Portobello Quar Delivered in Also availa Company (No. 1975) The Comp

Quarterly: SUMMER 2022

Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 13,000 Also available online on www.porty.org.uk

- Porty E-Cargo bikeThe Porty PennypincherP4
- Wish you were here P5
- Portobello Panthers victory P8

The independent voice of Portobello

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PORTOBELLO RESIDENTS GO THE EXTRA MILE TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

TROUBLED by escalating events in Ukraine, bighearted residents across Portobello have been finding different ways to provide support for people affected.

Nearly 200 people backed Towerbank Primary School's fundraising walk, generating £5,270 for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

Imaginatively devised by Primary 7s and School House Captains, children of Primary years 1 to 7 walked over 2,450km either around the Prom or the playground walking virtual routes to Ukraine or the surrounding areas.

Cahoots, a local retailer and collective for artists and designers on the high street, sold wooden 'Porty

calating Robots' hand-crafted by the mysterious local Porty across Robot Maker, in support of finding Dnipro Kids, a charity set up provide in 2005 by Hibs fans to help orphans in that Ukranian people city. 360 Robots were made over a 4-week period, raising walk, £7,622, with 100 per cent of the profits going to the ergency

Fifty children and nine devised house parents recently made School the journey from Dnipro Idren of to the safety of Edinburgh. Walked Each child received their own Porty Robot as a memento, along with a personalised gift bag, all sponsored by a member of the local community.

Keep Porty Tidy, Porty Events and Oscars Group, along with 50 local supporters, raised £1,400 plus a further donation of L1,000 from Oscars Group for the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal by hosting a gathering of local people and their families.

Portobello Community Choir hosted a 'Porty Sings for Ukraine and all Refugees' event on Joppa Steps, raising almost £200 on the day with further online donations. Examples of some of the Ukrainian folk and peace songs they sang can be found on YouTube.

In March, Crumbs of Portobello on the Prom signed up to the #CookForUkraine appeal, fundraising for UNICEF UK, matching £488 in customer donations to a final total of £976.

Annette Gann

PORTY PRIDE GETS OFF TO A GREAT START

LAST year Progress Pride flags were displayed proudly along Portobello High Street, but in June 2022 Porty Pride is here and happening.

Our community-focused LGBTQ+ Pride weekend takes place between 17th and 19th June and involves local businesses demonstrating allyship with various events and attractions for

everyone. There will be a family street party, a dog walk, beer tasting, roller derby, sea swims, Pride pizza, a hair salon wellbeing day, a film director talk on section 28 and music to celebrate all the LGBTQ+ family. Similar to other local festivals, we are producing a Porty Pride map highlighting the businesses and other groups supporting our celebrations.

Two years of restrictions have impacted on LGBTQ+ visibility especially for our people of colour and trans siblings who are experiencing struggles. We have adopted a community approach as a positive way to combat rising homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse. We invite £1,000 from Oscars Group $\frac{3}{2}$ everyone in Porty to stand by us and celebrate all that we are.

for the British Red Cross As a small volunteer group we have been blown away Ukraine Crisis Appeal by by the positive reaction from many locals and as we hoped hosting a gathering of local Porty Pride has taken on an exciting life of its own.

See **www.portypride.com** and pick up a map in one of the many shops and businesses supporting us.

Kate Gillwood

ELECTION RESULTS

AT THE local government elections on 5th May, the following councillors were elected for the Portobello and Craigmillar ward: Kate Campbell (SNP), Tim Jones (Conservative), Jane Meagher (Labour) and Alys Mumford (Green).ww Compared with the 2017 result, it was the same four-party split, but with three new councillors (only Kate Campbell being re-elected). Turnout in the ward was 43.7%.

Across Edinburgh, the SNP remains the biggest party with 19 councillors (unchanged), Labour has 13 (up 1), the Lib Dems 12 (up 6), the Greens 10 (up 2) and the Conservatives 9 (down 9).

