

THE Portobello REPORTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE	• Shoreline project	P3
	• Gone up in smoke	P5
	• Time to decide	P6
	• Schools news	P7
	• Water polo champs	P8

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

TRIBE PORTY EXPANDS

TRIBE PORTY hosted a street party on Saturday 12th May to celebrate securing the lease on the former Earthy premises in Windsor Place. There was a range of stalls at the well attended event with street food, drinks, pre-loved clothing, arts and crafts, bicycle and violin doctors, seeds and plants and a range of herbal remedies and therapy tasters.

Plans have been drawn up and will be submitted for approval to provide more co-working spaces and an open reception come community area. The spaces will be occupied by freelancers, Tribe Women, see page five, and The Edinburgh Tool Library (ETL).

ETL hosted an open evening on 16th May to give locals the opportunity to view the new space and contribute



Tribe Porty's Anna Neubert-Wood (l) and Dani Trudeau (r) enjoying the street party with local MP Tommy Sheppard.

ideas about how it could most effectively be used. Current plans are to have a counter at the front where tools can be borrowed and returned, two workshop spaces at the back, one for powered machinery and a quieter space for hand-tool work, plus a wood store. Work is already under way to re-configure the space,

with a view to getting some services operating by later in the summer. ETL sees this as long-term facility, complementing existing premises in Leith.

Tribe Porty have financed their expansion through a combination of their own funds and a loan from Social Investment Scotland.

POTTERY KILN AT RISK OF COLLAPSE



Photo by Peter E. Ross

THE two pottery kilns in Bridge Street belonged to Buchan's pottery that produced stoneware in Portobello from 1867 to 1972. They are significant structures as they are the last remaining pottery kilns in Scotland, and as such are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

A recent annual inspection of the 1906 kiln showed that there is a risk of it collapsing, so wooden hoarding has been put up while part-demolition and rebuilding work is planned under the direction of Historic Environment Scotland. The top part of the 1909 kiln had to be rebuilt a few years ago after it too collapsed.

BRIGHTON PLACE RE-SURFACING

THE Transport and Environment Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council agreed on 9th March to reconstruct the surface of Brighton Place using traditional setts. This reverses a previous decision, of January 2016, to replace the setts with asphalt.

The work is estimated to take 60 weeks and will be in four phases. It is expected to start at the end of July/beginning of August.

Local businesses and residents will be consulted on the works and kept informed of the phasing, timescales and traffic management arrangements.

To facilitate cycling, it is proposed to lay a 1.5m strip, from the kerb, of flat-top setts along the full length of the northbound carriageway, and from Rosefield Place to the railway bridge on the southbound carriageway. A new traffic island at Christian Path will provide a right-turn lane for cyclists heading north.

FROM FORTH COAST TO GOLD COAST



Photo by Nigel Archdale

KYLE Jimenez loved playing basketball at primary school, although he had to wait until P7 to be able to play for his school team. At Portobello High School, however, there was no limit to his ambition, and his talent and shooting skills secured his place in the school team for his full six years there.

Kyle was selected for the Scottish U-15 team and then Team Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast. His journey to the Games took him via the UK and European championships, where he gained invaluable experience playing with, and

against, some of the best players in the world.

Skill, and the good fortune that basketball was re-elected a Commonwealth Games sport in 2018, for the first time since 2006, saw Kyle on the plane to Australia. Scotland played on the opening day of the Games in Townsville and progressed from there to Cairns, Queensland. They upset the form book by reaching the bronze medal match and losing to New Zealand by just 10 points, securing fourth place.

Kyle is now a professional basketball player, with Glasgow Rocks, and moving to Loughborough University in the autumn. He also plays regularly for Edinburgh Kings whose home games are at 8pm on winter Fridays at his old school.

Nigel Archdale

RING IN THE BELLFIELD

ACTION Party have been hard at work ensuring Bellfield is ready to re-open to the local community in June. Along with the addition of crucial safety features such as fire alarms and emergency lighting, repairs to the clock tower have been completed and a new kitchen installed. Discussions with local user groups have been taking place and regular use of the halls will begin again following the opening. Thank you for helping us make sure this vital asset remains available to our community.

