

THE Portobello REPORTER

Quarterly: Summer 2025

Delivered in and around Portobello; circulation 13,000

Also available online on www.porty.org.uk

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

- Portobello Rotary Club P3
- The Tower P5
- Porty Pride P7
- Beach volleyball P8

The independent voice of Portobello

Your Community Newspaper
produced by local people since 1980

SHARE ISSUE

THE 'Bellfield's Big Build' campaign ran from 29th March to 30th April. It needed to raise a minimum of £100,000 from issuing community shares to secure £450,000 in government funding and £150,000 from a generous philanthropist. This extraordinary community, plus folk from further afield, raised a breathtaking £168,525. Half the amount came in in the last week and our membership rose from 442 to over 1,400, more than 75 per cent of whom live within our slightly arbitrary (but necessary) boundary. Action Porty can now proceed with the £776,100 first stage of transforming the old parish church building at Bellfield by putting in an upper floor, toilets, a lift and a new kitchen.

We have planning and listed buildings consents and are now securing the building warrant and the procurement process to hire a construction company and appoint a Clerk of Works. Our architects expect the rebuilding to begin in September. We'll call a neighbours' meeting once the contractors have been appointed (NB there is no external scaffolding required) to discuss the process. Huge thanks to the generous people of Portobello – a community where all have the right to belong. We can achieve so much if we dare to trust and act together.

Justin Kenrick

LACK OF TOILETS IN PORTOBELLO

THERE are only two permanent public toilets near the beach – one at Pipe Street (currently closed at time of writing) and the other further back from the Promenade on Bath Street. It's an ongoing problem for Prom cafés and restaurants, who regularly report being overwhelmed by demands from desperate people to use their in-house toilets.

The solution is clearly more public toilets. *The Reporter* asked Jane Meagher, one of our local Councillors and Leader of City of Edinburgh Council, when this would happen.

Jane acknowledged the need for "high quality and accessible toilets on the Prom" but said that, in the meantime, "additional temporary facilities are planned this summer for Straiton Place". Accordingly, male and female cabins have just been installed, plus one with disabled access.

PROM PROBLEMS

In light of recent disturbances on the promenade, *The Portobello Reporter* asked local residents: "Given the recent problems on the Prom, has that affected your feelings about coming to the area?"

"As a woman, sometimes it would make a difference. I wouldn't come on my own at night. I wouldn't want the Prom to be spoilt for others. Some people ruin things for other people." Anne Patrick.



"No, it wouldn't frighten me as I am ex-army but it might frighten others. There's trouble all over, we are beginning to see it in Haddington too. I'm 89 years old, why spend your time worrying about something you have no control over?" James Goodman.

"No, my mum who lives in Portobello says she has seen everything happening here over the years and so it hasn't changed my views about the Prom. She was down here on Friday having coffee with her friends and it was fine." Graham Lydon.



Lorraine said: "It possibly would affect me coming down at night, but I know most people who come down are fine". Dawn said: "It wouldn't normally put me off coming down at night, but, if there was a big crowd of them, I'd go home." Lorraine Nelson and Dawn Foggo.

POLICE Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), including Portobello's Councillors, have joined forces to find a solution to the recent escalation of violence and anti-social behaviour on the Prom and surrounding areas.

On Friday 16th May, a 16-year-old was charged with attempted murder, following a large-scale disturbance on the beach.

SNP Councillor Kate Campbell called for people to work together to tackle the root of the problem in a holistic way. She said: "People need to feel safe, including the many young people who just want to spend time at the beach without feeling at risk." Green Councillor Alys Mumford also advocated solving the origins of the problem, saying: "I am pushing the Council to take this issue seriously and invest in real solutions to interrupting cycles of poverty and neglect which can lead to outbreaks like this."

Local resident Daniel Wilkniss has collected more than 2,000 signatures in a petition calling for improved policing especially during holidays and warm summer evenings. He said: "In recent times we've had some serious issues culminating in stabbings in April." He believes the response to his petition shows the public want authorities to prioritise safety on the Prom.

