

THE Portobello REPORTER

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INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

- Tool Library launch P2
- Community greengrocer P4
- Community groups P6
- Schools news P7
- Beach volleyball P8

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

BRIGHTON PLACE RESURFACING UPDATE

DURING the re-laying of the setts in Brighton Place a council liaison manager will work with local traders, local residents, the community council, St John's Church, Clifton Mews, PEDAL Market and St John's and Duddingston Primary Schools' parent councils, to assist with communication and help minimise the effects of the road closure.

The group held its first meeting on 27th August, when they were told that although 60 weeks has been allowed for the work, as the worst case scenario, the council is confident that it can be completed in considerably less time, as with similar streets. The first phase is expected to start at the high street end, at the end of September. If finished in time for Christmas, the road will be re-opened for two weeks.

Bus service 69 will be re-routed along Portobello High Street, and the 21 will go along Milton Road, turn at Eastfield and come along the high street. These services will connect with the 26 at same-stop interchanges. The 42 will be re-routed.

CREATIVE VILLAGE FOR PORTOBELLO



Eddie McVitie (left), main contractor, and Andrew Chainey, Development Manager, Edinburgh Palette, beside some of the containers that they plan to make into a creative village.

A semi-industrial site at 19 Stanley Street, owned by City of Edinburgh Council, will soon be home to an Edinburgh Palette container village for individual creatives and community organisations. The charity has been given notice at their current base at St Margaret's House, a building scheduled for redevelopment. Running alongside the railway between 18 Stanley Street and Portobello Golf Course clubhouse, the 1.5 acre site is screened from the railway

by mature trees and the containers will be painted green to blend in with the surrounding environment.

Edinburgh Palette submitted a successful proposal to the council and has secured a five year lease on the site, with a view to extending it, pending planning permission. They have spent the last six months clearing and tidying the land to make way for 40 containers, now in situ.

Andrew Chainey, Development Manager, says:

"We are very excited about the plans and continuing our work with local communities in north east Edinburgh. Alongside creatives, we hope to develop a community health and wellbeing hub, offering a wide range of support services, workshops and physical activities. There is a lot of renovation, landscaping and installation work to be completed, but we expect to open in the summer of 2019".

Margaret Munro

BOOK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES TENTH YEAR

THE hugely successful and ever popular Portobello Book Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary by publishing *Postcards From Portobello*. The anthology, which will be launched on the opening night of Friday 5th October, will contain the work of past and present contributors to the festival.

This year's bumper programme has over 20 events over three days, including discussions and readings on topics as diverse as the history of cinema, St Kilda, the writings of Nan Shepherd, women's fiction, tales of resistance in Palestine, a panel discussion with Shakti Women's Aid, and relevant readings and discussions with the local Amnesty International group in its 40th anniversary year.

This year's guests include Isla Dewar, Karine Polwart, Sandy Moffat, Ron Butlin and Doug Johnstone, who like all the contributors and organisers give their time as volunteers.

The organisers see the Portobello Book Festival as an integral part of the cultural and community life of Portobello and all events are free, but ticketed. Portobello Book Festival runs from the 5th-7th October. Tickets are available from Portobello Library.

GOLF COURSE FUTURE IN DOUBT

EDINBURGH Leisure is considering reconfiguring the 9-hole Portobello golf course into a 6-hole "community, family friendly facility" including foot golf and frisbee golf.

According to Edinburgh Leisure, Portobello is the least used of the six courses it operates, and attracts the most subsidy. With golf numbers declining across Edinburgh and nationally, it is seeking ways to get more people, particularly young people, active and interested in golf. Edinburgh Leisure says it will continue to engage with current users, and has offered to upgrade season tickets so they can also be used at the 18-hole Craightinny course.

However, Portobello Golf Club is opposed to Edinburgh Leisure's plans, and says there hasn't been any consultation. Lyall Scott of PGC says: "This golf course has been played on by local people of all ages for leisure and competition for over 100 years, and due to its excellent drainage it is sometimes the only course open in Edinburgh. It is hoped that the community will come together and show a willingness to retain this wonderful amenity on our doorstep."

Continued on back page...

THE VILLAGE SHOW



The ever popular duck race in the Figgate Burn attracts a crowd.