Summer 2022

PORTY PROFILE No. 80

ROB HENRY

MANY people have walked the West Highland Way, but fewer people have completed the running race along the route than have climbed Everest. One of those who has is Rob Henry.



Rob first heard about the West Highland Way Race in 2015. He'd taken up running a few years previously and the 95-mile ultra-endurance race grabbed his attention. It took him three years just to complete the events needed to qualify for a place, but in June 2019 he made it to the start line and – 21 hours later - to the finish. Towards the end, he was not just battling pain and lack of sleep, but beginning to hallucinate. But he made it, and went on the same year to complete two other endurance events on the West Highland Way route, the so-called Triple Crown. Last year, he completed the 71-mile Great Glen Ultramarathon, coming 36th out of a field of 120 despite taking a wrong turn. Asked what makes him keep going, he admits to a certain "wilfullness", but says there is great satisfaction in overcoming physical and mental challenges.

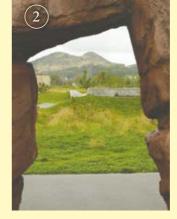
Born and brought up in Yorkshire, Rob moved to Edinburgh in the late 1990s, where he met and married Eilidh; they moved to Joppa shortly after their first child, Flora, was born. She and brothers Jim and Sandy attended Towerbank and are now at Portobello High School, and all three have taken up running. It was their involvement that prompted Rob to coach, first with Towerbank, then with Musselburgh and District Athletics Club. Four years ago, he stepped in when the High School running club was in danger of folding, and it's a mark of his success that 28 students represented the school at a recent Scottish cross-country event.

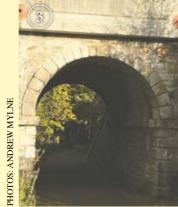
Rob works as an IT Systems Architect for Royal Bank of Scotland. Since much of the programming work is outsourced to India, he's travelled there a number of times, and finds it a fascinating place. But it's Portobello that he calls home, and he loves its village-like feel and sense of community.

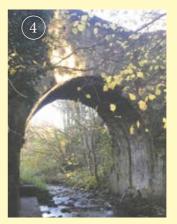
Andrew Mylne

WHERE AM I?









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

THE GEORGE - update

THE reporter, appointed by the Scottish Government, to consider the case of the appeal against City of Edinburgh Council planning refusal undertook an inspection of the site on 27th April. Accompanied by the owners and their agents along with representatives of the Portobello Community Council and Friends of the George, the visit was to allow the reporter to see the site, externally and internally. The target date for the reporter's decision is 23rd May, but this

What's On

MOONWALK 2022: 11th June, overnight. Route includes Portobello Prom. Raising money to combat breast cancer.

CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sun: 26th June, 31st July, 28th Aug, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am. Double pitch £12 – all fees to charity. Enquiries to 07789 220 583.

PORTOBELLO MARKET:

First Sat. of the month, 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.

EDINBURGH TOOL LIBRARY: Borrowing

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

may be put back if further information is required.

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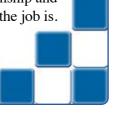
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_ 3 _ Summer 2022



This is the Portobello E-Cargo bike! The bike can be hired for up to three days (depending on availability), and is free as part of a six-month trial. This alternative mode of transport is perfect for ferrying the kids to school, or taking the shopping home. Find out more at www.portycommunitybike.myturn.com/library

IT'S been nearly a year since we reopened the library. We have been working continuously to get back to where we were pre-Covid, whilst remembering that we have to do this with care as Covid has not gone away. We have reintroduced regular children's events in the library: our popular Friday afternoon Children's



Craft, our library Storytimes and our Wednesday and Saturday Bookbugs. You no longer need to book in advance for these events. Pop in and see us anytime.

We have also reintroduced our Library Link service. If you, or someone you know, has difficulty visiting due to age or disability you can sign up for this fortnightly service. On Monday mornings a bus will pick you up and drop you off at the library, where you can select your books and have a cup of tea and a chat. If you are interested, contact Lesley on 529 5558.

