

THE Portobello REPORTER

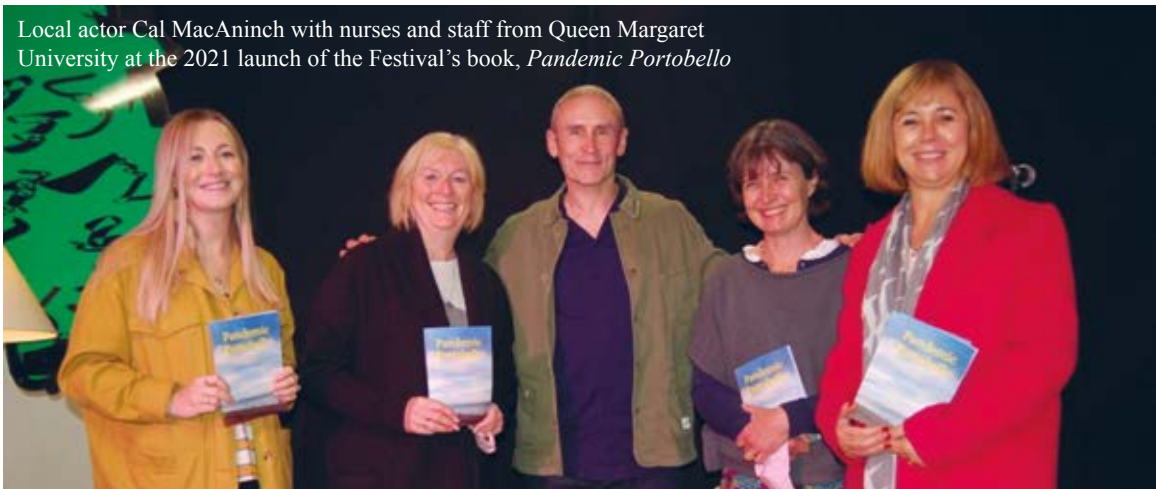
Quarterly: Autumn 2022
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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980.

Local actor Cal MacAninch with nurses and staff from Queen Margaret University at the 2021 launch of the Festival's book, *Pandemic Portobello*

PHOTO: PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL



ROLL UP FOR PORTOBELLO BOOK FESTIVAL 2022

THE 14TH Portobello Book Festival, which runs from Thursday 29th September to Sunday 2nd October, brings yet more local and national treasures to Portobello Library. There's the usual fantastic variety of the written and spoken word, including events about fashion, witches, memoir, music, local history, football programmes, crime, thrillers, Hugh Miller, punk rock, reflections on the pandemic, a children's picture book set in Portobello, performance poetry and plenty more.

There will also be a writing workshop; local composer Gareth Williams will present 'Songs from the Last Page,' an evening of conversation and music; local journalist Jim Gilchrist will lead a literary walking tour of Portobello; and Portobello Food Map will finish off a lively weekend with an insight into their fascinating book about local food traders.

Most events will take place in the library, with the help of library staff, and the Festival is delighted that Jameson Gate and Portobello Book Shop are also hosting events. Contributors' books will be on sale, and tickets are free – tickets and programmes will be available from 12th September from Portobello Library.

Visit www.portobellobookfestival.com and twitter [@portybookfest](https://twitter.com/portybookfest) for the programme and further details.

Christine Hoy

ART WALK PARTY

THE Art Walk Porty Festival runs until 11th September with events, exhibitions, open studios, walks and discussions around their 2022 SALT theme, which connects Edinburgh's coastal ecologies with the global climate crisis. The central SALT exhibition at the Art Walk Hub, Portobello Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High Street, is open Thursday-Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday-Sunday 11am-6pm.

On 10th/11th September, 24 Art Houses are open, with many local artists opening their studios. Art in Shops features in nine local sites. On Sunday 11th 'The Apple Feast' celebrates the first harvests from 'The Neighbouring Orchard' project with wild chef and forager Judith Lamb. Everyone is welcome to bring their own apples or apple-based home cooking to the 'cake stand', Portobello Prom. Full programme at www.artwalkparty.co.uk

Rosy Naylor

THE GEORGE CINEMA – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REFUSES APPEAL

THE battle between housing developers Buckley Building Ltd and Council planners over the future of the old George Cinema on Bath Street appears to be nearing its end. Three attempts to persuade the Council to allow partial demolition and grant planning permission to turn the building into 20 flats have failed, including the most recent application which involved restoring key features of the celebrated art deco façade. The developers appealed to the Scottish Government to overturn the latest Council rejection, and a Scottish Government Reporter was appointed to make the final decision. Following a site visit on 27th April, she has now dismissed the appeal by the developers. The Reporter's decision is final although an appeal can be made to the Court of Session within six weeks but only on a point of law. Meanwhile, the future of the site remains uncertain. More information about the Reporter's decision can be found on dpea.scotland.gov.uk – LBA-230-2369 relating to the planning application appeal and LBA-230-2234 to the listed building consent appeal.