PORTY PROFILE No. 70

DONALD BLOXHAM

DONALD BLOXHAM was brought up in the Midlands town of West Bromwich and moved to Edinburgh in 2002 to take up a lecturing post in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. Only five years later he became Professor of Modern History and in 2009 he was awarded the Richard Pares Professorship of History. Donald is a highly respected and widely published specialist in the study of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. His first book *Genocide on Trial* was about the Nuremberg Trials that followed the Nazi Holocaust, and since then he has published several other books, including one on the Armenian Genocide. He has two books coming out soon on the practice of history making, with others to follow based on his current research project 'Extreme Violence since 1945'.

He first met Cordelia, his partner, at the university where she teaches Mediaeval History. In 2009 they moved to Portobello and soon afterwards they had the first of their two daughters. "I like the architecture in Portobello and the mix of styles," says Donald who lives in an imposing Victorian tenement on the Promenade. "I am lucky to live in a great stair and the people here are a huge part of living here."

Donald is an active member of the community and along with Ian Martin, Bill Jameson and Nick Stroud initiated the Dalriada Conversations eight years ago. On the last Wednesday of the month, expert guest speakers are invited to make a presentation which is followed by a general discussion with the audience and a few drinks from the bar. Speakers have included the artist Sandy Moffat on nationalism and art, Tom Devine on history and the referendum and Professor of Astrophysics, Katherine Heymans. He became a member of Portobello Community Council when he was encouraged to put his name forward about two years ago and is now the temporary treasurer. "I very much enjoy being part of the community council and am very impressed with how they have applied themselves with such limited resources," he says.

Donald loves living in Portobello. "It has a good sense of community and it has the best of the city centre without the associated nonsense. It generally exudes a welcoming feel and I like the beachfront cafés."

Peter E Ross



Photo by Peter E. Ross

ON THE BEAT

THE summer months are behind us and this means the nights will be drawing in on the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night. Our planning for this period is under way and we would encourage you to report any unwanted accumulation of combustible materials to either the council or ourselves. Those premises selling fireworks will be visited and their responsibilities made clear.

As the longer nights approach, please be mindful of home security and think about how you could be better prepared. If you would like a crime prevention visit please contact me at Craigmillar Station on 101. We urge people to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity.

We are on the beat whenever we get the chance, and if you have any issues then please let us know about them. Matt and I welcome local residents at our 'Coffee with a Cop' surgeries, held on the last Friday of every month at 1pm in Portobello Library. The coffee isn't very good and certainly looks better in the poster photo, but we'll take on any concerns you bring to the table. See you there!

PC David Love

TOOL LIBRARY LAUNCH



Photo by Nigel Archdale

(L to R) Mo Odling, Alan Cowie and Janet Morales, aka 'the Tooligans', were delighted to host a barbecue to launch the opening of Portobello's Tool Library and Workshop in the former Earthy premises in Windsor Place. From September this new facility will be open from 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm on Thursdays,

and on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm. The tool library is similar to a book library except they lend tools from their collection of over 1,000 and offer guided workshops on bike repair, tool maintenance and basic woodworking. Full details of how to become a member can be found at edinburghtoolibrary.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE LOCAL MACMILLAN Information and Support Drop-in Service for people affected by cancer is available at Portobello Library and local people are being asked to help deliver it, offering a listening ear and support on benefits and other challenges that can arise. Training will be given and all expenses paid. For details call 0131 242 8046 or email: Macmillan.libraries@edinburgh.gov.uk

JOPPA TOILETS: The sale of the toilet block at the Joppa end of the promenade is now unlikely to go through and the council is assessing its options. There are accessible toilets at Portobello Swim Centre and Tumbles.

BUS STOP AT JENNER'S: After a delay of more than two years, there is now a shelter at this bus stop for the 26 and 44 services. Thanks to Portobello Amenity Society for helping to keep up the pressure.

ST ANDREWS TAKEAWAY has been voted *The Edinburgh Evening News* Chip Shop of the Year for 2018, from a shortlist of 10. Owner Harem Murdochy says his whole team are delighted.

