

# THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Summer 2021  
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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper produced by local people since 1980

## COMMUNITY WINS BID FOR TOWN HALL

**PORTOBELLO** Central, a community organisation set up to 'save' Portobello Town Hall, has been successful in its bid to take responsibility for the building as a community resource.

The town hall was closed by the City of Edinburgh Council in July 2019 because of the poor condition of the building and the danger of falling plasterwork from the ornate ceiling.

Unable to fund the estimated £1 million of repairs, the Council invited proposals from community organisations, social enterprises and private companies.

On 20th May the Council's Finance and Resources Committee decided in favour of Portobello Central over a



Photo Andrew Mylne

proposal to turn the building into a food market.

Portobello Central is working to take over the building in September with a view to making it safe before opening to the public in April the following year.

On receiving the decision Portobello Central said: "The Town Hall is not just a symbol

of a lively community, it must be active for everyone, and we're making it our business to deliver that."

Its long term aim is to be able to take full ownership of the town hall through a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a board of trustees elected by the community.

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

**PORTOBELLO'S** lively sporting, cultural and social calendar was disrupted last year due to Covid-19, but the easing of restrictions has allowed organisers to review their position for 2021. Optimistic news prevails as Art Walk Porty has announced a funding award (see below) and the town's book festival committee has been busy creating a full programme for the event in October. Depending on the rules for gathering, the Portobello Book Festival will be held in the library with opportunities to hear from authors on a diverse range of topics and a chance to contribute to a publication unique to Portobello (find out more on page 5).

Dave Crawley, chair of the Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club, says that although the club has been closed for almost 15 months, they have made great strides in realising their vision of creating a water sports hub – a clubhouse to benefit the wider community. "We applied for a grant through SportScotland several years ago and £77,000 has been granted, which is half the build costs." To access the funds, the club will have to match it. "We have a hugely energetic and enthused subcommittee which is organising the fundraising. Lots of activities are planned, including taking part in the recent Kilt Walk." All activities run by the club are now back on the water.

For Big Beach Busk organiser Paul Lambie the restrictions gave the event breathing space and a time to reflect on how he sees the future of music on the Prom. He says: "We set out to bring music to the Prom and show people this wonderful beach. For ten years hundreds of performers joyfully entertained thousands of people on Porty Prom. In 2020 we

couldn't gather and maybe this year we still shouldn't, but has the Busk already achieved its goal?" There are now buskers on the Prom almost every day. "Isn't that better than an annual party? I think it might be."

Another familiar event in the Portobello calendar is the Village Show, organised by Portobello Open Door (POD). "We recently had our AGM and discussed the possibility of the Village Show", says organiser Mark Crawley. "It's really too early to tell if it will go ahead or not, we would like it to happen in some form, but we are not in a position to say at this point."

## SAFETY IN NUMBERS

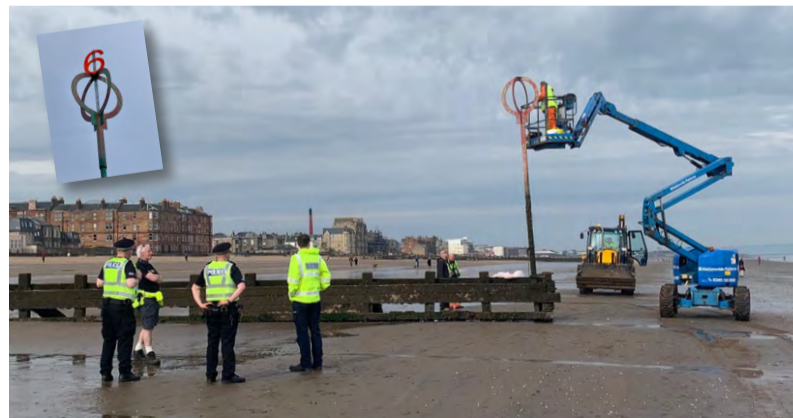


Photo Nigel Archdale

**THE** Council, Coastguard and Constabulary have joined forces to ensure that anyone in difficulty in the sea can be quickly identified. The six iconic groynes have recently been numbered in ascending order from west to east. Any beach user in need of help can be reported to the rescue service swiftly by using the nearest groyne marker number. (Mobile phone users might also consider using the What3Words app which enables pinpoint location accuracy.)