A celebratory opening event is being planned for 23rd June, featuring family-friendly activities, food, music and dancing during the afternoon and a cabaret in the evening. Details will be announced on our website soon www.bellfield.scot If you'd like to perform at the opening or help with organising please email shauna@actionporty.com

Eric Hildrew

PORTY PROFILE No. 69

ROSY NAYLOR

ROSY NAYLOR is founder and curator of Art Walk Portobello. It was inevitable that she would end up living by the seaside, here in Portobello. She grew up near the seaside resort of Whitstable in Kent, then continued along the south coast to study visual and performing arts at Brighton. She then attended Glasgow School of Art, to do a masters in fine art, specialising in site-specific art. An exchange programme took her to Lisbon in Portugal, where she became fascinated by a project there that focused on bringing art to the masses via public spaces and shops in the city. The seeds of Art Walk Portobello had been sown – and on returning to the UK Rosy worked as an event manager and website designer, but all the time was thinking about this wider interest in developing an art project within a community.



Photo by Peter E. Ross

Rosy moved to Portobello in 2010, and it was only in 2015 that the first Art Walk Portobello took place. Spanning three days, and a route which took in the promenade along with local artists' studios and local shops, the walk invited the public to take a glimpse into the thriving art scene in Portobello, and explore the past too, through specially commissioned pieces in public spaces. Every year the walk takes on a different theme, and this year it is 'Pleasure Ground' and takes place across two weekends, from 30th August to 9th September.

"I'm excited this year," says Rosy. "The theme includes a 'Bandstand Project' and we have commissioned a musical composition to be performed by Portobello Community Choir that will link the Ross Theatre bandstand in Princes Street Gardens with the old bandstand on Portobello prom.

"I have always had an interest in music, playing the clarinet at school, and then the soprano saxophone. My hope is that in this Art Walk we will be able to have a musical parade, bringing another dimension to the event. We plan to show films on the beach too, showing archive footage of Portobello, when the funfair and the Marine Gardens were popular attractions, bringing thousands of people to the resort."

When not curating Art Walk Portobello, Rosy loves growing things like beetroot, corn and celery on her allotment.

Neil Braidwood

ON THE BEAT

THE summer months are upon us and this no doubt means an increase in footfall on the promenade and beach when the sun is shining. We are on the beat whenever we get the chance, so stop us if you see us out and about for a chat about any issues you may have.

We are aware of the issues with youths congregating and misusing bicycles in and around Portobello High Street. Although they are not, in many instances, committing crime, they are making people uneasy with their behaviour. PC Matt McPherson and I engage with them whenever possible and are committed to solving the problem with the help of our partners at the City of Edinburgh Council.

Matt and I recently charged a number of local youths for theft and reset of pedal bikes. I would urge you to use D-locks, consider keeping your bike inside, record the frame number and have it security marked. This will make a very big difference when it comes to reuniting bikes with their owners.

Matt and I welcome any local residents to our 'Coffee with a Cop' surgeries held on the last Friday of every month at 1pm in Portobello Library. We hope you enjoy your summer.

PC David Love

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN

LOCAL gardens will be open to the public this summer under Scotland's Gardens Scheme (SGS):

14 East Brighton Crescent, Portobello, open on Sunday 24th June from 2-5pm. A roughly two-thirds acre suburban garden, developed over 35 years. "A little bit of countryside in the town", a previous visitor said. There will be a plant stall and an apple-pressing demonstration. Entry £4. Proceeds to the Bellfield project and SGS chosen charities.

39 Nantwich Drive (off Fillyside Rd, Craigentenny), open on Saturday 4th August from 2-5pm. A large organic garden with a mini orchard and woodland walk, pond, borders, greenhouse and vegetable plots. "A surprise round every corner", a

regular visitor says. Tea available. Entry £4. Proceeds to SGS charities and Garden Organic. Also open Sunday 5th August, 2-5pm, for Garden Organic. Entry £2.