MARINE INVESTIGATIONS: The large floating platform seen offshore recently was a base for a team of specialist engineers carrying out investigations for Scottish Water into options for improving bathing water at Portobello West and Fisherrow. Both received poor classifications from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) this year and Scottish Water is working with SEPA, local authorities and other organisations to improve the water quality.

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WELL done to all the children who took part in this year's Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge at the library, especially to everyone who successfully completed it.



We will once again be the main venue for events organised by the 10th Portobello Book Festival. The programme and free tickets for all events are available now in the library.

We are delighted to hear of the new Edinburgh Tool Library Workshop opening in Portobello, and even more delighted that the Tool Library will continue to work from Portobello library every Monday from 4.30pm to 6pm. Members borrow tools from its collection, promoting sharing and reducing environmental impact.

Sam McColl, Scottish Arts Council New Writers Bursary winner, will be visiting the library on Tuesday 18th September at 6.30pm to talk about her stunning debut novel *Call Billy*. This is a gritty hard-hitting novel about family breakdown and is available to borrow from Edinburgh libraries. Tickets are available at the library.

Catherine Simpson, the author of *Truestory*, will visit our Writers Group on Monday 29th October at 6.30pm to talk about her experience as a writer and offer some hints and tips. Tickets will be available in October.

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to get into the library? 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 no longer feel able to visit us. If you are interested, call us on 529 5598.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Monday of every month at 6.30pm, when we will be discussing the following:

- 1st October: *Tales from the Back Green* by Bill Paterson
- 5th November: *And the Land Lay Still* by James Robertson
- 3rd December: *Perfect Lives* by Polly Samson

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

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

Paul Hudson

ACCLAIM FOR 26 BATH STREET

THE Bath Street Collective building at 26 Bath Street is receiving well deserved acclaim. As previously reported in these pages, the project has broken new ground in approaches to self-building in urban areas. The building, designed by John Kinsey who is one of the residents, has won a Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Award, the Wood for Good/Forestry Commission Scotland Award for the Best Use of Timber and the Innovation Award at the Saltire Housing Awards. The building has also been shortlisted for the RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award which has a prize of £25,000. The winner will be announced in November.



Photo by Peter E Ross

Peter E Ross

HELP POPP

PORTOBELLO Older Peoples Project is a small lunch/social club that gives older people the chance to enjoy a meal and socialise. They are looking for two helpers to join a team of volunteers, on Tuesdays from 10am-2pm, to welcome and chat to the older people, help set tables and serve lunch, and assist in running activities. There is some flexibility in the commitment required: e.g. term-time only or every second week. For more details, contact Rose White: rose.white166@outlook.com.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PORTOBELLO Community Council meets on the last Monday of the month, excepting July and December, in the Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High Street at 7.30pm. Meetings are open to the public. Agendas and Minutes can be seen on the website portobellocc.org and in Portobello Library. For an item to be put on an agenda, email: secretary@portobellocc.org a week in advance or write c/o library.

THE TIMEBANK IS GROWING AND GREEN

THE RSPB 'Giving Nature a Home' project in Edinburgh worked with Porty Timebank to deliver a bioblitz along Brunstane Burn on 14th July. A bioblitz attempts to record all the living species within a designated area. The day started with a dawn chorus walk when the group identified over 20 birds, from the mini goldcrest to the mighty buzzard. This was followed by stream-dipping and bug-hunting. A tree survey of the burn was carried out with the help of the Field Group, who are managing a community woodland and orchard project in Duddingston. The survey will help to form a tree management plan.

The Timebank has grown strongly over the past year, clocking up 1,500 one hour exchanges and almost 150 members as it continues to prove its worth, generating new friendships and building community involvement and ownership. If you would like to learn more, go along to the next coffee morning on Saturday 20th October from 10am-noon at the Baptist Church in Portobello High Street.

Kirsty Carver

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“KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MONEY”

WITH (almost) three adult children still at home, the household budget is straining to keep up, and like the Chancellor, I have to be crafty about where to make efficiency savings. After all, too many cutbacks in the wrong place can spell disaster.

