

THE Portobello REPORTER

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

DIVERSITY PARADE



ON Thursday 16th May all Towerbank Primary School pupils took part in a Diversity Parade along the Promenade with the school Samba Band, to celebrate the diversity of Towerbank children and families. Pupils carried a selection of flags of the countries with which families at Towerbank have links.

PCFA's UNDER 13s ARE ON A ROLL



IT has been a tremendous season for Portobello Community Football Academy's Under 13s team, as they sweep all before them. They are top of the South East of Scotland U-13s League, winning 18 games out of 18, and as this paper goes to press they have three cup finals still to play. This is a fantastic achievement. They could do what Pep Guardiola's Manchester City couldn't do - win the "quadruple"!

We wish Head Coach Scott Bonar and his team the best of luck and thank them for representing Portobello so well.

John Griffiths, Coach

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN

ONCE again local gardens are being opened to the public as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme (SGS), with proceeds for charities.

The surprisingly large and varied organic garden at 39 Nantwich Drive (off Fillyside Road, Craigentenny) will be open under the scheme on Saturday 3rd August from 2-5pm, entry £4. It opens again on Sunday 4th from 2-5pm, entry £2, for the charity Garden Organic. This garden is the inspiration for our regular column Growing Organic.

Craigentenny and Telferton Allotments (off Portobello Road) will be open on Sunday 28th July from 2-5pm, entry £4. Chat with enthusiastic plot-holders, buy freshly-grown fruit and veg and enjoy refreshments.

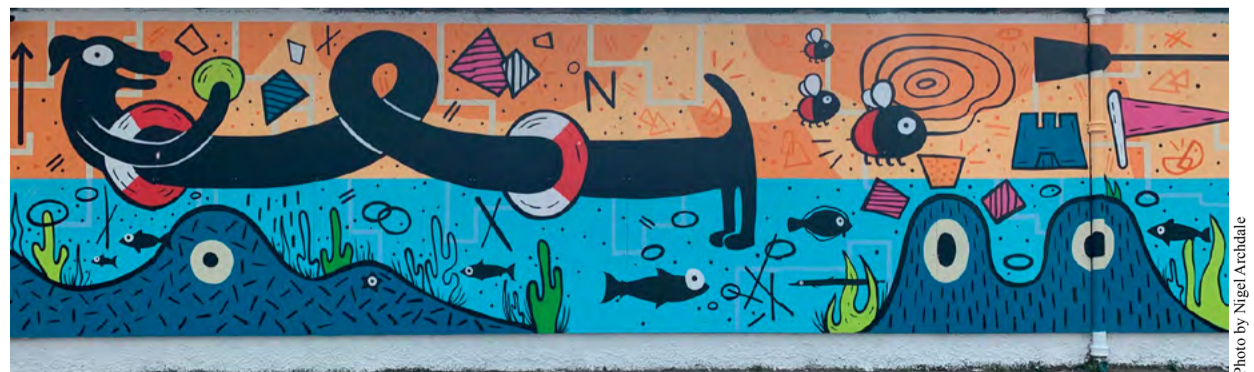
RENT HIKE A THREAT TO JOPPA TENNIS

IT'S the end of an era for tennis at Joppa. For over 30 years, the courts have been run on a voluntary basis, with a peppercorn annual rent of £50 paid to the City of Edinburgh Council. The club has been notified, however, that the rent will increase to £1,200 over the next three years, with further increases expected to follow.

For the moment, membership fees have been maintained at £60 per person and £85 for a family, but the principle of community tennis where everyone can afford to play may well have been lost. The bigger picture of sport in Edinburgh and, indeed, Scotland is worrying, with fees increasing beyond the ability of many people to pay.

The club is lucky in having a healthy membership which has subsidised Pay and Play over the summer, and an active committee who keep the clubhouse and grounds in good condition. At the same time, the prospect of having to renew the courts in the future, at enormous cost, is daunting. Only time will tell if the club remains viable.