Craigentenny and Telferton Allotments, off Portobello Road, will also be open on Sunday 5th August from 2-5pm for chats with plot-holders, refreshments, and fresh fruit and veg for sale. Entry £3. Proceeds to allotments and SGS charities.

Duddingston Kirk Glebe and Milton Road Community Garden at Edinburgh College will be among 23 community food-growing gardens open during the 4th Power of Food Festival taking place on 16th and 17th June. For details see www.poweroffoodfestival.wordpress.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

TOILETS OPEN: The public toilets on the promenade at Pipe Street have been opened again for the summer season after some repairs were carried out.

The toilets at the nearby Tumbles and those at Portobello Swim Centre and the top of Bath Street are open all year round.

LOCAL AUTHOR Doug Johnstone's latest novel *Fault Lines* has just been published by Orenda Books and is available in bookshops and online.

MY EARLY YEARS by Stuart Edmond, about a boy growing up in Craigentenny in WWII, is now available as an ebook on Amazon at <http://bit.ly/MyEarlyYears>

EDINBURGH LEISURE'S new Movement for Memories, funded by the Life Changes Trust, aims to help people living with dementia to get active, with 12 weeks of free activities, including swimming, gym, golf, tennis, and fitness classes, followed by nine months at a discount. Dementia Friendly Buddies will support them and their carers in accessing these activities. For more information you can contact Sam Scott, Health Development Officer (Dementia) by phone on 458 2209 or at samscott@edinburghleisure.co.uk

BEACH GAMES on Wednesday 6th June will see S1-3 pupils from all of Edinburgh's high schools compete in a range of sports. The action takes place from 10am-2pm at Portobello beach. Come along and cheer them on.

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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. Mischief Makers, this year's challenge, starts in June and will be inspired by the much-loved iconic children's title *Beano*, which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. The Mischief Makers challenge will sit alongside a host of celebrations planned by Beano Studios throughout the year. We will be promoting books and reading, with a range of activities for children themed around comics, mischief and creativity. Ask staff for details or see our [Facebook](#) page.



Did you know that Edinburgh libraries offer a wide range of resources free online? Library members are able to access newspapers, magazines, audiobooks and a number of educational and reference materials. You can also download ebooks, newspapers, magazines and audiobooks to your tablet using the Overdrive and Pressreader apps. Ask staff for details or see www.yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk

Our Inclusive Storytime continues on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. This has been specially tailored to children with additional needs, taking a slower pace and using visual aids and sensory tools to provide half an hour of fun. All children with additional needs and their parents/carers are welcome to join Lauren and library staff.

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

- 2nd July: *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry
- 6th August: *A Girl is a Half Formed Thing* by Eimear McBride
- 3rd September: *Dear Life* by Alice Munro

All the books will be available at the library. If you are interested in joining the group, please speak to library staff.

Paul Hudson

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THE Community Council receives an administrative grant from City of Edinburgh Council of about £680 for meeting room hire, consultations and so on. This doesn't meet our running costs, or other costs, such as hiring the Town Hall for election hustings.

The PCC's core role is to represent the views of the community, for example in relation to planning issues. We're very much reactive to what is thrown at us, enabling community consultations on the Pitz/Westbank site and The George, for example. At the Edinburgh Council Planning Committee deliberations on The George, when the developer seemed to intimate PCC support for the partial demolition, the PCC rep responded: "The problem with this statement is that it is completely, entirely, absolutely untrue".

With next to no resources, we can speak when there is clear community consensus. Just think what the PCC could do if it had real resources.

Justin Kendrick

26 BATH STREET NOMINATED FOR AWARD

INNOVATIVE design has ensured that Portobello once again punches well above its weight in Scottish architectural excellence. The Bath Street Collective Build by John Kinsey, at 26 Bath Street, as featured in our Winter 2017 issue, has been nominated for a Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)/Royal

Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Award 2018. "The quality of architecture being produced the length and breadth of the country is hugely impressive. Practices, large and small, continue to demonstrate the strength and purpose of the profession in Scotland," says RIAS President Stewart Henderson.

