

The Portobello Reporter

ISSUE FOURTEEN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1982 10p

THE NON-PROFITMAKING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
FOR PORTOBELLO AND DISTRICT

POOL SITE — THERE'S HOPE YET!!!

Following a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of the District Council on September 2, hopes are high that the open air pool site will be saved for the community.

Miss McGuire of Kilgour, McNeil & Sime read a statement on behalf of a deputation representing the community urging that the site be retained by the District Council and developed by them in accordance with the wishes of the community *i.e.* as a major leisure and recreation facility. The statement went on to say that we didn't want the site developed exclusively for the use of the community but that such a development would be a major boost to tourism in the City as a whole.

Invaluable

Councillor Ian Berry also supported the plea for the site to be developed and pointed out that if the finance couldn't be easily found from District Council sources, then the community wouldn't be averse to funding for development by private means. He pointed out that this site would be an invaluable

asset to the City and urged that it be advertised for lease, solely and exclusively for recreational development.

Dr Gavin Strang MP, pointed out to the committee that, although he had appeared with various deputations in the past, this was the first time he had done so in the company of a Councillor of different political persuasions. "This," said Dr Strang "is a clear indication of the breadth of feeling and strength of opinion in the community." Dr Strang said that it was absolutely crucial that this site be retained and developed as a major leisure and recreation site for Portobello in particular, and for the City generally.

"This is the only site in Portobello that can be developed for such a purpose."

Suitable Offers

Councillor Mrs Barton

slammed the controlling Conservative group for their apparent desire to sell off as much land as possible. She also made the very good point that the people of Portobello are as entitled to a leisure development as the people of Meadowbank, Craiglockhart etc.

Chairman of the Recreation Committee, Councillor J. Petherick stated that if no suitable offers were made to develop the site as a recreational facility, then he as chairman of the committee concerned would urge that the situation be re-examined. He fully appreciated the need for such a development and would continue to press for it.

Our own Councillor Cavaye also re-affirmed his commitment to the site and fully agreed that it should be developed as a major leisure and recreation facility.

So, there's hope yet! We, on this paper will monitor this situation closely and will remind — if they appear to need reminding — these gentlemen of their pledge to develop the site as a major leisure facility.

H.D.



"A' the time ye're sittin' there watchin' fitba' a Japaneese is makin' a car every four minutes!"

Come on kids! What do YOU want to see in the pool site? Give us your ideas on paper. Fanciful or not, the best plan received will win an album of your choice from the huge stock at Allan's Music. Entries should be in our hands by October 25th. Don't leave it to the last minute though...we've got to select a winner. So get busy and please, black ink on white paper, so that we can print the winning suggestions. If you are not happy about drawing it out — write out your ideas and we'll see what we can manage.

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RESCUE APPEAL
PORTOBELLO WATER SPORTS CLUB — the largest water sports club of its kind in Scotland — need YOUR help! The club are recognised by H.M. Coastguard as an emergency rescue station. However, their present ski boat is unsuitable for rescue work in rough seas and the club would like to purchase a suitable rescue craft to cover the Portobello area.
The total cost of such a craft equipped with VHF Marine Radio, and a trailer would be in the region of £8,000. The club are already appealing to several large companies, but all donations will be most welcome. Donations, made payable to PWSC (Rescue Boat), can be sent to: A. J. TROTTER, 52 BATH STREET, PORTOBELLO.
We have had one tragedy already this year, and several near misses so this rescue boat is absolutely vital. Please send whatever you can afford.

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on Saturday, 25th September

COMMUNITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Aitken, Gwendoline G., 31 Brighton Place.

I am interested in the welfare of the community and if elected I will do my best for Portobello and its citizens. I have many interests locally.

Amos, Marjorie C., 2 Duddingston Square East.

Portobello born; always involved in voluntary service; past service includes Guide Leader, Church activities, swimming organiser, CAB Volunteer, Red Cross, currently convener PADCA Senior Social Club; Drama activities. Aims: community welfare.

Brown, Sheila S., 12 Pittville Street.

Resident in Portobello for 19 years, still raising five children. Assisted in formation of summer playscheme. Interested in maintenance and improvement of local amenities and recreation facilities.

Bullen, Rachel A., 106 High Street.

Shopkeeper and resident of Portobello. Secretary Sir Harry Lauder Society and member of Traders Association and Tourism Development Association. Believes that council will bring community together at all levels.

Calder, Alexander., 5 Windsor Place.

Although not born in Portobello has resided at Windsor Place since 1946. Is a member of Portobello Burns' Club Bowling Club and a founder member of PADCA Drama Group.

Dockerty, Louise Q., 14 Joppa Road.

I have lived in Portobello for 50 years. My special interest is the provision of recreational facilities on a site such as the open air pool, which the district propose to sell.

Elliot, Peter D., 6 Duddingston Gardens North.

Was born and brought up in Portobello and has been active in the area for the past six years. Activities include snooker, badminton and speedway.

Gannon, Thomas, 71 High Street.

Presently unemployed and have a keen interest in all aspects of community life. Hope that the community council will have a re-generative effect on the entire community.

Herd, David E., 18 Bryce Avenue.

Age 36, educated Royal High School and now employed with the Bank of Scotland. Married with three children. Keen cricket umpire.

Heron, Bernadette E., 34 Bath Street.

I enjoy a great many activities in the area and have organised many events for the community. Active member of many associations including PADCA. I think that a community council should contend with all aspects of community life.

Hosie, James D., 24 Duddingston Road.

Born 1926, educated Portobello Secondary School. Re-joined Redpath Brown as accountant after return from forces in 1947. Married with three children. Made redundant last year, started own business this year.

Jenkins-Thomas Marjorie, 33 Seaview Terrace.

Housewife, two young children, lived in Portobello for three years. Very concerned about local facilities particularly the environment. Served on Longniddry CC for 3 years and felt a lot was achieved in that time.

Kyle, Thomas, 7 Rosefield Avenue.

Resident in Portobello for 42 years. Married, retired quality control inspector, now mail exchange supervisor. Regard the community council as an opportunity to return some service to the town and its people.

Lewington, Nicholas, 1/5 Christian Crescent.

Retired, has lived in Christian Crescent for 23 years; member of executive committee East Edinburgh Conservative Association; active in local church; very interested in improving amenities for pensioners and youth alike.

Lindsay, Sylvia, 51 Adelphi Place.

Married with two teenage sons, works as a nurse at the Eastern General. Originally from Yorkshire, has lived in Portobello for 14½ years and thinks of it as home.

McDonald, William S., 72 Duddingston Road.

My wife and I are Portobello born and educated at the High School. I am a member of the Baptist Church, the local bowling club and I recently retired as an accountant and I'm ex 14th Army.

Reid, Hazel, 20 Straiton Place.

Housewife, two daughters growing up and being educated in Portobello. Has been involved in various community organisations. Community Council could be instrumental in improving amenities and bonding existing organisations.

Rendall, George W., 54 Kings Road.

I have been active in the Kings Road Residents' Association, which pressed successfully to improve the street. I am keen to see the Community Council working for an invigorated Portobello.

Shepherd, Margaret M., 281 Milton Road East.

Owner of Portobello Freezer Centre, vice president Tourism Development Association and Merchants and Hoteliers' Association. Local Guide Leader, I care deeply about the development of our community.

Sinclair, Robert L., 6 Bellfield Terrace.

30 years old, chartered engineer, married with two children. As a native of the area, my aim is to return the amenities and status Portobello used to enjoy.

Smith, Nora, 20 Southfield Place.

I'm 29 and have lived in Portobello almost all my life. I feel Portobello has been badly neglected and that a community council will be greatly beneficial to its revitalisation.