I have become an avid viewer of consumer programmes such as *Eat Well for Less*, but some tips are more helpful than others. Our food waste is now minimal, but switching to things like cheap shampoo should carry a health warning. A few weeks into using it, I realised it was at the root of my mysterious eye inflammation. Two prescriptions for eye drops and ointments, and a trip to the optician who sold me a soothing mask for an eye-watering £10, later the penny dropped. Thankfully, there was no damage done, but that was certainly one cutback too many.

During a particularly zealous period of austerity, I tried and failed to substitute our usual coffee with a cheaper version, and we tested all kinds of nasty undrinkable concoctions. Eventually I gave up. It's sometimes just a false economy to cut everything to nothing and end up buying everything all over again anyway. As my wise grandmother would say: "Buy cheap, buy twice." However, cycling to work dodges the astronomical £7 per day parking fees at the hospital, which happens to be the price of a big bag of our favourite coffee, which lasts for weeks. No doubt about it, I'll be moving into No. 11 pretty soon!

PARKING near your house can be so difficult in some parts of Portobello. It's even worse in some of the narrow streets, such as Marlborough, Regent and Rosefield, where cars are often parked

on the pavement, causing obstruction for pedestrians and wheelchairs. It's a problem that is only going to get worse.

The Transport (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 8th June 2018 and whilst it has a way to go yet before becoming law, there seems a strong consensus to legislate against parking on pavements. But where do the displaced cars go? The only real solution is to reduce the number, but this is easier said than done, although the Car Club is a great start.

PEDAL initiatives in the past, such as offering prizes of a free bus pass and a bike to work club, have not identified a sustainable solution to reducing reliance on personal vehicles, and maybe this is too much for a small local group to influence. Undaunted, we are trying to secure funding to look at what might entice car owners to relinquish their vehicles. We can all cycle and use public transport as much as possible, but the problem of where to store a car remains.

The hot, sunny weather has meant a bumper crop of blackcurrants at the Donkeyfield Community Orchard this year and we look forward to the apple harvest. If you do take an apple, please leave the rest for others. The good weather has also seen an increase in vandalism, culminating in one of our 'artisan' benches being ripped out. Fortunately we were able to repair it, but if you see damage being caused please contact the police. The orchard is opposite the entrance to Brunstane railway station and is always open.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



AUTUMN colours in the garden should be spectacular and now is the time to plant something that will give colour next year. As more time will be spent in colder weather looking out on the garden, place it where it can be seen from a window. One of my favourites is the spindle bush *Euonymus europaeus*, which goes bright red and doesn't grow too big. Acers are an obvious choice too, and can be kept in a pot and moved when it is too windy or hot to protect the foliage from wind or sunburn. Herbaceous perennials with red tints, such as *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fireglow' and *Lysimachia ciliata* 'Firecracker' are another choice.

I don't clear borders until the spring, apart from digging up the dahlias when the frost blackens the foliage and storing them in newspaper in a frost-free place. I have clay soil, but if you're on sandy soil you may get away with a heavy mulch on dahlias to protect from frost.

I use the spaces where vegetables have been harvested for any plants that I have split up and are hardy enough to stay outside. This relieves the pressure on greenhouse space for storing tender plants. I took lots of cuttings of *Salvia* 'Amistad', which will need to be in the greenhouse over winter, whereas the *Astrantia* that I split up can be outside until I decide where to put them. Lots of jiggery-pokery, but worth the hassle.

Fruits and vegetables will be harvested now and stored as jams and chutneys, or frozen. A new form of storing for me over the past few years has been a dehydrator to dry tomatoes, plums and damsons, apples and pears. These take up very little room in air-tight jars and reduce the strain on the freezer. Drying concentrates the flavour and produces a healthy snack or an addition to breakfast cereals or salads.

Now is the time to plant up hyacinth bulbs for winter. Over the years I've given many away for presents and in every case "thank you" comes with "what a beautiful perfume!" - as satisfying for me as I hope it is for the recipients.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

COMMUNITY GREENGROCCER PLANS MAKE PROGRESS

AS reported in our Summer Issue, plans for a Portobello Community Greengrocer are under way, to bring fruit and veg back to our high street. A steering group has now been set up, a business plan is being developed and premises

sought, and the group has already received over 400 indications of local support.