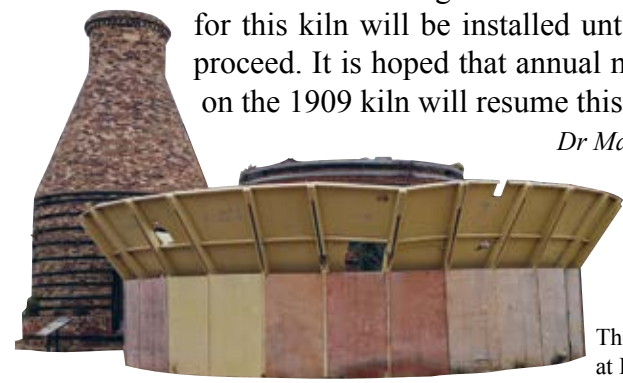
Patricia Scotland

KILNS FUNDING UPDATE

AT A recent meeting with the City of Edinburgh Council's archaeologist, the directors of Portobello Heritage Trust were updated on plans for rebuilding the 1906 kiln in Bridge Street. At a report to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 4th August, £172,750 was granted toward the rebuild within the Place Based Investment Programme for 2022/23. A grant application will be made to Historic Environment Scotland later this year for matched funding. If successful, this will mean that half of the estimated funding required to rebuild the kiln will be in place. The council will be exploring further grants to try to secure the remaining half. Better protection for this kiln will be installed until work can proceed. It is hoped that annual maintenance on the 1909 kiln will resume this year.

Dr Margaret Munro

PHOTO: NEIL BRAIDWOOD



The kilns
at Portobello

PORTY PROFILE No. 81

**KATE
QUARTANO
BROWN**



PHOTO: KAREN COMBE

KATE Quartano Brown says you never quite retire from being an opera director, as there are always more opportunities to pursue. Born in London, Kate developed a passion for music and theatre at school where she sang in choirs and as a soloist. Music seems to run in the family, as her grandfather produced Gilbert and Sullivan, and her niece and nephew Sally and William Jaquet both have musical careers. She says: “When I went to Oxford, I was supposed to be studying English, but I did more singing than anything else.”

After graduating, Kate trained as a teacher, before taking the plunge to study music at Graz in Austria. She speaks French, Italian and German, so opera was a good fit for her. She went for six months and ended up staying for four years and started directing small productions. “I really got into that thing of how to sing, and how to produce early theatre,” she says. Kate’s music teacher specialised in early music influencing her interest. “I have always been fascinated by scenery and costumes, how they would light, how they made the scenery. How did they look, how did they sing and act?”

Returning from Austria, Kate accepted a director role at Glyndebourne, beginning a prolific career at a time when there were few female opera directors. She was involved in many productions in the UK, Europe, and America. She also toured with the Scottish Early Music Consort. “We did no less than four full-scale operas and shows, for example Celtic Voyages which combined the ancient chants of Saint Columba with Scottish Gaelic songs and medieval music from Galicia in Spain.”

Kate and her late husband carefully planned their move from London, choosing to live near her sister, in Leith. “Actually, moving to Portobello was a no brainer, as I have always wanted to live by the sea,” she says.

Karen Combe

WHERE AM I?



PHOTOS: ANDREW MYLINE

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

What's On

ART EXHIBITION: By Portobello and Musselburgh artists. Fri 9th Sept, 12-5pm; Sat 10th, 10am-5pm; Sun 11th, 12.30-1pm. St Mark’s Church, Portobello High Street. Refreshments. Free entry. Wheelchair accessible. Details at www.stmarksportobello.org

CAR BOOT SALES (Rotary Club of Portobello): Sun: 25th Sept, 30th Oct, 27th Nov, 9am-2pm, Newcraighall Station car park. Cars arrive 8am. 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.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY FRIDGE: Saturdays, 10.30-11.30am, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. Surplus food from shops available free to combat food waste.