Strand, John, 4 Bath Place.

Married with four young children. In business and living locally. Active member of the Merchants and Hoteliers Association and Tourism Development Association. Would like to see many improvements in Portobello.

Wardrope, Lindsay, 11 Straiton Place.

18 years old and a product of the local High School and now employed in the local library. Involved with the local playscheme working party. Ex-youth leader, age and experience are not necessarily synonymous.

Waugh, Margaret, 5 Brighton Place.

Chairperson of PADCA and as such is totally involved in the community. Is interested in all aspects of community life and would like to see the Community Council be a success for the town.

Westwood, Susan, 4 Regent Street.

I have helped organise activities for the community such as The Annual Pancake Race and Portobello Festival. Member of PADCA, PTDA, PM and HA. I care about the community and think the Community Council could be the way for a better deal for Portobello.

Westwood, William, 4 Regent Street.

As a member of PADCA, PTDA and PM and HA I can see that the Community Council would be a great asset in helping all the other associations achieve their goals. Having a recognised government body could be the answer for development in our community.

Whitehead, Margaret, 3 Morton Street.

Aged 33, married with 2 children. Resident in district 9 years. Occupational Therapist specialising in the physically disabled. Interests include access for the disabled, local amenities, dog fouling, community activities.

What About it, Portobello

At a meeting in PADCA on the 5th August, Mrs Netta Sinclair of Edinburgh District Council, explained the intricacies of community councils to a responsive audience. Under the able chairmanship of Mrs Margaret Waugh, Mrs Sinclair set out the basic purpose of the community council and answered questions on them from the audience.

Several people seem to be confused about the purpose and even the validity of such a council. Some confusion ranged round the issue of the relationship of the community council and PADCA. They are two entirely separate organisations and each has their own function. For the community council to do its job properly it will need the co-operation of PADCA, just as it will need the same co-operation from every other community group in the town. Other areas have community councils and community associations, why not Portobello? The main point to remember is, a community council is a positive asset to any community.

Statute

Organisations such as PADCA are voluntary in all respects and cannot be deemed to speak for the whole community. Should the district council feel they need to canvas local opinion on any subject it is the community council that they will turn to, not any of the other associations. This is no reflection on PADCA or anyone else, it simply means that the community council is a statutory body and as such, must be kept informed by the district council. On such matters as public house licensing, the community council have immediate access to all applications — a right denied to anyone else. As a statutory body, the district or regional councils MUST take heed of the opinions of the community council. So, in these respects the community coun-

cil is a great asset to any community and not something to be afraid of or to shy away from.

What It's Not

Concern was also expressed at the meeting about the future of our existing district and regional councillors — Messrs Cavaye and Berry take note, your public are concerned about your welfare — but these fears are groundless. The community council is not designed to take over the responsibilities of these august gentlemen, but rather to complement them. Think of the community council as a bridge between the various layers of government from the national to the district and you are beginning to get the picture. It is a liaison body and is without power in the sense that the district and the region have power. What it can, and indeed, should, do is to provide an 'umbrella' for all the various local organisations in the community. A forum for all the distinctly community based matters. Community councils in other areas have run Gala days, organised local festivals, some have even provided employment by sponsoring schemes in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission to enrich the areas in which they function.

It is worth saying again that there is nothing to be afraid of in a community council.

Set Up

Some people at the meeting were not too sure about how the council was set up. Firstly, twenty people from the community request that the District Council, who have responsibility for CC's, prepare to have an election. These twenty people must be on the electoral roll and reside in the area in question. That step completed, the District Council then advertise the fact that a request for a community council has been made and they set the machinery in mo-



"— An' it's ma intention tae see that Portobello gets it's full share o' ony apathy that's goin'!"

tion by asking for nominations from interested local groups/individuals. The council for this area will consist of twenty elected members and twenty nominated members. What's the difference between them? Simple really. The elected members are individuals, that is, they don't represent any particular group or organisation and the nominated representatives are those who have been nominated by their group or organisation to represent their interests on the council. By the time your read this, this part will be long completed.

The actual poll itself is interesting and rather different from the normal ballot. If, for example, thirty individual nominations are received, all thirty names go on the ballot paper. Each voter has up to twenty votes and can use them all or part of them. Polling will take place on three different days in three different places. In our case the dates are, 14, 15 and 16 September from 4.00 p.m. till 9.00 p.m. After all the votes are cast and the polls are closed the count begins. The 'top twenty' are selected on the basis of those with the most votes win. After this the district council will invite the groups to a meeting to decide — amicably — who is going to represent their interests if there are more than the stipulated number, in this case twenty. If only 10 groups

register for the twenty places, each nominee has two votes on the council. So the Council consists of a maximum of 40 people.

Incidentally . . . if you thought that the regional poll was low, around 46%, the highest recorded in a community council election in this area is 4%.

The Council is funded by the district council to the extent of a block grant of £700 plus 2p per head on the electoral register, each year in our case this is about £1,100. The council for this area will have to have its first meeting before 5th October. All meetings of the Community Council are public meetings except those dealing with specific business. A Community Council, by its very nature, is multi-political and NOT subject to the whims of one or other of the major political parties.

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EDITORIAL

GETTING TOGETHER

Two major Portobello issues this time — the future of the pool site (see front page) and the Community Council (see page 2). You can see how important an elected community council is. If we had had one sooner, the district council would have had a duty to refer to it BEFORE making any decisions on the pool site, not blithely by-passing us all. Mind you, it was again only at the eleventh hour that effective, unified Portobello action got together. This co-ordination would also be a routine job for a community council. So far, it has been coincidence when the different organisations found themselves working in the same direction. It must have looked to the District Council like blind-folded people trying to square-dance without the music — a subject for amusement rather than to be taken seriously.

DIFFERENCES

So getting together on the council is an important first step. Getting together also means the differences of opinion can be uncovered and worked out. This has begun to happen as we sift out the views on the pool site's future. And we are pleased to find that we have so many people nominated for the community council that it is going to go to an election.

BUT PEOPLE OF PORTOBELLO, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU TAKE THIS ELECTION SERIOUSLY. At this level your vote is literally a thousand times more important than in other general or local elections. We are pledged with the task of choosing people to look after our very own community. **PLEASE GO OUT AND VOTE. YOUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON A STRONG PORTOBELLO.**

The Community Council needs a broad representation of interests and ideas. It needs people who can take the time and energy to make it work. We are pleased that included in the nominees are people who were publicly stating their opposition to the concept of a community council only a week before the next election we hope they don't change their minds back again. We hope that these particular differences of opinion can be hammered out and forged together — for the sake of the community.

At the end of the day (or rather at the end of the three days) the community council will be what YOU the electors make it. Above all else, for ALL our sakes, **MAKE IT WORK!**

SUMMER FUN

A great deal of hard work went into producing the various summer entertainments this, and every year. Many more people are involved than could easily be mentioned here and it would be unfair to select one or two. So, to all of you who have worked so hard on behalf of us all, thank-you.

As usual is you would like to contribute to the paper or let us know what your organisation has planned, our address is c/o The Citizens Advice Bureau, 191 High Street, Portobello. Individually we are: PADDY ROSS, 59 Promenade, 669 7857; SUE HURFORD, 669 1573; BILL DAVIDSON, 9 James Street, 669 7109; HARRY DAWSON, 669 7575; JOHN and LESLEY DANZIG, 13 Argyle Crescent, 669 5300; MAUREEN and NICK CHILD, 8 Lee Crescent, 669 2184; FRANNY WRAITH, 10 Lee Crescent, 669 5790; SEPH TURNER and DICKIE ALEXANDER.