IMPROVING OUR SHORELINE



Photo by Peter E Ross

A habitat improvement project is starting on the promenade at Seafield. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Living Landscapes 'Edinburgh Shoreline' project have offered local volunteers support for the clearing and planting of native coastal plants in the long, narrow strip behind the car showrooms. So far two showrooms have offered to get involved. The aim is to get a small group together to plan habitat work days for everyone to join in through the summer. For more about the project see: <http://bit.ly/bettershore>

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“WHO CARES WHAT PICTURE YOU SEE...”

YOU know when your days of hands-on parenting are truly over when you are no longer required to watch soprano chipmunks or highly-strung animals in the Antarctic on exciting, but bankrupting trips to the cinema.

Instead, my daughter, who much to her delight is no longer hindered by rating rules, offers to take me to see *Get Out* which she assures me is a light psychological thriller. I come out of the cinema slightly traumatised by the blood and gore, despite watching with my eyes nearly shut. She, on the other hand, doesn't bat an eyelid, but says that I am looking quite pale and propels me to the nearest pub to buy me a stiff drink.

As a special treat, my sons have even been known to take me to see a Marvel comic film, as long as I throw in a meal deal, of course. I enjoy the films, although I admit to nodding off once or twice, and I missed chunks of the action during *Guardians of the Galaxy*. The main thing is, it is a great way to spend precious time in their company, just like the old days.

Come to think of it, I can't remember the last time I went to the cinema with my mother, but it's been too long. Perhaps we'll go and see something clean to avoid parental tutting, eat a bucket of popcorn and, no doubt about it, we'll both fall asleep!

AS I write this article we are preparing for the next Portobello Market held in Brighton Park on the first Saturday of every month. This market has been operating for eight years and whilst some stalls offer speciality items, there are also some basic foods such as cheese, mutton and game at very reasonable prices. These complement what you can find on Portobello High Street in the butcher, fishmonger, delicatessen, wine shop and others.



However, the lack of a greengrocer is a serious concern and, since the demise of Earthy, it has been necessary to buy fruit and vegetables in the supermarkets or travel to Musselburgh or Leith Walk. I wrote in the last issue about the problems of having to buy a pack of vegetables from a supermarket with the superfluous plastic packaging, when all you want is one item. A delivered vegetable box may be a solution for some and there are a couple of companies that offer these in the Portobello area.

But to have a greengrocer offering quality, fresh produce and open at a time that suits you would fill this gap, and PEDAL has promoted this in the past. A sustainable community isn't just about air-miles or carbon reduction, it's also about people meeting often, and shopping on the high street is one of the ways this happens.

A group has now formed to take a Community Shop forward, based around greengrocery, but possibly more - ideas are still being developed. Besides local experience, there is help from one of the founders of Dig-in at Bruntsfield. Some of you may have been asked to take part in a survey to establish interest and support. If you are interested in contributing to making this a success and Portobello a better place to live, then please email portygreengrocer@gmail.com

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

PLANETARY HEALING IN PORTOBELLO

THIS year the Planetary Healing Centre at 288 Portobello High Street will celebrate its 15th anniversary. The charity, co-founded by the couple Claudia Goncalves and Mark Halliday, has been running a well-being project offering holistic therapies to low/no waged, disadvantaged groups who are struggling with their health, as well as

other services catering for different groups. Today, the Centre has two part-time employees and is staffed by 42 volunteers.

In May 2016, The Edinburgh Holistic Shop was launched, a social enterprise venture to make the charity more self-sustainable. Mark explains: "Since the shop opened we have had lots of



EVEN if we get a wet summer, watering is still important. If you have containers the foliage can act like an umbrella, so check if a pot needs watering by poking your finger in the soil - if it feels at all dry then it needs a drink. The best times to water are in the morning or evening. If you are going away, even just for a weekend, fill a plastic bottle and freeze it. Pierce a small hole in the cap then turn upside down and a small amount will trickle through. Good for hanging baskets, but take them down and leave somewhere shady until you return.