## ART WALK PARTY

**ART** Walk Porty is really delighted to have received further funding from Creative Scotland this year, enabling it to develop more of its projects embedding artists into local communities, with a series of projects and events to be held over the summer in both Portobello and Craigmillar. The Decorators of Portobello project, working with Musselburgh artist Nicky Bird and Portobello Heritage Trust, is also continuing. Additional support from the Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland means a Portobello based exhibition and book publication can be produced. The project will work with around eight women who were decorators in Buchan pottery in the 1950s and 60s, recording their previously unknown social histories, and will involve local schools. Plans for an Art Walk Porty festival, from 4th to 12th September, are also underway, enabling local artists to once again open up their houses and gardens to the public. Events are planned from July to October and you can find out more at [www.artwalkporty.co.uk](http://www.artwalkporty.co.uk)

Rosy Naylor

# PORTY PROFILE No. 77 TOM BALLANTINE

As chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland since 2010, Tom Ballantine has seen attitudes change from general denial to awareness that big changes are needed. The question, he says, is whether changes will be made fast enough to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; he chooses to be hopeful.



Photo Andrew Mylne

Tom was born on the west side of Edinburgh and educated at Clifton Hall and Glenalmond. He then spent some time on a left-wing kibbutz – a “fantastic, formative experience” – before studying English literature at Cambridge. His tutor tried to point him towards a business career, but he settled instead on law. First, though, he wanted to travel, so he moved to Paris to teach English as a foreign language. It was reflection during this period that sparked a commitment to the environmental cause. Returning to Edinburgh, he joined Friends of the Earth (Scotland), becoming a board member in the late 1980s and for a period its chair.

Although he did not enjoy his law degree, he stuck with it and got jobs in Kilmarnock, then Glasgow, then back in Edinburgh. He specialised in family law and co-authored two books on the subject.

In 1994, he moved from Glasgow to Portobello where his wife Donna, a special needs teacher, already lived. Their two children went to school at Towerbank and then the High School, and Tom was actively involved in both schools’ parent councils.

Tom joined the board of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland shortly after it was established in 2009, giving up legal work entirely around the time he became chair. He is also on the board of the Open Seas Trust and the Advisory Board for the Glasgow Caledonian University Centre for Climate Justice. Although these roles keep him busy, he also enjoys spending time in a place that (as he puts it) combines easy access to countryside and city, and brings together people from all walks of life.

Andrew Mylne



An idyllic Portobello scene recently captured by Nigel Archdale.

## WHERE AM I?



Photos Andrew Mylne

Try to identify each of these places. Answers on page eight.

## PORTY IN 200 LIMERICKS

A RECENTLY self-published book with the intriguing title *Life and other distractions in and around Portobello present and past in two hundred limericks* with illustrations by Porty artists is amusing, whimsical and philosophical and features local people, places and events. The illustrations are delightful. The book costs £4.00, with proceeds to the foodbank charity The Trussell Trust; copies from The Portobello Book Shop, Portobello Frame King, Cove, Cahoot, The Beachhouse Cafe and The Little Green Van.

## ELECTION RESULTS

AT the Scottish Parliament election on 6 May, Ash Denham (SNP) was re-elected for the Edinburgh Eastern constituency with 52% of the vote (up 5%). The other candidates were Bill Cook (Labour, 29%), Graham Hutchison (Conservative, 14%) and Jill Reilly (LibDem, 5%). Turnout was 61%. Also elected for the Lothians region were three Conservative MSPs (Jeremy Balfour, Miles Briggs and Sue Webber), two Labour MSPs (Sarah Boyack and Foyso Choudhury) and two Green MSPs (Alison Johnstone and Lorna Slater). Alison Johnstone has since become the Parliament’s Presiding Officer.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**A NEW** Edinburgh Reuse Map of reuse, recycling and repair services enables members of the public to explore over 100 organisations to find where used items can be donated, bought or repaired. See [bit.ly/ReuseMapLocal](http://bit.ly/ReuseMapLocal).

**PORTY COMMUNITY ENERGY** is a local organisation interested in helping individuals and the community transition to low-carbon living. For details see [portycommunityenergy.wordpress.com](http://portycommunityenergy.wordpress.com)

**FOLLOWING** the easing of lockdown, the public toilets at the top of Bath Street reopened to the public on 31st May.

**AN** Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to close Brunstane Road, temporarily, is still being reviewed. Further details will be announced later this summer.