Police Scotland say they are working with the North East Locality Community Planning Partnership and CEC to maximise the use of CCTV, street cleansing, licensing officers and youth engagement services. High-visibility patrols around the Prom will help to identify any issues and respond to reports. Superintendent Samantha Ainslie said: "For the avoidance of any doubt these behaviours will not be tolerated, and we urge you to report your concerns or provide information to support our enquiries via 101, or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

PORTY PROFILE No. 92
MARK BAILLIE

MARK was born in Edinburgh and has lived in the Portobello area since 2014.

He played drums in indie rock band, Gilded Lil, while still at school. The band saw moderate success supporting Mogwai, touring, releasing some singles and recording a John Peel session for the BBC. Eventually, Mark left the band, although it continued for a few years after.

Mark enrolled at Edinburgh Napier University in 1998 to study publishing and after graduating, worked in various corporate communications roles. He has worked at the University of Edinburgh since 2017.

Mark moved to Portobello in 2014, around the time his two sons Oscar and Elliot were starting school. “We thought it would be an ideal place to bring up our family,” he says.

Both Mark’s grandparents on his father’s side were Travellers, and in 2004, Mark recorded his grandfather’s memories. “I became a bit of a family tree nerd,” Mark laughs, “and I managed to trace the Baillie family to the early 1800s.”

During lockdown, Mark found himself writing up those memories with a view to producing a book. It took three years of plugging away until a small Scottish publisher, Tippermuir, eventually released Mark’s debut novel, *Salvage* in July 2024.

“The characters are fictionalised,” Mark reveals, “but the story is based on reality. Traveller children were forcibly taken from their families and there are often no records of what happened to them. There is a petition currently underway asking for a formal apology from the Scottish Government for what happened to many Traveller families.

“When researching *Salvage*, I came across a book in the National Library of Scotland about Travellers in Scotland written in 1860. There was a whole chapter devoted to the Baillie family. I was able to trace ancestors who had been deported, executed or persecuted. I just thought – it’s a miracle I am even here today to tell the tale.”



PHOTO: MARK BAILLIE



PHOTO: ANDREW MYLNE

ST MARK’S RENOVATION

A MAJOR project to repair and renovate St Mark’s Episcopal Church has been completed. The work, which started last November, has included extensive repairs to the roof and ceiling, conservation of historic windows, new flooring and lighting, a new accessible toilet and improved kitchen facilities.

Rev Dr Sophia Marriage, rector of St Mark’s, said: “As we look forward to the 200th anniversary of our church in 2026, it is wonderful to know that the building has been rejuvenated in this way, for the future benefit of our congregation and the Portobello community.”

The church will be officially re-opened on 21st June.

What’s On

CRAIGENTINNY TELFERTON ALLOTMENTS: open, Sun 27th July, 2-4pm. Entry £5, children free. Activities, teas, plants sale. For allotments & Scotland’s Gardens Scheme.

CAR BOOT SALES: Portobello Rotary Club, last Sun of month. Newcraighall Park & Ride. Sellers from 7.30am, £12/car, £18/van. Buyers 8.30am. Proceeds to charities and community projects.

PORTOBELLO MARKET: 1st Sat of the month, 9.30-1.30. Brighton Park. portobello.market@live.co.uk

COMMUNITY FRIDGE: Sats 10.30-11.30am, Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High St. Surplus food from shops available free to all, to combat waste. Donations for food bank from 11.30am.

PARKRUN: Sats, 9.30am, Figgate Park. 5K. Free. Contact: www.parkrun.org.uk/portobello

WALKING FOR HEALTH: One hour low-level walks – free, social and open to all. 1pm Mondays. Start and finish at Chest, Heart & Stroke shop, 113 Portobello High St. Before attending, call Fearghas on 07821 681982 or email walking@chss.org.uk

COMMUNITYCHOIR: Wed evenings, 7.30-9.15pm, small hall at Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High St. See www.portobellocommunitychoir.org

CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP: Sundays, 2pm, Baptist Church Hall. For details see www.meetup.com/portobello-music-group

TINDERBOX MUSIC CLUB: Weds 4.30-6pm for ages P5-S1, Portobello Library. For all young musicians who can confidently play four notes or more on any instrument and those who’d like to learn.