Val Baker has joined us lately and she will be concentrating on Duddingston as well as helping out down 'ere. Good to have you along Val. Don't mind Nick, he's always like that!

TEEN SEEN

Will Portobello ever be Portobello again?

By Graeme Galloway (14)

In the early twentieth century Portobello was an extremely popular holiday resort. Many trains used to come from Glasgow and the west of Scotland carrying thousands of holidaymakers on both day trips and annual holidays. The popularity of this holiday resort is decreasing rapidly and I feel that something should be done about it. Many people feel that it simply needs a facelift in order to turn it into the popular and enjoyable holiday resort that it used to be.

Friendly People

Portobello beach has all the potential of developing into a picturesque and desirable resort. Portobello deserves to be popular again because of the friendly people and the terrific service from all the shops in the High Street, which, since the good old days, has hardly changed.

One tragic, environmental loss which struck this resort was when the swimming pool closed down due to lack of finance. Less people were using it because it was becoming very 'grotty'. If a new, and modern, swimming pool was built (especially an indoor one) there would definitely be a lot of people wishing to use it.

There should also be more modernised sports facilities like new Tennis courts, putting greens and trampoline centres. A youth club could be introduced for the teenagers to go to every week. The beach area could be redeveloped to a certain extent and there could be more shops and fun stalls where holidaymakers could buy or win various souvenirs and gifts. These sports centres, shops and stalls would make a tremendous amount of money. A brand new 'Fun City' could also be made and this also, would receive large amounts of money from the public.

Things to do

The main idea of this report is to make Portobello attract the holidaymakers that it used to. The only way it would be able to do this is if there were plenty of things for people to do. I don't want to see Portobello become too commercialised but a lot of re-development would make the friendly residents and the potential holidaymakers extremely happy again to have a beautiful holiday resort to go to. If these developments are carried out the only thing that would stop thousands of people pouring into Portobello, would be the weather!

PORTOBELLO AMENITY SOCIETY

The Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) is now the title of the old Abercorn Amenity Society, whose name gave the false impression that it was only a local Daisy Park residents association. The name now reflects the interest in amenity, conservation and planning for the whole of Portobello and surrounding area. So all those who want to, can take part in conserving and planning for our township. PAS is increasingly recognized for its work with other local organisations and the authorities.

Two dozen or so active members have got through a lot of enjoyable work at our fortnightly meetings (dates usually in the Community Diary on the desk of the Library). Anyone keen enough will be welcomed at these meetings (member or not) and received the minutes circulated after each one. For further information contact any of the following: Stephen Whitehead (669 2122, Chairman), Patrick Herraghty (669 4013, Secretary), James Dewar (669 7969, Treasurer), Charlie Terry (669 3647), Gill Anderson (669 4190), Helen Kirsopp (669 4153), Peter Wraith (669 5790). You could show your support by joining (£1 per household per year to James Dewar, 19 Abercorn Terrace) and getting our newsletters.

This year we plan to have a special topic every second meeting. Apart from the joint pool site meeting (see p. 00) topics that will take us up to the end of the year are: the Promenade area at the foot of Marlborough St, more effective plans to get the most stagnant or disused buildings in Portobello on the move (see Update p. 00), and intermediate traffic plans that we can push for before final ones can be drawn up when we know what the new road's effects will be.

RETIRAL AT ST. JOHNS

Mrs Margaret Wood, who has been on the staff of St John's School since 1958, has retired. Initially a cleaner, Mrs Wood became the auxilliary in 1971, a post she filled with great success.

No job was too difficult for her and she could always be relied upon to perform her tasks in a skilful and cheerful fashion. Mrs Wood is loved by everyone in the school and she will be sorely missed by all.

Everyone at the school and her many friends in, and around Portobello will wish Margaret a long and happy retirement.

Portobello People:

JOHN and ELSIE COLLIER

by PADDY ROSS

John and Elsie came to Portobello in 1956 with their two small girls, Lee (8) and Sara (6). The children went to Towerbank for a while then to the Steiner School in Colinton Road. Elsie likes Portobello because at first there was the sea and the sand and a quiet street to come home to, and now also because the feeling of being in a community is strengthened by the Reporter, PAD-CA and the Festival. In fact they both thoroughly enjoyed Portobello Festival.

Elsie worked for the Audiology Unit for 13 years testing the hearing of children all over the region and prior to that was a "painter and decorator" for Buchan's Pottery. When the boys in the jolly shop above her ran anywhere with the clay, bits of clay and glaze would drop onto the girls' heads! All that for 3/7½ an hour! Johnny works as a teacher for partially hearing children at St. Giles and has a warm affection for them and their problems, growing up in a society which is neither very welcoming or supportive.

CURIOSITY

Their interest in China rose in a fairly odd way from the Korean War and an interest in the China Peace Movement. At that time, work at Murphy Radios was seasonal and the firm wished to increase their exports and they saw China as a possible market. Johnny, who has training in economics was interested in the trade between Britain and China and he had become very excited by a book by Mao Tse Tung on building socialism. His union were affiliated to the then British China Friendship Association and after moving to Edinburgh, Johnny visited China for six weeks. By 1965, Elsie had also developed an interest in China and when the association split into two — one for England, one for Scotland — she became the first Scot's secretary.

Carried away by their interest and natural curiosity, they applied for, and got, a two year teaching post. They spent two very happy years there and have returned on several occasions since. The last visit in 1981. There is now great encouragement from the authorities both in tourism and in sending students from China to study in foreign parts.

FRIENDSHIPS

There are now more trade links with China and other countries and particularly in the cities the interest in foreigners is stimulated by their presence. Although 80% of the population live in the country the students come home and talk to their communities about their experiences abroad.

Johnny and Elsie are very fond of China and of the friendships which have grown stronger over the years. Elsie treasures the memory of returning from work in the fields and passing another group of workers, women who were building a bridge. One of the women rushed up to Elsie, her face beaming with delight, and grasped her hand. Proudly she declared that if it hadn't been for Mao Tse Tung she would have been crippled by foot binding, unable to build bridges and would never have been able to grasp the hand of a foreign worker in the field.

The old chestnut of the "inscrutable Chinese" was part of the ethos of the educated Chinese. The workers and peasants are very similar to the Scots with a very awky sense of humour and a respect for education and a love and loyalty to family ethics which reminded Johnny and Elsie of the Scots very strongly. In fact, they were more aware of parallels with the Scots than of any differences. They share our inbuilt disrespect for pompous officialdom and although the communist party is the dominating factor in government, it is also strongly linked into the social ethos. Life in China is traditionally less individual and more community orientated. Factories, for example, tend to have houses, schools and health facilities around them and everyone is aware of working for the state and therefore for their friends and neighbours. Although it seems that Chinese women have achieved a great deal of equality much remains to be done. There, as here, boy babies are deemed to be better than girl babies by many people. When will they ever learn?

Johnny and Elsie hope to visit China again soon, but in the meantime they are very happy at home in Portobello.

Good to see the clock at Portobello Old Parish joining in the revival after an 'illness' lasting twenty years. Apparently the new minister played about with it till it gave in and started working. Obviously a man of many talents. . . .

First meeting of the East Edinburgh Gramophone Society will be on Friday, October, 1st at 178, High Street, Portobello. New members will be welcome.

Olive Oyle's Portobello Pantry



SPICED APPLE CAKE

6oz Short crust pastry	½tsp grated nutmeg
1lb cooking apples	3oz chopped almonds
4oz Brown sugar	Knobs of margarine
1tsp Ground cinnamon	

Method:

Line swiss roll tin with pastry and cover with overlapping pieces of thinly sliced apple. Mix together, brown sugar, spices and chopped nuts, sprinkle evenly over the apples. Dot with shavings of margarine and bake at gas mark 6 or 400° for 30-40 minutes. Allow to cool and cut into squares when cold.