**R-KYVE** is a vocal/instrumental duo who feature 50s, 60s and 70s popular music. They offer free performances to day centres, care homes and clubs. Bookings can be made by contacting Keith on 0131 669 1705.

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# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**PORTOBELLO** Community Council works hard to represent local residents, and to better understand the views in our area, we often run online consultations. Last year we asked residents about the future of Seafield, planning proposals for the former bingo hall and George cinema and options for Portobello Town Hall. We have used the responses to make representations on behalf of the area to the relevant places. The nature of the issues discussed often mean that we have to work reactively, but we have recently had the opportunity to work proactively on a project to reimagine the Pipe Lane toilet facilities. An online survey was conducted, with suggestions for a food outlet at the site, additional seating and storage facilities for the beach wheelchairs. Everything is open for discussion, but we are excited to see where this might lead.

Meetings are currently being held online at 7.30pm on the last Monday of each month, except July and December. See [www.portobellocc.org](http://www.portobellocc.org).

Laurie Berrie  
Engagement Officer, PCC

WE are delighted to announce that Portobello library will be reopening on Monday, 21st June at 1pm. Our opening hours will initially be Mondays and Wednesdays 1pm to 5pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 5pm and Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 2pm, offering a limited service. You will be able to browse, borrow and return books, use a public computer, apply for, renew or replace your bus pass and collect hearing aid batteries. You will need to book a slot to come into the library, online at: <https://bit.ly/LibReOpen> or by calling the library on 529 5558 when we are open.



As soon as we are allowed to deliver all services we will do so. Until then we will continue our online Rhymetimes, Storytimes, staff book recommendations and Portobello history posts. We are also looking at delivering Rhymetimes outdoors. To see what we have been up to online and receive updates on our library services, you can like us on [www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary) and follow us on Twitter at [@PortyLibrary](https://twitter.com/PortyLibrary).

It's summer in the libraries, so it must be time for the Summer Reading Challenge! This year's challenge is Wild World Heroes, a nature themed challenge with the WWF that will inspire children to stand up for the planet. As usual children can start the challenge and pick up their prizes in the library. You can also find updates and lots of fun activities for children by following Edinburgh Libraries Children & Young Persons Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CYPatEdinburghLibraries](http://www.facebook.com/CYPatEdinburghLibraries) We can't wait to see you all when we reopen!

Paul Hudson

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- Mondays** - Mat Pilates (The Original) - 18:30 - 19:30hrs
- Conquer Gravity - 19:45 - 20:35hrs....  
*....Now outdoors at Rosefield Park*
- Wednesdays** - Mat Class (The Original) - 18:30 - 19:30hrs....  
*....Now back in the Studio with social distancing measures in place!*
- Mat Pilates (The Original) - 20:00 - 21:00hrs
- Thursdays** - Post-Natal Mother & Baby - 13:30 - 14:30hrs
- Fridays** - Pre-Natal - 11:15 - 12:15hrs

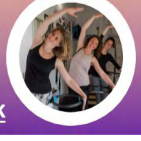
### Trigger Point Workshop 2021:

**Saturdays** - 9:30 - 10:30hrs - 26th Jun 31st Jul 28th Aug  
25th Sep 30th Oct 27th Nov

**Address:** Tribe Porty, 19, Windsor Place, Portobello

**Web address:** [www.thepilatesstudiodinburgh.co.uk](http://www.thepilatesstudiodinburgh.co.uk)

**e-mail:** [sabrina@thepilatesstudioedinburgh.co.uk](mailto:sabrina@thepilatesstudioedinburgh.co.uk)





**SPENDING** more time either in the garden or looking out onto it means it gets even more scrutiny than usual. Take the opportunity to rearrange seating in a warmer spot, and string a sheet between canes to make a simple windbreak, so that sitting out is a lot more pleasant.

A few potted climbing plants or small trees can give a bit of privacy and can be moved around as needed. Runner beans can be grown in pots, climbing up canes or sticks from newly-pruned flowering shrubs, such as forsythia. They bear lovely red flowers before the beans develop.

Containers will need watering and feeding throughout the summer. An organic seaweed liquid feed is best and the larger the containers the less likely they are to dry out. Deadhead as soon as flowers go over, particularly petunias, fuchsias and begonias, to encourage further flowering.

