate Scottish Government ministers' green light to Action Porty's Community Right to Buy bid for Bellfield, the former Parish Church. This followed the overwhelming 98.7 per cent 'yes' vote in the community ballot held in March. Action Porty's Ian Cooke says: "There is no doubt that the fantastic turnout and overwhelming support in the recent ballot was a key factor - so thanks to everyone who took part."

The Church of Scotland's buildings were independently valued at £600,000 which both sides have accepted and Action Porty's lawyers have made a formal offer to buy. The sale must be completed by the end of August.

The money to buy



Roseanna Cunningham MSP with members of Action Porty and Rev. Dr George Whyte representing The Church of Scotland

Bellfield was raised from a Scottish Land Fund award, of which £570,000 could be put towards the acquisition, with the remaining £30,000 coming from Resilient Scotland's Start and Grow Fund. Action Porty will have

to repay £20,000 to Resilient Scotland, as that portion of the funding is a loan.

If successful, Action Porty have plans to improve and upgrade the facilities, as can be seen in their Final Feasibility Report, and will

need to raise more funds to do so. The work will be phased over the coming years, but in the short term they are working towards having some of the building open for use by the turn of the year.

Peter E Ross

## REPRIEVE FOR BRIGHTON PLACE SETTS?



THE setts that make up the surface of Brighton Place may still be retained, despite a decision taken 18 months ago to replace them with asphalt.

That decision, taken in January 2016 by the city council's Transport and Environment Committee, was partly based on a local consultation organised by the community council, but was criticised by local amenity groups. The committee heard a deputation from representatives of these groups in March 2016 and agreed to conduct a general review of its setted streets policy.

The result of that review was a report, considered by the committee in January this year. It recommended that all setted streets within the World Heritage Site or in conservation areas (the latter including Brighton Place) be protected, noting that setted streets are "an intrinsic part of the cultural heritage of Edinburgh" and "make a significant contribution to the character and authenticity of an area". However, the committee did not reach a conclusion on the report at the January meeting, and the issue is not expected to be considered again until August, when of course the composition of the committee is likely to have changed following the recent council elections.

## GREENBELT TO DISAPPEAR

THE planning application for 1,330 homes, a primary school and new local centre in Brunstane was approved by seven votes to six at the meeting of the Development Management Sub-Committee of the city council on 19th April. Portobello Amenity Society and Brunstane Residents Group expressed their objections to the development at the meeting. Commenting on the result, Colin Robb, of the residents group says: "We were very disappointed the vote went against us after so much effort by our members. However, the extremely close vote sends a strong message to the new administration about the serious issues they will face with this development and, to quote David Walker, the fight goes on."

## NEW COMEDY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR THE BEACH

PORTOBELLO beach will be the venue for The Horseshoe Sessions, a new comedy and music festival taking place between 1st and 15th July.

The festival promises to have some big acts but also offers opportunities for local talent with daily open mic sessions. The promoters, Edinburgh based Box International, say the festival is for local people by local people. For those coming from further afield there will be a special shuttle bus service from Waverley Station.

For more information and tickets: [www.horseshoesessions.com](http://www.horseshoesessions.com).

## VILLAGE SHOW – ANOTHER GREAT DAY OUT

THIS year's Village Show takes place on Sunday 3rd September from 2-5pm in Rosefield Park, with the usual popular competitions, stalls, train display, entertainments and refreshment tents.

The organisers would appreciate help on the day

with assembling tents and setting up, or taking things down at the end.

They are also looking for someone to fill the position of secretary and say no experience is necessary. Contact them by email to [info@the-pod.org](mailto:info@the-pod.org)

**PORTY PROFILE No. 65**  
**JAN KILLEEN**

**HAVING** graduated in Sociology from London University, then qualifying in community work and education, Jan Killeen moved northwards to Coventry and Doncaster before taking up a post with Age Concern Scotland in Edinburgh in 1981. She moved to Portobello with her husband and two young sons in 1987. "It was so exciting to move in on 5th November. It felt like the bonfires on the beach were welcoming us", she recalls.