"Here's that sick squid I owe you"

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GARDENING

by Grass Roots



With the approach of autumn, many plants stop growing and start to lay down their winter stores. Onions, carrots, parsnips and turnips will, in the next month, put most of their growth into their roots and bulbs. Other plants lay down flower buds for next year's crop. The next months work should include jobs designed to improve this and next year's harvest.

Know Your Onions

In the vegetable garden, the onions should not only be kept well watered and weed free but also given a feed with nitrogen to build up the bulbs. Too much nitrogen can however lead to an increase in basal rot, so it may be better to use a balanced fertilizer where the potash content in the feeding will give the bulbs a degree of disease resistance. An alternative is to feed with nitrogen and to spray with a fungicide such as Benlate to combat the rot problem. Bend over the foliage near the neck of the bulbs and scrape the soil away from the base of the bulbs. The sunshine will reach the bulbs more easily with the foliage bent down and the soil scraped away. Lift the bulbs around mid September and hang them up to dry in a warm sunny place. Onions are a very useful winter vegetable and valuable ingredient for that pot of winter broth, but usually they are going off by April and May of the following year. This onion gap can easily be filled by sowing the winter hardy Japanese onions now. Shop around and buy at least one packet and sow them in the area left by the early potatoes. The directions on the packet tell you to sow them at about 1/2" deep and it is worthwhile dusting the seed with Benlate to stop any over-winter rotting. These onions are perfectly hardy and will if sown thinly and kept weed free produce good useable onions by next May and early June.

As Bold as Brassica

Still in the vegetable garden, now is the time to sow spring cabbage. Choose a variety such as APRIL, McEWANS or HARBINGER. Sow the seeds 1/4" deep in a fertile site and once large enough plant them out at 12" x 12" in their final growing position. They will hopefully provide you with some greens in February and March and succulent, well hearted cabbage during April and May.

If you can find them, you still have time to plant winter

sprouting broccoli. It is rather late in the season however and you will need to tend them carefully between now and late October if you want a good crop next spring. Plant them out at 15" apart and try to keep them growing for as long as possible because their size on going into the winter is directly proportional to their rate of cropping next spring.

Pruning

Work in the fruit garden involves pruning. Raspberries, which cropped exceptionally well this year, now require thinning out. Prune out all the old fruiting canes and thin the young ones to around 8 per plant. This work is required to help the young canes ripen before winter and to allow air to circulate around the plants to keep down disease. Blackcurrants also require thinning out now. Prune out as much of the old wood as possible and leave the young vigorous growth untouched. The normal ration of one, two and three year old wood in a properly pruned bush should be 1:1:1.

Strawberries should be cleaned up, their foliage cut back and the runners cut off. Feed the plants with potash during September and dig up and throw out any plants over three years old. Strawberries fruit best during their first and second year and plants older than two years start to decline. It happens to us all when we grow old.

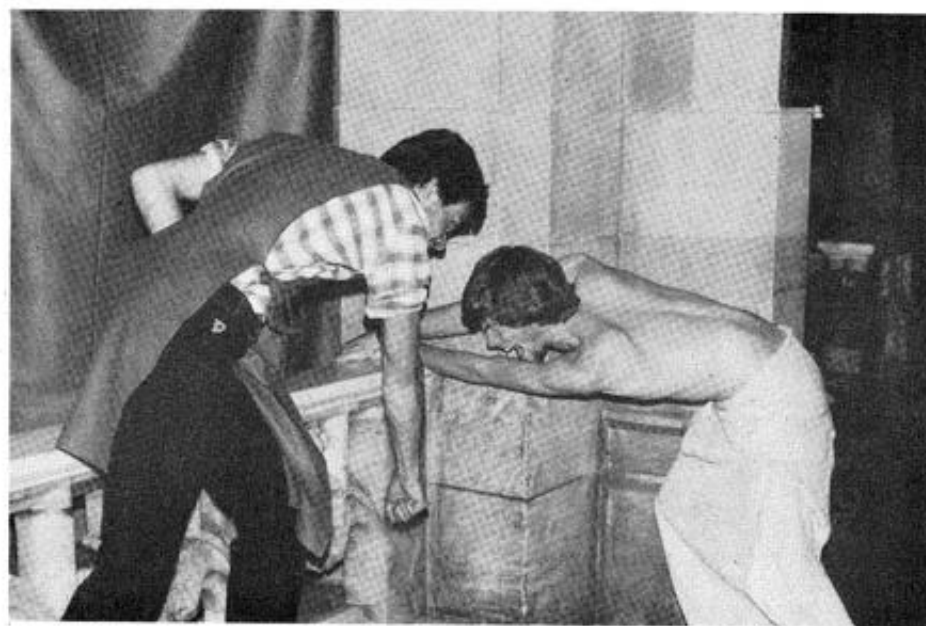
Keep an eye open for the first of the spring bulbs in the shops. Snowdrops, Daffodils, Hyacinths and Tulips or Crocus can be planted in September/October but more of that later.

Grass Roots

NEW DIRECTOR

The Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh has a new director, Patrick Sandford. Born in Paris, raised in Northumberland and presently domiciled in Northern Ireland, Patrick has a great deal of experience in the theatre. He is very happy to be working in Musselburgh and promises a programme of popular but quality plays in an effort to pull in as many people as possible to the theatre.

The new Autumn season, the fourth, starts on October 4th and runs till November 27th and full details are available from the theatre.



A scene from "Mandala"

The Mandala

by FW

The production of "The Mandala" by St. John's Youth Group in the Town Hall and part of the Festival Fringe, was an enjoyable and moving entertainment.

Kenneth Lynch gave a wonderful performance of Jesus of Nazareth. His Christ was gentle and humble, fierce and determined and overall, wholly convincing. Paul Tansey as Caiaphas had a splendid strong voice and played his part with great subtlety and power, and was ably supported by the other 'Jews'. Pontius Pilate was played by Kevin Glancy and he made that character seem very real. He was the scornful, bored, colonial official to the life.

Light was used to good effect, warm and mellow in the Last Supper scene and bleak in the scene of Christ's Temptation. This scene, when Christ surrenders to the Will of God, was one of the most powerful in the play. Here, the Devil, played by Graeme Taylor, made a brief but terrifying appearance.

The cast, whose ages range from 14-20, is too large to mention individually, but each person played their part with a freshness and sincerity that would have shamed many a professional company. Touches like soldiers crucifying Jesus in a matter of fact, not unkind manner, thus portraying the ordinariness of evil were what made this play so gripping, and so true.

The music, written by Linda Spears and played by herself and Elizabeth Gillam and Lee Paterson, enhanced an enjoyable performance. Everyone associated with this production, the producers, directors, costume department, sound and lighting crews, and all the others can be very proud of the production.

The scene near the end of a single spotlight shining on an empty cross while clear voices sang the final song was calculated to make anyone, believer or not, pause and reflect. What more can one say?

MAC MORRIS

Following the appearance of the very popular Morris Dancers on the prom during the summer I heard various veiled references to 'English Rubbish' etc. Not true actually. Scotland has its own Morris dance tradition. There are references to Morris dancing in Edinburgh as early as 1518.

H.D.

"A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE"

by BO'M

"The Boys In The Band"

What a superb spell of weather we had during July — it made me feel I was living in some exotic continental sunspot rather than dear old Porty. During the heatwave I spent some time lying on the beach reading magazines and books that normally I don't have time to glance at. For example one day I bought all the popular music magazines, like *Melody Maker* and *N.M.E.* and lay in the sun studying them.

