

THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Winter 2021

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INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

- Town Hall project P2
- Book Festival P3
- Lollipops needed P7
- Sporty Party P8

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BRUNSTANE ROAD UPDATE

ON 11th November, the City of Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee considered a report by Council officials recommending closure of Brunstane Road to through traffic under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).

The report acknowledged that more than three times as many respondents to the Council's consultation opposed the ETRO (218 responses) as supported it (66 responses). Respondents living on Brunstane Road were far more supportive (87% in favour, 13% against) than those living on other local streets (8% in favour, 92% against).

The Council's case for the ETRO was based on the longstanding problems

created by two-way traffic on such a narrow road, which has led to frequent delays, damage to parked vehicles and hostility directed by motorists at residents. Closing the road to motor vehicles would, according to the report, make Brunstane Road safer and more pleasant for residents, cyclists and pedestrians. The main arguments presented by objectors were that the ETRO would displace traffic to surrounding streets, increase journey times and restrict access for emergency vehicles. Council officials, however, argued that there was little evidence to support these concerns, noting that the emergency services themselves were content with the proposal.

After a lengthy debate, seven committee members

supported the report, while four supported a Conservative amendment to abandon the ETRO and to re-examine alternative measures such as parking controls and/or a ban on heavy goods vehicles.

Now that the ETRO has been agreed, implementation should be completed during December. This will not only involve blocking Brunstane Road to motor vehicles at the railway bridge, but also blocking Coillesdene Crescent at the junction with Milton Road East, and imposing one-way restrictions on Milton Drive and Milton Terrace. The ETRO will be in force for 18 months, during which its effect will be closely monitored. The cost of the trial is estimated at £60,000.

THE DECORATORS OF PORTOBELLO - BOOK LAUNCH



Photo: Peter E Ross

MARGARET Munro of Portobello Heritage Trust reads from *The Decorators of Portobello*, a new book from artist Nicky Bird (centre), published by Art Walk Projects. At the lively event some of the decorators, the women who are the subjects of the book, reminisced and answered questions from the audience at the Portobello Bookshop. Full of photographs from the time and the memories of the decorators in their own words, the book is a must have for those interested in the social and industrial history of Portobello.

LOCAL SPEED LIMITS



Photo: Andrew Mylne

THE City of Edinburgh Council intends to reduce the speed limit on Seafield Road, the Sir Harry Lauder Road and stretches of Milton Road from 40 mph to 30 mph as part of an initiative agreed in principle by its Transport and Environment Committee in February 2020. A draft order was published in late October, and was open to comments and objections until 19th November. No date has yet been announced for when the lower speed limits will come into effect.

BEACH OF DREAMS



Photo: Peter E Ross

ON a bright sunny day in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, Portobello beach was the venue for the display of Beach of Dreams. The artwork, created by Ali Pretty, consists of 500 flags each representing one of the 500 miles walked by her along the east coast of England. The work is intended to generate conversations in coastal communities about what is happening to our coasts. Beach of Dreams came to Portobello on its way to join a pilgrimage from St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh to COP26 in Glasgow.

PORTY PROFILE No. 78 COLIN STEELE

TRUMPETER and composer Colin Steele settled in Portobello 20 years ago as it was the only place in Edinburgh that really felt like home. He has strong connections with the area as his grandparents owned a greengrocer on the High Street in the 60s, and there is a plaque at Musselburgh Harbour commemorating his jazz musician ancestor Jim Munro. Life came full circle when photos for his band The Colin Steele Quartet's album *Joni: Jazz Interpretations of the Joni Mitchell Songbook* were taken on the beach. He says: "I like to think my grandparents might have had a hand in us moving here."



Photo: Courtesy Colin Steele

Born in Glasgow, Colin moved to Edinburgh when he was 11 and attended Broughton High. When the opportunity for trumpet lessons came up he says, "I grabbed it, I was obsessed." He says he was inspired by the students he heard playing at the adjoining music school, including saxophonist Tommy Smith.