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PHOTO: MATT ASLETT

DOG SHOW

A dog show took place in May as part of the first-ever Porty Festival. The dog show was organised by The Dog Port's Natalie Hogg.

PORTOBELLO ROTARY CLUB

PORTOBELLO Rotary Club is open and welcoming to anyone interested in serving our local community and supporting national and international causes. We would love to have new blood... and new ideas!

In addition to our popular monthly car boot sales, in the past year or so we have supported the following local initiatives: the establishment of a Portobello Surf Life Saving Club; the Rotary Children's Xmas Toy Box Appeal for children in local

refuges; youth competitions and training schemes for Portobello High School pupils as part of the School's 'Good Connections' programme. We have also purchased shares in the Bellfield Big Build; together with our partner charity, Voice Of Carers Across Lothian (VOCAL), funded weekend breaks for unpaid carers and donated teddy bears with blue/yellow scarves for Ukrainian children in Edinburgh (see photo). Internationally, we have donated to Medical Aid for Palestinians and provided a fully equipped UN approved family tent for Gaza. If you're interested contact rotaryclubofportobello@gmail.com



PHOTO: AEGNIUS MURRAY

rotaryclubofportobello@gmail.com

Norman Ireland, President

ONLINE HELP REQUIRED

THE PORTOBELLO Online website www.porty.org.uk was started more than 15 years ago as the 'go to' place for all things Portobello. It has been through several transformations involving quite a few people, but now there's just one person keeping it going.

The site has lists of community organisations with web addresses, editions of *The Reporter* back to 2001, information on politicians, transport, walks and local history, a directory of businesses in the high street, galleries of images from local artists and photographers and historic images.

Richard Wright, the current custodian, would be delighted to have some help, directly and indirectly, to develop the site. If you have web skills or ideas for a new direction, he would like to hear from you. Email him at contact@porty.org.uk

WE ARE currently working on our summer holiday activities for children and looking forward to a full and fun programme. More information will be available in the library and on our social media throughout the holiday period. We are also looking forward to this year's summer reading challenge for eight to eleven year olds. This provides a fun way to maintain children's reading habits through reading six books over the holidays. Children who complete the challenge win a medal, stickers and prizes. The theme this year is Story Garden and will be all about nature and the outdoors. Children can register for the challenge at the library from the start of the summer holidays.

We will be starting a new Chatterbooks group in August. This reading group is for children aged eight to eleven and meets monthly on Saturday afternoons. We would love to welcome children who have, or want to develop, an interest in reading. Contact a member of library staff if you would like to sign up.

Edinburgh author Fiona Scott-Barrett will be visiting the library on Tuesday, 24th June at 6.30pm. Fiona uses some of her own life experiences to write compelling and insightful fiction. Tickets are available from the library for what promises to be an entertaining and informative evening.

To find out what's going on in the library you can visit us and have a chat with staff or you can follow us on Facebook.

Paul Hudson



Private & Duet Pilates Sessions take place at the Pilates Studio.

Please visit our website for more information on Private & Group sessions.

Class Timetable (Virtual/In Person):

Mondays	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Online)	- 18:30 - 19:30
	- Conquer Gravity (Baptist Church Hall - In-Person)	- 19:45 - 20:35
Wednesdays	- Mat Class (The Original - In-Person)	- 18:15 - 19:25
	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Online)	- 20:00 - 21:00
Thursdays	- Mat Pilates (The Original - Online)	- 09:30 - 10:15

Magic Circle Pilates Workshops(In-Person & Online) 2025:

Fri. - 9:30-10:15am - 6th June / 1st Aug. / 5th Sept.