Marjorie Thomas



THIS colourful 80-foot mural along Seafield Promenade was unveiled on Friday 3rd May by Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, in partnership with the Edinburgh Shoreline Project, to celebrate the city's 27km of coastline. Designed and painted by local artists Studio N_Name, the mural features the heritage, environment and people of the community, who contributed ideas for it. Inspired by the natural forms and landscapes along this part of the coast, it features flora, fauna and historic elements.

PORTY PROFILE No. 72

PENNY CALDER

BORN in Bruntsfield, Penny Calder moved with her mother to a house in Lower Joppa when she was about six. An only child, she was befriended by local boys, who taught her to play football, rugby and cricket; she learned to swim in the sea, and to ride a bike. The beach became the focus of her life.



Photo by Andrew Mylne

After school, she studied philosophy at the University of Edinburgh. She joined a theatre group, and performed on stage, including at The Traverse, but quickly found that her real talent was for public relations. She had found her vocation "almost by accident" - and it took her to London, where she worked for a time for Joan Littlewood's celebrated Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

When her mother's ill-health prompted a move back to Edinburgh, Penny got a PR job with the Bank of Scotland, just as it was moving into international markets and financing North Sea oil. She also helped promote the world's first online banking service, including hosting a crew from the BBC's Money Programme for three weeks. But 1980s financial deregulation was changing the industry, and it was time to move on.

She went freelance, and spent a year working on the Faraday Lecture, a UK-wide initiative to interest school pupils in careers in science and computing. She then set up her own company, which she ran for many years, largely from home in Joppa, though with regular spells in London. By this time, her mother had died and she'd inherited the house. She loved it, but it needed major repairs; luckily a friend recognised it as "an architectural gem" and helped her secure grant funding. She now shares it with husband David, a former BBC journalist, whom she married in 2003.

Reflecting on her long association with Portobello, Penny contrasts the run-down image it used to have with its current family-friendly, artistic vibe. Its enduring strength, she feels, is the level of community activity; for her part, that's included helping *The Portobello Reporter* in the 1990s and now singing in the community choir. Now retired, she still loves the beach and the sea, the constantly changing light and the closeness to nature.

Andrew Mylne

ON THE BEAT

THE summer months and warmer weather are thankfully just about here. Please remember to be considerate to neighbours and other residents when having BBQs, garden parties or gatherings on the beach. Keep the noise to a minimum and tidy up after yourselves.

There has been a slight rise in the number of house-breakings reported over the past months and I would like to remind everyone to keep their windows closed when they are not in the same room. Do not leave front or back doors open while in the garden as opportunists will take advantage of this. Consider the use of an alarm, CCTV and robust locks on windows and doors. Please continue to report any circumstances or incidents you may deem to be suspicious behaviour.

PC David Love has moved to cover the Meadowbank/Willowbrae area, so I am now covering Portobello. Please feel free to come along to one of our surgeries, which are held on the last Friday of every month at Portobello Library from 1pm, or call 101 and ask for me - PC Gemma Knox.

PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY COMES HOME

THE Portobello and Local History Facebook page recently received a message from Katherine Grant, who lives in the fishing village of Wallace in Nova Scotia. She collects sea glass and wanted information about an old bottle base found on a local beach. She discovered online that her bottle fragment originated in Portobello, because of the inscribed names Cooper and Wood.



Photo by Margaret Munro

We were able to tell her that the original bottle was made between 1859 and 1866, when the Portobello Bottle Works was run by Richard Cooper and his brother-in-law Thomas Wood.

In the late 19th century, Wallace's harbour was very busy and sailing ships regularly left for Scotland and Ireland, carrying corn for distilleries and breweries. Very probably Katherine's fragment came from a bottle of whisky that was part of a return cargo.

Because she believes that it has more historical significance for us, Katherine has gifted the bottle base to Portobello and it is now in the safe hands of Portobello Heritage Trust. Dr Margaret Munro, chair of the trust, said: "It was very kind of Katherine to repatriate the bottle base. Such historical artefacts increase our knowledge of where in the world Portobello products were sent."