At the end of summer, spring bulbs will become available, so order some and plant them up in containers for a cheery start to next year. They can be kept out of sight while there's still a bit of summer left, but protect them from mice and squirrels.

**HAVE** we seen the last of the pandemic? This was just a rehearsal for what could happen during

the bigger crisis brought on by global heating. The glaciers are fast disappearing, threatening the survival of large areas of population. Sea levels have risen and may rise by a metre by 2100, that is in the lifespan of someone born this year, if we do not act now. One action is to use the car less, something that does not rely on us technologising our way out of the coming disaster. Imagine, for instance, having a pedestrianised High Street to do our shopping in.

The Council has the idea of a twenty minute neighbourhood where most people can get to the shops and services they need by more sustainable travel, that is by walking and cycling. In Portobello we are in a good position to do so with a wide range of quality shops on the High Street. Did you see the recent Council promotion of Portobello town centre? Complementing the food shops, PEDAL organises the monthly market in Brighton Place. It's held in Brighton Park, on the first Saturday of every month except January, from 9.30am to 1.30pm, and had something of a boost during the pandemic.

Stephen Hawkins  
PEDAL - Portobello Transition Town



**HEALTH MATTERS**

**HEROISM IN THE TIME OF AND BEYOND COVID-19**

**HEROISM** consists of great deeds for the common good and there have been many heroes this last year. Supermarket workers, scientists, teachers, parents, grandparents and children. People on furlough, people who are shielding and people looking out for others. We have all played our part: stayed home, learnt new technologies, worn masks, opened windows, and stepped back from our neighbours. It has been extremely hard, with much sadness, tragedy and loss.

After a challenging year keeping surgeries open, what a joy it has been for health teams to play their part in immunising patients and greeting so many smiling faces. Everybody has waited patiently for their invitation and turned up wherever and whenever to be vaccinated.

Things will not be the same again and I fear there are many challenges ahead, such as lengthy waiting lists for mental health treatment and changes in the way healthcare is provided. Recovery and innovation are under way in the NHS, but we need to step up again, helping ourselves and our communities. I have seen people's inner strength and resilience; we have all been heroes and we cannot stop yet.

Dr Portia Bella

**VOLUNTEER LITTER PICKERS**

**KEEP** Porty Tidy volunteers regularly pick up litter on the beach and promenade - cigarette butts, cotton buds, plastics and more.

With their efforts and the council's beach cleaning between May and October, Portobello's clean beach attracts thousands of visitors.

If you want to join them, you can litter pick weekly or monthly, on your own or in pairs. Sponsors, the Oscars Group, will provide the kit. Contact: [kpt@porty.org.uk](mailto:kpt@porty.org.uk).

**SWANSONG FOR BONNIE**



Photo Andrew Mylne

**SPRING** visitors to Figgate Park may have seen Bonnie the swan sitting on eggs close to the boardwalk, perhaps not realising that her mate Clyde had been put down after being injured by a rival in a territorial dispute. Despite the efforts of volunteers keeping watch on her nest, Bonnie's clutch didn't hatch and she was eventually relocated to a safer place by the SSPCA. By late May, this abandoned nest was all that remained to mark a sad end to the story.

**DAISY PARK WEEDERS**



**THE** Daisy Park Weeders have started up again on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, keeping the park looking attractive.

More helpers will be very welcome. For details contact [lynda@summittranslations.co.uk](mailto:lynda@summittranslations.co.uk).

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**Cllr MARY CAMPBELL**  
Scottish Green Party

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, surgeries are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

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**Cllr MAUREEN CHILD, Labour**

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# INFORMATION REQUIRED

THE lady in this photograph is named Agnes Forsyth and she is standing in the back garden of her home at 3 Rosefield Place. Agnes was born in London in 1890 to Charles and Annie McDonald, who had moved there from Glasgow shortly after the birth of their first daughter, Jane. Agnes married Arthur Stock in London in 1914 but, sometime after he died in February 1915, she moved to Portobello where members of the extensive McDonald family had lived from the 19th century. Agnes was a member of St. John's Roman Catholic Church where, on 5th October 1921, she married fellow member John Forsyth of the well-known local bakers' family. Her address on the marriage entry is 11 Hamilton Terrace. John lived in the family home in East Brighton Crescent, but the couple set up house at 3 Rosefield Place.



her family in England are working on a family history and would love to have details, no matter how small, about her life in Portobello. One member remembers coming to Portobello as a child to spend summer holidays

“visiting her Auntie Aggie”. If by any chance someone in Portobello, perhaps connected with St John's, can provide information about Agnes and her life here please contact [alfoley21@sky.com](mailto:alfoley21@sky.com).

