

# THE Portobello REPORTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE	• Photos from the 50s & 60s	P3
	• Painted ladies	P4
	• WWII casualty	P5
	• Location, Location	P7
	• Porty sports	P8

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

## TOWN HALL CLOSURE

**PORTOBELLO** Town Hall has been closed and unused since 1st July. The City of Edinburgh Council took the decision due to concerns about the condition of the building and the health and safety of users, as cracks appeared on the ceiling. A report on the condition of the ceiling is due.

Opened in October 1914, the building has been used for everything from weddings to dance shows and has been popular as the venue for local fund-raising events.

The closure of the building has caused a lot of disruption, not least for parents whose children were attending before-school and after-school clubs there run by a local nursery.

In order to put pressure on the council, an [online petition](#) to have the Hall refurbished was set up and has over 1,750 signatories.

Bellfield was the venue for a Portobello Town



Photo by Nigel Archdale

Hall workshop on 24th August, organised by local councillors, Action Party and the Community Council. The city council's head of facilities, Peter Watton, told participants that the council has been subsidising the facility and that it had originally scheduled a £735K

refurbishment for 2023/24 but now estimate it will cost over £1 million.

Participants discussed the pros and cons of developing the building as a 'Town Hall for the Future'. Peter Watton committed to developing a proposal to be put to the community for consideration.

Peter E Ross

## THE VILLAGE SHOW



Main photo by Robert Mylne, insert by Andrew Mylne

**THE** 2019 Portobello Village Show was held on Sunday 1 September, as usual in Rosefield Park. The sun shone (mostly), people mingled and browsed the stalls, produce was displayed, dogs shown off, model trains admired, plastic ducks raced and prizes awarded - including for endangered species made of fruit or vegetables (insert photo), flag designs for Portobello and future transport modelled in Lego.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS DUE

**COMMUNITY** council elections are held every four years and are now due. Nominations of both individual councillors and representatives of local

groups can be made between 9th and 30th September and, if a poll is required, polling day will be 31st October. For full details go to <http://bit.ly/CCelect>.

## BIG BEACH BUSK



Photo by Andrew Mylne

**THIS** year's Big Beach Busk, which took place on Saturday 31 August, was the 10th event of its kind organised by Paul Lambie. It attracted hundreds of musicians, from local children playing flutes and fiddles to seasoned rock bands. With performers like The Violin Boys, who are pictured here, spaced out along the the Prom, plus a range of stalls and a hotly contested sandcastle competition, there was plenty to see and listen to.

## ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR FOR PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL

**FOLLOWING** last year's hugely popular event, the programme for this year's Portobello Book Festival had a lot to live up to, and it doesn't disappoint.

This year's events range from crime fiction to cooking in a refugee camp and from revisiting Scottish history to making sense of the present. Other topics include living with dementia, the experience of Scottish women writers, the representation of scientists in children's books and reconnecting young people with nature. These and much more will be on at Portobello Library, the Portobello Baptist Church Hall, Jameson Gate, and, for the first time this year, at The Portobello Bookshop.

As is now traditional, there will be a book quiz at the Dalriada and books featured in the festival can be bought from the book stall in the library.

Come along and you will not be disappointed by the diversity of talent on show. All events are free but ticketed. The programme is distributed through a wide range of outlets in Portobello, but tickets will only be available from the Library. This year's Portobello Book Festival runs from 3rd to 6th October.



PORTY PROFILE No. 73

MALCOLM CROSBIE

**MALCOLM** Crosbie has always loved music and has a successful career playing guitar with folk band Shooglenifty all over the world. He was brought up in Northfield until he was 16, then moved elsewhere in Edinburgh. Malcolm attended Napier College and gained an HND in Electronic Engineering, but his passion for music was more important.



Photo by Peter E Ross

Shooglenifty was born in a bar in Spain in 1990. His previous band, Swamptrash, had split up and he was busking in a bar with another two members, when they were asked to play in another bar. The owner wanted to put up a poster, so Malcolm chose the name for the group. He plays both acoustic and electric guitar and his favourite is his Fender Telecaster. They next played in the Orkney Folk Festival and since then have played throughout Europe and in countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and in Cuba when Castro was still in power.