Concerns about plastic clogging our seas also mean we need to ensure that as little as possible gets broken up into tiny fragments and into the soil. Do not let plastic degrade in unseen corners of the garden, but take it to the recycling or put in the green bin. I have been amazed at both the fragility of some plastics that start to break up quickly into unusable bits, such as cheap trugs, and the durability of others, like better grade seed trays that I've had for over 20 years. I try to reduce my use of plastic, but for some things it is really useful because of its strength and light weight.

If you have strawberry plants that are not giving a good crop make a note to renew the plants and change their position. They only last about three years, but the runners they throw out can be used to grow new plants. If you only need a few, take a runner and pop it in a pot of compost while still attached to the plant. Alternatively, once runners are starting to root into the soil by themselves, cut them all off and replant in a new bed. Destroy the old plants, as they will harbour disease and will never give a good crop.

Last and most important of all is to sit and enjoy. Perhaps take a few nice pictures and get them printed off to admire through the dark winter days.

local people coming in for the first time and getting to know about our work, participating in workshops, classes, benefiting from our private therapies clinic, or stress relief for unpaid carers project."

As for the future, Claudia says: "While we continue to be supported by so many good-hearted

compassionate people and receive the blessings from the Sea Goddess, we will continue to have our base in Portobello and we would love to have more local people getting involved with our charity." For more information see www.planetary-healing.org

David Bate

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GONE UP IN SMOKE

THE advertising of cigarettes or any tobacco product is no longer allowed. It is recognised now that smoking is bad for your health, but it wasn't always so. In the early 20th century smoking was often seen as suave and sophisticated and promoted as good for you. There were various promotions to encourage smokers to buy a particular brand, including the use of cigarette cards.

Companies put cigarette cards in their packets as inducements and you could buy albums in which to save them. The cigarette card shown here is from the series Arms of British Towns. As you can see, the front shows the Portobello coat of arms with the reverse showing the manufacturers Thomson & Porteous, who were an Edinburgh company. Apparently heraldic cards were quite unusual. Thomson & Porteous included cards



from about 1901 to 1916. This series began in 1905 and had 50 cards.

Two brands of cigarettes are mentioned: Luntin Cigarettes and Alderwood Cigarettes. I had never heard of either of these, so decided to investigate further. I was also intrigued that Portobello was deemed important enough to merit a place in a British series.

Thomson & Porteous was founded as a



limited company in 1854 and closed in 1960. They were described as 'Tobacco, Snuff and Cigarette Manufacturers and Cigar Merchants'. Their factory was in 105 to 109 Leith Street. Control of the firm was acquired by Godfrey Phillips Ltd of London in 1926.

Luntin Mixture was described in a 1903 advert as 'the tobacco par excellence for Seaside or River' and

'Its rich and consistent flavour and remarkable coolness, make it an ideal holiday smoke under all conditions.' This clearly suggests that smoking it would make you feel better. You could buy a 2oz pack (about 50 grams) for one shilling (5p). I could find no adverts for the cigarettes themselves.

The Trades Boards (Tobacco) Order of 1919 established a Trade Board for the Tobacco Trade in Great Britain. The Minister of Labour appointed Mr G Thomson, Thomson & Porteous, Edinburgh, as a member representing employers, so they must have been a well-known company.

Perhaps the Edinburgh and seaside connections were the reasons Portobello was included in the series, although by 1905 it had amalgamated with Edinburgh and was no longer an independent entity.

Margaret Munro

HEALTH MATTERS

TWO 'MIRACLE CURES'

MORE and more people are moving to Portobello. Houses are going up everywhere and people don't want to leave ("once a Porty person, always a Porty person"). Perhaps the warmer weather makes it easier to see what makes Portobello so special. There are the rowing club, swimming in the sea, the allotments, and walking the dog along the promenade - all activities that involve exercise. Exercise is being identified as a 'miracle cure' - and even doctors like miracle cures! With more exercise, we can reduce our risk of major illnesses such as stroke, cancer and diabetes by up to 50 per cent. Whatever our age, it is never too late. The Australians sum it up as "move more, sit less".

Another feature of these activities is that they would be difficult to do without meeting someone you know. Loneliness is as bad for us as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Mortality rates are over 25 per cent higher for those who are socially isolated. Portobello is a community where we meet friends in the street, in the shops - and on the promenade, as we take our exercise. Two 'miracle cures in one medicine'.