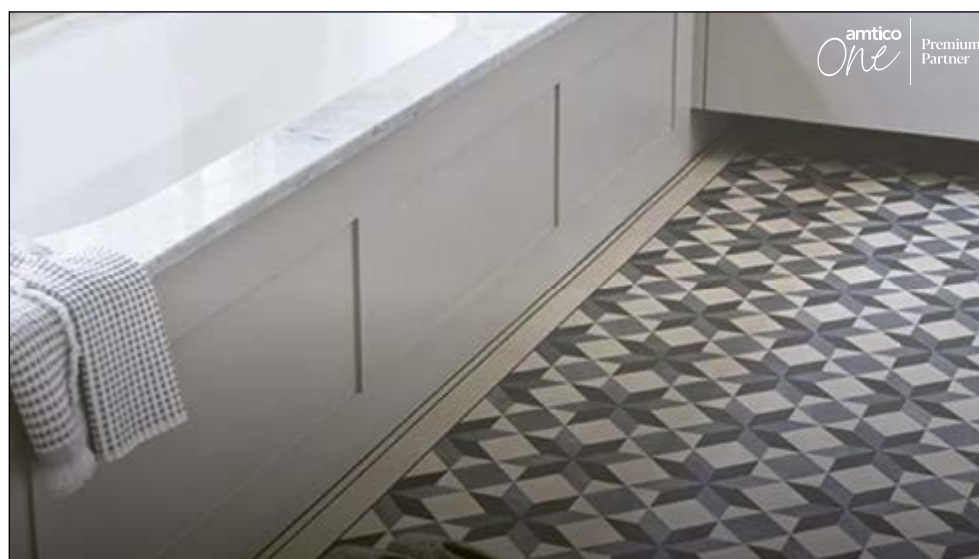
Trigger Point Pilates Workshops (In-Person & Online) 2025:

Sat. - 9:30-10:30am - 21st June / 30th Aug. / 27th Sept.

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WATERING, feeding and deadheading are the most important tasks for the summer. Use saved water on established plants and tap water on young ones. Deadhead annuals regularly, especially sweet peas, dahlias, marigolds and geraniums, to encourage more flowering.

For feeding, make nettle/comfrey tea: pack a bucket with comfrey leaves (good for tomatoes) or nettle (for green growth) or a mix of both, cover with water. After a month, dilute to the colour of weak tea and apply.

Keep lawn edges tidy, but let a small area grow long, still trimming the edge to prevent long grass growing into the border. Long grass is important for all sorts of wildlife.

While cropping lettuce or peas, start off another batch which will last into autumn. Even a small space can produce something and look attractive, such as red and green lettuce, coriander or rocket in a window box. Herbs in a window box need to be cropped regularly to keep them small. Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme can all be dried for the winter.

A sprinkle of night scented stock in a pot next to a seat brings a delightful fragrance for sitting out of an evening. *Our garden at 39 Nantwich Drive is open on 2nd-3rd August, 2-5pm, entry £5. Proceeds to Garden Organic.*

NO COMMUNITY council was formed in Portobello as an insufficient number of nominations were received. Could this be because the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) is not listening, or that they were slow at implementing improvements, for example Brunstane Road or the King’s Road junction? Perhaps CEC running its own surveys has made community councils superfluous. With the impending controlled parking zone, the loss of the community council is bad timing. Portobello has been viewed by most as being an engaged community, so is this loss a sign of a failing community?

There have always been local groups adding life to Portobello. In the recent past for example, we had the Gala, Victorian Walk, Torchlight procession, POD and the Village Show. Nowadays, we have the Book Festival and Porty Festival etc., with places to meet at Bellfield, the Town Hall and the Washhouse, all sustained by the community – so no, it is not failing.

Local shops for everyday shopping are essential, and an aim of PEDAL in running the Local Market is to complement their range of quality food and goods whilst retaining spending in the local area. The market has run for 15 years despite the vagaries of the weather. First Saturday of the month in Brighton Park 9:30am to 1:30pm.



PARKING CONSULTATION

THE City of Edinburgh Council recently carried out a four-week consultation on new parking controls across Portobello, extending as far east as Joppa Road and Morton Street. They include paid-for parking spaces at £2.60/hour, annual residents’ permits at up to £374.30 for petrol cars (£40 more for diesels) and up to £427.50 for businesses.