Malcolm moved to Portobello about 24 years ago. He was away playing with the band when his wife, Fiona, phoned to tell him about a house with a big shed she had seen for sale in Portobello. As he wanted a big shed, he told her to buy it. He met Fiona when he was playing in Fort William and stayed in her granny's bed and breakfast. They have two daughters and when they were young he had a spell as a house husband. Malcolm likes running and cycling. He is a Hibs supporter and plays weekly five-a-side football. He collects vinyl records. He says: "Living in Porty is like living in a small town, but the city is close at hand. We have good neighbours. Porty has changed since we moved here and the prom is busier now, which is good."

He says music is a precarious career and puts the longevity of the band down to having no hierarchy and no egos, a bit like marriage, but "like having five wives." A few years ago, they recorded an album in Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur, with the Rajasthani group Dhun Dhora, who played with them at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Shooglenifty recently recorded their first single with Galician vocal powerhouse Tanxugueiras. Members of both these groups performed with Shooglenifty in this year's Edinburgh Festival.

Margaret Munro

ON THE BEAT

WE have been kept busy over the past few months with break-ins and bike thefts in the Portobello area. Look out for each other and ensure that any suspicious characters hanging around are reported to Police.

Operation Drift is well under way, a dedicated Operation for Portobello Promenade throughout the summer. You will have seen an increase in Police presence to provide assistance and reassurance for locals and tourists. We work closely with the Coastguard and Lifeboats and have recently had a multi-agency training session to share knowledge and skills, enabling us to provide a better service to Portobello Promenade visitors.

The warmer weather and lighter nights have also seen a spike in motorbike crime. Please ensure that motorbikes are locked and double locked securely, where possible, if left out on the street overnight.

Our skilled team of motorbike-trained officers are hot on the wheels of those out on stolen motorbikes, but we are always looking for intelligence. Please call 101 or Crimestoppers if you can be of any assistance.

I hope to meet you at one of our surgeries, which are held on the last Friday of every month at Portobello library from 1.00-2.00pm.

PC Gemma Knox

FIGGATE TREES FELLED



Photo by Neil Bradwood

RECENT visitors to the Figgate Park were shocked to see that four mature poplar trees had been cut down. The City of Edinburgh Council had established that the 50 year old trees were infected with honey fungus and also suffered from cavity rot. They were deemed unsafe and all branches were removed, while the trunks remain in situ, as is the council's policy.

Debs Holloway, from Friends of Figgate Park, said: "Poplars only live to about 50 years anyway, so the trees were nearing the end of their lives. The four stumps do look ugly, but we are hoping the 'Robot Man' will pay a visit to perch one of his creations on at least one of the trees. We will be drilling holes in the trunks to encourage insects, which should help wildlife in the park".

NEWS IN BRIEF

**KILNS UPDATE:** Work to demolish and rebuild the cone of the 1906 bottle kiln in Bridge Street has started. The cone has been taken down by hand and the work to rebuild it, in brick sympathetic to the original, will hopefully begin in September.

**BRIGHTON PLACE:** Re-laying of the sets is expected to be completed on schedule, by the end of November, just in time for the road to be re-opened and bus services to return to normal for the run-up to Christmas.

**TREVERLEN PARK** is due to open at the end of October when new plants have matured and the skate facility is complete. For more information: [www.treverlen.org.uk](http://www.treverlen.org.uk)

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meets on the last Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church café at 191 Portobello High Street. Meetings are open to the public. Agendas, Minutes and notices are posted on the website [portobellocc.org](http://portobellocc.org) and in the library. For an item to be put on an agenda, email: [secretary@portobellocc.org](mailto:secretary@portobellocc.org) or write c/o the library.