Archie Foley

## FAMILY QUERY

NAOMI Robertson is trying to piece together some of her family history and the only thing she knows is that her great grandpa and his family lived at 16 Promenade, Portobello, in the late 1950s. Her great grandpa was called James Robertson and his wife was Catherine McNaught Robertson (né Cummings). They moved to 16 Promenade from the city centre in 1958, where they lived until James Robertson died around 1970. She believes they had around nine children, including her grandpa William Dick Robertson, Stuart Gordon Robertson and Henry Black Robertson, who would have been teenagers in the 1950s. She would be really interested to know if anyone in Portobello remembers any members of her family from the 1950s and 60s. If you have any information, please contact [portyrep@gmail.com](mailto:portyrep@gmail.com)

## FROM THE ARCHIVE



THIS photograph, from the archives of the Portobello Heritage Trust, was donated by Mrs Blackburn.

The background of the picture shows the foot of Bath Street before the tenements there, known as Marlborough Mansions, and the low level shops and flats were demolished.

## PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL

PORTOBELLO Book Festival is planning to hold its 2021 festival in the library, restrictions permitting. An exciting programme is being organised and authors contacted so far are responding positively.

To mark its 13th festival a new publication - *Pandemic Portobello* - is planned. Committee member Mae Shaw says: “This past year has been like no other, and we want to invite Portobello people to write a response to it.”

Contributions will be included in a digital or paper publication following the Festival in October. Contributors are encouraged to interpret the title as freely as they wish: fact or fiction; imagined or real; gothic or mythic; funny or sad; past, present or future; poetry or prose. “Anything goes!”

The maximum word length for contributions is 500 words, and the deadline for entries is 15th July 2021. For more information and contributions email: [portobellobookfestival@gmail.com](mailto:portobellobookfestival@gmail.com). Entries should include ‘Pandemic Portobello’ in the subject line.

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### BELLFIELD

**BELLFIELD** restarted classes at the end of April and even had a wedding at the end of May. We plan to recruit a new member of staff soon. Having reopened Bellfield and held our AGM online at the end of May, our next priority is to take forward Action Party as a Development Trust.

What do you want for your own and your kids' future in Portobello? Action Party is planning a summer of conversations and assemblies building towards a community-made plan for Portobello. Making sure all voices get heard and tapping into local knowledge and imagination, we want to bring people together to decide on how we could build a resilient, thriving town, now and into the future.

Jennifer Elliot



**WITH** restrictions easing we are open and looking forward to welcoming new members for tours and trials of our co-working space. We are not too busy and are able to provide a socially distanced workspace for those of you who need or want to spend some of your working time out of the house.

During lockdown we converted the original White Hall into a new flexible meeting and workshop space. The Gather Room has been designed for ease of virtual meetings, with a large HD touchscreen, speakers and web camera. The room can be used with a meeting table or without for live classes/workshops. The Gather Room is available to book from 1st July. You'll find more information on our website. [www.tribeparty.org](http://www.tribeparty.org) or send an email to [events@tribeparty.org](mailto:events@tribeparty.org).

Melissa McConnell  
<https://tribeparty.org>

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

**DESPOTS**, torturers and secret police don't take a break during a pandemic. May saw the 60th anniversary of Peter Benenson's founding of Amnesty International and, sadly, the now global organisation's campaigning against injustice and abuse worldwide has never been so necessary.

But people continue to respond. On May 1st, a heartening 166 visitors to the group's stall at Portobello market signed Amnesty's petition urging Home Secretary Priti Patel to rethink her planned overhaul of the UK's asylum system, which, among other things, could place refugees from torture at risk of being sent back to the appalling situations they have been trying to escape.

Meanwhile local members have been writing letters protesting at such diverse human rights abuses as a "disappeared" journalist in Zimbabwe, an academic facing execution in Iran on trumped-up charges and a Nigerian singer sentenced to death for so-called "blasphemy". The group has taken on a long-term case in Colombia, where the indigenous Aseinpome community is facing threats and violence in its battle to avoid forced displacement from ancestral territory.