For up-to-date progress see the website portobellocg.org.uk which also has links to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

YOU DECIDE DEADLINES

PORTOBELLO and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership invite local people to decide how this year's Community Grants Funding of £22,637 will be spent. Grants of £500 and £2,000 are available, and submissions by local groups for a grant for an event or project must be received by 5pm on Friday 28th September.

Voting on submissions for the larger grant will take place from 29th October to 9th November at a number of venues and the results will be announced on 12th November.

For more information contact scott.neill@edinburgh.gov.uk or see the Partnership website: <http://bit.ly/NPYouDecide>

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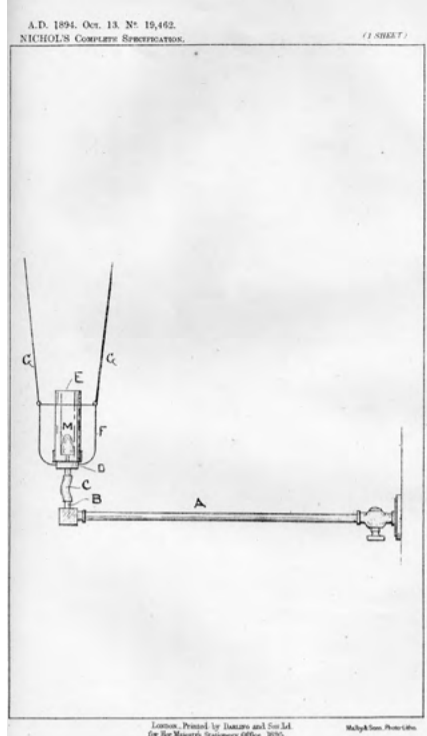
INDUSTRY IN PORTOBELLO

HEALTH MATTERS

SOME readers may not know that there was a paper mill on the site of the car park in Bridge Street. The building was originally a flax mill, then a mustard manufactory, before being converted to a paper mill in 1836. It changed hands several times before Messrs Alfred Nichol and Company took over in 1889. Alfred's brother Frank helped run the business known as The Portobello Paper Mills.

According to Baird's *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello*, 'The firm is well known in the trade for their enterprise and skill in the adoption of modern methods and improvements'. This is substantiated by Frank's invention of a gas lamp that would be safe to use in mills.

Then as now patents were very important to protect your ideas, and on 13th October 1894, Frank applied for a patent for 'Improvements in and relating to the Suspension of Incandescent Gas Lamps'. Frank stated that this lamp was: 'An elastically (or Spring) suspended frame (or



Frank Nichol's patent drawing (1) detailing his design and The Portobello Paper Mill on what is now the site of the Bridge Street car park.

holder) for use with the incandescent gas burners as a preventor or destroyer of vibration. As the incandescent gas burners cannot be used at present in mills & places where there is vibration (the vibration rattling the mantle to pieces) I have overcome this difficulty by making a wire (or metal) holder (or any other substance would do) and by suspending it with elastic - (or springs could be used) the gas being conducted by a rubber pipe thus all vibration is

overcome & the mantles do not get shaken to pieces. The frame may be made in any form.'

The drawing shown here is a reduced scale specification for the lamp. In the patent application Frank states that it illustrates how his invention 'may be applied to a gas bracket attached to a wall or the like'. The letters in the drawing relate to various details of his invention. Patent No. 19,462 was granted on 12th October 1895. It is not known how successful



his invention was or how widespread its use.

John Galloway purchased the mill in 1916, changing its name to John Galloway and Company Limited. He took over Balerno Bank Paper Mills in 1924 and sold the Portobello mill in 1928.

That Frank Nichol was forward thinking and innovative cannot be denied. The use of gas in lamps was hazardous and his invention would make his mill a safer environment in which to work.

Margaret Munro

IN Scotland the seasons, the weather and fluctuating daylight hours give pattern to our lives. In general practice, autumn signals the annual influenza vaccination season when we aim to vaccinate those most at risk in our communities.

The father of immunisation, Edward Jenner, has been credited with saving more lives than any other person in history and his legacy continues to this day. Following the introduction of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) immunisation, I have seen a noticeable reduction in women with abnormal cervical smears. It has just been announced that HPV immunisation is to be introduced for boys as well as girls, which will reduce cancers for years to come.