Archie Foley

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOVEMENT FOR

MEMORIES: Edinburgh Leisure is looking for volunteer Golf Buddies to support people living with dementia in being physically active. The project is supported by the Life Changes Trust and training will be given. Anyone interested can apply as a Health and Physical Activity Volunteer via <https://vacancies.edinburghleisure.co.uk/> For more information see www.edinburghleisure.co.uk.

A FREE activity pack for schools, groups and families has been produced by The Edinburgh Shoreline Project. It includes conducting your own beach cleans and creating wildlife gardens. To download a copy, see: www.bit.ly/shorepack or request a paper copy at cjohnson@rbge.org.uk

A QUESTIONNAIRE on the future use of Portobello Golf Course, organised by Edinburgh Leisure in May, was completed by over 400 people. The responses have not yet been reported.

A second separate Save Portobello 9-hole Golf Course Petition, organised by the golf club, received nearly 1,200 signatures.

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM which celebrates great placemaking, has announced the shortlist for its 2020 awards which include European City of the Year and Great Town. Portobello is competing with the Levenshulme area in Manchester and South Bank in Leeds to become Great Neighbourhood of the Year 2020.

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PREPARATIONS are well under way for this year's Summer Reading Challenge which, as always, is open to all primary age children and is designed for all reading abilities. It encourages children to read six books over the summer holidays to win prizes, a medal and certificate. This year's challenge, 'Space Race', will have an inter-galactic theme and will be launched on Saturday 22nd June. To support it we will be promoting books and reading throughout the summer, with a range of activities, themed around space and space travel.



If you are looking for something to do over the summer, you can find out what we are doing by picking up a leaflet in the library or by checking our updates on our [Facebook](#) page.

If you or someone you know is looking for information on dealing with cancer, the library hosts a Macmillan information station with leaflets and information designed to inform and support people affected by cancer. Trained Macmillan volunteers will also be available in the library every Monday and Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm.

Did you know that Edinburgh's 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 from Edinburgh libraries, using the Overdrive and Pressreader apps. For more information on these services ask staff for details or go to: <https://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

Our book group meets in the library at 6.30pm on the first Monday of every month. The next books for discussion are:

1st July: *Memento Mori* by Muriel Spark

5th August: *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood

2nd September: *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders

All of the books will be available at the library. If you are interested in joining our book group please ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Portobello Community Council is a group of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.

At the moment we're looking at local concerns about the caravans parked in Kings Place. City of Edinburgh Council is investigating ways to prohibit overnight parking without disrupting residents, and considering a path through the car park to link the Prom and the cycle route.

We're also monitoring proposals for a micro-container village on the ground behind Stanley Street.

One of our biggest issues in the future is likely to be the new Local Development Plan, or City Plan 2030, which will include the development of Seafield. We're very keen to get as much community involvement as possible, and we're also hoping to liaise closely with fellow community councillors for Leith Links and Craigtintny/Meadowbank.

We hold our meetings at 7.30pm on the final Monday of the month in the Baptist Church café at 191 Portobello High Street. Do come along! Have a look at our website: www.portobellocc.org

Miranda Hurst, PCC

FIGGATE PARK PHOTO COMPETITION

WITH so much to photograph in the Figgate Park and so many local photographers, here is your chance to share your images by entering the Figgate Park Photo Competition. All winning entries will be featured and credited in the 2020 Figgate Park Calendar. Whether of

wildlife, landscapes, flowers or people, entries must be submitted before midnight on Saturday 31st August. See www.figgatepark.org.uk for details. The calendar will again be sponsored by Hitachi and the proceeds will support the work of the Friends of Figgate Park

ART WALK PROJECTS

INSPIRED by old footage of our high street shops from the 1980s, Art Walk are creating a 'Keeping Shop' Art Hunt, working around memories collected from Portobello Older Peoples Project. It will take place in Rosefield Park on Saturday 15th June, from noon to 4pm. Rosy Naylor of Art Walk says: "Explore some stories of our shops from another era, with children's prizes, badge-making and more. A fun afternoon out for children and families".