We are delighted to announce our Summer Reading Challenge. This year it's a science themed challenge called Gadgeteers. The challenge is for six to 12 year olds to read six books over the summer holidays and win stickers and prizes. You can sign up online or in the library. Also, we will be organising fun holiday activities for children during the summer. Ask at the library or keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter for more details.

Paul Hudson

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Summer 2022



KEEP weeding! It may be a chore, but think of the goodness that can be added back to the soil via your own compost. The microbes and mycelium in the 'wood wide web' are what keeps all soils healthy. The organic mantra "look after the soil and it'll look after you" is truer than ever.

During warm weather, if plants need watering, it is better to soak them once a week than to spray every night, and only water the soil or compost in pots, never the foliage. For feeding, seaweed extract gives excellent results and can be used as a foliar feed. It is expensive, but worth it. Making your own feed from nettles or comfrey saves a few pennies and is worth the stink; just steep some leaves in water for a few weeks.

If you're new to gardening, think about what you'd like: would you prefer big-leaved plants to give a jungley feel or mini gems such as alpines. Once you decide, you can stick to a list instead of getting seduced by offers at the garden centres. Although I still make that mistake!

Our garden at 39 Nantwich Drive is open under Scotland's Garden Scheme on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August, 2-5pm. £5 entrance, for charities SGS and Garden Organic.

ONE of the aims of PEDAL - Portobello Transition Town is to support a more sustainable food supply from local producers to reduce the impact of transport

SUSTAINABLE

emissions on the environment. The monthly local market in Brighton Place (first Saturday of the month) has gone from strength to strength following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, with more than 40 traders regularly taking part.

Besides offering quality food and crafts, entertainment is often provided by Portobello's own Fun Fiddle or the Community Choir. Many local groups have a presence and a recent showing was made by Team Atlantic Body and Soul promoting their forthcoming challenge of rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

It is not only the sourcing of food that makes a significant impact on the environment, but also the waste created by the expectation that stocks of fresh produce will always be available. PEDAL has supported the fledgling Porty Community Fridge group where dedicated volunteers at the end of each Friday collect perfectly good food from supermarkets that would be thrown out and offer it to those who want it. The group operates from the Baptist Church every Saturday between 10:30am and 11:30am.

Stephen Hawkins

Porty Pennypincher

THE world is in the grip of an economic crisis. Brought about initially by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has now been compounded by the war in Ukraine.

With prices soaring, we all need to economise, and the best way to do that is to sit down and look at what money is coming in, and what is going out.

If you have a bank account, look at some recent statements, and try to identify the purchases, standing orders and direct debits.

There may be something you have forgotten to cancel – a membership to a gym for instance.

If you are overdrawn, think about changing banks to take advantage of a free or cheaper overdraft.

Some banks charge a monthly fee for extras on your account such as travel insurance. If you don't use these extras, then it's time to switch to a free bank account with no frills.

If you have credit card debt, switch to a card provider that offers zero per cent interest on a balance transfer. Note that these are limited deals, and should be paid off before the time is up.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY FRIDGE

IT IS estimated that around 1.35m tonnes of food and drink are thrown away in Scotland every year. The aim of a Community Fridge is to reduce this waste and we now have one in Portobello, run by local volunteers. Produce, which is perfectly good but nearing its sell-by date or with damaged packaging, for example, is collected from local shops on Friday evenings. Then, on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30am at the Baptist Church on Portobello High Street, it is offered free to anyone in the community. It is proving very popular, with queues forming along the street before it opens. There is a random range of produce, because it depends on what local shops have provided, but there are usually bakery items, fresh fruit and vegetables and frozen meat – and once there was even caviar available! The project is looking for more volunteers for a range of tasks, so if you are interested in getting involved you can contact the group through Facebook.