Thanks to immunisation, I have never encountered smallpox, a highly infectious disease with 30% of those infected dying, as it has been eradicated since 1980, with the last outbreak in Edinburgh in 1943. My grandfather tells me stories about diphtheria which remind me about the role immunisation has played in greatly reducing its incidence in the developed world. However, a recent outbreak of measles, with some dying, shows us how important vaccination programmes are. We should remember all of this when our invitation for a flu jag arrives.

Dr Portia Bella

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DECEMBER DEADLINE 3RD NOVEMBER.

What's On

ART WALK PORTY: Thurs 30th Aug to Sun 9th Sept. Maps from Bellfield, Portobello Library and some local shops.

CEILIDH: Sat 22nd Sept, 7.30-11.30pm, Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, with the Da Hooley ceilidh band. Tickets £12 (£10 conc.) from The Skylark and Velvet Easel Gallery. A fundraiser for Bellfield.

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

PORTOBELLO COMEDY NIGHTS: Oct 5th, starring Rahul Kohli; Nov 2nd, starring John Scott: The Dalriada, 8.30pm: Tickets £12 from Brown Paper Tickets, Dalriada or Cove.

APPLE DAY: Donkeyfield Community Orchard, opposite Brunstane station, Sat 27th Oct, 2-4.30pm. A Celebration of Autumn, with apple pressing and tasting, games and refreshments.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: First Sat. of the month, 9.30am-1.30pm, organic fruit/veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks. For details or to book a stall contact portobello.market@live.co.uk.

PAMOJA FASHION: Quality Clothes and Accessories, first Sat of the month, 10am-1pm, St John's Hall, Brighton Place. Supporting partnerships between schools and communities in Scotland and Tanzania.

SING IN THE CITY rock'n'pop choir, The Wash House, Thursdays, 10am-noon. For a free trial contact hello@singinthecity.com No audition required.

DANCING: Ballroom, sequence, line. Beach Lane Social Club, Wed/Fri 1.00-3.30pm; Thurs 2-4pm. £3 incl. refreshments.

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AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE Group's stall at Portobello Market continues to be the main form of engagement with the public in respect of victims of human rights violations and their defenders in many repressive states. These include Egypt, where Azza Sulieman is under threat for her legal defence work, and Cambodia, where Tep Vannay is threatened for her courageous stance on human rights. A film featuring her plight was attended by some of our members at the Cameo, to re-inforce our stall's messages of support. Our stall on 3rd September featured welcoming refugees.

As part of Portobello Book Festival, on Sunday 7th October at 12.30pm, three members of the Group will each explain an important issue, give a relevant reading, and be available for questions, discussion and to explore possible actions.

The 40th birthday of Portobello Amnesty Group will be celebrated on Wednesday 17th October from 7.30-9.00pm at The Dalriada. All our current and past supporters are invited to attend.

The Group meets on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. Visitors are warmly welcomed. For further information, email theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com, call 0131 669 0295 or see our Facebook page.

David Turner



BELLFIELD NEWS

BELLFIELD – a new community centre in the former Portobello Old Parish Church – is now open to the public. There was an open day on 23rd June, attended by almost 400 people, when the official opening was performed by Tommy Sheppard MP. There was storytelling and face painting for families during the day, and a cabaret for grown-ups in the evening.

There is a diverse range of community groups based at Bellfield, from a bicycle repair shop and Pilates classes to karate and art workshops. See www.bellfield.scot or just drop in one day to see what's going on.

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TRIBE PORTY has created more space and has some availability for permanent desks, meeting spaces, events spaces and hot desking. Please get in touch if you are keen to get involved in co-working. Portobello Natural Health has a new studio, Oi Musica now has a sound booth studio and Velow Bikes has arrived.

Weekly classes and workshops continue, from Pilates and music classes to life-drawing, and new sessions include:

Sabrina's second Conquer Gravity class, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

Marta Regina, with Qi Gong Mindfulness in Motion, Tuesdays, from 1-2pm.

A Green Cleaning Workshop, 11th September from 7-9pm: make your own planet-friendly cleaning supplies.

A weekly Life Drawing class with Fay Donnelly, from 15th September, 1.30-3pm.