Dr Portia Bella

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The Portobello Reporter

is produced by volunteers, with 40 local people contributing to this issue. If you have something you would like to see in print or to advertise call

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portyreporter@btinternet.com

SEPTEMBER DEADLINE 3RD AUGUST.

What's On

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY AGM: Mon 11th June, 7.30pm, Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High St, followed by a talk about Bellfield by Emma Griffiths, Development Manager for Action Porty.

CAR BOOT SALES: (Rotary Club of Portobello). Sun 24th June, 29th July, 26th Aug. 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am, double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220583.

THE BIG BEACH BUSK: Sat 25th August starting at noon, along Portobello Promenade.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: First Saturday of the month, Brighton Park, for organic fruit & veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks. For details or to book a stall contact portobello.market@live.co.uk.

SING IN THE CITY day-time 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.

GIRLS-ONLY SOCCER for P1-P3 and P4-P7, Portobello HS pitches, Tues and Thurs, 4-5pm. £2.50 per session. To book call 656 7062 or go to <http://bit.ly/2IsXCkF>

EDINBURGH TOOL LIBRARY: Portobello Library, Mondays 4.30-7pm. Borrow tools instead of buying. Volunteers needed. Find out more at www.edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk

Coming up:-

THE VILLAGE SHOW: Sun, 2nd Sept, 2-5pm, Rosefield Park. Competitions, dog parade, duck races, stalls, music, games, Tug o' War, tea and beer tents. Volunteers needed. For details or to book a stall see www.the-pod.org

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

AT this year's Amnesty UK AGM, our representative was given a beautifully illustrated poster by the Amnesty representative from Eritrea, in recognition of our work over a number of years to raise awareness and campaign on behalf of people who have "disappeared" or suffered for peaceful criticism of the régime. The poster described this as "far beyond what could have been expected of a small amnesty group".

The group's stall at Portobello Market in April featured the case of Rodrigo Mundaco, a water rights activist in Chile, who has been physically attacked, subjected to death threats and taken to court for exposing illegal water extraction. A petition, asking for protection for him and others at risk, was well supported by the public.

At our April meeting the San Gannay singing group described their visits in 2012 and 2017 to Israel/Palestinian Occupied Territories and sang some of the songs performed on their travels. We were moved to hear of the situations they encountered and the responses of local people to the singing.

Our coffee morning and book sale in April raised £366 for human rights work in the UK and worldwide.

For details of group meetings please email theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com, call 669 0295 or see our [Facebook](#) page.

David Turner

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE ON LOCAL FUNDS

YOU Decide, the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership's participatory budgeting scheme, will be promoted throughout August, culminating in a launch event at Craigmillar Library on Wednesday 5th September from 4pm until 6pm. Other funders will be encouraged to attend the launch so that groups will be able to assess

their options.

There are two categories of You Decide funding to apply for: up to £500 and up to £2,000.

Applications are open for submission between 5th and 28th September and voting will take place between 29th October and 9th November. Votes can be cast [online](#) or at selected venues in the area.



TRIBE WOMEN

ON 26th April at Tribe Porty we brought together, for the first time, an incredible group of enterprising women setting intentions, making plans, motivating each other and finding focus for their journey until January 2019 and beyond. Tribe Women is the latest project of Tribe Porty, and has a great programme to develop business ideas with the help of professionals, as well as empowering each other.

We have had an incredible response, with over 60 members. Non-members are also welcome to sign up to the monthly events and full-day masterclasses. Find out more at <https://tribewomen.org>.

Dani Trudeau
Tribe Porty

PORTOBELLO ON WIKIPEDIA



Photo by Neil Brandwood

ON 14th April, Portobello Heritage Trust and Portobello Library held the area's first ever Wikipedia Editathon, a day-long workshop at which attendees were trained to write and improve Wikipedia articles about the people and places of Portobello.