Patricia Scotland







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Summer 2022

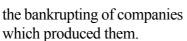
FROM THE ARCHIVE

WISH YOU WERE HERE

social media makes it easy to send instant images of where you are and what you are doing. Before Facebook and the like, many people on holiday sent postcards to family and friends with images of where they were and messages declaring what a great holiday they were having or often only saying 'Wish you were here'.

The three postcards shown \(\bar{2} \) here are generic, massproduced images with the name of the resort printed on them. The postcard of the cat has a flap under the E bow and bell which can be lifted to access a short pullout of small photographs of Portobello, usually replicas of other available postcards. The other two could be described as 'saucy', although they are relatively tame compared to some such cards, which used innuendo and double entendre for amusement. Many were described as obscene, particularly those by Donald McGill. In 1954 he was successfully prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act 1857, which resulted in thousands of postcards being destroyed and





Postcards first appeared in the late 1800s. The postal service in the 1900s was such that you could post one in the morning knowing that it would be delivered in time to tell the recipient that you would be at their house for tea at four o'clock that afternoon. This provided cheap, quick communications, similar to text messages today.

1900-1915 is known as the 'Golden Age' of postcards with hundreds of thousands being sent. Many

soldiers sent postcards to their sweethearts and families during both world wars, although they were often censored. Initially only the recipient's address could be written on the back of the card and often short messages were written around or across the image on the front. Sometimes there would be a narrow margin left around the image for writing on. In 1902, the UK was the first country to issue divided back postcards, with other countries following suit by 1907. The address had

to be written on the righthand side of the divide and the message on the left, allowing the image to fill the front of the card.

Possibly the best-known company producing postcards in Scotland was Valentine of Dundee, established in 1851 by James Valentine. It was an established photographic company, producing images from around the world, and produced many views of Portobello. Declining postcard sales led to the sale of Valentine to Hallmark Cards in 1980. The Dundee factory finally closed in 1994.

There are many collectors of old postcards, as they not only reflect holiday trends but can provide a good source of local history from a time when few people had cameras to record community scenes. The collecting of postcards is called deltiology.

Several apps are now available on Smartphones where you can create postcards from your photographs to send electronically. Would the message included still say 'Wish you were here'?

Margaret Munro

espc



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Georgia Burnside

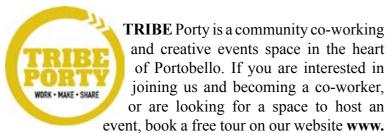


PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY Council meetings are held on the last Monday of each month except July, online at the moment. Find out more at **www.portobellocc.org**

Local residents and business owners are being asked to sign up to a new email mailing list, receive information about community events, clubs, societies, funding opportunities, public notices, planning applications and other public information. For details see the website.

Summer 2022 - 6 -



tribeporty.org. As a member of Tribe Porty, you will gain access to social events such as our coffee morning held on the first Tuesday of every month and our social lunch every Thursday afternoon. Each month we host a Tribe Talk, a free event open to the public where a Tribe member speaks about their work, interest or hobby. It is a great opportunity to learn something new and to network. To keep up to date with our events, find us on all social media platforms **@Tribeporty**.

Melissa McConnell www.tribeporty.org

ACTION PORTY PLANS

busier than ever as we welcomed back events such as the Amnesty book sale in April and a Support the Makers summer market in May. We are excited to be hosting Bikefest on 19th June to celebrate and explore what Low Carbon Transport means for Portobello.

Sponsors for our swift boxes are welcome as we continue to encourage biodiversity.

Ella Lees manages volunteering and Gail Stark manages Bellfield. Please

do attend our AGM at 7pm on 22nd June and get involved. We need a new Treasurer as Jennifer Elliot is stepping down and is happy to help someone take over. She will remain on the board. We aim to have a board focused on Bellfield and another supporting community initiatives. An autumn community share issue is planned to raise funds to soundproof, insulate and make the Celebration Hall versatile and user-friendly.