At a packed public meeting in the Town Hall on 20th May, the many objections of angry residents and business owners included that it would “kill the high street”, that parking restrictions on Sundays around churches don’t apply elsewhere in Edinburgh, and the shortness of the consultation period. It was suggested that parking is a seasonal issue, however local residents would be penalised all year round. Concerns over the cost of parking permits for disabled carers were also raised, one resident with a disabled daughter commented: “the council has no idea of the financial pressures people are facing”.

Scottish Conservative Councillor Tim Jones, the only political representative in attendance, described the meeting as “highly charged”. Asked whether the council would accept the results of the consultation, the reply was that the relevant committee will decide. A decision is expected in the autumn.

PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL



PORTOBELLO High School (PHS) is the first school in Scotland to become a truly mobile phone-free learning environment. The rollout of our new mobile phone policy in May attracted widespread media attention.

Feedback from staff and pupils has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have reported calmer, more focused classrooms and a notable drop in corridor traffic and toilet visits during lesson time.

Luke McAllister (Depute Head Teacher), says: “We are particularly grateful for the support from families. The vast majority have welcomed the change and recognise the value of reducing phone use during the school day. Their backing has been key to the smooth start, and it’s clear they share our ambition to create the best possible environment for their child’s education.”

While we may be the first, PHS is confident it will not be the last school to take this approach. Several schools across Scotland and even Spain have already been in touch to learn more about this approach.

Portobello High School

WINNER

THE Professional Cartoonists’ Organisation held its Cartoon Industry Awards earlier this year in London. ‘The Splats Awards’ honoured the best cartoons and cartoonists of 2024 with categories such as ‘Best Caricature’ and ‘Best Cartoonist’.

Portobello-based cartoonist Chris Williams (pen name ‘dink’) whose work appears in magazines and books won Best Current Affairs Cartoon for a cartoon which was published in *Private Eye* last year.

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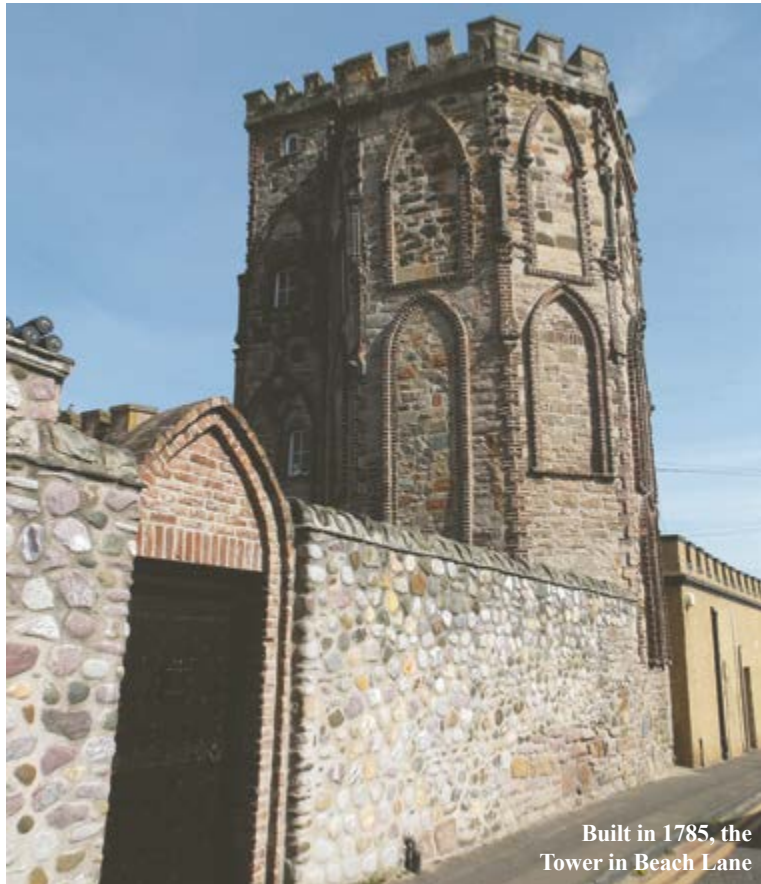
HISTORY OF PORTOBELLO BY DR MARGARET MUNRO

THE TOWER

THE Tower in Beach Lane is one of the oldest buildings in Portobello and probably the most curious. It was built in 1785 as a summer house for Shrub Mount, probably for James Cunningham by William Jameson. It is octagonal and built using a mixture of stone and brick. A closer examination reveals some fantastic pieces of reclaimed stonework which are believed to have come from the Old Cross of Edinburgh, St Andrews Cathedral and the old college of Edinburgh.