PARKRUN: Saturdays, 9.30am, Figgate Park. 5K, free to enter. www.parkrun.org.uk/portobello

ROAD CLOSURE

INTERIM safety measures are to be taken at the Seafield junction from Portobello High Street to Sir Harry Lauder Road. This is in response to two fatal collisions with cyclists in 2019 and 2020. In both cases a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) turning into the slip road to Sir Harry Lauder Road collided with the riders.

The slip road will be closed temporarily during the works and HGVs will be diverted. Work is due to be completed by the end of September.

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Cllr Alys Mumford, Scottish Green Party

I’m here to help you with any local issues, and am happy to meet constituents in person, online or by phone. Please get in touch at alys.mumford@edinburgh.gov.uk with any issues or to arrange an appointment.

PHOTO: SNAPPYSNAPS PHOTOGRAPHY



The Porty Pride Prom Dog Walk

PRIDE OF PORTY

IT WAS a fantastic display of canine revelry when the Porty Pride Prom Dog Walk got underway on 18th June as part of a weekend of Pride events in Portobello supporting LGBTQ+ rights. Dogs of all breeds entered into the spirit of the fashion extravaganza sporting a colourful array of Pride-themed bandanas, ruffles, coats and leads.

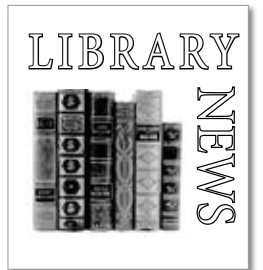
WELL done to all the children who took part in this year's Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge at the library. We have really enjoyed delivering this year's challenge and already can't wait until the next one. A special 'well done' to everyone who successfully completed the challenge over this year's very hot summer.

We will once again be the main venue for events organised for the 14th Portobello Book Festival which runs this year from Thursday 29th September to Sunday 2nd October. A full programme of events will be available in September, and you can get your tickets for every event from the library. It's worth getting your free tickets early as many events may, or will be very popular.

We have restarted our fortnightly 2pm Friday Lego Club for children and we continue to be amazed and inspired by the fantastic construction that goes on there. If you are aged 5+ and love Lego this could be perfect for you. Our Friday Craft Club will continue fortnightly at 2pm. Parents can contact the library for details.

Macmillan Cancer Support currently provides a weekly information and support service in the library. A trained volunteer is available on Mondays from 11.30am to 1.30pm offering a listening ear and help and information for people affected by cancer. For any up-to-date information on what is happening in the library, check our Twitter @PortyLibrary and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PortobelloLibrary

Paul Hudson



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Wednesdays	- Mat Class (The Original - Live) - 18:30 - 19:30hrs	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Virtual) - 20:00 - 21:00hrs
Thursdays	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Virtual) - 09:30 - 10:15hrs	

Magic Circle Pilates (Virtual) 2022:
Fridays - 9:30-10:15am - 23rdSept. 14thOct. 11thNov. & 9thDec.

Trigger Point Pilates (Virtual/Live) 2022:
Saturdays - 9:30-10:30am - 27thAug. 24thSept. 29thOct. & 26thNov.

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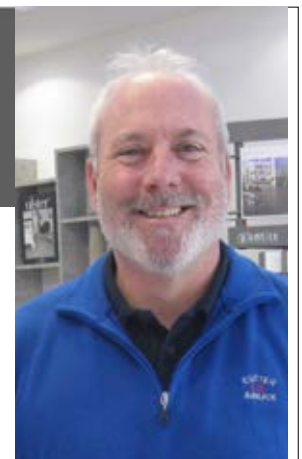
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REMEMBER to plant a few bowls of hyacinths now for that lovely scent around Christmas. Lots of winter shrubs have scent too, so plant something that will encourage you to be outside when the days are colder.

Autumn planting of anything does well, but if you have clay soil, leave planting evergreens until spring, and whether on sand or clay, mulch to retain moisture. Small pots dry out quickly, so try bigger ones for better drought tolerance, as next year may be even drier.

Keep deadheading flowers, especially dahlias and cosmos, which will keep flowering until the first frosts.

Harvest as much as you can, and if you have a glut, share with the local food bank. Collecting seed is also a harvest; wait until seed heads are dry, then put the seeds in paper bags, label and store in airtight jars or similar in the fridge.

When pulling or digging out perennial weeds with tough roots, soak them in a bucket for a few days, then compost. Between now and spring, I like a very cold day to empty the compost heap and spread it on the vegetable patch and around anything newly planted.