Photo by Daniel Killeen

Jan was by then Director of Scottish Action on Dementia and, in 1994, was appointed Director of Policy for the newly-formed Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia, a post she held until she retired in October 2012. During that time she co-ordinated a campaign to reform the law on the rights of people with cognitive disabilities, which led to the introduction of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Subsequently the Scottish Government seconded her for three years to lead an action programme to improve implementation of the Act. She recently completed her term on the board of the Mental Welfare Commission. "A highlight of my career was representing Alzheimer's Disease International in New York at a UN Working Group on the Rights of Older People in 2011", she reflects.

Since retiring Jan has visited India and Ghana to support Alzheimer's associations, and at the end of 2016 spent two months in Australia on a Churchill Travel Fellowship, looking into the best ways of supporting people with cognitive disabilities to make their own decisions.

More recently she has been involved with others in the community in forming Dementia Friendly Portobello, and Let's Sing, a weekly singing group for people living with dementia.

Inspired by sculptures seen on a beach in Barcelona, Jan and her husband, with other local people, set up the local public art group Big Things on the Beach in 2003, which continued until earlier this year. Memorable installations included the pyramids on the beach and the Garden Gallery.

On a final note, Jan says: "I'm enjoying having time to return to my love for R&B, learning to play my newly-acquired Cigar Box Blues Guitar! Watch out Beach Busk!"

Brenda Molony

**ON THE BEAT**

PC McPherson and I have now settled into our roles as Community Officers for Portobello and have found it an engaging and rewarding experience so far. We have met with a number of challenges which are on-going, particularly the thefts of bikes in the area. A number of youths have been charged but often we find it tricky to reunite bicycles with their owners. We would urge anyone with a bike to take a note of the frame number and keep it at their home, and to use a good lock, two if possible, when out and about. A unique description also helps to get your bike back if it is stolen.

We are also engaged in other aspects of policing: enforcing drug and counterfeit goods warrants, conducting speed checks, school street patrols, plain clothes patrols and stair checks, and attending incidents and events locally.

We hold surgeries on the last Friday of each month at 1pm in Portobello Library and would welcome everyone to come along if they have local concerns, need advice or want to chat to their Community Officers.

We are looking forward to the summer and the challenges it will certainly bring.

PC David Love

**SCOTTISH ARCHITECTURE AWARD NOMINEES**



Photo by Andrew Mylne

**BUILDINGS** and architects in Portobello continue to make their mark for quality as they are shortlisted for the 2017 RIAS/RIBA Awards Scotland. The recently-opened Portobello High School designed by jmarchitects; Rosefield Home Studio in Portobello designed by local practice Chambers McMillan Architects Ltd; and the extension built into the wall facing the sea on Edinburgh Road, Musselburgh (see above) by another Portobello practice and previous winner a449 Ltd join another 24 on the shortlist. The winners will be announced on 10th June.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**UPLIFTS OF LARGE ITEMS:** To arrange a free uplift of household furniture and bikes in good condition, call the national re-use phone line 0800 0665 820 or donate online at [recycleforscotland.com](http://recycleforscotland.com) Items will be collected by a local organisation to be re-used.

For an uplift by the city council of large household items that are damaged or can't be re-used call 0131 608 1100. There is now a charge of £5 per item instead of £25 for up to six. For full details see: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste)

**WANT TO SAVE** on heating bills? Home Energy Scotland do free home assessments, and advise on how to make your house more energy efficient. To make an appointment, call free on 0808 808 2282.

**PORTOBELLO** Amenity Society has launched a new website: [www.pasportobello.co.uk](http://www.pasportobello.co.uk) which includes PAS responses to the recent major planning applications, annual newsletters, revised Architecture Heritage Trail leaflet (downloadable) and links to city council planning guidelines.

**PHS** leaver Pippa Watson is fundraising to buy clothes, hygiene products, toys and educational materials for Kumasi Children's Home in Ghana. Pippa volunteered at the orphanage last year and is returning for another nine weeks this summer. [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pippa-in-Wanderland](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pippa-in-Wanderland)

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**PREPARATIONS** for this year's Summer Reading Challenge are well under way in the library. As always, it will encourage children to read six books over the summer holidays to win prizes and a medal and certificate. This year's Challenge is called 'Animal Agents' and features a group of animal detectives illustrated by *Horrid Henry's* Tony Ross. We will be promoting it throughout the holiday period, with a range of animal and detective themed activities for children.