THE Art Walk Party Festival takes place from 7th to 15th September. Funding has been received from Creative Scotland for a 16-month project entitled 'Land Mark', centred around the former local potteries and remaining kilns, and the changing landscape of west Portobello. The first commission, with local artist Jenny Pope, will feature at this year's festival.

Our invited artists programme will be announced in June. See www.artwalkparty.co.uk.

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WHAT'S THE POINT IN WORRYING...?

EVERY day the nerve-racking challenges of being a parent seem to increase. My own mother, at the age of 85, says she never stops worrying about my three sisters and me, and I now understand why she always says: "Ring me when you get home". However, unlike my mother, I don't insist in anointing my three with holy water every time they go out - and return, for that matter.

Obviously, worrying is completely pointless and makes no sense, especially when children are growing up and making their own decisions. Recently, I became quite concerned about a seismic shift in my youngest son's behaviour. Instead of staying in his room and playing on the X-Box all the time, he goes to the gym most days and consumes litres of protein shakes. Nevertheless, I had to bite my tongue and refrain from nagging him and saying something like: "Do you think you are overdoing it?" Instead, I must have looked at him with concern, but he just shook his head at me knowingly and said: "No point in worrying mum. I'm fine". That's me told. As usual, I have a lot to learn!

THE Earth's natural support mechanisms are being destroyed at a faster rate now than at any time over the last 10 million years, according to the UN [Global Assessment Report](#).

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

Often we use the word "loss", for example when we refer to a loss of rainforest, when "destroyed" would be more accurate. A million species face extinction; add in the effects of climate change and we seem to be hell-bent on destruction, including of ourselves.

One particularly worrying statistic is the 33 per cent fall in insect pollinators in the last ten years due to habitat reduction, use of pesticides, disease and monoculture farming. One type of bee directly gives us food as honey, but all bees and many other insects have a more important role as pollinators, necessary for the production of a third of the food we eat.

Bees need a constant and varied source of nectar throughout the year and travel up to three miles from the hive when foraging. The bees kept by PEDAL have access to fields of rape, but also to the great variety of plants in our gardens throughout the year. Introducing bee-friendly planting is easy, with ample advice in books and on the internet sites, such as the Royal Horticultural Society at www.rhs.org.uk/advice/pdfs/plants-for-bees. Don't be restricted to flowers though: flowering trees such as cherries, tree heather, amelanchier and cercis all offer a food source at the start of the year as well as looking beautiful. Even plants like ivy and Himalayan balsam, often regarded as pests, can be a food source for insects at certain times of year.

The urgent structural changes required to halt habitat destruction and reduce harmful emissions can only be taken by governments. But by introducing insect-friendly planting into your garden you can take a small step to sustain life.

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



WATERING plants is time-consuming and hard work. Wise use of water is a must for the environment, so to reduce the amount needed, especially on sandy soils, set plants in a bowl-shaped depression so that water goes to the roots. Containers still need watering even if it rains, as the foliage acts like an umbrella, shedding most of it over the edges; rather than sprinkling with a hose, it is much better to drench the soil at the base of the plants. Mulching and adding compost to the soil stops evaporation and increases its water-holding capacity. This is becoming more important as scientists learn about the micro-organisms that live in the soil and keep it healthy.

If your water-butt dries out take the opportunity to give it a good clean, using a tiny amount of environmentally-friendly washing-up liquid followed by a good rinse. A lid will stop anything falling in and polluting the water. I use butt water on established plants outside and house plants, but tepid tap water on seedlings.

Feeding container plants during summer keeps them healthy, and if deadheaded regularly they will last well into September or October. Only feed plants in the ground if really needed. I use comfrey tea as a flower and fruit promoter, and occasionally a seaweed foliar feed or a nettle tea for anything that needs something more nitrogenous. Worm-bin juice is a feed I use on tomatoes, as it gives them a good flavour.

HEALTH MATTERS - Sunshine and Health

IN Scotland we are familiar with the expression "four seasons in one day". We can be optimists and see the silver linings in our clouds and say "the garden needed the rain", but the truth is we need more sunshine than we have in our Scottish skies. Just as with other health issues, there is a conundrum and we have to find a balance. Staying in the sun for prolonged periods without the protection of sunscreen increases the risk of skin cancer, but without sunshine we are unlikely to get enough vitamin D, needed to keep our bones healthy, from diet alone.