LISPING LEMONS

Now I'm not exactly the

Later on during the 17th century it was well established in places like Elgin, Aberdeen and Perth. Perth Museum has an ancient Morris dancing costume on display.

Shetland has a sword dance still danced at Papa Stour, which was described at some length by Sir Walter Scott. There are also scripts of Mumming Plays from lowland Scotland which are still being performed. There was a revival of Morris Dancing in Edinburgh in 1928 which lasted some eleven years. The present side were formed in 1972 and are one of many now in existence in Scotland. Feminists take note: this is not purely a male preserve. Several ladies sides are now in existence and some of them are even quite good. Jenny Geddes Clog are excellent and there is a straight morris side composed of ladies from, I think, Kilmarnock.

Morris dancing looks kinda sissy, it certainly aint! A high standard of physical fitness is required and not a little strength and endurance, not to mention the brass neck!

Lothian's Morris Men will be performing throughout the area on September 4th and 11th and if you haven't seen them yet, try and make the effort.

most hip fellow in town but, there again, I haven't lost it all yet (apart from some of my hair) and the biggest problem I had was in understanding what they were talking (or writing) about. When I was a lad I remember they stopped making records on 78 rpm and introduced non-breakable records on vinyl. I used to call these "L.P.s" (for Long Players) but then during the 70's I was advised that this was "uncool" and I should call them "albums". So I was perturbed to read the following:

"At the start of his review of the Dexys Midnight Runners record 'Jig-A-Jig' Phil McNeill tells us that 'all Rowlands music is inextricably linked and the new L.P. takes this to an extreme'. But later he writes that 'this is no L.P. this is an album'. Yet in his essay on the sleeve of the 'Show Me' single the lisp-ing lemon himself tells us that 'Dexy's are not a band, we don't play gigs and we don't make albums.' I'm confused."

Hm, so am I, LISPING LEMON indeed!

CAPITALIST POPULAR CULTURE AND YOU

The standard of journalism was also remarkable high — do the kids really understand articles like the one which quoted Nietzsche and Goethe and made the following comment about a new hit single:

"The emotion that Yazoo embody in 'Don't Go' and what they get back as gratification — fame and the enjoyment of their own image — cannot at present be distinguished within the terms of a capitalist popular culture."

So now you know — and when your kids start singing the latest Hot Chocolate hit

CRYH



sound just give them a wink, quote them the paragraph above and add a bit about the group being the soft belly of post-Marley Reggae development. Note the new look of respect in their eyes.

Lib/SDP BANDWAGON

Now you probably think I'm making the next bit up — but I'm not and I've cut out the article to prove it — so here's a quote from the *New Musical Express* August 14th:

"The Liberal leader, David Steel, has turned politics into pop with a song called 'I Feel Liberal — Alright'. Over a funky rhythm he can be heard rapping slogans like 'You can help me change the face of British politics' while the backing vocals urge listeners to vote the dapper Scot."

The records was made in New York and the producer is quoted as saying: "I like the guy and I want to see him become Prime Minister."

So I asked our Cub Reporter, young Harold, to go out with his notebook and find out what he could about the Portobello Political Pop scene. His article is printed below.

BO'M

"CUMMON GAAVIN"

A short look at the in-scene by Cub Reporter young Harold.

Berry's Balm Breezes have a new album "Paddling on the Pool Site" which is selling well despite the unfortunate mis-spelling of the title on the front cover.

Cavey's Cosy Corners are hoping to have a successful hit next May and are sticking to their current record label.

The PADCA Centre based group Bamarama Mama may lose some members to the new Community Council Cornets which will be formed later this year but it's hoped the two will harmonise together and keep on the same rpm's.

Latest news of the supergroups Gavin's Midnight Runners is that a follow up is being planned to the chart topping "I Ain't Cruising Anymore" which had thousands dancing in the streets throughout Europe. The group may be working on a new leftwards venture to be entitled "Benn They Begin Mr Beguin" which was described by their A and R man as "not so much a song as a concept set to words and music". Not bad eh?

The Hungry Mouth

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FESTIVAL FILM

Tuesday, 20th July at the Sands Hotel saw a gathering of some of those involved in the Portobello Festival. The occasion was the showing of a film made by Tony King. The film showed the festival parade and the subsequent hilarity at the park. Also on view was a film Tony made of this years Victorian Splash along with one of last years. The differences were amazing. The main one being the huge increase in popularity of this event.

Norrie McHara provided some excellent accordion music and the evening was much enjoyed by all who attended. The chance to see the other floats in the procession was much appreciated since the only drawback to being on a float is you miss the rest of the procession. The evening was organised by Dave Allan. Thanks Dave. Thanks also to Tony King for the films and Norrie for the music.

XMAS FAIR

Last year we organised a Xmas Fair in the Town Hall. It was a great success and we have organised another one for this year. The date is Saturday, December 11th from 2.00 - 5.00 p.m. Some stalls are still available. If you would like a stall for your organisation please contact any of the editorial board at the phone numbers listed under the editorial on page 4.

Among the new features this year, we hope to have a creche in the upstairs hall to give the parents time, and peace, to visit the stalls downstairs.

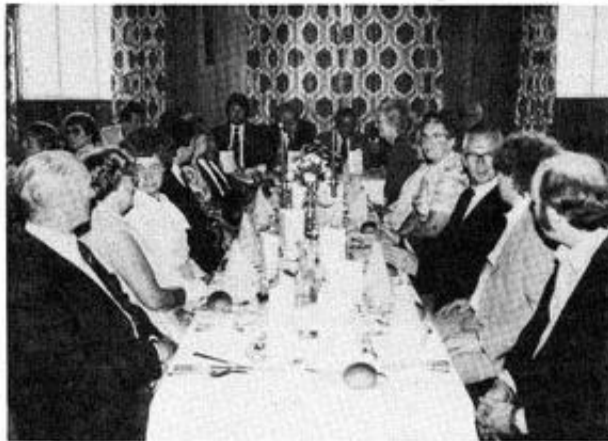
LAUDER FESTIVAL GREAT SUCCESS

This year's Sir Harry Lauder Festival, a joint promotion between the Lauder Society and the Tourism Development Association, was a great success. The exhibition included a variety of material including some fine prints of old Portobello. The costumes on show were loaned by the Hamilton Museum and were arranged by the PTDA. The Lauder Society were pleased to mount their display of memorabilia much of which has been gathered over the years and has been donated or loaned to the society.

David Trigg, from Yorkshire, put on a marvellous display of old phonographs, posters and photographs of Lauder and some of his contemporaries. One gratifying aspect of the display was the interest shown by many of the younger generation toward the mechanics of the old machinery.

Jim Lawrie and Gordon Macrae put on a very well presented display of old Portobello using postcards and blown up photographs. This went down very well with the locals and the visitors alike. It was of special interest to those who had made a nostalgic visit to Portobello and brought back many a fond memory.

In all some 600 people attended the exhibition and tea, coffee and biscuits were provided by Mr Bill Westwood who donated the proceeds to the funds of the PTDA.



Some of the dignitaries and guests at the Kings Manor



Pat Layhe, Alex Bryce and guests (SPD)

LAUDER LUNCH

The Third Annual Lauder Lunch took place within the Kings Manor Hotel on Wednesday, 4th August, Lauder's birth date.