Throughout the course of the day, new pages were created for the Bellfield community centre, the George Cinema, Portobello

Outdoor Pool, Portobello Power Station and channel swimmer Ned Barnie. In the two weeks since the event, these new pages were viewed over 100 times each, showing there is a huge appetite online for more information about the local area.

Another Editathon is due to take place towards the end of the year - email Gavin. Willshaw@ed.ac.uk if you would like to take part.

Gavin Willshaw

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PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

A BIODIVERSITY GARDEN

SCIENCE technician at Portobello High School, Elaine Murphy, identified a plot of land between the school and Park Place as a potential biodiversity garden. S6 pupils Lucy and Rosa drew up a plan and Elaine took it to the Parks Department, who approved the project. Elaine and her pupils came third in a Tesco Bags of Help tokens vote, winning £1,000. An eye-catching banner designed by S4 pupil Clarisse helped to publicise the bid. Head Teacher Ruth Mackay contributed £3,000 from school funds, in recognition of the merit of the bid.



Photo Nigel Arebdale

Elaine and her fellow technician Eric Strutt have overseen the project, assisted by a team of local conservation volunteers. The garden is already attracting a variety of wildlife and will become an increasingly invaluable outdoor resource for the whole school. Pupils are now planting a wild meadow-flower area.

Elaine would be pleased to hear from anyone who might wish to help her with the development of this garden. She can be contacted at PHS or by email to Elaine.Murphy@portobello.edin.sch.uk

PORTOBELLO High School held a talent show in March called Talent vs Cancer, in which staff and pupils took part. The event was organised by Kieran Donovan, an S6 pupil, who had cancer as a child. He wanted to increase awareness of childhood cancers. The event raised £1,557.50 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

NEW ST JOHN'S SCHOOL



Photo by Andrew Mylne

THE new school is currently on track to open at the start of the school year in August. Pupils and staff are very excited for the changes and amazing facilities it will bring, like the larger halls for better sports and space generally, the new layouts for classrooms allowing children with different learning styles to feel more comfortable, and the tree inside the school.

Head Teacher Barbara Service said: "St John's new build will be a flagship school and there will be many opportunities for learning and teaching to be transformational. It will be such an opportunity to have all pupils from Nursery to P7 on the one site. The facilities and the space that all pupils will experience will be in sharp contrast to the challenges of this existing, much loved old building. We are sad to say goodbye to Hamilton Terrace, but very much looking forward to our new home on Duddingston Road."

Joanne Worrall, Parent Council

FROM PRIMARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

IN Primary 7, we had to get used to the idea that it was only a few months until we would leave what had been our home of sorts for almost a decade, and move from being the big fish in the small pond to the small fish in the sea. Of course, we were all anxious. Thankfully, we were all surprised how easy it was to move up to Portobello High School. We were warned of piles of homework and stricter teachers by ex-pupils. Thankfully, the PHS community is so welcoming and kind, we settled in easily.

S1 is amazing - making new friends, learning new things, and having new experiences. We can't wait for S2!

Tommy, S1

TOWERBANK SCHOOL NEWS

TOWERBANK pupils raised £814.97 for the 2018 Sports Relief Challenge by running on the promenade in March.

Three adult teams from Towerbank ran in last month's Edinburgh Marathon, raising funds for Brainstrust for those whose lives have been impacted by brain cancer.

HOLIDAY FUN

TUMBLES in Portobello will be running a Holiday Club this summer offering a huge range of exciting activities and new sports to try out, with the opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

The Holiday Club runs from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm with early drop off from 8am and late pick up until 6pm.

They will also be offering gymnastics coaching camps for various levels throughout the summer, led by experienced coaches.

Edinburgh Leisure advises early booking to avoid disappointment. For more information and to book email info.tumbles@edinburghleisure.co.uk



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WATER POLO CHAMPIONS



Neilson Rutherford receives the Cup from Bill Laidlaw.

PORTOBELLO's Senior Men delivered a great performance at the 2018 Scottish Championship Finals on 22nd April at Tollcross, Glasgow, narrowly beating Dunfermline 9-8 to retain the Scottish Cup for the fourth consecutive year.

The Ladies, U-21 Men and U-16 mixed teams were all

runners-up in their finals.