Fortunately, the amount of sunshine needed to make enough vitamin D is always less than the amount that causes tanning or sunburn. Ten to 15 minutes of unprotected Scottish sun exposure is safe, but do cover up or apply sunscreen before any exposed skin becomes red or begins to burn.

Some people's bones are more at risk than others, but we should all consider taking a daily supplement of vitamin D, particularly during the winter months of October to March, so see your local pharmacist. A multivitamin for the under-5s should include vitamin D too.

New evidence suggests that sunlight may also help lower blood pressure, and certainly being outside and active is good for us.

For further information and advice: www.bit.ly/sunhealthdocs.

Dr Portia Bella

Cllr Kate Campbell
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 Scottish Green Party
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PORTOBELLO CO-OP



Photos by Peter E Ross and Margaret Munro

DURING recent renovations, readers may have seen the shop name that was revealed at 46 Portobello High Street. As you can see here, it shows a grocery department belonging to Portobello Co-operative Society Limited. A history of the society was published in 1934 giving details of its development to that date.

According to the history, in 1846 the Co-operative Movement was in its infancy and there were no overall guidelines to help draw up a constitution for the proposed Portobello society. This, however, only served to 'emphasise the courage and initiative shown by the pioneers of our society'.

Several local men acquired premises at 77 Portobello High Street, at the junction with Adelphi Place. Initially these men ran the society, but it grew so rapidly that a full-time salesman, who later become manager, was appointed.

In 1872, premises were purchased at what became number 42. These were converted into a large store with bake-house below and manager's house above. Expansion on this site continued until it was decided to build new premises which opened in 1882. The business now consisted of a grocery, bakery, butchery and drapery departments. These became the central premises of

the society, which now owned all the land between Bridge Street and Pipe Street and down to Bridge Street Lane. Further building was undertaken and the tenements above the shops were added. If you stop and look up at the turret on the building at the top of Pipe Street, you can see several of the symbols of co-operation, including the handshake of friendship and the beehive of industry. There is also a stone plaque on the front of the building with the intertwined society initials carved into it.

Growth continued. Land was leased in Windsor Place to graze cattle and sheep. The society ran a fleet of motor and horse vans which serviced

the surrounding area. New branches were opened at 201 Portobello High Street, King's Road, Niddrie Mill and Joppa. A new bakery was built at the foot of Tower Street (now Figgate Street) with plans to open a hall and tearoom.

When I moved here in 1973, I did my weekly shopping in the Co-op at 201, now Costcutter. Soon large supermarkets seemed to be the way forward and smaller co-ops struggled. During the late 1970s and 1980s, St Cuthbert's Co-operative Society took these over, including Portobello. Scotmid was created, local branches were closed and a supermarket was built in Bath Street.

Margaret Munro.

TIMEBANK EXPANDS

PORTOBELLO Timebank has now clocked up 2,000 exchanged hours and, with over 175 members, the community enjoys a vast range of offers. Recent exchanges have included sports massage, gardening assistance, equipment loan, updating CVs and even chicken sitting! We also run regular members' meetings at The Dalriada, which are open to the public. They recently featured talks by members Anna Neubert-Wood of WanderWomen and Laurence Winram, artist and photographer, talking about their passions and the driving forces in arriving at the places they now call work

Our local work has continued, with the community gardening group's planting areas now showing flowers. The litter-clearing group is taking its annual summer break on account of vegetation growth, but do contact us with ideas for the autumn clean-ups, or if you'd like to help. All who do admit it is surprisingly enjoyable. For more information see www.portbellotimebank.co.uk.

Kirsty Carver

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SEPTEMBER DEADLINE 5TH AUGUST.