Principal guest and speaker was Mr Larry Marshall, the television and cabaret entertainer. Other guests included David Trigg who had travelled from his home in Yorkshire, Audrey Bullen, secretary of the Lauder Society, Mrs Betty Hamilton, a great niece of Sir Harry, and her husband Councillor Jim Petherick and Mr Bill Abbott from the British Music Halls Society.

Larry Marshall gave his talk in his usual ebullient manner and it was very interesting to hear a current Scottish comedian on the subject of perhaps, the greatest Scots comedian of them all. Larry admitted that he had never met Sir Harry, but did say that he and Sir Harry had worked with, and shared some of the same friends. It was from the information supplied by them that Larry gave his insight into the character and the man that Sir Harry was — a larger than life comic in public, but was also a man who cherished his privacy. This conclusion was reached due to the fact that none of his friends spoke of the private man. Whether they did this out of respect for Sir Harry or because they did not know the private man, we do not know.

Thanks must be made to Mr Alex Bryce, President of the PTDA, who compered the proceedings in his usual charming and disarming way.

A special mention must go to Mr Solly and the staff of the Kings Manor Hotel, who served an excellent lunch of traditional Scottish Fayre. This was washed down with some excellent wine courtesy of Mr Eddie Ramsay, owner

of Misty's Nite Spot which will be opening shortly.

In conclusion, I can safely add that all present enjoyed themselves hugely, and I am sure that next year's lunch will be as well supported as this one.

Patricia MacLeod
PTDA

There were many nostalgic moments. Like the very elderly gentleman who had come all the way from Gourrock. He informed us that he had worked on the estate for Sir Harry and he was delighted to see so many pictures of him and Glen Branter. Moments like these make it all worthwhile.

A.B.

The evening of the 4th August, and the Lauder Society held their annual celebration of the birth of Sir Harry. Society members travelled from London, Ayr, Hamilton, Alloa, Cupar and Edinburgh. This is a great night for the members as they get a chance to talk, sing and watch Lauder on film.

Seven new members enrolled during the festival and secretary Audrey Bullen described that as "almost a birthday present". Three from Portobello, three from Edinburgh and a joint membership from Canada. The societies members now extend to England, Wales, Majorca, Australia, Canada, many parts of the USA, as well as Portobello and the rest of Scotland.

FESTIVAL FOR DUDDINGSTON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th is the date for the first Duddingston Village Festival. Starting at 12 noon and going on till 5.00 p.m. there is a varied selection of events to see and take part in.

The Festival is being opened by the Marquis of Bute and the organisers predict a most unusual and entertaining afternoon. The Kirk Garden will be opened and will have plants and produce on sale.

In the evening the Kirk will be the venue for a Concert of 17th and 18th Century Music. The Manse will have an Exhibition of Paintings by the Rev. J. Thompson, Pastor of the Kirk in 1805 and a friend of Sir Walter Scott.

An Exhibition of curling memorabilia will also be on show — most appropriately since the first rules of curling were formulated on Duddingston Loch in 1795. Elsewhere there will be a Photographic Exhibition showing Duddingston over the past twenty years and based on pictures of the village and its surroundings, taken by a local resident. Another resident, who has written a book on the history of the village, will be conducting a Historical "Walkabout".

Further entertainments include Folk Groups, Jazz Bands, Morris and Clog Dancing, Majorettes and Artists from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, all performing in the streets of the village.

One novel feature will be an auction. The novelty? The "goods" will be coaching sessions by professionals on golf, skiing and guitar. The highest bidder gets the coaching of

his/her choice. Also on offer will be a balloon trip and antiques and household items. A street market will be in operation with many and varied stalls and attractions including the chance to win a Ford car with one throw of the dice. A lunchtime barbecue and teas in the Church Hall take care of the refreshment side.

NOTE — the village will be completely closed to traffic but there will be adequate parking facilities in the grounds of Holyrood High School. Duddingston is also within easy walking distance of Portobello and is on the bus route.



"Shep Heid"

Where Prince Charlie stayed prior to the Battle of Prestonpans



WOULD BE FILM STARS TO THE FORE

Apart from all the attendant publicity given by the press, radio and TV etc, David Trigg came prepared to make a film. So, amidst scenes of great hilarity, some of those involved played at being producers, cameramen, lighting technicians and actors! The highlight of this venture was David persuading Lauder Vice Chairman, George Flockhart to wear Sir Harry's kilt, Balmoral, socks, jacket and sporran. Mrs Margaret Shepherd, Vice Chairlady of the PTDA was rigged out in Victorian costume and off they went. Sir Harry and Lady Lauder! Along the High Street to Bridge Street where, courtesy of Jill Hogg, they entered Sir Harry's birthplace. Nothing daunted, they proceeded along the prom, up Bath Street and back to the Town Hall.

As a spectator I was able to watch the reactions of motorists and other innocent passers-by, and they were quite something! The pay off has got to be George Flockhart's wife, who saw the pair on the High Street. When George returned for his tea she wanted to know why Margaret had been all dressed up and who was the man? She hadn't recognised her nearest and dearest!

Saturday, 7th August, and the Ceilidh in the PADCA Centre saw the end of the week's festivities. Over 100 people attended this event including visitors from America, England, Ireland and Wales. One girl had attended the International Guide Camp at Penicuik and she was thrilled when asked to draw the raffle.

A special group came all the way from Joppa! Mr and Mrs George Kinghorn, of Esplanade Terrace, were leaving to visit their son in Australia. Some of their neighbours came along to the Ceilidh and bade them farewell. Tony King filmed the happy occasion. Bon Voyage to Mr and Mrs Kinghorn.

We were provided with wonderful entertainment. A beautiful selection of songs from a lovely lady, Cathy McAlpine; the Grace Boyle Dancers delighted us all with their excellent dancing. Visitors and locals alike tapped their feet to the marvellous bagpipe skills of Colin Thomson (of Health Food Shop fame). Who says we don't have talent in Porty?

Bill and Susan Westwood and staff provided an excellent supper and the John Wilson Duo provided the music for dancing.

The PTDA would like to thank everyone who made this a most memorable and enjoyable occasion.

M.S.

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PLAY MISTY'S FOR ME

By the time you read this a major new facility should be open in the town. After reconstruction lasting some two and a half years the former Central Cinema and Bingo Hall at the east end of the High Street has been transformed into the most modern night spot in the East of Scotland. **MISTYS** is a different world. No sign of slap happy workmanship here, the whole place reeks of quiet opulence and the entire design is one of the best that I have seen in the country. At last we have a facility capable of putting Portobello back on the map.

Owner Eddie Ramsay and his partner Bill Walker have made a substantial investment in this venture and it deserves to succeed. Half a million pounds is still a lot of money — it is also a strong statement of commitment and a testimony to faith in the future.

No expense has been spared in turning this once near derelict shell into the finest night club in the area. The furnishings, from the carpet upwards, have been specially designed and made, the sound and lighting systems have been tailored to suit the needs of the building, the heating and ventilation system is the most modern in Europe. But through it all one can sense an awareness of care. Eddie has gone to great lengths to get everything just right.

Dance Floor

The ground level contains **MISTYS NITE SPOT** proper and Eddie points out that

casual dress will not be acceptable here. Collar and tie please and the staff aim to reinforce this point by always being properly attired themselves.

The dance floor has a built in lighting system and mist machine and the clever use of mirrors makes the place look ten times the size. A fully functional bar declares "Welcome to Mistys" and manager Charlie Cawkwell and his wife Shirley are there to back up the welcome. Charlie and Shirley are well known and respected in the trade and have wide experience of managing night clubs. They will be on hand constantly to advise and help in any way they can.