The Cup was presented to team captain Neilson Rutherford by Bill Laidlaw, Honorary Vice- President of Portobello Amateur Swimming Club, who recently retired from a lifetime of coaching at the age of 90.

Portobello has long had a strong presence in water polo, winning the Scottish Cup over 30 times. After winning the British Cup in 2012 several older players retired, making way for a new young team. They have practised and played hard, and are now top of Division Two in the British Water Polo League and on the way up again.

Linda Forrester

SECOND SKIFF FOR 'EASTERN'



IT was a perfect sunny evening on Monday 7th May, when the Portobello based Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing Club (EACRC or 'Eastern') launched their second St Ayles Skiff.

With a glug of whisky splashed in the boat and a glug in the sea, the boat was christened *Sprite* and taken out for the first time by a crew of five women from five different decades, all of whom row regularly with the club.

Sprite was greeted on the water by her sister boat *Skelf*, the Rowporty boats *Icebreaker* and *Jenny Skylark*, and *Honesty* which was rowed along from Eskmuthe – a bonny sight to see five St Ayles Skiffs on the water together.

EACRC are named after the original Eastern Amateur Rowing Club that was based in Portobello from the 1880s to the 1970s, and *Sprite* was the name of one of their boats. George Neilsen, a member of the original 'Eastern' club was there to see the new boat float and tell tales of his past days of rowing.

Maddie Corbin

IN THE SADDLE



Photo by David Perry

A short rest on the Lang Whang.

NOW into its seventh year, local cycling club Portovelo continues to thrive. Building on last year's surge in numbers, we continue to offer two rides each Sunday to cater for a wide range of fitness and experience levels. Both groups meet at 8am for varied routes, mostly on minor roads, that always include a café stop. Recent routes have taken us to Dawyck, Innerleithen and Longformacus. Over the summer, we're also providing evening rides on Thursdays, leaving Portobello at 6.30pm,

getting back around 9pm.

It's not too late to sign up for the 2018 "weekender" to Dufton in the North Pennines from 15th to 17th June. Twenty-six places are already filled - roughly twice the number in previous years - but there's room for a few more, as we've block-booked the whole youth hostel. It promises to be a great weekend, with some tough climbs and varied scenery. For more information, visit porto-velo.com or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/portovelo).

Andrew Mylne

BRUNSTANE BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAY WITH STRAWBERRY FAIR

YOU are invited to come and visit us on Saturday 14th July for a 'taster' of what it is like to be a member of our bowling club.

The Open Day commences at 10am, when there will be experienced bowlers on hand to give tuition. All equipment is provided and refreshments will be available.

Part of the day will be a Strawberry Fair, starting at 2pm. If you fancy tea, coffee, snacks and, of course, strawberries in quiet

surroundings then don't miss this chance. There will also be a number of novelty stalls.

Bowling is a sport open to all ages, so why not come along and have a go? We would be delighted to see you. You can find us just off Brunstane Road, next to the railway line.

If you would like to speak to someone for more details, then contact me on 07939903113 or Irene Bannon on 669 9140.

Dennis Ward

SUMMER REGATTA

ROWPORTY will be hosting their annual regatta on Saturday 23rd June, starting at 10am. Twelve teams from across Scotland have been invited to compete against the Portobello rowers in a host of competitions to suit all ages and abilities. If previous Rowporty regattas are anything to go by, it promises to be a fun day for participants and spectators alike.

JOPPA COMMUNITY TENNIS CLUB



Photo by Andrew Mylne

CHILDREN'S coaching continues on Friday afternoons from 2pm and the club will also be running two summer camps during the holidays. The coaches can be contacted at finnmaclean@joppa.com

For the first time in living memory we have a men's team entered in the East of Scotland League, and they have won all four of their first matches. They play home games every second week.

We have moved into the 21st century and now have an online booking system. Early days, but looks good. We can also be found on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/joppaclub). Membership forms can be picked up outside the clubhouse at Joppa Gardens.

Marjorie Thomas

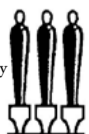
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