What's On

PORTOBELLO BEACH RUN: Sun 23rd June, 12.30pm, registration 11am-12.15, organised by Portobello Running Club. Children's race and adults' 4-mile, start on Prom near Dalriada Bar. Proceeds to Street Fit Scotland. For details see <http://bit.ly/PortyBeachRun>

WIKIPEDIA TRAINING EVENT organised by Portobello Heritage Trust in conjunction with Portobello Library, will now take place in the library on Saturday 29th June. For details and to book see www.eventbrite.co.uk

CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sun 30th June, 28th July, 25th Aug, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am. Double pitch £10 - all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789220583.

THE BIG BEACH BUSK: Sat 31st Aug, noon-6pm, Portobello Promenade. A mile of music - just turn up and play.

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

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 try 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.

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

UP-COMING

VILLAGE SHOW - Rosefield Park, Sat 1st Sept, 2-5pm. POD would welcome help with the organisation. Please contact Joe Madden at info@the-pod.org for more information.

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THIS year's fundraising events have been very successful. The Pub Quiz raised over £400 and the Coffee Morning and Book Sale £656, enabling us to send £600 to Amnesty International (AI) for human rights work worldwide. Many thanks to all who contributed in various ways.

Our Portobello Market stall continues to attract public interest. Recent well-supported group actions include one on behalf of a boy in Myanmar abducted at 13 years of age, made to serve as a soldier, then imprisoned for writing about the experience; and a challenge to a travel agency which encourages holidays in the illegal Israeli settlements. Campaigning continues in respect of victims of the regime in Eritrea.

Tommy Sheppard MP has responded positively to letters on uniting refugee families, and on the need for more attention by the UK Government to the work of human rights defenders.

The group is corresponding with the Chief Executive of AIUK on our support for further work to enforce the Arms Trade Treaty; it came into effect in 2014, but signatories are still selling arms to human rights abusing regimes.

The group meets on the second Monday of each month in the vestry of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church, from 7.30-9.00pm. Visitors are most welcome. For details please email: theresa.mcmurty@gmail.com or call 669 0295. David Turner



TRIBE PORTY are hosting a series of open workshops for entrepreneurs, with different themes. The first will be Tribe Talks: The Power of PR in Business, on Friday 14th June from 6-9pm. The second will be held in November.

We are also hosting a series of workshops discussing living and dying, called The Circle of Life and the next is on Wednesday 19th June from 7.30-9pm. This facilitated session is a safe space to explore grief and loss.

Don't forget our regular classes in Pilates, yoga, babyfit, music and more and stay up to date with what's on through our newsletter. Subscribe online through our website.

You can find more information through social media, eventbrite or our website www.tribeporty.org. Dani Trudeau



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AT the Wash House Youth Club we offer a variety of exciting events, from BBQs and themed parties to summer trips such as to Foxlake, assisted by four young volunteers - Millie Beveridge, Margaret Mitchell, Heather Mitchell and Caitlin Boyce - as part of the Youth Achievement Award Scheme. We aim to ensure that every child has time to relax, play games and de-stress from all that horrible homework. We offer the chance for kids ages 8+ to come along every Tuesday to make new friends, join in a variety of different activities, arts and crafts and, of course, our sensational snack time. We recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend a Reach2 event at Glasgow Caledonian University, which included a range of workshops that helped us to develop our learning and understanding of youth work, and to meet other volunteers.



Heather Mitchell



BELLFIELD

THERE was a lot of drama at Bellfield this spring. Lung Ha, Curious Seed and Lyra rehearsed their production, *We Are All Just Little Creatures*, in the hall. The company, which includes dancers and performers with learning disabilities, performed the show at The Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and The Byre in St Andrews. Our resident company, Edinburgh Youth Theatre, ran a series of workshops for all ages over the Easter holidays. At the end of April we played host to a workshop during the Flute Fling Edinburgh weekend and a performance by the Cathal McConnell Trio, fronted by this celebrated singer from The Boys of The Lough.