At the time of writing admission charges have still to be finalised but Eddie assures me that they will be extremely reasonable and competitive. So, for that night out with a difference try Mistys. Food prepared by a fully qualified Chef is available and the Nite Spot will be open from 8 till late. Incidentally, Charlie is adamant that Mistys will cater for all tastes and to reinforce his point he played the first record they ever had on the brand new sound system. Apparently they were desperate to hear what the system sounded like and borrowed a record to try it out. All they could get was a single of Harry Secombe singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. He now refuses to part with it!

Conferences

Upstairs from the nite spot is the Harry Lauder Lounge

Bar and Function Suite. Two separate rooms actually. The function suite has its own facilities and is completely self-contained and can hold up to 120. The facilities include a dance floor, stage and a fully equipped kitchen. The function suite will be able to cater for parties, weddings — Eddie has a brand new Rolls Royce which he will provide to ferry the happy couple back to Mistys — conferences etc. If you have a function coming off and would like more details give Charlie or Shirley a ring, they will be delighted to advise. The function suite also has its own toilet and cloakroom accommodation and of course a bar.

Next door to the function suite is the Harry Lauder Lounge. The perfect place to disappear to for that quiet drink. Naturally the decor is unashamedly Scots but it is also genuine. No plastic 'stone' here but the real McCoy. Eddie tells me it took 60 tons of stone to create the surroundings in the bar — well worth it. Having had my fill of plastic pubs of late I was ready for something different. It's funny how the wee things take up most of the time. Eddie scoured the city looking for just the right lights for the lounge and the function suite and eventually he was successful. It's attention to details like that that makes Mistys that extra bit special.

Opening hours in the lounge will be from 11.00 a.m. till 12 midnight. Bar lunches will be available. Eddie intends to have entertainment upstairs with the very best of

entertainers taking part and hopes to appeal to the local tastes as well as the tourist market.

Safety

Throughout the design of the club, special attention has been paid to the safety aspects. No matter which door you go through you are faced with a fire exit. Once again the fine points are well thought out and nothing has been missed.

The most common source of complaint in this type of building is the noise. Once again great attention has been paid to reducing this to a point where it ceases to exist. Standing outside the front door or even walking round the building, no sound can be heard from within. This will be a great boon to those living near by who might otherwise be disturbed. Rest easy, there's no chance of disturbance.

Help

Eddie is quick to recognise all the help he has had from various people in the community and in particular he would like to thank: Drew Kennedy, Eric Langham, Bill Westwood, Mrs J. Buchanan, Mrs M. Waugh, Cath Dunlop and Audrey Bullen. To all the others who have helped, Eddie is extremely grateful and would like to take this opportunity of thanking them.

Enterprise

This kind of venture can only be good for the whole town and we can all share in the success of Mistys. It will



Charlie, Shirley and that record (SPD)



Outside Misty's complete with Rolls Royce (SPD)

give us another lever in our continuing battle for a share of the tourist market. Eddie says he will be happy to let the kids play in the nite spot while their parents enjoy a quiet drink or a meal upstairs. Think what that will mean on a wet day, Oh that the District Council were half as enterprising as Mr Ramsay and his colleagues. There cannot be much wrong with our town if we can boast facilities like these.

Footnote: Bill Westwood tells us that after Eddie had collected his brand new Rolls someone rushed into the Porty Grill saying, "I think somebody has just stolen that Rolls Royce. It's being driven by a guy in old working clothes!". Eddie, you see, relishes the chance of getting his hands dirty and has spent a lot of time on his hands and knees doing all sorts of jobs during the course of construction.

* MISTYS NITE SPOT *

HARRY LAUDER FUNCTION SUITE

HARRY LAUDER LOUNGE BAR

HIGH STREET, PORTOBELLO

Tel.: 031-657 3159



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MISTYS

BAR LUNCHES — EVENING MEALS

Nite Spot Open 8.00 p.m. till Late
Lounge Bar open 11.00 a.m. - Midnight

UPDATE

Portobello has a collection of chronic problems — and we don't mean any people! Funnily enough, these problems are also the ones that have the least reliable information and the most rumours going round about them. *The Portobello Reporter* will try to put in every issue as much of the good news (and any new good ideas) about these problems, and keep an updated summary of the old facts on them. We expect to get some of it wrong, but at least that should get the corrected information into the next issue of the paper. So please tell us anything you think we should have in.

Past success stories include Kings Road (now to stand and be improved as a Housing Action Area), the power station site (Whelmar building houses), the beach (sand replaced and cleaned during summer and sea clean enough to be EEC approved). Bath Street's St Charles site (Co-op Trendsetter being built, though some think there may be traffic problems and better uses of the site if we had thought harder).

Pipe Street Block—Mostly disused shops and flats for years — Now smartly done up by

Well done!

Mistys Nite Spot — Old cinema then bingo hall — Bought and recently done up as a function suite by Eddie Ramsay and Bill Walker.

Open Air Pool Site — Run-down over five years by District Council — Site reserved for recreation and leisure we are told. Council likely to sell (decision soon) — but who'll be allowed to buy it? (see page 00).

186-8 High Street — Derelict carpet shop and flat above; Glasgow man bought it years ago for development (refused), then nice shop planned (no buyers), then amusement arcade (refused) — Now Thorpe's (agents) have it on offer, no interest expected. Could call in building control to demand repair, but they might use Section 13 and have it demolished as dangerous.

Windsor Place Church — Disused, major Portobello feature, not Listed. Sold to Telecom years ago who have permission to demolish and erect new telephone exchange — PAS campaign followed by repair and reconsideration by Telecom especially since their new equipment is much smaller. PAS still prodding for their proposals. Post Office not interested in using it for High Street PO. Best idea ... see above p. 00.

51 Promenade — "Bleak House". District Council have owned for years (why?) and not repaired, developed or sold it (though offers have been made?) — Best (but unlikely) idea ... Council set it up as information/resource centre for trippers and residents and/or museum for Portobello pottery/old industry/history/Harry Lauder etc.

A PORTOBELLO MUSEUM

The Portobello Reporter has attempted to present a little of the history of Portobello and the living memories of its past years. But there is so much of interest that it deserves more dedicated attention than any of us can offer to collect it together properly.

There are various published histories — notably Wm. Bairds *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello* and the more recent small book by Allan MacLean on the centenary of *St Philips, Joppa*. Many people have large or small collections of Portobello photographs, postcards and objects. Some were temporarily exhibited at the St Philips centenary exhibition (1977) and at the PTDA/Harry Lauder Society's August display at the Town Hall.

Trams

At the PAS AGM in June we heard that there had been plans at the time of the closure of Buchan's pottery (just over ten years ago) to make it into a proper working museum for all the pottery and history that is kept in the Huntly House museum in Edinburgh. Perhaps this idea (though not Buchan's buildings which were demolished for the housing scheme except for the kilns) could be brought back to life. We have come across numerous other people who have mines of other information, memories and items of old Portobello (especially its industries — bottle, brick, entertainments etc.). There was also Councillor Cook's proposal to have a working transport museum with the old trams, though potteries and trams would not fit easily into the same building. Exciting plans for Portobello's future have been officially and unofficially drawn up by schools, colleges and locals.

Shouldn't all this be got together somehow? The aim might be for a permanent collection/museum/archive in Portobello (51 Promenade? see p. 00), but at first a vacant shop might do with a dedicated volunteer or two doing all the hard work. Before they all pass away, taking their memories with them, someone could record on tape what living history they have to tell about Portobello's life and work. Eventually expert help would be needed to run the archives and museum, and to follow-up Baird and MacLean in a large or small way.

Windsor Place Lodge Derelict Listed Building. Bought by absent landlord couple of years ago, but nothing to show for it yet.