**THE EDINBURGH SHORELINE** Project are looking for help with planting native wildflowers along the sea wall and preparing a new meadow, on the grassland on Seaview Terrace beside the Rockville Hotel, on Sunday 22nd September between 10am-3pm. For details see: <http://ow.ly/nKLK50vbfm5>.

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WELL done to all the children who took part in this year's Space Race Summer Reading Challenge, especially everyone who successfully completed the challenge to read six books over the holidays.

The 11th Portobello Book Festival will run from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th October and we will once again be the main venue. The programme and free tickets for every event are available from the library. It's worth getting them early, as many events prove to be very popular.

Macmillan Cancer Support currently provides an information and support service every Monday and Wednesday from 2-4pm in the library. A trained volunteer is available, offering a listening ear and help and information to people affected by cancer.

Our Storytime for 5-8 year olds continues on Tuesdays at 4pm, and our 10.30am Wednesday Rhymetime is replaced by two Rhymetimes, at 10.15 and 11.15am. Double the fun! We also continue to run craft and lego after-school activities on alternate Fridays at 2pm.

Are you elderly or disabled, love reading but struggle to get into the library? Do you know someone who is? We might be able to help you with this. 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. If you are interested, give us a call on 529 5598.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Monday of every month. Our next books for discussion are:

- 7th October: *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders.
- 4th November: *I know why the caged bird sings* by Maya Angelou.
- 3rd December: *Second hand time* by Svetlana Alexievitch.

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, check our [Facebook](#) page.

Paul Hudson



## PORTY IN THE 50s and 60s



Photo courtesy of Alan Wilson, Lost Edinburgh

AN exhibition of previously unseen photographs of Portobello in the 1950s and 60s is being held in Portobello Library from 2nd September to 11th October. Taken by Alan Brodie, who died in 1980, these photographs were generously donated by his nephew, Alan Wilson, who lives in Tasmania, to the Lost Edinburgh Facebook page. In association with Portobello Heritage Trust, a selection will be on display, along with relevant artefacts from the Trust's archive. A visit is sure to be of interest and could spark nostalgic memories and begin conversations about happy visits to the seaside.

## ART WALK PORTY

THE Art Walk Porty Festival returns, from 7th to 15th September, with 114 artists taking part in 72 locations, with outdoor installations, artists opening up their houses, art in shops, an outdoor film project and two markets. There will also be events at Telferton Allotments and the Donkeyfield Orchard. To catch up on the latest news, visit [artwalkporty.co.uk](http://artwalkporty.co.uk)

or collect a map from Bellfield, the event's hub.

The autumn artist in residence, Nicky Bird, will be running a 'Show & Tell' sharing memories social event at Portobello Library on Thursday 19th September from 2-4pm, alongside Portobello Heritage Trust's exhibition of previously unseen photographs.

## MORE SPACE FOR RESCUE DOGS

EDINBURGH Dog and Cat Home (EDCH) has opened four new exercise runs at its location at the Seafield end of Portobello Promenade. With over 100 stray and abandoned dogs on site at any one time, the new facilities allow staff to provide outdoor rehoming visits, as well as creating space for training and exercising dogs. The new paddocks were made possible with a £120,000 donation from the John and Alice Watson's Charitable Trust. The Trust, which has a long association with EDCH, was delighted to support the project, and hopes that the new paddocks will enhance the wellbeing of the rescue dogs at the home. See [www.edch.org.uk](http://www.edch.org.uk).

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**END OF THE RUN**

**WHERE** has the time gone since that little hand was photographed for Mum on the Run all those years ago? My life has changed up a gear, jobs, dogs and kids all spinning madly, at a dizzying speed and it's sometimes hard to keep up. Sleep is no longer lost by a fear of the Flat Man under their beds, but because I can't get to sleep until all the party animals have returned home safely.