According to William Baird's *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello*, it was advertised for sale after Cunningham got into financial difficulties around 1807. This was unsuccessful. It was then let to summer visitors but eventually fell into a state of disrepair, becoming almost ruinous. About 1864 the Tower was purchased by Hugh Paton who built the adjoining mansion and restored the Tower, incorporating it into his home.

These buildings have served various purposes since. Having been a hotel in the early 1900s, they housed engineering works and then a fruit and vegetable merchant. In 1907 an entertainment pavilion was added to the front, between the buildings and the promenade. Here Harry Marvello, a renowned



Built in 1785, the Tower in Beach Lane

magician, established the Tower Pavilion, initially as a music hall which could seat an audience of around 700 people. By 1908 it was licensed for theatre performances and held summer variety shows until the 1930s. In 1936 it was converted into a family entertainment centre by Erin A. Deane, forerunner of the current Nobles Amusements. Older locals have memories of seeing monkeys in the arcade, which is still a popular place for children to visit.

The Tower had again fallen into disrepair until recently when Mark Noble and his family comprehensively restored it. Both the exterior and interior have been

finished to a high standard. The unsightly harling on the wall in Beach Lane has been removed and the stonework has been restored. On a recent visit to the Tower, the care and attention to detail were obvious. The views from inside the building and on the roof are glorious. There are plans to use it as an event space. It is certainly worthwhile stopping to admire the details of the building when you walk down Beach Lane. The longer you look, the more you will find interesting pieces of stonework. The Tower is once again a heritage building of which Portobello can be proud..

PHOTO: MARGARET MUNRO

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WE ARE excited to announce the launch of a monthly newsletter ‘The Washing Line’. Sign up to www.thewashhouse.org/subscribe to receive all the latest information and news,

The Youth Club is now up and running on a Tuesday and Friday.

Summer places available for children’s art classes, drawing with nature, children’s homework club and summer workshops, and the ever popular dog classes. Find out more on our website www.thewashhouse.org/about-our-spaces.

Lindsay Perth

PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL

THIS summer we continue to welcome a host of mini festivals to the Town Hall. After the inaugural Porty Festival, which saw a huge number of visitors, we welcomed Edinburgh International Children’s Festival: Imagine for their first week-long residency. Hot on their heels it’s time for Porty Pride which takes place the first full weekend in June. July brings the return of the Full Moon Festival. Fast forward to August and Jamie MacDougall will perform his five-star tribute show to Porty’s famous son, Sir Harry Lauder. Also in August, we are very excited to host ‘Welcome to the Fringe: Palestine’ an Independent Arts Project which will celebrate Palestinian art and culture in what will be our first outing as a registered Fringe venue. Check what’s on at www.portbellotownhall.org.

Wendy Davies

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AMNESTY – LOCAL NEWS

A GENEROUS response greeted Amnesty International Portobello Group’s annual book sale and coffee morning at Bellfield in April, raising £1,246.


Sympathetic public response also continues at the group’s stall at Portobello Market. The first Saturday in April saw visitors adding 132 signatures to our petition to authorities in Belarus, calling for the release of the many activists imprisoned there, particularly focusing on the case of the country’s opposition leader, Maryia Kalesnikaya, detained on the spurious charge of “undermining national security”.

May, meanwhile, saw the stall attract more than 130 signatures petitioning US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem against her administration’s appalling – and unlawful – expulsions of individuals from the United States to a notorious prison in El Salvador, under the purported authority of the Alien Enemies Act.

While signing a petition or writing a letter may seem a paltry gesture, en masse these can have a surprising impact, underpinning AI’s motto that “it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness”.

(Contact: Theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com)

Jim Gilchrist



MARK your calendars for Saturday 7th June, as Tribe Porty comes alive between 10am and 4pm with a vibrant mix of workshops, live performances and delicious food. This free, family-friendly event is open to all.