Summer promises to be just as packed with culture, community and celebration, including a talk by artist Kate Pearson, presented by The Fruitmarket Gallery; fashion and music at *A Spoonful of Vintage*; and a concert as part of the Luminare Festival. Bellfield will also soon host its first wedding and first conference. More details at www.bellfield.scot. Sarah Cockburn

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SAFE CYCLING ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Photo by Nigel Archdale

ON Friday 26th April over 40 children, parents and carers processed from Portobello High Street to St John's and Duddingston primary schools to highlight the risks of cycling to and from school. They were accompanied by our local MSP, Councillors and representatives of cycling groups. The challenges of crossing busy roads, and considerate use of sharing the roads and pavements with drivers and pedestrians, were on the minds of these primary school cyclists. "Not many people are cycling and we need more people to do it", said Ben. Maisie added: "I wish there were more cycle routes round here," and Ashley stated: "I think there are lots of badly parked cars beside our school." The event concluded at Duddingston Primary School which provided a 'cyclists' breakfast' for everyone.

Nigel Archdale

TOMMY'S TALES

THOUGH it isn't always the case, there is often a disconnect between adults and children as to what happens at school (we all know the dreaded "How was school?" - "Fine" conversation).

For those who want to know more, our routines move like this: the day starts with registration and activities with a key adult teacher. Two classes follow on, each lasting 50 minutes, a short break to chat to friends, then two more classes until lunch. For early years, school generally has three periods in the afternoon but in the senior school, timetables can include time out at college, work experience or private study.

Our lessons cover English, languages, maths, science, social subjects, PE, expressive arts and technology. We also have the chance to enrich our learning by trying out such subjects as yoga, Tai Chi, cake decorating, photography, Mandarin, dancing and film making. Lessons are supported with technology, using smart TVs and tablets. We research, take notes and make presentations of our work. The school day is busy with learning from start to finish.

Next time you ask what happened at school today and the usual "Fine" is given, you might have a better understanding of what the actual answer may be.

Tommy Hurrell S2 PHS

DUDDINGSTON PRIMARY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ON 5th April 2019 pupils, parents and former pupils, some fondly remembering the opening day of their new school on Duddingston Road in 1959, were all part of a celebratory Open Morning. The event was co-ordinated by the current Head, Mrs Morris and all her team. P7 pupils proudly led tours of their school, explaining the stories behind the corridor murals depicting six

decades, through colourful and informative displays, which had been produced by all 460 pupils. The tours covered every teaching area including the impressive new library and the Information Communication Technology suite. The tours ended in the school hall where there were archive photos of the opening of the school and a film showing the 60th anniversary production in which every

year group retold the story of their school through song, dance and speech. This performance was complemented by visits to the school from Circus Academy Dance and the Lyceum Theatre Workshops. 60 years on, the 2019 pupils take great pride in their school, enjoy its spacious classrooms and are quick to tell everyone that their teachers are really kind.

Nigel Archdale

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IN THE SADDLE



Gordon Barclay heads off on his 500 mile charity ride, accompanied for a stretch by riders from Portovelo.

LOCAL cycling club, Portovelo, saw an increase in attendance earlier in the year, as a result of which we can now offer three different rides each Sunday instead of two. This increases choice, makes the gaps between groups easier to bridge and makes for more coherent groups on the road. (It also reduces the waiting times at the cafe!) All three groups leave from the bandstand at 8am. Since April, we've also been organising evening rides every Thursday, leaving at 6.30pm.

On 24th March, we lent our support to a 500-mile charity ride from Portobello to Portobello Road in London

to raise awareness of motor neurone disease and to support Clarrie Mendy, a survivor of the Grenfell Fire tragedy. The ride was undertaken by Gordon Barclay, former pupil of Portobello High School and former Portobello Rugby Club member, who successfully completed his ride on Friday 29th March, raising over £5,000.

From 7th-9th June, many Portovelo regulars will be in Newton Stewart for the annual weekender, and a report will be included in the next issue. Information about all our activities can be found on www.porto-velo.com.

Andrew Mylne

REFURB FOR SWIM CENTRE

EDINBURGH Leisure is planning to refurbish Portobello Swim Centre. It recently announced a competition for architects to come up with designs for a £2.5 million repair and improvement plan for the A-listed 1898 Robert Morham building.