UNTIL you are in a wildfire it is difficult to imagine the intensity of the flames and the speed at which they move. This ferocity was brought home a few years ago when I was evacuated from a villa in the south of France – Dunkirk spirit in the local mairie. We may think that fires like the ones in Australia and California cannot happen here. But they can. Record temperatures and tinder-dry vegetation resulted in houses being consumed by bush fires in Britain.

Major action is needed by government to address the climate emergency – anyone listening? However, that doesn't mean we stop doing the things at a local level such as shopping locally, and walking and cycling. The council's 20 minute neighbourhood initiative is one response and promotes local communities.

There are various groups within Portobello such as PEDAL and Action Party that contribute to sustainability. Porty Community Energy is another that wishes to promote a transition to a lighter carbon impact. It will be holding an event at the beginning of November which will include information about access to funding, insulation, draughtproofing, double glazing as well as heat pumps and renewable energy. Look out for further information.

Stephen Hawkins



Porty Pennypincher

WITH fuel prices so high, many people are looking to change the way they get around. Could you be tempted to ride a bicycle? If you have an old one in the shed, it may be the best way to save you money on travel. Dust it off and get it serviced. The Portobello E-Cargo bike is free to hire and can take passengers or shopping. It can be booked online at www.portycommunitybike.myturn.com/library

If you're over 60 years old, you can apply for a National Entitlement Card which allows free bus travel across Scotland. Young people aged 5-21 can also claim this benefit. Search www.getyournec.scot/nec for more information, or ask at the library.

If you must drive, then consider joining the Enterprise Car Club. You pay by the hour, so have no maintenance costs to worry about. Many vehicles are hybrid or electric, so are better for the environment. Pick up from a dedicated parking space in locations across Edinburgh, and then return the vehicle when you're finished. You even get free parking in certain parts of the city.

CONNECTING THROUGH SONG

PORTOBELLO Community Choir aims to create community and connect with the world around us through song. We engage with environmental and social justice issues in addition to singing songs celebrating the turning of the seasons, nature and life stages. We were one of the first choirs to contribute to the Black Lives Matter song commissioning project. So much black music has been appropriated, with the original creators not being recognised, and the project seeks to redress that. We also organised a Porty Sings for Ukraine and all Refugees workshop on Portobello beach in April. Our joyful Porty Pride workshop on the beach was attended by 70 people – who sounded fab!

We believe everyone can sing, and provide a welcoming space – no previous singing experience needed! Our autumn term starts on 7th September, 7.30-9.30pm and we would love to see some new faces. www.portobellocommunitychoir.org

Jane Lewis

TOMMY SHEPPARD MP
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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

The Portobello Reporter

is produced by a team of local volunteers with contributions from 25 people.

If you have any news or would like to advertise email
portyrep@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVE

ALL ABOARD THE SKYLARK

IF YOU'RE old enough, you may have memories of sailing aboard *Skylark IX*, the popular pleasure boat which plied its trade on Portobello Beach in the 1960s. Today, it is under the care of the *Skylark IX* Recovery Project. The team is keen to hear from anyone who can contribute memories and even photographs or memorabilia to 'Skylark IX Voices', a new living archive of stories of the much-loved vessel. The archive will be a key part of a new heritage attraction and community hub which the project hopes to build in Dumbarton, close to where the boat ended its long working life.

I am Jade West, Community Engagement Lead at the *Skylark IX* Recovery Project, and we would love to chat to anyone who has a story, long or short, to tell about *Skylark* and her time at Portobello. Our intrepid Dunkirk 'Little Ship' *Skylark IX* has such a fabulous history, a twisting story of adventure, wartime service, daring circumnavigation and wrecks. Built in 1934 as the train network expanded



Main picture: *Skylark IX* during restoration.
Inset: in its heyday at Portobello beach



and seaside resorts grew in popularity, *Skylark IX* began life as a pleasure boat in Poole, soon stopping to serve in WW2 as part of Operation Dynamo, the mass evacuation of Allied soldiers from Dunkirk, and as a barrage balloon vessel in Poole Harbour. After the war, she became a pleasure boat once again, first at Poole then under new owners at Margate, Morecambe and Portobello. She was a much-loved sight at Portobello, launching from a portable jetty alongside deckchair hire and donkey rides, cruising to Burntisland, Inchkeith and Inchcolm. We think *Skylark IX* was also adapted as an emergency

ferry during the 1955 National Rail Strike, when the fare was 1/6 with preference given to those with relatives or friends in Edinburgh hospitals. We also believe she served as a rescue boat, saving at least one yacht from grounding.