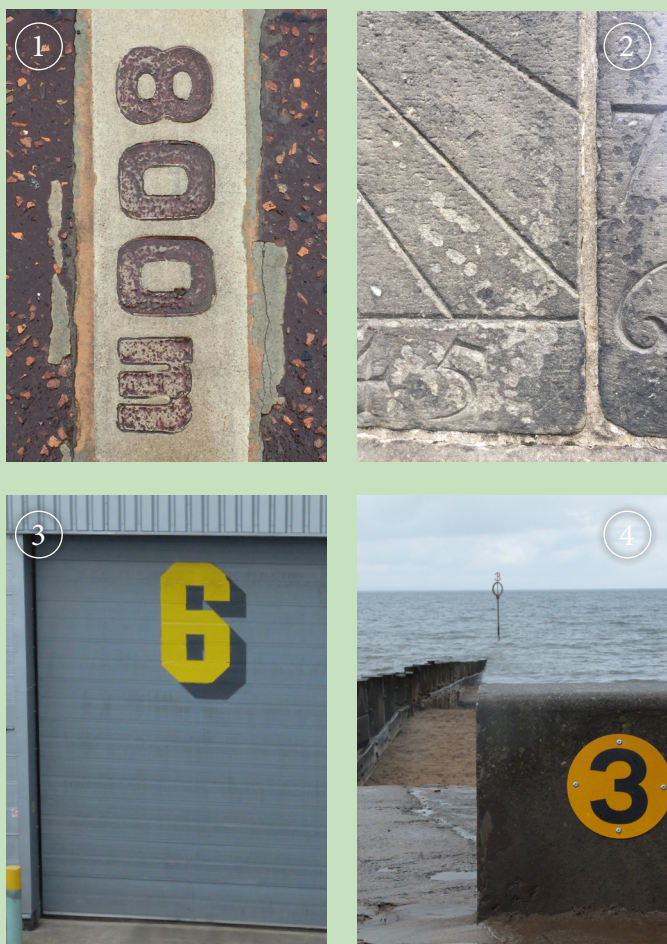
Colin was expected to have a sensible career and went to university to study accountancy. He did not have the same passion for statistics that he had for music and took a year out to concentrate on jazz. After months of relentless practice, he went to Lille to play the jazz circuit. He says: "I had the time of my life. I was playing five nights a week. It was like a dream."

Colin reluctantly returned to university, but three weeks later was saved when Hue and Cry asked him to tour with them and appear on *Top of the Pops* to perform the trumpet solo on *Violently*. He quickly left university to finally embark on his musical career, touring, and playing the jazz circuit.

Three years later, he returned to university to study music at the Guildhall before moving to Rome, and when he came back to Edinburgh to settle down with his family, he concentrated on composing. "Basically, I was composing jazz music with a strong Scottish accent," he says. He released *Twilight Dreams* in 2000, and his second album *Journey Home* won BBC Jazz CD of the year, the first of his many accolades. He then went on to form Stramash, playing jazz with bagpipes, cello, fiddles and whistles. More recently he released an album of original compositions *Even in the Darkest Places* and two albums on the German Marina label, playing the music of Joni Mitchell and The Pearlfishers.

Karen Combe

WHERE AM I?



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

NEWS IN BRIEF

'DADS ROCK' has started a new group for dads and babies in Portobello, every Monday at 10.30am and it's free. Its aim is "to improve outcomes for children in Scotland to ensure the best start in life by providing support to Dads and families". For details see <https://www.dadsrock.org.uk/new-dad-support>

PORTY COMEDY NIGHT Friday 10th December, 8.30pm start, Beach Lane Social Club, starring Bruce Fumme. Tickets (£14) from Cove, 250 Portobello High Street, or from www.brownpapertickets.com

WORK has begun to remove the Spaces for People measures implemented by City of Edinburgh Council during the pandemic. The widened pavement area to the west of Bridge Street will be retained.