Thoughts about career choices arrive fleetingly and are rejected just as quickly. This week my youngest asked me what qualifications you need to work in an office. I wasn't quite sure how to answer, but I tried to explain fully and comprehensively how an office works. My daughter more on his wavelength, wisely deduced that he had probably been inspired by the American version of *The Office* after binge watching it over the holidays. "It's not as much fun as that in real life", I said, "at least not where I work". "I'll probably just stick to being a musician then", he said unfazed, not taking his eyes off his phone. As for me, I will probably just stick to seeing what comes around the next corner, and hope I can take a leaf out of his book and be a nonchalant mum on the run!

**THIS** year at the Donkeyfield Community Orchard we've experimented by leaving the grass to grow, rather than strimming it. With a few paths mown to keep access, most people have found this more attractive. An interesting array of lovely grasses and wildflowers has emerged as well as the perennial weeds such as dock and thistle, and we've seen goldfinches, cinnabar moths and comma butterflies.

Rewilding doesn't have to mean re-introducing wolves into the Highlands. Being slightly less manicured in our gardens will provide a more biodiverse and sustainable habitat. Start by ditching the chemicals that can be so harmful to the essential insect life that birds and small animals feed on. Even the slug is needed in trying to achieve a natural balance, but if things get out of hand, a late night physical cull is preferable, and encouraging hedgehogs into your garden is even better. Mowing the lawn less often will allow clover to grow, which is a great food source for bees. We can all put an area aside for rewilding without going the whole hog and in the words of Joni Mitchell: "Give me spots on my apples but leave me the birds and the bees".

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

# SUSTAINABLE PORTY

## GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



**IF** your garden is looking a bit flat now, why not add some colour with dahlias. These will last long into autumn, even November, and are often available in many varieties as potted specimens. However, a plea for bio-security - please ensure these and any future plants you grow are British bred. Seeds are different; they are less hazardous to transport as they don't need a growing medium, so there is nowhere for pests and diseases to hide.

After flowering and once blackened with frost, dig your dahlias up, cut the stems back to about 5cm and let them dry for a week or so. Then wrap them in newspaper and store somewhere frost-free but not warm.

For quicker flowering next year, pot them up in March and then plant out once any risk of frosts is over. In Portobello this will be around the beginning of May.

We were delighted to meet so many people at our Garden Open days at the beginning of August. Many thanks for your donations for our charities.

## NATURE NOTES FROM PORTOBELLO

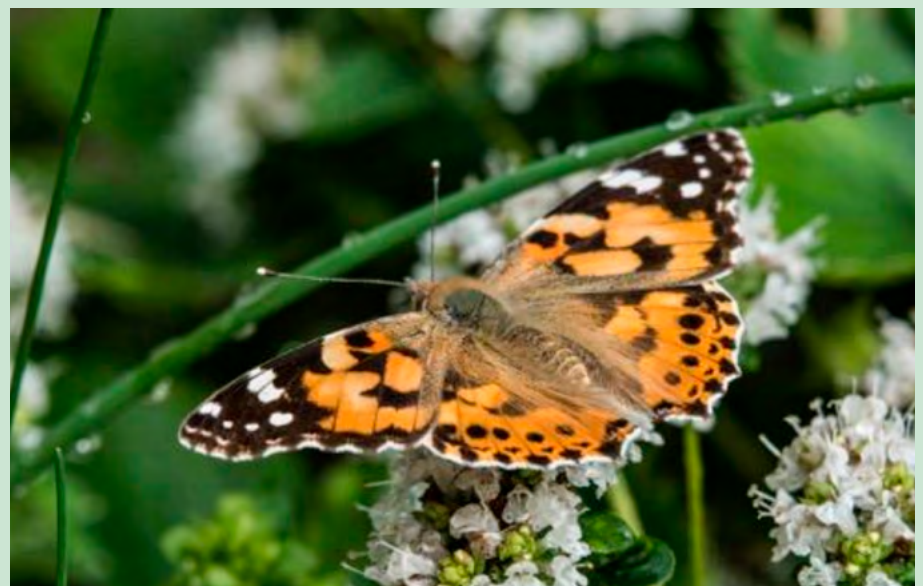
**ALIEN** invasions are the thing of science fiction blockbusters, but every year we experience our very own influxes from foreign lands. Beyond the usual migrations, sometimes conditions are such that huge numbers of different wildlife flock to us. It seems that 2019 is the year of the Painted Lady butterfly.