We always like to exhibit any creative work done at our summer craft events in our gallery area. This area is also available to local individuals or groups who might be interested in displaying their work in the library; contact library staff to reserve your spot. Our upstairs room is also bookable for events and meetings during library opening hours.

We are very pleased to announce that Ulibrary Audiobooks have been added to the collection of free audiobooks, ebooks and magazines that can be borrowed through the library. You can download these to your tablet, computer or smartphone; all you need is your library card and password. Find more about everything we offer online at [yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk)

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to get into the library, or do you know someone who is? If so, we might be able to help. 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 feel that you are no longer able to visit the library.

Our Book Goup meets in the library at 6.30pm on the first Monday of every month, when we will be discussing the following:

- 5th June: *We Need New Names* by Noviolet Bulawayo.
  - 3rd July: *This is Where I Am* by Karen Campbell.
  - 7th August: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman.
  - 4th September: *Canada* by Richard Ford.
- All the books will be available at the library.

For more information on any of the above, please call library staff on 529 5598 or drop in to see them.

Paul Hudson

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**THE** community council has been working to see if the community can have any input into the sale of the Powerleague site and hope there will be a chance for the community to suggest ideas about what they would want from the space, before the preferred bidder is chosen.

In the last issue of the *Reporter*, PCC mentioned the outcome of its survey on parks improvements, with the city council hoping to finish the work on Straiton Place Park for the school summer holidays. It has since been informed, however, that this will be delayed as the city council bid for extra grant funding to build an outdoor gym as well.

Keep an eye open for updates on what PCC is up to at Portobello Library, on Facebook or Twitter, and at [www.portobellocc.org](http://www.portobellocc.org) where you can sign up for its mailing list.

PCC meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, except in July and December, at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall in Portobello High Street. All meetings are open to the public.

PCC

## OUR NEW COUNCILLORS

**AT** the city council elections on 4th May, voters in the Portobello and Craigmillar ward returned the following four councillors: Kate Campbell, Scottish National Party.

Mary Campbell, Scottish Green Party.

Maureen Child, Scottish Labour Party.

Callum Laidlaw, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

Turnout throughout the ward was 47.6% (up from 42% in 2012).

The city council as a whole now consists of 19 SNP councillors, 18 Conservative, 12 Labour, 8 Greens and 6 Liberal Democrats - leaving no party in overall control.

## GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

**THE** candidates standing in the Edinburgh East constituency in the UK General Election on 8th June are:

Tristan Gray, Scottish Liberal Democrats.

Patsy King, Scottish Labour Party.

Katie Mackie, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

Tommy Sheppard, Scottish National Party.

## OUR FORTH UPDATE

**OUR** Forth Portobello has been busy since the threat of underground coal gasification was lifted from Portobello by the Scottish Government last year. Since this massive victory we have been opposing other forms of unconventional gas. We have organised many events including a big bonfire on the beach and hosted the plays *What the Frack?* and *The 8th Wave*.

We also made a film showing solidarity with Native American Dakota Access Pipeline water protectors

(pipeline protesters) and were contacted by a Native American school in Milwaukee, which led to a mystery Skype session. The children had to guess where we were in the world by asking yes/no questions. They narrowed us down to Portobello, then taught us some Native American words. Fun Fiddle, who were in The Washhouse at the same time, played them a tune.

If you would like to join us or help our fight against fracking, please email Callum at [blethers@hotmail.com](mailto:blethers@hotmail.com).

Kathleen Byron

M McIntyres

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### There's No Place Like Home

WE finally managed to test whether the offspring could fend for themselves. A three-day trip to Iceland without them was planned and so we filled up the fridge, and left cash and instructions on how to use various appliances around the house, in the unlikely event that somebody might have the urge to put down their device and find out how the vacuum cleaner works.

Despite relatives being on call to discreetly pop in to check if they were all OK and hadn't burned the house down, or maimed each other in the absence of referees, going away for three days was quite a worry.