Enjoy a variety of bookable workshops, drop-in sessions, tasty treats from Coffee N Stuff, and live music throughout the day. We’ll be joined by artists Paper Cut Punk and Peter Jones. Edinburgh Tool Library is running hands-on workshops for the kids and Detour (movement by bike) will be leading a relaxed bike ride through Dalkeith Country Park. We’ll wrap things up with a lively Brass Blast performance at 3pm.

For our full list of workshops and to book your spaces, visit our website www.tribeporty.org

Alice Hudson



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ACTION PORTY

WITH Police Scotland having decided to sell off Portobello Police Station, Action Porty stepped forward to try to retain this iconic building that has been our Town hall, library and fire and police station. Police Scotland have agreed to let us know by early September whether we can undertake a Community Asset Transfer, requiring us to raise the finance (hopefully from the Scottish Land Fund) to purchase it. In the Community Council’s and Action Porty’s consultations, people wanted it to be a welcoming presence on the High Street, to provide space for artists and community organisations and possibly a small community hotel. Recent anti-social behaviour on the Prom has highlighted the need for it to also possibly provide space for the police, for health, for youth outreach and other service provision.

Justin Kenrick

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PORTY PRIDE 2025

PORTY Pride is more than a celebration – we are a community, volunteer run movement championing LGBTQ+ inclusivity in Edinburgh’s seaside town and in 2025 we’re raising a bottle to it with the launch of our exclusive beer. Crafted and brewed in collaboration with Cross Borders Brewing and Porty Pride, our very popular Porty Pride Pale will this year be available as a limited edition release in a bottle. It is a toast to the community, our activism and LGBTQ+ visibility.

Visibility of the LGBTQ+ community like this is powerful. This year’s launch of the bottled Porty Pride Pale is a reflection of our values. It also creates a chance for the wider community to come together in solidarity. Having our allies stand with us in this way truly means a lot – it’s a vital part of what makes Porty Pride so special.

Dan Hanlin, Area Manager for Cross Borders Brewing commented: “At Portobello Tap, we’re committed to being a space where everyone feels welcome, and that’s exactly why supporting Porty Pride matters to us. We’re proud to stand alongside the grassroots organisers, volunteers and local businesses that make Porty Pride such a special event. Porty Pride is a celebration, but also a powerful act of visibility, education and solidarity. We’re honoured to play even a small part in helping it thrive – and we see our involvement as a natural extension of the values we hold year-round: inclusion, support and standing proudly with our LGBTQ+ community.”

Kate Gillwood

Porty Pride Organising Committee

PET CHIPS

AT EDINBURGH Dog and Cat Home, we don’t just rehome animals, we also reunite hundreds of missing pets with their families every year.

Recently, we’ve seen a rise in the number of animals coming to us with outdated information on their microchips, which can make it tricky to find and return them to their families!

Our team are fantastic pet detectives, but please make our jobs easier by keeping your pet’s microchip and collar ID tag up to date with your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Help us reunite over 100 missing pets every year with a regular gift at www.edch.org.uk/donate.


Betty Henderson

CYRENIANS


IN APRIL, the homeless charity Cyrenians moved its FareShare surplus food operation to a new depot situated opposite the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home in Seafield. This is now the base from which high-quality food, collected from major retailers and suppliers such as the Co-op, Tesco and Asda, is re-delivered to community groups and charities supporting those in need.

Last year, from the previous site in Leith, the depot team was able to deliver two million meals, saving over 800 tonnes of food from landfill. The new location in Seafield has more than five times the capacity and will soon be offering accredited forklift training as part of an employability programme.

Lynne Collie, Senior Enterprise Manager, said that the team was very excited about the move, saying it would allow more food to be distributed at a time “when the cost of not having access to healthy and nutritious food is so high and with food poverty and food insecurity being a real concern in Scotland”.