It is amazing to think of butterflies migrating any distance, but the Painted Lady makes its way here all the way from North Africa. Swarms of these orange and black flying insects arrived in the Lothians in late July, in what is called an 'irruption'.

They could stick around into September, though the numbers will start to drop significantly. But on any day when the sun is shining, by keeping an eye on any flowering bushes, you're likely spot some of these alien invaders. The wildflower meadow in the Figgate Park would be a great place to try.

Highlights for the autumn months will be Pink-footed Geese arriving at Aberlady Bay in their tens of thousands from Iceland and Greenland, the arrival of Fieldfare and Redwing towards the end of autumn, and Eider moulting into their breeding plumage to be seen from Porty beach.

Anthony Robson



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**SURGERY TIMES**  
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 7 Victoria Terrace  
**PORTOBELLO**  
 3rd Saturday | 11am-12pm  
 Portobello Library



# PORTOBELLO'S FIRST (MILITARY) CASUALTY OF WORLD WAR II



Photos from left to right; George Miller (l) wearing his Wings, instruction at Montrose and George in civvies.

ON 3rd September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and the very next day, RAF Bomber Command dispatched planes from airfields in south east England to attack installations and ships on Germany's North Sea coast. Among them were 14 Wellington bombers of No. 9 Squadron. Flight Sergeant George Miller from Portobello was on board one of them.

George Miller was born on 21st December 1911, at 15 Joppa Terrace, to William and Margaret Miller who already had four sons and two daughters. The family later moved the short distance

to Brunstane Road where George spent his formative years. We do not know what his occupation was between leaving Portobello Senior Secondary School and joining the RAF, but photographs with notes in an album that he kept into his twenties show that he was fond of camping and hiking as a member of the Boy Scouts, up to Rover Scout level, and rowed with the local rowing club. The photographs accompanying this article are from this album, which is now in the safe-keeping of George's nephew Scott Miller, who we thank for lending it to us.

He qualified as a pilot at

No. 8 Flying Training School at RAF Montrose in 1936, and the following year was posted to RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire for further training on Handley Page Heyford heavy bombers. These biplanes were being withdrawn from active service, but played a useful role in training. Now a fully-qualified pilot and Flight Sergeant, what was to be his final posting took George to No. 9 Squadron at Honington in Suffolk to fly the recently introduced Vickers designed single-winged Wellington bomber.

The squadron's chosen targets on 4th September

were at Brünsbützel, where the Kiel Canal joins the estuary of the River Elbe. This was a second sortie and was met by concentrated anti-aircraft fire and attacks by German fighters in the air. George Miller and his four fellow crew members died when their plane was shot down, as did all five crew of one other plane that was lost. None of the bodies was recovered.

George Miller is commemorated at the RAF Memorial at Runnymede and his name appears on the carved memorial lectern in Portobello High School.

Archie Foley

## HEALTH MATTERS

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY v BEING LESS SEDENTARY

WE know, and I have written about it before, that just 10 minutes a day of moderate intensity physical activity can add almost two years to life. I know exercise matters and I share that with many people who come to see me, but the fact is I prefer to read. I work hard at keeping exercise in my life but carry a little guilt that it is never quite enough. Reading the *British Journal of General Practice* July 2019, I was excited to see that physical activity and being less sedentary are independent risk factors.

So, what is the difference? Going for a brisk walk at the end of the day is not enough. We also need to break up the length of time we sit down. Well, I can tick that box. I have discovered that walking down the corridor to the waiting room every 10 minutes is good for me! The question is how can we all, whatever age we are, break up the time we spend sitting down? Getting up from our chair during TV adverts is an easy example. I also read that people would be more active if their doctors were more active. Well, I will if you will!

(See [bit.ly/33HODmj](http://bit.ly/33HODmj) for details.)