PORTOBELLO CENTRAL PUSHES AHEAD

THE Town Hall project moved up a notch with the appointment in October of a development contractor. A six month contract, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, was awarded by Portobello Central to develop a business plan to enable the Town Hall to open in late spring next year. Ursula Pretsch will be working on identifying real market opportunities for our community and designing the business systems to give the project a professional, positive start.

Portobello Central is working with local High Street businesses to create a Porty Food Map and Recipe book. This is to celebrate and promote the foodie culture of Portobello and will also be a fund-raiser for the charity. Recipe books should be ready to pre-order in early December. Email shop@portobellocentral.org to find out more and to reserve your copy.

Jennifer Elliot

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BOOK FESTIVAL HIT WITH AUDIENCES

THIS October's Portobello Book Festival was mostly live and drew capacity audiences. The Festival kicked off with the launch of its latest local publication, *Pandemic Portobello*, which is available from the library.

Amongst this year's highlights was author Andrew O'Hagan's event, chaired by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, talking about his latest novel, *Mayflies*. O'Hagan and the First Minister are both from the Irvine area and found much to reminisce about. Gemma Bromley's discussion with Edwin Jesudason about recovering from her massive head injury during her teens captivated the audience.



Photo: Peter E Ross

Only two events were online; unfortunately it was not possible to create online versions of live events. One involving Peter Geoghegan discussing his recent book, *Democracy for Sale*, with Peter McColl was fascinating and disturbing in equal measure. The other was the Caledonia Crime Collective

discussing the world-wide success and variety of 'Tartan Noir'. Both events can be seen at www.portobellobookfestival.com

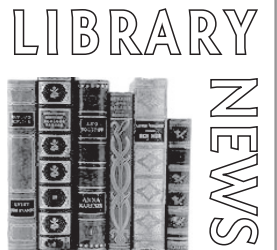
The festival would not have been possible without the generosity of the contributors, who gave their time freely, and the council's library service, not least the staff at Portobello Library.

WE have been very busy in the library as we rebuild our service following lockdown. We have increased our opening hours by nine over the autumn months and hope to increase them further during winter. Our current opening hours are: Monday 1pm to 8pm, Tuesday 10am to 5pm, Wednesday 1pm to 8pm, Thursday 10am to 5pm, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm.

We were delighted to host the 13th Portobello Book Festival over the first weekend of October, the first live events in Edinburgh libraries since March 2020. Many thanks to the organisers for producing such a brilliant festival. One of the highlights of the festival this year was the launch of *Pandemic Portobello* on the Friday evening. This excellent book features a range of short stories and poems on the pandemic from the Portobello community and is well worth a read. You can pick up your free copy from the library.

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh will be visiting us on Saturday 29th January as part of their Auld Reekie Retold project. They would like to share what they have in their collection from old Portobello and are keen to discuss these artefacts with the community. This event will be ticketed and tickets will be available in January. For more information contact Paul at the library on 529 5558. For the latest updates on what is going on in the library, check our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary> or our Twitter @PortyLibrary

Paul Hudson



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- Conquer Gravity - 19:45 - 20:35hrs....
....Now at Portobello Baptist Church Hall
- 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** - Mat Pilates (The Original) - 09:30 - 10:15hrs
- Post-Natal Mother & Baby - 14:00 - 14:55hrs

Trigger Point Workshop 2021:

Saturdays - 9:30 - 10:30hrs - 27th Nov / 11th Dec

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GROWING ORGANIC



with Susan Burns



ORDER seeds early so you can have everything ready for the start of the growing season. I start off my sweet-peas in late January, then tomatoes in February, both in the greenhouse, but a windowsill would work too. I re-use the compost from last year's tomatoes to start off dahlias under the greenhouse benches.

There are some lovely fragrant plants for the winter garden, such as winter honeysuckle, wintersweet or winter box. They're not cheap, but worth every penny. Why not treat yourself to one?

Keep off the soil if it's wet to prevent it compacting, especially if you have clay, and mulch any bare soil. Check the garden for anything that may get blown away in the wind, particularly plastic bags or pots. None of us want to see them blowing around the streets or floating in the sea.