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IN THE SADDLE

PORTOVELO has always aimed to be an inclusive and friendly club. People join from a shared love of cycling, but stay for the friendships that quickly develop. We learn about each other's lives, we share each other's adventures, we support each other both on and off the bike. This shows itself in many ways, big and small – from willing help to fix a puncture at the roadside, through to planning foreign cycling trips together, or being there for the clubmate who is dealing with serious illness or a family bereavement. People who join the club often say it's the friendly welcome that makes the difference. A new rider might come along initially just to get some group-riding experience or to train for a sportive, but often they stay and become regulars – and friends.

Following some glorious spring weather, summer has finally arrived – which means it's nearly time for the club weekender. For this year's event, in late June, 35 of us will be travelling to Oban for two days of cycling and socialising – look out for a report in the next issue of *The Reporter*. For more information about the club's activities, go to www.porto-velo.com.

Andrew Mylne

JOPPA TENNIS

AS MANY readers will know, Portobello was targeted in several air raids during World War II. A neighbour handed in an article from the *Edinburgh Evening News* from October 1939. It described how bullets sprayed by machine-gun fire in pursuit of enemy aircraft were found embedded in the clubhouse roof and walls. The backs of at least five houses in Morton Street were also struck. The story goes on to tell of a lucky escape for Mrs Forgan, of 26 Morton Street, who was dusting in her bedroom when a bullet came right through the upper sash of the window and embedded itself in her eiderdown quilt. "It was a beautiful shining new bullet," said Mrs Forgan.

Fortunately, we do not need to dodge bullets today when we are playing, just the occasional really hard serve! There are still a few spaces available for new members this season. For more information contact joppatc@hotmail.com

Marjie Shepherd

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

EDINBURGH Beach Volleyball Club is back! We are now offering everything from coaching sessions, tournaments and court hire opportunities. Check out our new offer here: www.edinburghbeachvolleyballclub.com

We will deliver a range of competitive opportunities through the summer as part of the UK Beach Tour, which includes something for all abilities. Our biggest event of the year will be 12th-13th July where we will be bringing some top level volleyball for everyone to watch for free.

For younger players, stay tuned for more information about our Summer Holiday Camp!

Lynne Beattie

RUGBY

WE ARE heading into an exciting summer with a full calendar of activities. After a successful season, celebrated at the Club Dinner and Awards Night, all eyes are now on pre-season. The senior team will kick off training in July, with hopes high.

Meanwhile, our Minis wrapped up their season on 23rd May with strong performances. It's been a fantastic year of growth and fun, and we look forward to welcoming them back after the summer break.

Adding to the summer buzz is the return of Tartan Touch, a fun, social rugby experience that welcomes all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a returning player or thinking of joining the Portobello rugby family, now's the perfect time to get involved. www.portobellorugby.co.uk

Darren Crowther (Head of Mini Rugby)

ROW PORTY

FROM 6th to 12th July, Stranraer will play host to Skiffie Worlds, a regatta for the St Ayles class of coastal rowing skiffs, which takes place every three years. Skiffie Worlds is an event that brings people together, highlighting the sense of community and connection that lies at the heart of coastal rowing.

Row Porty has two St Ayles skiffs and will be taking one to Stranraer to compete. The races take place over a 2km course on Loch Ryan with each boat turning round a buoy half way. There will be a number of heats for each event, with the 15 fastest crews progressing to the final. There will be crews from several countries competing and also some local competition from Eastern, Eskmuthe and Newhaven clubs. In addition to the racing there will be lots of onshore activities for competitors and families to enjoy.

Mairi Torrie

PORTOBELLO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

PASC launched its open water season in May, with six swimmers and their coach taking to the waves and learning new skills. With more training sessions planned, we are hoping to compete at the East District and National Championships.

In indoor swimming, the club had representation at the Nationals and a new cohort breaking through at District level, including finalists. Exciting times lie ahead with a younger group now beginning to realise their potential. We look forward to seeing progress develop.

In water polo, our Senior Men won the Men's Scottish National League 2024/2025. Some of our junior teams will be taking part in National League Finals later this month.

We are now looking forward to our summer beach barbecue on 15th June. For membership enquiries please contact portyascmembership@gmail.com

Lucy Scott-Watson



Members of the water polo team

PHOTO: PASC

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