However, when we arrived home on Mother's Day, a beautiful warm sunny day compared to the cold of Iceland, we couldn't believe our eyes. Everywhere was tidy, a neatly-wrapped Mother's Day present was waiting for me in the kitchen, and there were no reports of injuries or disasters of any kind. In fact, my eldest son had made everybody pizza from scratch and the other two had apparently eaten it without complaint.

"We co-existed. I lived downstairs and watched Netflix and he complained about the dishes," said my daughter, rolling her eyes at her brother who was busy watching something on his iPad. That may not sound very friendly to you, but translated, it means "we got along, shared the chores, and we no longer want to kill each other quite as much." That's a result. Now, where can we go to next?

THE Donkeyfield Community Orchard looks particularly attractive at this time of year with blossom coming out over a period of about six weeks. However, the strong winds, even in this sheltered spot, mean that the blossom can sometimes be short lived and blown away, giving the effect of a snow shower.

The blossom attracts pollinating insects that are essential to fertilise the trees, but if it has been blown away fertilisation may not take place, resulting in fruit not being set and a poor crop. This is part of the reason why crop yield may vary from year to year. With blossom appearing at different times, some varieties do better than others, depending on how windy it was when the trees were ready for pollination.

Our apple varieties are segregated into groups and pollination is usually necessary from an adjacent group. As the orchard has many different varieties, there is no problem, and in most urban gardens, even with only one tree, there are probably other trees in the vicinity from which cross-fertilisation can take place.

Because of this cross-fertilisation, if you plant a pip from a particular apple, say a James Grieve, the tree that develops will not be a James Grieve, because it has been crossed with another tree and the apples may not be that interesting. It's a bit like the way in which siblings from the same parents can be so different in character. To reproduce the same apple, with its particular flavour and juiciness, a small cutting - a scion - is grafted onto a root, and the type of root stock will determine how high the tree will grow.

Of course, you don't need to know about this to enjoy the fruit, and we look forward to a plentiful harvest later in the autumn.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

## SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



IF you have a small garden and want something to look out onto, then a few pots can make a big difference. Three sizes would be ideal and, assuming that you have sun for half the day, the following would work. If your garden is in deep shade, however, then a trained ivy for height, an acer and a privet ball would work better.

A large pot the size of a half barrel, about 90cm across, could be planted with sweet peas or runner beans trained up a wigwam, giving height. These can be grown from seed sown directly into the soil in the pot in spring. Seeds for a summer display can be started off on the windowsill and then planted around the wigwam or, as lots of plants are now available from garden centres, these can be chosen to provide seasonal colour as and when you wish.

When the summer plants are over, plant up several large black plastic pots with spring bulbs and plunge them into the soil. Once the spring flowering is over these pots can simply be lifted out and placed behind the large pot to let the foliage die down naturally; they can then be put back when the bulbs start poking through, for the following spring.

For evergreen winter interest, some of the pots of bulbs could be substituted with an azalea, acer or trailing ivy. The difficulty is in the choosing - different pots, different seasons - but that's where the fun is.

A medium-sized pot, about 60cm across, could be planted with plunge pots in the same way, for spring, summer and winter.

A smaller pot, about 30cm, could be filled with a gritty mix and planted with miniature plants, such as alpines, to create a year-round mini landscape.

Our garden at 39 Nantwich Drive will be open on Saturday 5th August from 2 to 5pm under the Scotland's Gardens scheme, for SG beneficiaries and Garden Organic. Admission £4.

On Sunday 6th August, we are open from 2 to 5pm for Garden Organic. Admission £2.

## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

### MORE BIODIVERSITY AND A NEW BENCH FOR BRUNSTANE BURN

FRIENDS of Brunstane Burn, in association with Portobello Timebank, were awarded an 'Action Earth' grant from the charity Volunteering Matters, aimed at supporting and encouraging volunteer activity through practical environmental projects. The grant was used to buy a park bench from Edinburgh

Tool Library, made with reclaimed material from previous litter clean-ups by Timebank in the local area. It was also used for perennial wild flower seeds that will boost biodiversity beside the burn. Along with the newly-laid path, this aims to encourage greater use of the burn by the local community. Go and enjoy.