Leaving Portobello in 1972, she cruised on Loch Lomond until she was retired from service in 2005. Sadly, in 2010, she sank in the River Leven, lying half submerged for two years before the local community rescued her.

We now have lots of facts detailing *Skylark IX*'s history but nothing is quite as meaningful and impactful as real-life stories. We're trying to reach as many people as we can who have memories or even family photographs of *Skylark IX* which they would like to share through our exciting new *Skylark IX* Voices archive. It's really important to us that this archive is a rewarding project for participants too. We're keen to stress that it won't sit on a shelf gathering dust. We'll be continually growing the archive and taking all the stories and memories into classrooms, using them to help inspire folk facing social isolation and recovering from addictions who attend our programmes and for our remembrance activities. We are keen to hear from anyone who can share their memories with us, no matter how fleeting they are.

Please contact us on: skylarkvol@alternativeswd.org or call: 07939 664921.

Jade West

EDINBURGH DOG AND CAT HOME

LIKE many organisations, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home is still recovering from the pandemic. Our services never stopped, and now our need for support is greater than ever. We rely heavily on regular support from the public to ensure our vital services remain.

Regular donations allow us to care for all the vulnerable dogs and cats who are brought to our door each day, as well as to plan for the home's future, expand our services and reach out to more local communities.

We are calling for help. Can you give a small monthly gift today? You can sign up via our website www.edch.org.uk/support-us/become-a-companion, email ailsa@edch.org.uk or call 0131 669 5331.

Georgia Burnside



Biscuit needs a home

DOORS OPEN DAYS

TRIBE Party will join over 50 other Edinburgh venues taking part in Doors Open Days on 24th and 25th September. This annual festival offers free access to venues across Scotland, some of which are not usually open to the public. Visit www.underoneroof.scot for more information.



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EASE into Monday mornings with Gentle Exercise or fire up your soul at the TuFlamenco Dance Classes. On Tuesdays, Lynn has available spaces at Dog and Puppy Training. For the wee ones, Glow Bambino offers a new, sensory class for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups on Wednesdays. Taiko Drumming sets the beat for Wednesday evenings and there are more rhythms to enjoy on Thursday mornings with Sing in the City, followed by the fabulous Fun Fiddlers' evening sessions.

We are delighted to welcome Blossom Theatre Company on Wednesday afternoons. After School creativity continues with Knitting for Kids on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday loop, and Claire Bear Coaching & Fitness bounces into the season on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please check our Facebook page: Porty Wash House and webpages: www.thewashhouse.org for times and further highlights or contact Sammy at CLD-Portobello@ea.edin.sch.uk for more information.

Barbara Middleton

PORTY CENTRAL

THE first AGM of Portobello Central SCIO is on 12th September, reporting the year's activity and electing new Trustees. The first big activity was erecting the huge scaffolding that went up around the Town Hall in July and August. By Christmas 2022 vital repairs should be completed and, soon after, the keys handed over. There will be at least a couple of months of preparation. The next target is to open by 1st April 2023, which may be too ambitious. A lease with the council needs to be signed, contracts for services let, and bookings taken. The building is huge and Portobello Central expects surprises – even spring cleaning will be a major exercise. Meanwhile, the *Porty Food Map* was reprinted and showcased at a Portobello Bookshop event on 11th August. To know more contact hello@portobellocentral.org

Geoff Pearson

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AMNESTY – LOCAL NEWS

IT'S ALWAYS gratifying that so many visitors to Portobello's Saturday Market respond to whatever case Amnesty International (AI) Portobello Group highlights at its stall. In August, for instance, more than 90 people signed AI's petition to Turkey's Chief Prosecutor to release the 'Gezi 7' currently facing life and other major prison terms for participating in the mass demonstrations in Istanbul's Gezi Park in 2013.

The civil unrest spread across the country, largely against the government's policies and its oppression of freedom of expression. The seven's leader, philanthropist and human rights campaigner Osman Kavala, was given an aggravated life sentence while the others were each sentenced to 18 years. They were actually acquitted at their first trial but the authorities intervened to enforce sentences for 'attempting to overthrow the government'.