TENNIS NEWS

JOPPA Community Tennis now has a defibrillator, thanks to You Decide awards over the past two years. It is situated outside the clubhouse, the Ambulance Service knows its location and number, and the local community is encouraged to learn how to use it. A training day will be publicised throughout Joppa.

The men's team has started well in its new higher league, winning its first match against Dalgety Bay, and we now have a boys' team in the under-12s league. Huge thanks to Finn Mclean, currently studying at university in Oklahoma, who made this happen.

We will be working on some sort of free play for part of the summer, as well as summer coaching camps. More information will be posted nearer the time.

Marjorie Thomas

PORTOBELLO ASC MAD MARCH MEET

OUR annual swimming gala, the Mad March Meet, was held in April when Edinburgh and East Lothian clubs were invited to take part.

Congratulations to Finlay Blackstock, who was the top 11-year-old boy, and to Emmy Garland who got a first in one of the 11-and-under events in the Saturday programme. Sunday saw many of our 12-year-olds and older swimmers receiving gold medals, including Grace and Anna Campbell, Harry Mackintosh, Isla Bathgate and Robyn McCarthy, and the relay team of Anna, Harry, Robyn and Jasper Smith.

Linda Forrester

ROWPORTY TRAIN FOR SKIFFIEWORLDS

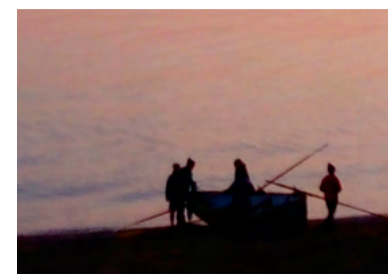


Photo by Margaret Drysdale

LOCAL rowing club Rowporty are in training for Skiffieworlds, the World Championship for the St Ayles Skiff class of coastal rowing boat, so will not host a regatta this year. The championships are held every three years and Skiffieworlds 2019 will be held at Stranraer, from 7th to 13th July, hosted by the Stranraer St Ayles Skiff Project. Over 1,000 competitors are expected to take part.

Ciara Doyle of Rowporty says: "Our rowers, aged from 26 to nearly 70, are entering a range of categories. Since last November we have trained in choppy seas at 7am and at 7pm on bright evenings, and in the gym. Some of us have taken up cycling and spinning classes to build leg strength. Our newly-renovated skiff *Ice Breaker* will be sea-ready and we are very excited to be rowing in our shiny and stylish, cream and jade colours, representing our club and community".

Ullapool hosted the inaugural championship in 2013, and Skiffieworlds 2016 was held at Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland. These events attracted crews from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and The Netherlands, as well as England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Lynne Beattie

A FUN DAY OUT

BRUNSTANE Bowling club is holding its Open Day on Saturday 13th July from 10am to 1pm. Why not come along and try your hand at a game of bowls? You may find a new interest which will get you out and about and help you make new friends. Experienced bowlers will be on hand to give tuition and all equipment is provided.

Brunstane is a friendly club. There are various competitions, if this is for you, as well as just 'bounce games', and if you want to progress, coaching may be available. We also have regular cabarets and other social events including a winter programme, and we are members of a darts and dominoes league.

We are located at the bridge on Brunstane Road. Do come along on the day to find out more, or call me on 669 5661 or Bruce Johnstone on 01620 829694.

Ian Spence

BEACH VOLLEYBALL SUCCESS

LAST summer was our first full season as Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club. We hosted adult and junior coaching programmes as well as tournaments and events aimed at including as many people in the Portobello community as possible.

We've had some great recognition for the work we've done, being nominated as finalists in the sportscotland Local Club of the Year and the Scottish Women in Sport Community Club of the Year awards.

Building on this success, we want to grow the club further in a way that really will cater for everyone, no matter their age, ability or reason for getting involved, and we are delighted to announce that we have received funding from sportscotland to do this. Part of this project is to introduce a sand-based fitness programme called BEach ACTIVE, which will aim to attract new members to beach volleyball, but also to an alternative fitness programme using the beach. We are starting the season with our junior and senior coaching programmes from June onwards.

Lynne Beattie

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