## CHARITY BEACH RACE

PORTOBELLO Running Club's Annual Beach Race takes place on 11th June, and this year will raise money for Richmond's Hope, based in Craigmillar, a charity dedicated to the support of bereaved families. The Kids' Fun Run will start at 9.30am and the Adult 4 Mile Beach Race at 10am. To sign up go to [portobellorunners.co.uk](http://portobellorunners.co.uk) and click on Porty Beach Race To learn more about Richmond's Hope see [www.richmondshope.org.uk](http://www.richmondshope.org.uk)

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# THE SUMMER OF 1952

I FOUND this article, written by Drew Strachan, in the archive of Portobello Heritage Trust. I have edited it.

"I was a promenader or to be more precise, a west end promenader. My home was in a tenement on the sea front, just beside the bathing pool and in front of Portobello power station.

All my friends of my age had part-time jobs, either as paper delivery boys (very few girls were taken on in those days by any of the local shops) or milk boys. I worked for the grocer/dairy on the corner of Lee Crescent [see above]. My Granny woke me at 4.30am and at 5am I met the Murchie's lorry at the top of Rosebank Lane [now Westbank Street] and helped deliver the milk to local dairies. After this I had breakfast and opened up the deckchair store, using a special barrow to transport the deckchairs from Bridge Street to the stance at the slipway at the foot of Rosebank Lane. The Clark family had the concession and



Photo courtesy of Margaret Munro

lived at the foot of Bath Street. My pay for each day was five shillings [25p] – putting out and taking in the deck chairs. I was a millionaire!

I had another job during the summer holidays. I worked for Laurence Cassidy who, apart from having a fishmonger's in the High Street, had Sheddan's Restaurant at the foot of Bath

Street and the concession for the cafeteria, restaurant, shop and kiosks in the bathing pool. I had to make sure that the kiosks were stocked with crisps, ice-cream, lemonade and Portobello rock and the restaurant had fresh fish from the shop and enough peeled potatoes. This took most of the morning, then, after lunch in the cafeteria, I

could use the pool.

Great crowds of people came through from the west of Scotland. Hundreds of buses parked in Bridge Street, Fishwives' Causeway and Baileyfield Road. There were all sorts of entertainment on the beach, especially during the Glasgow Fair: pony rides; seaside missions; a one-man band who

dressed in his military jacket, tartan trousers and had the most dismal face I've ever seen; Punch and Judy and the Salvation Army band.

It all seems so long ago, but I remember my childhood summers with great affection and would not have wished for anything better."

Margaret Munro

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## What's On

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** Sat. 3rd June, 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: 1st July, 5th Aug.

**FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT:** Sat. 10th June, 7.30pm, Portobello & Joppa Church Hall. Bring a team of four or five, or join a team on the night. Entry £5, incl. refreshments (BYOB). Proceeds to Alzheimer's Research UK.

**SUMMER FAIR:** Queen's Bay Lodge (Crossreach), Sat. 10th June, 2-4pm, the grounds of Chris House, 47 Milton Road East. Stalls, afternoon teas. Admission Free.

**PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY, AGM:** Mon. 12th June, 7.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, with an illustrated talk on 'Planning in Edinburgh: Past and Present' by Cliff Hague, Chairman of The Cockburn Association. All welcome.

**CONCERT:** Fri. 16th June, 7.30pm, St Mark's Church, Portobello High St. Richard Michael, jazz & blues pianist. Tickets £10 incl. refresh. from [stmarkstickets@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkstickets@gmail.com)

**CAR BOOT SALES:** (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sun. 25th June, 30th July, 27th Aug, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

**OPEN DAY** at Craigentenny & Telferton Allotments: Sun. 6th Aug, 2-5pm, under Scotland's Gardens scheme. Workshops, chat with plot holders, teas. £3 entry, accompanied children free.

**BIG BEACH BUSK:** Sat. 26th Aug from 12 noon, Portobello Prom. Just turn up and play.

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Weds, 7.15-9.30pm, Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St. £6/£4 concess. All welcome. See [www.portobellocommunitychoir.org](http://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** Coffee Morning and Book Sale on 22nd April in the Baptist Church hall raised over £500 for Amnesty's human rights work. We greatly appreciate the effort that went into organizing it, the donations of books, cakes and raffle prizes and the musical performances.