Justin Kenrick



PORTY CENTRAL

JUNE begins with a radical change to the Town Hall as it is sealed off completely by all-round scaffolding. The work is at the top of the building: roof, wall coping stones, render and downpipes and will also make sure the drains are in good shape. The City of Edinburgh Council let the contract, which is funded by the Scottish Government, to Cornhill Building Services Ltd. The building should reappear at the end of October, ready for the anniversary of its opening on 30th October 1914.

Over the summer we shall set up modern systems for business, booking and accounting and seek funding to employ one or two staff to run the business. There is already strong interest in the space, so we are looking for a lively team to plan events. Anyone to run a Hogmanay ball?

Geoff Pearson

AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

IT WAS heartening for Amnesty International's Portobello group to be able to hold its popular Spring Book Sale and Coffee Morning in April, following a Covid-prompted hiatus of two years. It proved a happy and well attended return to Bellfield, with books and coffee and baking counters enjoying a field day and the magnificent sum of £700 was raised to help the ever-necessary human rights campaigning of AI.

Less cheering has been the ongoing case of the 'El Hiblu Three' of which the Portobello group has been raising awareness. For the past three years, three young men from Libya have faced long-term imprisonment in Malta, having been falsely accused of 'hijacking' the El Hiblu, the cargo vessel which picked them up from their dangerously crowded rubber boat in which they were trying to escape from Libya in March 2019.

The youths had in fact helped the ship's chief officer calm their fellow refugees, who were panicking at the prospect of being returned to Libya, where they would have faced almost certain torture and other abuse. Amnesty International has been urging the Maltese authorities to drop the case.

AI Portobello meets at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month in Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (formerly St Philip's). All welcome.

Jim Gilchrist

THIS summer sees lots of positive development for The Wash House. We are delighted that a new clerical post will start three mornings a week, allowing the building to be open for people to pop in and find out about activities and bookings.

We are looking forward to the start of a new project with the Family John Muir Award based in the youth garden and are looking for volunteers. Please get in touch if interested. We have revised our constitution and now operate as a SCIO. We will be seeking members to join the organisation. More information coming soon.

Gica Loening



News in brief

PORTOBELLO actor Cal MacAninch is planning to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic with four local friends in December as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge. They are raising money for the childhood trauma charity Body & Soul and wellbeing centre The Junction. Donate at: www.atlanticbody andsoul.com

HUGH Wright, now living in Canada, is hoping to contact Elaine (née) Wallace, formerly of 38 Morton Street, who was married in Portobello in 1973. She attended Moray House Teacher Training College. If you can help, please email hughpamwright@ gmail.com

FRIENDS of Figgate
Park are creating a
train-themed cycle
track for children,
working with local
volunteers and
with Hitachi,
who is providing
the materials and
employee volunteers.
It is expected to
be ready for the
summer holidays.

Clir Jane Meagher, Labour

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edinburgh.gov.uk

These wee birds are a strange cross, a water bird that is more chicken than duck. The Latin name, Gallinula. means 'little chicken', and when you see them strutting about

most highly strung of birds.

you can see why. Black plumage, with a hint of dark blue, and a yellow and red bill which extends up the forehead into a shield. Their legs mirror this, mostly yellow but with a discreet band of red at the top. The tail, meanwhile, is flashed white as they stomp away, seemingly unwilling to take to the air.

They lack webs on their feet to propel themselves quickly in the water, or even the large flat paddles of their cousin the coot. But when the opportunity to fight arises they appear to run across the water, issuing a heated

staccato call. Moorhens will mate, and rear young, until quite late in summer (I've seen mothers sitting on broods in late July). The young emerge as stiltlegged bundles of fluff, hugging the edges of reeds.

Summer is a great time to look out for spiders, and if it helps those who are arachnophobes, I'm talking about the tiniest spiders you can imagine.

Zebra spiders are a type of jumping spider, and as the name suggests, they can leap across

a few millimetres long, we're talking about small gaps! Their two large central eyes help with judging distance, allowing them to pounce on prey.

gaps - though, given that the spiders are only

It's also the time of year when baby garden spiders (inset) start to emerge. While the adults can be an inch long, the spiderlings are minuscule yellow balls, and cast threads into the air to 'balloon' to pastures new.