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the authorities violated Osman Kavala's right to liberty with the aim of silencing human rights activities. AI is calling for the seven to be freed and considers their unjust convictions emblematic of the deteriorating human rights situation in Turkey.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month in Portobello & Joppa Parish Church. All welcome. (Contact: theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com)

Jim Gilchrist



TRIBE Porty is a community co-working and creative events space in the heart of Portobello. If you are interested in becoming a co-worker, or are looking for a space to host an event, book a free tour on our website www.tribeporty.org. We are also taking part in Doors Open Day on the 25th September. Come along for a guided tour of our unique building, explore our past history and find out about exciting projects involving our members. Each tour will be followed by a Q&A. We will also be displaying photographs to show how our building has changed over the years as well as having a variety of work on show by our members. To book a tour and to find out more, please contact more@tribeporty.org.

Alice Hudson

ACTION PORTY

BELLFIELD volunteers run a Friday Café from 10am to 12.30pm every Friday in Bellfield Foyer, with 'pay what you feel' for home baking, plus optional free taster sessions in arts, crafts and DIY from 11am to noon. All are welcome to come and connect with friendly faces and learn new skills in a relaxed space. The first café included homemade cinnamon buns, scones and jam, fresh coffee roasted at Bellfield, Motown music

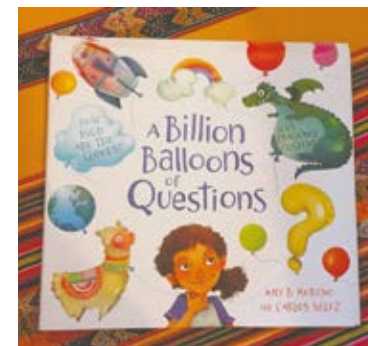
and a beginners' crochet class. Ella, our Volunteer Coordinator, comments: "We have a team of welcoming volunteers with the same desire to make connections in an enjoyable, fun space and an escape from the everyday pressures we all face."

Action Porty is looking for a new Treasurer. Whether you can join us for our monthly Board meetings or can only help with the annual accounts once a year, we need you.

Justin Kenrick

News in brief

Local author Amy B. Moreno had her first picture book, *A Billion Balloons of Questions*, published in June. It tells the story of Eva, a curious girl from a bilingual Scottish-Peruvian family, who considers the many questions she has about the world. Beautiful illustrations by the award-winning Carlos Vélez show Eva's questions in imaginatively shaped balloons that she carries



around until they're answered. As a first-time picture book author, Amy was selected to participate in the Debut Lab programme with The Scottish Book Trust and Creative Scotland.

COMMUNITY Council meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 7.30pm, except in July and December. They are held either online or in the Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High Street. For more information, and to contact PCC, see www.portobelloc.org

NATURE NOTES - DIPPING INTO DRAG

SOMETIMES NATURE presents us with opposites that operate within the same habitat, using that landscape in different ways to ensure that they don't compete with each other. Often those alternative takes on the same location are accentuated by wildly contrasting outfits. This is no more obvious than in the case of the stream-dwelling Dipper and Kingfisher.

Both are often seen along the Figgate Burn, the Dipper being the dowdy, strait-laced, matter-of-fact little brown bird with a white bib, while the Kingfisher hits drag queen extravagance. This translates into hunting techniques, but this is where we shouldn't be fooled by the show.

The Kingfisher perches on a low branch, above the running stream, looking out for small fish. There's a skill to this, taking into account refraction by the water, and once it pinpoints its prey it's all action, diving into the water,



Main picture: Dipper at Figgate Park.
Inset: Kingfisher at Duddingston Golf Course



before usually returning to the same perch to bash the capture against it, then swallowing whole. It even manages to orientate sticklebacks so the spines fold flat as the fish goes down.

The Dipper, by contrast, stays closer to the water, preferring protruding rocks as its vantage point. It disappears into the water with the merest of splashes, and makes for the bottom, effectively walking over the

rocky floor, looking for bugs and beasties hiding amongst the stones. Videos of this activity are astonishing to watch.

There is one visible, or rather audible, aspect in which the Dipper definitely has the edge. The blue dart has a rather simple 'beep' call, similar to the cartoon Roadrunner, but the Dipper entertains with an electronic-sounding call that could be straight from a synthesiser.