Our stall at Portobello Market in April featured the plight of prisoners in Syrian prisons, some of the most appalling known to Amnesty in terms of conditions, torture and mass executions. The public support for our appeal to US and Russian governments to use their influence on the Syrian regime was deeply encouraging. We are also working on cases in Iran, Eritrea and Turkey, some members taking individual action on behalf of human rights victims, details of which are publicised in our *Real Lives* leaflet.

At our April meeting we were joined by a Cambodian woman, Sacha, a friend of our Cathy Crawford who worked with her on a number of visits to Cambodia, and we gained a fair picture of the human rights situation there.

Group meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7.30pm, in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. Visitors are made welcome, with no commitment expected.

More information is available from Theresa McMurtry by email: [theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com) or tel. 0131 669 0295. David Turner



Just a few of the many thousands of runners that took part in this years Edinburgh Marathon Festival as they race along Portobello Promenade in the half marathon event. The results of this years races can be found at [www.edinburghmarathon.com/results](http://www.edinburghmarathon.com/results).

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**THIS** summer, Tribe Party is a community partner with the University of Edinburgh's MasterCard Foundation Scholars Programme, which provides scholarships to young people from Africa who have potential, but few educational opportunities. The

scholarship also provides leadership programming to educate and support scholars with a commitment to changing the world around them. Tribe Party is working with students on a project focussing on challenges faced by communities. The project aims to provide students with an opportunity to apply their learning, as well as offering partners the chance to approach a community challenge in a new way.

Tribe Party would like to build our community capacity even further around the following challenges: How can we interact, support, and connect our beneficiaries and local businesses further? Who is being left out? What groups are not being heard or are in need of more support? How can we link up with the city council and the community council better to be more efficient and effective?

If you live or work in Portobello and would like to contribute to this work, or run a local business and want to explore ways of supporting our local economy, please get in touch with [dani@tribeparty.org](mailto:dani@tribeparty.org).

Dani Trudeau  
Tribe Party

## TIMEBANK GROWS IN STRENGTH

**PORTOBELLO** Timebank has continued its litter clearing events this year. Since we started cleaning up the local area in 2016 we've held 11 clean-ups and removed enough rubbish to fill the Porty High swimming pool. Fifteen children and 66 adults have come to our various events and, with our youngest litter picker just 4 years old and our oldest 79, it really has been an activity for all ages. We hope everyone appreciates the huge effort that has been put in, most notably along Christian

Path, the Brunstane Burn and Magdalene Glen.

The Timebank has grown strongly over the past year, clocking up its 500th swapped hour and almost 100 members as it continues to prove its worth in generating new friendships and building community involvement and ownership.

Keep informed of new events and opportunities by liking us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tribeparty) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/tribeparty). Our next meeting is at the Dalriada on 7th June at 7:30pm.

Kirsty Carver



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## TOWERBANK SCHOOL NEWS

**AFTER** Easter Towerbank pupils noticed a dramatic makeover to their playground. They now have a track for training and playground games. James, a pupil in P6, said "I love it because we can run more!"

Towerbank's wildlife garden has seen a surge in attendance. The outdoor classroom helps with healthy development. Features include a pond, a willow tunnel and several bug hotels.

By pupils Robert, Nathan and Ami

All Towerbank pupils took part in a competition to design a Peace logo to be sent to Msufini Primary School in Tanzania. The winner was Sylvie from P7 with "It doesn't matter what you look like, we are all still human."

By pupils Rosa, Will and Ella

### Towerbank Trips

**IN** April 2017, P7 pupils spent five days at school camp at Benmore. They enjoyed high ropes, archery and biking activities. P6 had their residential experience at Ardeonaig in February. P2 went to see Greyfriars Bobby as part of their Scottish topic. P5 pupils visited Holyrood Palace to learn about Mary Queen of Scots and P4 pupils had an outing to Stirling Castle.

Towerbank's Neighbours Near and Far event was a resounding success. Over 200 visitors attended and enjoyed the baking and refreshments provided. The children sang and danced.