Have a rough idea of what you want next year's garden to look like, but also take time to simply enjoy the tracery of bare branches.

IT was wonderful to hold Apple Day again at the Donkeyfield Community Orchard and we had a fine, dry day for it. Willing helpers chopped and pressed the apples and fresh juice was enjoyed by all. There was juice to buy as well as local jams, jellies and chutney. Toasted marshmallows around the bonfire were a great success. George Anderson, of the Beechgrove Garden, brought along an interesting collection of apples to taste, such as Peasgood Nonsuch and Howgate Wonder, to taste – varieties not found in the shops.

A group of ecumenical pilgrims from Poland, Sweden, Germany and Italy were passing and took much needed refreshment from the tea table. They had started walking from Zielona Gora in Poland in August with the destination of COP26 in Glasgow and delighted everyone with some music, including singing *The Irish Blessing* in German.

For another pilgrimage, PEDAL had donated soil from the orchard to the Keeper of the Soils' cape on its way from Dunbar. The pilgrims and demonstrators were raising our environmental concerns but did anyone in power listen to them? Not enough, judging by the headlines and we are only at the beginning of the beginning in tackling the climate crisis.

Stephen Hawkins

PEDAL - Portobello Transition Town

SUSTAINABLE PORTY

HEALTH MATTERS

Looking for Green Opportunities

ILLNESS and health are full of unknowns and uncertainties. Medical scientists spend a lot of time trying to find answers and solutions, aiming to reduce what we do not know and find what will help. We are all grateful to those who have worked so hard over the last 20 months to help us emerge from the pandemic. With vaccines and new treatments, our chances of dying from Covid are now much less than they were a year ago.

But there are costs to health care. We know that General Practice is a huge contributor to the NHS carbon footprint with the largest emissions coming from the medicines we use. The World Health Organisation asks us to look for opportunities to improve health while minimising negative impacts on the environment.

One thing we have understood for a long time is that knowing your doctor matters. The latest piece of evidence for this comes from our neighbours in Norway. They were able to show that knowing our doctor for a long time reduces our chance of being admitted to hospital and that we are less likely to die. Being able to see the doctor we know may involve waiting. Often it will be worth it.

A sustainable opportunity. We need to look for more.

Dr Portia Bella, GP



Photos: Andrew Mylne

PORTOBELLO promenade and beach attract people keen on a wee stroll and some fresh air but there can be added bonuses for those who keep their eyes peeled as these two photos taken at the bottom of Bellfield Street show.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

OVER the coming weeks, the team at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home prepare for another busy Christmas season of surrenders, reunions, and rehoming. The stray and unwanted pets across East and Central Scotland continue to need us now and into 2022. Providing love, a safe place, food and veterinary care, until their new owner can be found – or supporting owners to be able to keep their pets when they are facing financial difficulties. If you can, please consider making a donation today online at www.edch.org.uk/Christmas or by calling 0131 669 5331.

Georgia Burnside (EDCH)

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Cllr Callum Laidlaw

Scottish Conservative & Unionist

Callum is unable to meet in person due to Covid-19 restrictions but you can contact him by email

callum.laidlaw@edinburgh.gov.uk
or call

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The Portobello Reporter

is produced by a team of local volunteers with contributions from 20 people.

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FROM THE ARCHIVE

HENDERSON'S GARAGE



Photos courtesy of: Dorothy Coutts

IT never fails to amaze me where one can find out new information about Portobello. In his autobiography *A Twentieth Century Life*, Paul H Scott relates details of his childhood in Portobello in the 1920s.

He lived in what he describes as "a nineteenth century solid stone house in Hope Lane which ran into the High Street." Paul's maternal grandfather was Andrew

Henderson, whom he was told was "one of the first people in Scotland to own a motor car." He says that his grandfather "ran a large garage at the foot of his garden on the High Street of Portobello." It sold and serviced cars and had a large covered storage space where people could leave their precious automobiles, rather than on the street. There was also a machinery repair workshop and a blacksmith's

forge. Horses came in one entrance for new shoes and cars in another to fill up with petrol. Paul's father, Allan, managed the business for some years.