Dr Portia Bella

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SEPTEMBER DEADLINE 5TH AUGUST.



## What's On

**CAR BOOT SALES** (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sun 29th Sept; 27th Oct, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am. Double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

**AUTUMN FAYRE:** Sat 5th Oct, 10am-2pm. St John's Church Hall, Brighton Place, organised by St John's and St Mary Magdalene. Tombola, bottle stall, home baking, flowers, crafts, plants, jewellery etc, plus teas and coffees.

**PORTOBELLO HERITAGE TRUST ANNUAL LECTURE:** Bellfield, Mon 14th October, 7.30pm. Jill Turnbull, expert on glass making, will speak about glass making in Portobello. More details nearer the time.

**APPLE DAY**, Tenth anniversary: Sat 26th Oct, 2.00-4.30pm, Community Orchard. Look out for posters. All welcome.

**PORTOBELLO MARKET:** First Sat of the month, 9.30am-1.30pm, Brighton Park. Organic fruit/veg, plants, meat, bakery, crafts, coffee, snacks. For details: [portobello.market@live.co.uk](http://portobello.market@live.co.uk)

**PAMOJA FASHION:** Quality Clothes/Accessories, first Sat of the month, 10am-1pm, St John's Church 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](mailto: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.

**EDINBURGH TOOL LIBRARY:** Borrowing sessions and workshops, Thurs 5-8pm; Sat 11am-2pm. Tribe Party, 19 Windsor Place.

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

**RECENT** Group stalls at Portobello Market featured the cases of Native American activist Leonard Peltier, still in prison in the USA after 40 years, despite his conviction being overturned; and Mariello Franco, a Brazilian human rights activist, whose murder has not been impartially investigated.

The theme of our stall at the Village Fair on 1st September was 'Football Welcomes Refugees', to publicise the support given by clubs across the UK to the welcoming of people who have fled conflict and persecution. There was also a 'keepy-uppy' area where people could practise their skills.

In 2011, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Amnesty International, the Group planted an apple tree in the Community Orchard. This has now been replaced and marked with a stone, and those using the orchard are invited to visit it.

Five members of the Group raised £359.74 during our annual street and pub collection and we are considering a further donation to Amnesty UK towards its human rights work.

Visitors are warmly welcomed at Group meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. For details e-mail [theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com) or call 669 0295.

David Turner



**CREATING** a community co-working space goes way beyond good coffee and ping pong tables; it requires genuine care from a place of love. In the past couple of months, a healthy amount of tears have been shed at Tribe. This is not a sad story though, this is life and when you bring a group of people together, in a supportive and nurturing space, people can be their best and most vulnerable selves. This is the light and the darkness and what makes it all so beautiful. Most people believe a connection is something they earn by being "good enough" when it is really something they develop by being willing enough. So when you need to talk or are just in need of a hug, my door is always open - you just have to be willing enough to knock. But also remember that by connecting with someone, by trusting in others enough to confide in them, it strengthens their connections too. And for me and for Tribe, that is everything. Find out more at [www.tribeparty.org](http://www.tribeparty.org)

Dani Trudeau



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**THE Wash House Committee** have been busy this summer, undertaking many renovations in the centre to freshen up the building, and adding additional facilities to the rentable spaces for more flexible multi-usage.



Val Stokes, the Wash House's facilities manager, has moved post to The Pentland Centre and we welcome Linda Duffy as the part-time replacement.

The badminton group celebrates 40 years at The Wash House. Congratulations team! There is an increase in booking requests since the question marks about the future of the town hall, and the place has been buzzing over the summer with the Towerbank after-school club and other events.

New management committee members are still very much needed. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month. If you want to find out more, please get in touch at [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org) or check out Porty Wash House on Facebook.

Gica Loening



BELLFIELD

**LAST** month, we waved goodbye to development manager Emma Griffiths, whose tireless dedication has been such a big part of making Bellfield's first year as a community hub so successful. In her stead we welcome new administrator, Deborah Holloway, who will be in the office from 9.30am-2.30pm each day.