## NEWS FROM PORTOBELLO HIGH

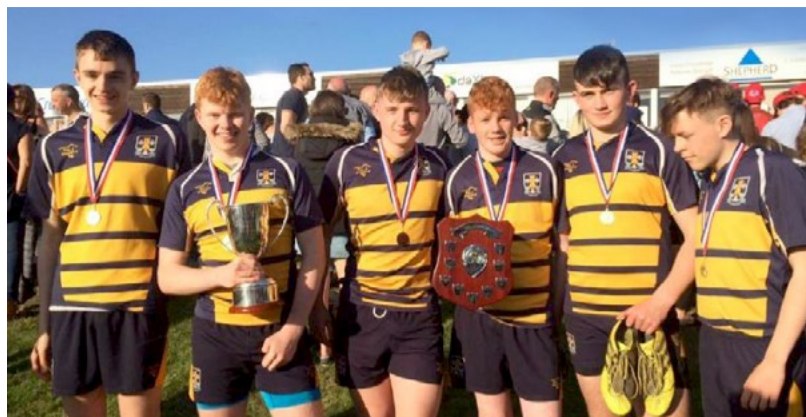


Photo courtesy of PHS

Congratulations to the u16 Rugby 7s squad on their defeat of Musselburgh 17-12 to win the Callum Veitch Cup, played in memory of a former PHS pupil.

**PUPILS** at Portobello High School are enjoying the supportive studying environment that their new school provides. The SQA Examinations have got off to a very smooth start and the Standardised Assessments in English and Mathematics are also well underway.

Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, began this year on 27th May. Muslim pupils are being supported by the school, as they fast during the hours of daylight throughout Ramadan.

Fifteen pupils from S3 had a successful weekend in the Pentlands for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze practice Expedition. This was a chance for them to test their navigation, walking skills and camp craft prior to the qualifying Expedition later this term. The pupils were a credit to the school, and despite some sore feet and heavy bags, they met the challenge with smiles on their faces!

## JOPPA TENNIS

**LAST** year was another successful one, with over 100 members signed up and our summer Pay and Play very popular. We were successful in our You Decide bid and purchased a ball feeder. We also had the courts cleaned and lines repainted. We hope to install a defibrillator this year.

Finn and Callum will continue coaching this year and Finn will look after the summer Pay and Play, when children and adults can just turn up and pay a very small charge to play. Rackets and balls are available free of charge.

We were lucky in the Wimbledon draw and got six pairs of tickets. The courts are in pretty good condition, but we are looking at costing the upgrading of the surface. This is a huge financial undertaking and we will take our time investigating all possibilities and funding streams. There will probably never be a better time to invest as long as Andy Murray and his family continue to thrive and encourage the tennis players of the future.

For membership contact [joppate@hotmail.com](mailto:joppate@hotmail.com); for coaching [finnmcleantennis@gmail.com](mailto:finnmcleantennis@gmail.com) or [Calummestontennis@gmail.com](mailto:Calummestontennis@gmail.com)  
The club is just behind the old Driving Test Centre at Joppa Grove.  
Marjorie Thomas

## SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

**SIX** churches in the Portobello district are working together again this year to provide a summer holiday club 'Guardians of Ancora'. It continues a successful theme from last year that involved 85 children and 30 volunteers. There will be games, gardening, crafts, music, Bible stories and more. It runs from Monday 24th to Friday 28th July from 9am to 1pm at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church and at St. Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church. To register email: [portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com) by 17th July.

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY FOOTBALL ACADEMY



Photo courtesy of PCFA

**IN** May Portobello Community Football Academy descended en masse on the Haggerston Castle Championships to participate in one of the biggest football tournaments in the UK. The club was represented across the 2005 to 2008 year groups and every boy did the club proud. The players were joined by coaches and families and everyone had a fantastic time, with brilliant memories

and new friendships made. There were notable victories, with the 2005s beating Aston Villa and the 2007s defeating Celtic Boys Club.

The boys were also delighted to receive their medals from Scotland, Liverpool and Leeds legend Gary McAllister at the prize-giving ceremony.

For more information about the club see our [Facebook](#) page.

John Griffith, Coach

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# IN THE SADDLE



Photo courtesy of PortoVelo

IT is now five years since the first article about local cycling club Portovelo appeared in the Reporter. In that time, the club has organised roughly 300 bike-rides, from 5-mile family rides to 100-mile challenge rides, plus regular social evenings, film nights, maintenance classes and more. Well over 100 people have taken part, and they have collectively ridden about 120,000 miles on club rides. The fifth anniversary of the first ride was marked at the April social evening with a specially-baked cake.