Anthony Robson

PHOTOS: ANTHONY ROBSON

TOOL LIBRARY

AT THE Edinburgh Tool Library, we love a good celebration. We've been making loads of changes and improvements to our Party hub recently – making the workshop and library more welcoming, accessible, resourceful and inspiring! Our space is always a work in progress, but we want to celebrate where we are after five years in Portobello. So join us on Thursday 27th October 5-8pm at 19 Windsor Place for a wee party! Everyone welcome, members and non-members. Until then, you should know that the tool library is open for borrowing on Thursdays and Mondays 5-8pm and our regular programme of open workshop sessions and classes is back mid-September. See www.edinburghtoolibrary.org.uk for more information.

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JOPPA TENNIS

IT WAS winners all round for Joppa's adult teams this season. All three teams won their respective divisions in impressive style: Joppa Men's first team won Division 6a unbeaten and will compete in Division 5 next year; the second team won Division 9b and promotion to Division 8; not to be outdone, our Women's team came top of their league and move up to Division 6.

Coaches Finn and Calum

and their helpers have run three five-day summer tennis camps over the summer holidays with over 120 children attending. A combination of fun, games and basic tennis training, the camps were extremely popular with children and parents alike and have generated a huge enthusiasm for the sport. For more information on coaching opportunities, see our Facebook page.

Marjorie Shepherd



ROW PARTY AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROW Party has enjoyed a summer of rowing fun at Portobello beach, rowing nearly every day of the week and all over Scotland at away events as far afield as Loch Awe, Ullapool and the Isle of Lewis. In June we travelled overseas to the coastal rowing world championships (Skiffieworlds) in the Netherlands. It's a huge event with over 50 clubs from around the world competing over a gruelling 2km course. With up to 10 boats in each heat, there was potential for oar clashes and collisions at the buoy turns and close-fought sprints to the finish line. Most of us had never rowed or coxed in this sort of race before; our crews gave their utmost and although no medals came our way, it was not for want of effort! A great experience with easily the loudest, jolliest supporters in the stand, making many new friends in the international coastal rowing community.

If you would like to give coastal rowing a try get in touch via www.rowparty.org.uk. We are a friendly, welcoming, community club. No previous rowing experience required.

ANSWERS TO WHERE AM I?
 1: Leaf-label on post near the pond, Figgate Park
 2: Hug Me Tree notice in Figgate Park (near Baileyfield Road entrance) 3: Pencil sharpener notice near 'cake stand' on the Prom 4: No Parking sign on sea-wall near the Rockville Hotel

FOOTBALL WINNERS

WHAT a terrific end to the season for Portobello CFA Under 17s. Not only did the team win the prestigious South East Region Cup, after being denied the opportunity to play the final the previous season due to Covid-19, but they were also victorious in the Craig Gowans Memorial Trophy and Andy Towns Cup making it a hat trick of success. This was especially pleasing as some of the players have been with the team since five years of age, so a special journey for them and the coaches. Most of the team will now progress to senior football and they can be delighted with their achievements in representing Portobello with pride.

John Griffiths

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

IT'S BEEN a busy season for beach volleyball at Portobello. The summer started off strongly with the hosting of the traditional season starter of the Scottish Student Beach Championships during the first weekend of May. Congratulations to Edinburgh University pair Mason/Schlie and Aberdeen University pair Broz/Kuprys who won the women's and men's championships respectively. The 12th Championships were incredibly successful with 16 men's pairs, 16 women's pairs, and 16 recreational teams all taking part.

Portobello has hosted seven UK beach tour events, including the now annual Scottish Grand Slam in the middle of July. This event was another great success with three Scottish teams making the quarter finals.

Adam Paton

IN THE SADDLE

IN MID-JUNE, Portovelo cyclists travelled to Northumberland for the club's annual weekender. Based at Wooler youth hostel, we enjoyed two days of cycling on new roads. Saturday's rides were inland loops through moorland and rolling hills on both sides of the border, followed by a big meal out in a local Italian restaurant. On the Sunday, we went to the coast for spectacular views of Bamburgh Castle and a trip across the causeway to Holy Island.

Over the summer, the club has organised evening training rides on Tuesdays, relaxed social rides on Wednesday mornings and fortnightly gravel rides on Saturdays. The mainstay of the club's activities, however, remains our Sunday morning rides covering a wide variety of routes across the Lothians and into the Borders, always featuring a café stop. Our rides are free, and open to all. So if you are looking for ways to improve your fitness while enjoying the countryside and meeting like-minded folk, please consider joining us. Full details are on our website www.porto-velo.com

Andrew Mylne

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