The site of this garage was where Portobello Surgery is now. There is no sign of the workshop or forge in the photographs. The extreme left of the left photograph shows the cinema, now converted into flats. To the right of this,

across Hope Lane, is where Phoenix House, formerly a Department of Work and Pensions office and now flats, was built. The photograph on the right gives a much better view of the garage forecourt and its many petrol pumps. The shop can be clearly seen and this would be where you paid for your petrol. It is an interesting Art Deco style building on what appears to be a very quiet High Street.

Margaret Munro

JOIN THE REPORTER TEAM!

IF you enjoy reading the *Portobello Reporter* and appreciate the role it plays in the life of this vibrant community, why not join the small team that produces it? We are currently seeking volunteers with good writing, photography, IT and editing skills. It's not a major time commitment and it's a fun way to contribute to Portobello life. If interested, e-mail the team at portyrep@gmail.com by 10 December.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PCC is currently holding virtual meetings, which are open to the public and can be accessed via a link on www.portobellocc.org. The next meeting is on Monday January 31st 2022 at 7.30pm. For more information about PCC and its activities, see the website, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/portobellocc), or email to secretary@portobellocc.org

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WE'RE pleased to at last be able to bring back some social events for our co-workers. Coffee mornings are taking place again on the first Tuesday of every month, we have a social lunch on a Thursday and we've started a new series of Tribe Talks, where we invite a member to speak about their hobby, work or interests. This is a great way to get to know each other better, learn something new and possibly even find some collaborations or common interests.

If you'd like to try co-working for a few days a month, we still have hot desk spaces. We're not too busy and there's plenty of room. Our hot desking packages start at two days at £30 per month up to unlimited use at £150 per month. You can find out more and book your free tour and trial day on our website www.tribeporty.org. We look forward to welcoming you to Tribe Porty.

Melissa McConnell
<https://tribeporty.org>

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

LOCAL man, Sam Schofield, won third prize in the Richard Coward Award in Photography at the Scottish Portrait Awards 2021 in November. His photograph, taken with a pinhole camera, can be seen on www.scottishportraitawards.com/spa-2021-results. Another local photographer, Victoria Watson, was shortlisted and a third, Laurence Winram, was the subject of the winning entry.

ACTION PORTY PLANS

ACTION Porty has fun plans for Christmas, working with local traders to create a late-night shopping night on Thursday 9th December to let you get some Christmas gifts locally. The Porty Christmas tree lights will switch on that evening. Come out and enjoy the High Street activities. Be sure to pop round to Bellfield to see the craft Christmas tree too. Porty Window Wanderland will run from Friday 10th to Monday 13th.

What will be your window design this year?

Action Porty board is preparing for a Community Share issue to raise funds to refurbish the Bellfield Celebration Hall. This means converting the organisation from a charity and company limited by guarantee to a charity and community benefit organisation. A members' meeting will be held in the new year with more information.

Jennifer Elliot

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

WHILE the pandemic has curtailed some of its activities, Amnesty International's Portobello Group has remained busy, campaigning against injustices across the world. Among cases for which the group has been petitioning (attracting a heartening number of signatures at our Portobello Market stall) are the Egyptian human rights lawyer Mohamad Baker, jailed without trial by the authorities who objected to his work defending marginalised communities.

Closer to home, group members met our MP, Tommy Sheppard, to air concerns about bills and amendments currently going through Parliament, widely viewed as threats to the right to peaceful protest or to seek asylum in the UK. Mr Sheppard agreed that: "Justice, fairness, offering a place of safety and the right to peaceful protest have always been features of British society. All of them are under threat as never before."

On the positive side, if signing a petition seems a futile gesture, consider last month's news concerning one of our cases in Turkey, where 18 students and an academic, prosecuted for participating in a campus-based Gay Pride march, were acquitted.