Thanks to the big increase

in attendance since the beginning of 2017, the club is now able to offer a choice of two rides every Sunday - a shorter and slower 'intermediate' ride as well as the original 'fitness' ride. Both rides typically attract around a dozen people, many of them Portobello residents but others from further afield. Each group has its own regulars, who attend most weeks, but new riders are always welcome. For more information, visit the club website [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

# ON THE FAIRWAY

PORTOBELLO GOLF CLUB is based at the 9-hole Portobello Golf Course, Stanley Street. The course has Jubilee Field status and is ideally suited for players of all abilities, junior, senior, male and female, due to the flatter terrain and easy access just off the A1. Membership fees for 2017/2018 (Apr-Mar) are £40 (£20 conc.) and new members are always welcome. For more details contact [portobellogolfclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:portobellogolfclub@hotmail.co.uk) or see the [Facebook](#) page.

PORTOBELLO LADIES Golf Club, established in 1893 and also based at the course in Stanley Street, welcomes new members. If you are interested, contact Morna Fergusson, honorary secretary on 0131 657 2681 or [fergusson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fergusson@blueyonder.co.uk)

# BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMES TO PORTY

PORTOBELLO has a spectacular beach – and soon, it will be home to Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club. The European Women's Championships were held here in May, with Scotland taking first place.

Lynne Beattie, from the winning team, spoke to *The Portobello Reporter*: "We have erected permanent posts (for the nets) on the beach to allow us to train and play tournaments. We are now close to gaining the insurance we need to allow members of the public to try volleyball."

In Europe, there are volleyball courts all along the beaches, and people just turn up and play. It's our vision to have more courts in Portobello, to encourage new blood into the sport".

Beach volleyball is played by two teams of two, and as Lynne explains, is a great workout on the sand. "You can throw yourself about a bit too", she says, unlike indoor volleyball.

Lynne has competed in the London 2012 Olympics, and is currently hoping to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 with her teammate, Mel Coutts.

If you'd like to find out more about how to take part in beach volleyball, email [edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com)

Neil Braidwood



Photo by Neil Braidwood

# ROWPORTY BOUND FOR LEWIS

ROWPORTY is to go to Lewis for almost a week this summer. The rowing club, based at Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club, will go to the Outer Hebrides for what has become an annual trip, from 16th to 20th July.

Rowporty has made three successful trips to the islands. Andres Leslie, one of the founders of the club, who will lead the Porty invasion, said: "We will be taking a party to row for a couple of days in the glorious waters off the island and we hope

to camp out for one night. Then we will return to the local community of Siabost to encourage some further rowers to come forward and finally we compete for the Digby Chick cup, which our boat will contest with Yackydoola, the boat of the local rowing club."

The rowers will also visit the famous Callanish standing stones, the local blackhouses and a Norse mill, and see how Harris tweed is produced in small venues around the island.

Nick Finnis

# Gemma's Gym

HEARING about what people believe to be true can be quite scary, especially their relationships with food. The fact that they believe they need to cut out meals, eat less and generally feel miserable is a real concern. Life is for living and you should feel great in yourself. If you don't, there's something wrong. Food should be enjoyed and not be a punishment or a reward.

We need food to survive and it can make us feel amazing, energized and happy. Having a treat can be enjoyable, but it is better to try to make good choices 80 per cent of the time, allowing 20 per cent for a treat.

It's true that you can have what you like and not deprive yourself, if you can keep to moderation. When deciding what you are going to eat, think about how are you going to feel afterwards. Are you going to beat yourself up for days, waiting for Monday to come around so you can start again? That mind-set is just setting you up for failure and a vicious circle you won't ever break.

What if you make the decision there and then to start again, making a conscious effort to eat better and feel better?

Your body is amazing and can be a machine that allows you to be the best version of you, it just needs to be treated right.

Gemma Hopewell

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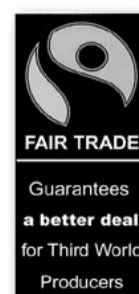
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