Calligraphy Workshop, 18th September, 7.30-9.30pm.

Essential Oils Workshop, 22nd September, 12noon-2pm.

For more information see tribeporty.org/events.

Dani Trudeau

BACK in 1994 a Lothian Regional Council lease document for the Portobello Community Centre, as the Wash House was then known, states: "The property will be used ... to advance education, provide facilities for recreation, in the interests of social welfare, with the aim of improving conditions of life of the members of the community..."

The deal was, and still is, that the council lets the building to the steering group for £1, and keeps the building wind and water tight, and the steering group ensures that the building stays a vibrant hub for the local community. So here we are almost 25 years later, still doing what it says on the packet, but minus a paid development worker, and hanging on to a cliff edge as funds are slashed to community centres, and public buildings are sold off. But despite the gloomy scenario, the Wash House remains that hub of education and recreation, with a full programme of activities for the autumn, and a hall and kitchen hireable for events. Let's keep it that way.

For more information see our website, thewashhouse.org or phone Val Stokes, Facilities Coordinator on 0131 669 8275 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 8am-5pm.

Gica Loening



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TOMMY'S TALES

THE Porty area, along with Scotland as a whole, is not always known for its clear skies and warm weather. Such was the case until this summer when the heatwave struck, and everyone was out at Portobello Beach. This was a great opportunity for everyone to get a holiday experience without even needing to leave Portobello!

Sadly, summer is almost over now, and we are back to school. However, don't despair quite yet. Though the weather will soon begin to worsen, there is still time to get down to the Prom with your family and friends and enjoy what's left of the summer. I would strongly encourage you to do this in September as we still have some nice weather in Porty and there will be fewer people there, so it will be an even more relaxing time. Summer isn't quite over yet!

Tommy Hurrell S2 PHS

SEASIDE PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

THE Pirate Park between Straiton Place and the Prom was chosen to receive a £35,000 upgrade to install two swings, with one seat fully accessible, a mini rotating climbing pyramid, a climbing frame with slide and monkey bars and a five piece outdoor gym.

Local councillor Maureen Child said, "The old Pirate Park was very popular with locals and visitors, but it was starting to get a bit tired, this investment from the council

provides a welcome boost to local play facilities".

The improvements are very popular. "It's very creative and a nice new touch to Portobello," said Ruby. "I love it because it used to be a little kids' park but now it is a shared area for all ages," said Catherine. "The old Pirate Park was great but now it is accessible for everyone and lots more fun to play in" said Eva.

As told by Georgia Cuthbert – Tower Bank Pupil.

NEW ST JOHN'S OPEN



Photo by Nigel Archdale

ST JOHN'S RC Primary School opened its new campus on Duddingston Road on 22nd August. Pupils, staff and parents are delighted with their new school. The open-plan classrooms, spacious stepped atrium and communal areas provide an excellent teaching and learning environment.

Sophie in Primary 7 said: "It's much better for learning", and classmate Leon loves the big football pitch. Isla is really pleased to be able to use all the new technology. She said all the pupils were nervous and

excited as they came into the school for the first time.

Recently retired Head Teacher Barbara Service, pictured, who had been at St John's since 2005, worked with her colleagues and the education authority to oversee all the logistics of establishing this fine new school.

There will be an inaugural Mass on 14th September led by Archbishop Leo Cushley. Education Secretary John Swinney will formally open the school on 4th October.

Nigel Archdale



Photo by Nigel Archdale

The Rosebank Strummers in full swing at the Big Beach Busk.

SUMMER NRG ZONES CAMPS

DURING the school summer holidays, pupils from S1 to S5 were encouraged to enroll in National Recreational Gymnastics (NRG) camps held at Portobello Swim Centre. Each camp ran for an hour each day, for a week, and was led by fitness trainers, who put the youngsters through a programme enabling them to gain confidence in the use of all the gym equipment. At the end of the camp they were assessed and, if they proved their competence with all the apparatus, they were rewarded with a pass to use the gym at any time at a discounted rate. All the participants greatly enjoyed the camp. "It is fun and keeps you fit," said Ethan. "I now know how to work all the gym," said Mia. All the young participants agreed that the trainers had been really helpful and they all promised that they would continue to stay fit and use the gym regularly!