Anthony Robson



Tragedy in the Park

LOCAL wildlife watchers had a shock one morning in early May. For weeks they had watched a pair of swans incubate nine eggs on a nest by the boardwalk in Figgate Park, and seen at least four cygnets hatched. Now, all was disarray, with dead cygnets floating in the water and the remaining eggs broken or abandoned; one surviving cygnet was rescued by the Scottish SPCA. The likely explanation was a nighttime attack by foxes. More recently, the swans have been observed mating, so a further brood may yet be produced.

Andrew Mylne



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Summer 2022 - 8 -

IN THE SADDLE



PORTOVELO celebrated its 10th anniversary in April with a special ride out to the Lanterne Rouge cafe in Gifford for coffee and birthday cake. In the decade since the first-ever ride, numbers have steadily increased and what began as one group ride each week has become four Sunday groups, a Wednesday morning ride and fortnightly gravel rides. More than a hundred people cycle with us at least occasionally, and we estimate the total miles ridden on club rides to be around 400,000.

Our next big event is the annual weekender, which has taken place every year since 2013 (other than 2020), and this year reverts to the usual June slot (after a September event last year). This time we're going to Northumberland, based at Wooler youth hostel, from 17th to 19th June. It will involve an all-day ride on Saturday, a big meal out, and a shorter ride on Sunday morning, with a choice of routes and distances on both days. For full details of this and our other activities, see our website, www.porto-velo.com.

Andrew Mylne

COMPANY

Brunstane Burn (Brunstane Road South). bridge over Brunstane Burn path. 4: Bridge over Artificial rock outcrop, Treverlen Park. 3: Rail allotments (from Brunstane Bowling Club) 2: 1: Tunnel under Sir Harry Lauder Road to

ANSWERS TO WHERE AM 1?

JOPPA TENNIS

AROUND 50 juniors and their parents attended the first ever Joppa Tennis Camp at Kilconguhar Castle in Fife between 6th and 8th of May. A fantastic, if exhausting, time was had by all, building teamwork skills, improving their tennis and making friends.

Joppa has two men's teams and one women's team competing in the East of Scotland Leagues this season. All three are coping well with playing in a higher division after promotion last season. Our

juniors have teamed up with Musselburgh and Dalkeith for junior league matches.

We have finalised the contract with ETC Sports to carry out the installation of floodlights and are waiting for a firm date for work to begin.

After three years off due to Covid-19, our open day will make a return on Saturday 4th June. Open to nonmembers, it will run from 11am to 1pm with activities for juniors, followed by the club championship finals.

Marjorie Shepherd



Congratulations to the S1 Portobello Panthers netball team who recently won the City of Edinburgh Netball Association (CENA) Junior U13 Tournament. A nail-biting final against Inverleith Swifts saw the local girls claim victory 7-6, winning the trophy.

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Call for new members

PORTOBELLO Golf Club is a friendly and lively club and would love to welcome some new members. The club plays on Edinburgh's attractive nine hole course at Stanley Street, Portobello. Club sessions are on Wednesday and Friday mornings, along with several competitions through the season, all followed by coffee and a chat in the clubhouse.

For more information contact the club secretary on 0131 657 2681.



FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

PORTOBELLO

Community Football Club Under 17s (pictured) are continuing the outstanding success of the Portobello teams across all age groups by reaching the final again of the SPORTSassist South East Region Cup Final. The team have reached the final two years running, with last year's final unfortunately being called off due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the players and coaches are really looking forward to putting on a show this year and bringing the Cup back to Portobello. The final was played on the weekend of 28th and 29th May (as The Reporter went to press). Portobello CFA's Under 15s and Under 16s were also in the South East Region Cup finals that weekend, so we're hoping for a Porty hat trick of wins!

John Griffiths