Other news is that Bellfield is becoming a beloved venue for family celebrations,

hosting its first wedding this spring and a christening party this summer. In August we celebrated Community Land Week with a family-friendly event including a discussion about establishing a culture of community ownership in an urban context, a treasure hunt and a performance by the South London Jazz Orchestra, who once again used Bellfield as their Fringe venue. This month we're looking forward to participating in the Porty Art Walk and the Scottish Ganesh Festival; next month we're joining with record company Lost Map to host Strange Invitation, an all-day live music hoolie, and the Scottish Association of Bengali Arts and Sanskritik Heritage are holding their annual community event Durga Puja.

To keep up to date with events please check [facebook.com/actionparty](https://facebook.com/actionparty)

Sarah Cockburn

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## COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB EXPANDS

THE start of a new football season always brings excitement, but this year looks like being the biggest yet for Portobello Community Football Club. The club now has teams playing in the top divisions of 11-a-side football across four age-groups. This, along with the fact that the new under-13s have introduced two teams into their league this season, shows how the club has grown over a few short years.

The success of our 11-a-side teams, coupled with the excellent development of our 7- and 9-a-side teams and our local Football Academy run by head coach Scott Bonnar, show that the club is going from strength to strength.

There are now over 300 local kids and young people receiving coaching and training every week, and this can only be a good thing in developing our young people. Here's to the new season... Come on Porty!

To contact us, see the PCFA [Facebook](#) page.

John Griffiths, Coach

## BUDDY BEAR FRIENDS



Photo by Nigel Archdale

AS school resumes after the summer this is an exciting time for almost everyone. However, some children and their parents may have concerns about friendships and being bullied. If this is something that might be affecting your child, have a look at Buddy Bear Friends Schools and Nurseries Programme. This holistic programme provides fun and educational activities, workshops and teaching

resources, to support children in early years from pre-school to Primary 3.

Further details of the programme can be found at [www.buddybearfriends.com](http://www.buddybearfriends.com)

Fiona Ogg

## TOMMY'S TALES

THE summer holidays are over. Slightly sad for pupils who wanted more holiday time, or a delight to parents at seeing them off to school again! It's not all blues for everyone at Portobello High but also a chance to see your friends and continue to learn. And whilst some may think it's the 'same old', for those at the upper end of the school it's a huge leap. S6 pupils from last session have moved on to university, college, work experience, jobs and their future careers. Taking their place are last year's S5.

As the new S6 leadership team take up post, they were asked about their plans for this session.

They are Archie O'Neill, Lucy Owens, Molly Graham, Hamish Martin, Aaron Singh and Orla Troup. They are looking forward to working together as a group and also supporting our Senior Leadership staff in the school. These S6 pupils are role models for our younger pupils, especially the S1 pupils who are just out of primary school. It can be a daunting change for the new pupils, but S6 buddies are there to support them. As well as normal duties, S6 leadership team are looking forward to the special activities such as the Fashion Show, Halloween and Christmas parties, Porty Does Strictly and, of course, the end of school Prom. While they all agree that school remains challenging in terms of achieving their best with their studies, they have assured everyone they are also going to work hard to make this school year an exciting and memorable one for everyone at PHS.

Tommy Hurrell

S3 Pupil at Portobello High School.

## LOCATION, LOCATION...

SIGNS like this have become familiar around Portobello, guiding film units to their locations. Last summer the BBC filmed *The Clique*, complete with dramatic night scenes on the promenade. This August the BBC returned with Oscar winning star Glenda Jackson, to film a scene on the beach for a dramatisation of Emma Healey's book *Elizabeth is Missing*. This TV drama, to be broadcast later this year, sees Glenda Jackson's character, who is suffering with dementia, searching for her best friend Elizabeth.



Photo by Nigel Archdale

## CASTLEBRAE SCHOOL PLANS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

PLANNING consent has been granted for a new Castlebrae Community High School, which will accommodate 700 pupils, possibly increasing to 1,200. This is timely, as both Portobello and Holyrood RC High Schools are full to capacity with their own catchment area pupils.