And to coincide (almost) with UN Human Rights Day on 10th December, Portobello AI group is planning a street collection the following day. Have change at the ready!

Jim Gilchrist

THE Wash House has been welcoming back a limited number of groups, one per day, weekdays only. This is due to limited staffing for opening and closing the building, alongside Covid safety. However, we are delighted to now have 18 hours of janitorial support from City of Edinburgh Council.



Keeping the youth club going remains a priority, with our youth worker Alan putting in a community grant bid for the group. We look forward to welcoming them back on Monday nights. Meanwhile, taking us up to Christmas, there are weekly dog training classes, badminton, Fun Fiddle and drumming groups and an event coming up soon for Heart Talk Porty.

We hope to be able to accommodate events and groups seven days a week in the New Year. Find us on Facebook or at www.portobellocc.org

Gica Loening

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

PORTOBELLO churches will be joining together on Thursday 23rd December at 11.00am for Carol Singing.

The gathering will begin outside St. John's in Brighton Place, before walking to Portobello Baptist Church in Portobello High Street, then Portobello and Joppa Parish Church, and ending at St. Mark's for refreshments. Join them for a festive outdoor singalong.

Details of Christmas services at the individual churches can be found on their websites:

Portobello Baptist Church: <https://pbc.scot>

Portobello and Joppa Parish Church: <https://www.portyjoppachurch.org>

St. John's Roman Catholic Church: <https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk>

St. Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church: <https://stmarksportobello.org>

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NATURE NOTES - GOOD COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN



Photos: Anthony Robson

A lot of wildlife hides itself away, buried into the undergrowth, or flitting among leaves and branches, tantalisingly close to a view that never quite gets clear. There are others who hide in plain sight, and winter has two of our larger birds hanging around Portobello even more than usual.

The grey heron is a bird that always looks like an old man to me, standing statuesque, often along the edge of the pond in

Figgate Park. Its patience is commendable, and bears fruit. I've seen one in the park taking not only small fish but once an eel, winding it around its long sharp bill, and at the right time of year frogs become a favourite. Sometimes it requires as much patience on your own part, but spend some time watching a heron and you will eventually see how complete a hunter it is.

While the grey heron skulks about at the water's

edge, the cormorant is altogether more showy. You will not be able to miss this large black bird (juveniles can have a white bib), with a snake-like neck and a yellow flash underneath its similarly pointed bill, standing proud atop one of the groynes on the beach, its wings outstretched in messianic fashion.

It does this because, seemingly illogically for a seabird, its feathers are not particularly waterproof.

There is a good reason for this. Unlike a gannet, which dives from height into the water, the cormorant makes its way along the surface, semi-submerged, diving with a small arc. Fully waterproofed feathers would mean there was too much buoyancy for the cormorant to reach the depths that it hunts at.

Both birds may be a common sight, but that will never detract from how impressive they are.

Anthony Robson

JOIN THE PORTY FOOTBALL REVOLUTION

OVER the past few years, the Portobello Community Football Club has developed local players of all abilities and created successful teams across all age-groups, winning numerous leagues and cups. We have taken players from five years old and developed them, with many of them going on to sign contracts with professional clubs. But it is not all about that, we also help create an environment that rewards hard work and builds friendships that last a lifetime. We are now delighted to open up our FREE Soccer School to all local kids. Just come along to Northfield Community Centre any Saturday, 10am – 11am. See you there!!

John Griffiths

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LOLLIPOPS NEEDED!

SUSAN Edington, the 'Lollipop Lady' who ferried children safely across the junction at Portobello High Street and Brighton Place, recently retired and a vacancy has arisen. We interviewed Susan for the Porty Profile of the Autumn 2016 issue of *The Portobello Reporter*, and she said then that she loved the job, despite the weather! If you are looking for a fulfilling part-time position as a Crossing Patrol Guide, (the new name for Lollipop Ladies/Men) please apply online at www.bit.ly/crossingpatrolguidejob

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IN THE SADDLE



Portovelo cyclists outside Pitlochry youth hostel, September 2021.