Nigel Archdale



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IN THE SADDLE



Photo by John Dickie

At the summit of Great Dun Fell.

FOR many of us in Portovelo, one of the highlights of the summer is our June 'weekender'. This time, a mixed group of 30 cyclists (including two tandem pairs) travelled to Dufton in the hilly and scenic North Pennines. The youth hostel was just a few miles from Great Dun Fell, the highest road in England, which made a short but tough leg-stretcher on Friday evening.

On Saturday, we split into three groups, allowing everyone to find a ride that suited them for distance and pace. All three groups faced some challenges, however – from tough hills and an hour's

heavy rain to mechanical problems and a crash on a cattle-grid. But it was still a great day, nicely rounded off by a hearty meal in the village pub. Sunday's route was a lovely loop to the south over rolling hills, which all three groups followed at different speeds, coming together for a café stop in Sedbergh.

For the rest of September, we'll be continuing our Thursday evening rides in addition to the normal faster and slower Sunday morning rides, plus social evenings on the last Wednesday of each month. For full details, go to porto-velo.com.

Andrew Mylne

ROW PORTY SUMMER REGATTA



Photo by Andrew Mylne

On Saturday 23rd June, Rowporty held an inter-club rowing regatta with boats from Arran, Musselburgh, Port Seton, St Andrews, Eastern, Dunbar, North Berwick, Kinghorn, Newhaven and Queensferry.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL



Photo by Neil Braidwood

The Scottish Junior Women's Team came second to England in the inaugural Small Countries Division Junior Beach Volleyball Tournament at Portobello.

SIGNING up over 60 members in its first year, Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club continues to grow, catering for all ages and abilities – from schoolchildren and recreational adults through to advanced adults. The club is now a fantastic sports and social hub for the local Portobello Community, and we have a long-term vision of creating an indoor beach volleyball centre to support training in the winter months. If anyone is interested in being a part of this project, the club would love to hear from you. Please email edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com for any information you need about the club, or check out our social media sites: Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club (on [Facebook](#)) or [edinburghbeachvc](#) (on Instagram).

Lynne Beattie

THE BIG KICK OFF

IT'S that time of year again when all the teams and age-groups representing Portobello Community Football Academy get ready for the new season. There is great excitement for the season ahead, with all our 11-a-side teams in their respective top divisions and hopeful of silverware.

Our under-14s represented the club in the Glasgow City Cup this summer, winning three out of four games and only eventually being beaten by the winners of the competition, Cornduff FC from Ireland. This was a terrific experience for our young players and has put them in great shape going into the season.

As always you can support the club by going to our [Facebook](#) page, looking up fixture times and coming along to a game. Come on Porty!

John Griffiths

PORTOBELLO ASC

PORTOBELLO Amateur Swimming Club has provided coaching, training and encouragement for young swimmers and water polo players for 106 years, carried out by volunteers, usually parents, grandparents and great-grandparents of swimmers past and present. Professional swim coaches are now employed, but the administration of the club is unpaid. The financial aspect alone is a huge task, and the club needs volunteers, especially for fund-raising. This helps keep down the fees for swimmers and provides fun events for them throughout the year. Other positions are also vacant. If you would like to assist please contact the club secretary, Linda Forrester, on 07790 773 578.

Continued from front page ...

Over 100 people attended a meeting at the club house on Sunday 19th August to discuss what should be done to stop the closure of the 9-hole course, and any associated redevelopment, to ensure that proper fair consultation takes place. No one was against new activities being made available, though it was felt these could be established alongside the existing 9-hole course.

Edinburgh Leisure's suggestion of Craigentiny Golf Course as an alternative was deemed not an option for many members and casual golfers who have travel, health or financial issues. The Portobello course has a flatter terrain and easy access off the A1.

Cllr Maureen Child said: "Councillors have made crystal clear that no change or closure could be contemplated until full and proper consultation takes place, not least with those who currently use the course and have plenty of their own ideas to put into the mix."

An action group has been set up with members of PGC, and Portobello Ladies Golf Club, St Philip's Ladies and the men's Probus Club, who also play on the Portobello course.

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