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## ROWPORTY AT SKIFFIEWORLDS



Rowporty Open A Mixed crew.

**TWENTY-SEVEN** RowPorty members attended the SkiffieWorlds 2019 coastal rowing championships in Stranraer and Loch Ryan from 7th to 13th July. We entered as many categories as our club demographic would allow - men, women and mixed crews in the 40+, 50+ and 60+ age groups, and Open categories of all ages for men, women and mixed.

Conditions were good for the first half of the week, but high winds on the Friday and Saturday resulted in our times being nearly double those for the earlier races. Each club's six best results counted towards its total and RowPorty collected 107 points, coming 36th out of 55 clubs, with some personal bests and club bests.

Ciara Doyle

## RUN IN THE PARK

**EVER** wondered what's happening at Figgate Park on Saturday mornings? From about 9am, volunteers in high-viz vests gather, then others start to arrive, some with buggies or dogs, all in running gear. Well, it's Portobello parkrun, a free, timed 5km run (or jog or walk) every Saturday at 9.30am. It's easy to get involved: just go to [www.parkrun.org.uk/register](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/register), print your barcode, and show up at 9.15am for a first-timer briefing. Run three laps of the park, get a finish token, then present it and your barcode

to be scanned. Before noon, you get an e-mail with your result, including whether you have earned a coveted PB (personal best) or reached a 'milestone' (e.g. 50 parkruns). Once registered, you can enter parkruns at dozens of locations in Scotland and around the world.

Portobello parkrun started in 2015 and now regularly attracts over 350 participants. The atmosphere is fun and inclusive, full of encouragement and support. Come along!

Stuart Fletcher

## WATER POLO

**THREE** Portobello water polo teams reached the 2019 Scottish Championship finals, played on 9th June at Tollcross International Swim Centre, Glasgow. The Senior Men retained their crown as Scottish Cup Champions for the fifth year running, with a superb 12 - 6 victory over Five rivals Dunfermline. Ben Scott, who has just returned from a year playing professional water polo in Rome, was chief marksman for Portobello with five goals. The U16 boys and Senior Ladies lost to Stirling and Dunfermline respectively.

## IN THE SADDLE



Photo by Mike Muldon

Portovelo 'weekenders' on their tour of Dumfries and Galloway.

**THE** 2019 Portovelo 'weekender', the seventh since the club began, visited Dumfries and Galloway in early June. With around 25 participants, we were able to block-book the Newton Stewart youth hostel, which made an ideal base. For the big ride on Saturday, two groups did hilly loops north into Glentroll Forest, while a third group rode east to Gatehouse of Fleet and Kirkcudbright. That evening, we took over a local hotel dining room for an excellent meal, and the local pubs also did good business from thirsty cyclists. On Sunday morning, most of us did faster

or slower versions of the same route, south to Wigtown and the Isle of Whithorn, while a couple of particularly intrepid riders rode all the way back to Edinburgh.

Otherwise, the mainstay of club activity remains Sunday morning rides from the bandstand, which typically attract 20-30 riders of all backgrounds and ages from pre-teen to post-retirement. Newcomers are always welcome, either on a Sunday or a Thursday evening ride, or at one of our monthly social evenings. For details of all our activities, go to [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

**AS** we approach the autumn months, we are delighted to report that we still have lots of people on the beach playing volleyball. This summer has seen a record number of people getting involved with our club activities in a variety of ways, including booking our courts and taking part in our coaching sessions for all ages, from Primary 1 #MiniSpikers up to our adult recreational #getinVOLved sessions.

Despite this success, activity will reduce over the winter months due to the weather and shorter days, but we are determined to continue some activities, including club visits to our local schools, weekend coaching sessions and, of course, our Winter Tournament series.

Please stay tuned for further information about our winter programmes on Facebook: Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club and Instagram @edinburghbeachvc, or get in touch via email to [edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghbeachvc@gmail.com).

Lynne Beattie

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