PORTOVELO members enjoyed a successful 'weekender' to Pitlochry in early September. A few particularly hardy riders cycled up on the Friday, while most of us shared cars to get there. On Saturday, three separate groups followed 80 or 90-mile routes to the west of the town, by Loch Tummel and Schiehallion; on Sunday morning, we split into two groups for 50 or 60 mile rides to the east and south, passing through Blairgowrie and Dunkeld. As always, socialising was as important as cycling, with cafe stops on both days, and a big meal out on Saturday evening in a local Italian restaurant.

A new development for the club is gravel rides, currently taking place fortnightly on Saturday mornings. Routes are typically 40 miles, with around half on tracks and cross-country trails. These are in addition to road rides each Wednesday and Sunday morning. Over the winter, all our rides leave from the bandstand at 9am. All are welcome, and full details can be found on our website (porto-velo.com).

The club's next big event is the Christmas meal and awards ceremony at the Espy on 10th December.

Andrew Mylne

ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?
1: distance marker on From. 2: sundial in Brigh-ton Park. 3: A1 industrial park (from foot-bridge). 4: groynes marker on From at the foot of Bellfield Street.

JOPPA COMMUNITY TENNIS CLUB

WITH our new all-weather surface, tennis is no longer restricted to the summer months. The only thing that stops us playing is very bad weather and lack of light. Having the use of a third court at the King's Manor Hotel has been of great benefit, with members enjoying the additional advantage of popping into the cafe or bar for post-match refreshments. The October tennis camp went ahead despite some wet weather and was thoroughly enjoyed by the children who took part.

Membership has been capped for this year at 164 family and individual players and will be reviewed again at the beginning of the new season, March 2022.

The inaugural Joppa Community Tennis Club Golf Tournament took place in September at the prestigious Fairmont course in St Andrew's. Congratulations to winner Craig Howieson and thanks to Chris Thomas for organising.

Forty members took part in the annual JCTC tournament in early October, with worthy winners Cathy Ogden and Chris Thomas taking the coveted trophy. Social tennis on Saturday and Sunday continues through the winter. For more information, see our [Facebook](#) page.

Marjory Shepherd

EDINBURGH BEACH VOLLEYBALL

AFTER one of our busiest summer seasons, our weekly coaching sessions have paused for the winter, but we are currently planning some exciting winter activity to keep you all going. See our website: www.edinburghbeachvolleyballclub.com

Despite the challenges around Covid-19, the summer saw us host weekly coaching for all ages and abilities, summer camps for juniors and adults and we were also honoured to be part of the Commonwealth Games qualification tournament, one of the biggest international tour-

naments to be hosted in Scotland to date, which saw our national teams fight it out for a place at the Commonwealth Games next year. Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club was delighted to have some club members play a crucial role in the event's volunteer team alongside Scottish Volleyball.

Due to some bad weather and high tides, one of our courts has been damaged but don't worry, we are currently awaiting the arrival of some brand new volleyball posts and nets and we can't wait to get you all back on court with this new equipment.

Lynne Beattie

HAVE FUN WITH THE HORNETS

THE rugby season is in full swing for the Portobello Hornets Minis with lots of fun being had on the playing fields at Cavalry Park and Portobello High School. The mini section welcomes kids between Primary 1 and Primary 7 to build skills and confidence in a fun and engaging way. The teams benefit from playing matches against other clubs across Edinburgh, the Borders and even across the border in Berwick-upon-Tweed which is a great way to put skills into action and play together as a team. Being part of the club also provides opportunities to see professional rugby, such as a recent trip to the new DAM Health Stadium at Murrayfield to watch Edinburgh play South African team the Stormers.

Fancy giving rugby a go? Come and join the Porty Hornets; keep fit, make new friends and have great fun as part of a team. More information can be found at <https://portobellorugby.com> or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Lachlan Barry

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