And to mark May's 60th anniversary, group member Cathy Crawford embarked on a fund-raising sponsored letter-writing campaign (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cathy-crawford1>) – a letter concerning a different case for every day of the month.

Jim Gilchrist

**THE Wash House and other community centres remain closed. While some groups have been badly affected by the long closure, others managed to keep going, through online sessions or meeting outside.**



**For example, Enjoyaball met in Rosefield Park and the badminton group's David Scott met members on daily walks to keep in touch. Dog owners are missing their dog training run by Lynn, who notes: "People may be suffering anxiety caused by taking on a puppy during lockdown then being unable to easily access socialisation or training advice".**

**We are delighted to have new cycle and scooter racks, funded by Sustrans, giving plenty of space to park your bike when we re-open.**

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## CHURCHES UPDATE

**OUR** December issue contained a report on the effect of lockdown on local churches. This time, we asked them for an update against the backdrop of easing restrictions.

The Roman Catholic Parish of St John's has been celebrating Mass most days since March, with more people gradually turning up. Most services are now livestreamed, and other events have taken place online as well, such as gospel sharing, benediction and organ recitals. Father Jock has been getting together with local ministers for 'Holy Huddles' via Zoom to enable Portobello's Christian communities to work together.

The congregation of St Mark's Episcopal Church have been worshipping together on Zoom, but were able to open for Easter and have used the church garden as a place for prayer and reflection. At Easter, there was a daffodil cross, along with a collection of hand-crafted butterflies. The Rector, Sophia Marriage, said the aim was to send out a message of hope and new life.

At Portobello and Joppa Parish Church, members of the congregation have been helping the homeless through the Bethany Care Van and Night Shelter. According to the Minister, Stewart Weaver, this has presented major challenges: older volunteers couldn't assist, there was fear, masks made communication more difficult, and clothes and sleeping bags could not be distributed. At one point, the church's organiser, Mike Ferguson, wondered if they'd be able to carry on. But younger volunteers stepped up, meals were provided, and most of the homeless were offered a room and a shower.

# NATURE NOTES



Photo by Anthony Robson

**RED** foxes aren't an uncommon sight in the urban landscape, but at this time of year they can be even more visible than usual. Most dens will be echoing with the pitter patter of tiny paws at the moment (young foxes are actually called kits rather than cubs), and that means the adults will be getting run ragged to keep everyone fed and healthy.

These incredibly intelligent animals polarise opinion possibly more than any other in cities, but I'll personally never tire of seeing them (even if, as a chicken owner, vigilance has to be constant).

Urban foxes actually live shorter lives than their countryside counterparts, and only around half of this year's kits will make it to next year, due to a

combination of traffic, competition for resources, and closely packed dens meaning illnesses like mange can transmit quickly.

Our gardens are their highways, and if you see one leaping up a wall you'll understand why they are referred to as the feline canine. It's a great time of year to look out for foxes, and if you see a female (who will be obviously nursing), keep still and quiet, and you may find her kits following close behind.



**IT'S** that time of year when people are looking for signs of summer, and while a calling chiffchaff, or gorse breaking into bloom, are evocative in their own right, you can't beat the first sight of a swift high in the sky. Arriving a little later than

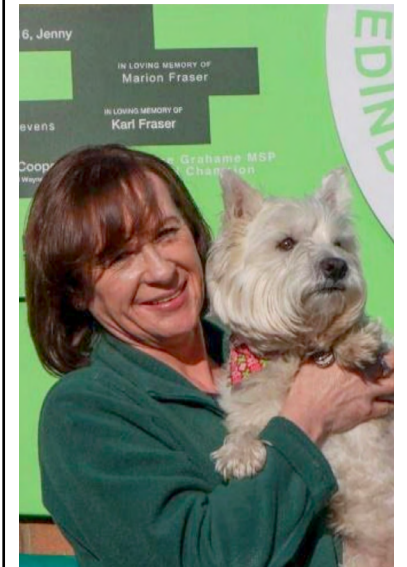
their swallow and house martin cousins, swifts are unmistakable, with a crescent moon wing shape, and effortless dance across the blue.

They're quite dull dark brown birds up close, but that's not where the swift gains its reputation. Instead it is as a silhouetted dart, accompanied by a tuneless screeching call, that we've come to know this bird, which spends almost all of its time on the wing. From sleep to mating, they hardly touch the ground. Once nesting it's easy to see why, with the long tucked-back wings a cumbersome extravagance. They were made solely to fly. Their Greek name, Apus, means 'no feet', and youngsters are thought to spend the first couple of years of their lives completely airborne.

My first summer screech arrived on 10th May this year (they are remarkably consistent) so, for me, summer has officially started.

Anthony Robson

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# JOPPA COMMUNITY TENNIS CLUB



Photo: Nigel Archdale

**THE** club has gone from strength to strength over the last two years and now boasts over 100 members, mainly families. Interest has no doubt been fuelled by the laying of brand new all-weather courts last year, complemented by all the work carried out to improve the grounds and clubhouse. A new gate, decking with a beautiful bench in honour of our dear friend Marjorie Thomas and copious planting have created a beautiful welcoming space.

We are running two men's, one women's and four junior teams this season. The men are hoping to repeat their previous winning performance while the women make their debut in competitive play. Our junior coaching programme is as popular as ever.

The Open Day event is planned for later this summer. Meanwhile, we are organising sessions for members to play games of social tennis. Full details on Joppa Community Tennis Club [Facebook](#) page.

Marjorie Shepherd

# ON THE GREENS

**PORTOBELLO** Bowling Club, like other local clubs, is looking for new members this season. Juniors aged 12 to 16 years, as well as full members, will be very welcome, so if you are looking for a new sport, why not give bowls a try?. The club, in Lee Crescent, can be contacted on 0131 669 0316. Congratulations to Craigentenny Bowling Club on its 125th Anniversary this year.

Alex Skirving

# PORTOBELLO LADIES GOLF CLUB

**PORTOBELLO** Ladies Golf Club would welcome new members. They play at Portobello Golf Course in Stanley Street on Wednesday and Friday mornings and, although this has been curtailed since the start of the pandemic, many members are still playing regularly. They hope to be able to run competitions soon and socialise in the club house after golf. Anyone who is interested or would like more information, should contact the secretary, Morna on 0131 657 2681 or email [fergusson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fergusson@blueyonder.co.uk)

# THE INAUGURAL DAVID SCOUGALL MEMORIAL CUP

**AS** youth football begins to get back on its feet after a difficult lockdown for all the young people who take part in our national game, it is with great sadness that at Portobello Community Football we announce that one of our own, David Scougall, sadly passed away earlier this year. David was a much-loved team mate and friend to us all in the Porty Family and he will be sorely missed. He was a fantastic character and was adored by coaches, players and all the volunteers that support our community club. Our youth have been hit hard by this pandemic and we believe organised sport is a great tool to support our local young people.

As a result, we are proud to have organised the inaugural David Scougall Memorial Cup in honour and celebration of David's life. The event, which took place on 28th May, was not only a fantastic sporting occasion but also raised money for a mental health charity of David's family's choosing. We would like to send a special thank you to Broxburn FC and Lasswade FC for taking part in this wonderful event. Thanks from the Porty CFA Family.

John Griffiths

# IN THE SADDLE

**IT** was a great feeling to arrive at the bandstand on 23rd May to see around 30 cyclists gathered for the first Portovelo Sunday rides in nearly eight months. As well as many familiar faces, there were also some first-timers whose names I recognised from enquiries received during lockdown: new arrivals in the area or new enthusiasts for cycling. All were made to feel welcome as we organised ourselves into three groups for the morning's rides to East Linton, Soutra and Lauder.

This was a day we had planned for, ever since 17th May was announced as the date for moving to Level 2 restrictions, and Scottish Cycling had confirmed that we would no longer need to keep 2m apart on the road. It's not yet back to the old normal - distancing and face-coverings are still needed for the cafe stop, and our social evenings are still being held online. But just being able to cycle together, after months riding solo or on indoor trainers, is a huge boost.

As well as the Sunday rides, we are also trialling Wednesday morning rides, and planning for a weekend away in September (a revival of the Pitlochry weekender originally planned for June 2020). Full details of all our activities, and how to pre-register for our rides, are on our website ([www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com)).

Andrew Mylne

**ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?**

1: Swimming pool chimney. 2: Bellfield. 3: Coade Stone pillar, community garden. 4: Windsor Church House (corner of Windsor Place and High Street).

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