TANDOORI DELIGHT

To meet an enthusiast is always interesting, to meet an enthusiastic chef even more so. To meet an enthusiastic chef who is prepared to grind his own spices fresh every day, arriving three hours before opening time to do so properly, is marvellous. Mr Ali, chef and proprietor of *Naseeb's*, the new restaurant on the High Street, is such a man.

The emphasis in *Naseeb's* is firmly on quality and on an authentic Indian taste because Mr Ali believes that people will come back for more if they enjoy the meal. The restaurant is small, neat and comfortable. It is also well lit and decorated. There is no corkage charge for customers own wine and Mr Ali hopes to have a restaurant drinks licence shortly.

DISTINCTIVE

Mr Ali's interest in his job is infectious and his answers about the food he cares so much about are revolu-

tionary. He will not use leftovers as, though it may save him a couple of pounds, it could cost him a customer.

A Tandoori is a clay oven and this gives the food a very distinctive flavour. The colours of the dishes are as clear and distinctive as the taste. No odd yellowy grey mess from which protrudes odd bits of grey and white matter masquerading as aubergine and cauliflower. His pakoras are so popular that he makes them up specially and sells them with their sauce as "indefinables" which is precisely what they are.

For the carry out trade, Mr Ali will be happy to take orders by phone and have them ready for collection — at a discount!

Let's hope that working in Portobello is as enjoyable for him as the fruits of his labours are for us!

P.R.

GAVIN STRANG M.P.

would like to take this opportunity of reminding his constituents that the best way to draw a matter to his attention is to write to him at the House of Commons.

A constituent who would like to discuss a matter with him, is invited to attend one of the following interview sessions:

Second Friday in the Month
Portobello Town Hall, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.

Last Saturday in the Month
Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, 9.00 to 10.00 a.m.

Last Saturday in the Month
Community Centre, Nidrie Mains Terrace
10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Last Saturday in the Month
Pavilion, Lochan Road Sth., 12.00 to 1.00 p.m.

NATUREWATCH

BY Jim Hurford

It is hard to imagine two creatures more unlike each other than a swallow and a hedgehog. Probably the most obvious thing that links them in our minds is the idea that they live in idyllic country settings, rather than in town. But this year both swallows and a hedgehog have made their homes in, or near, our garden in Brighton Crescent in the heart of Portobello. From the same garden we've also seen a squirrel, a wild rabbit, and hawks catching other birds.

The swallows — forked tails, white chests and with a touch of red at the throat — nested in the coal shed at the foot of the garden in one or two old mud nests that have been there for years, stuck to the rafters. In previous years we had occasionally seen swallows swoop in and out of the shed to investigate, but they had never stayed. This year, in early June they were diving in and out so often that it was clear that they had made a home.

Cats

Our two cats took a keen interest in the goings on in the local shed. If one of them was in there, gazing up at a nest out or reach, eight feet above it, the swallows wouldn't go in, but they would fly about cheeping agitatedly outside the door. If a cat was loitering with intent outside the door, the swallows would dive-bomb it repeatedly, zooming in from about twenty feet up and pulling out of their dive about a foot above the cat's head making it duck. Unfortunately, the cats appeared to like the attention and had to be chased away.

Once or twice I tiptoed into the coalshed and hid in a corner watching as a swallow whooshed in and delivered some tiny tit-bit (a midge maybe?) to one of the three little beaks that peered over the edge of the nest. Compared to blackbirds and thrushes which feed their young on decent sized morsels like worms, swallows expend enormous energy on invisible specks of food. When you add this to the amount of energy they use dive bombing cats, it's amazing they keep going throughout the summer and then fly back to North Africa. I wonder whereabouts in North Africa the Portobello swallows come from?

Paranoid

As their young grew, the

adult birds got more paranoid about the cats, dive bombing them anywhere in the garden, even just outside our back door, a good thirty yards from the coalshed. You'd think that something as miraculously airborne as a swallow need have little worry about a mere earth bound cat, but maybe they just enjoyed taunting the cats.

One day in mid July, we found a dead swallow, nearly fully grown, on the floor of the coalshed. It was unmarked so presumably had broken its neck falling out of the nest. The parents continued to feed the other two.

A day or two later there were incessant loud blackbird alarm calls from our sycamore tree. Up in the branches sat a hawk with something clutched in its talons. I chucked a stone at it and it made off down the row of back gardens of East Brighton Crescent still holding its prey, and pursued very fast, we were sad to see, by a couple of swallows. We don't know how many of the fledglings that hatched in our coalshed have survived to make the long haul to North Africa this autumn.

Hedgehog

I was sipping a whisky in the back garden around midnight one night in June, when this little dark shape comes ambling along haphazardly across the lawn, stopping to snuffle at something about a yard from my feet. A hedgehog! I've seen it two other nights now, nosing about the flowerbeds. I've never found its daytime hideout. Maybe it lives in Brighton Park and just visits us at night. One night I picked it up and what the books say about them is true: the prickles ARE sharp, and they do roll themselves (not very quickly) into a ball, looking like a sea urchin. This hedgehog didn't seem to do anything very quickly. It trundled away very sedately and with no unseemly show of haste whatsoever.

I suspect that we are all part hedgehog, part swallow. Slow-moving, prickly, earth bound, nosing shortsightedly in the dark within a narrow bounded domain, versus fleeting breathtakingly and unreachably fast through airy space and knowing horizons thousands of miles away. What we are, and what we might be.



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Portobello
10th July

ALLANS MOVING MUSIC

Nine and a half years in the one premises is a long time — nearly a decade! — and it is certainly going to cause a certain amount of nostalgia when I depart from these present buildings to my new site at 210 Portobello High Street, the shop which is presently occupied by Nonsvolls. Obviously, I expect the business to expand though initially every effort must be made not to lose any trade through the upheaval.

There are a few stories to narrate about my present shop and I remember vividly when the group Child appeared to autograph their new album and meet their screaming, enthusiastic fans — virtually all females. The scene was chaotic for an hour, but courtesy of the police, our friendly Pye Representative who acted as a bouncer, and the entourage with Child, Adam, my assistant, and I managed to cope with the flow of pound-notes towards the till and also the general chaos that one associates with such affairs.

One Christmas Day, I can remember enjoying the usual festivities when the phone rang and on answering it I established that Allan Martin, alias Kangaroo my very eccentric but knowledgeable engineer, was working in the shop when he spotted a flow of water in the showroom. What could have been a catastrophe with much stock being ruined not to mention the inconvenience turned out into being a non-event as Kangaroo was pottering around on Christmas Day. Yes, through his being in the shop at awkward hours he had prevented a burst pipe becoming a major headache.

Workshop

The progress of the shop was severely hampered at the start for in the first three months of business there were three broken windows. Once again, it was highly inconvenient but I felt it was essential to erect the wire grills that now protect the glass.

Our basement has certainly undergone many changes, having initially started off as our workshop — always very untidy, needless to say — and then it was used for guitar lessons and at present as a complete contrast to the workshop it is now a stockroom and a base for faulty product. In between times, I have had a snooker table in the basement, our Hiedi Hi float was projected there and Kangaroo has trapped many mice there in his own unorthodox fashion.

Another project that took place in the basement for a spell was the sale of second-hand bikes which takes me to another character connected with the shop, namely Donald Farmer. Surely one of the most talented signwriters around the place, Donald is well-known around these parts by his bike with the big basket. Many's the shop that he has painted in the High Street of Portobello, including mine.

In conclusion, I would like to thank staff, customers, friends and especially my near-neighbours for suffering assorted musical noises and for making my time in 104 Portobello High Street very enjoyable.

David G. Allan

ED: Thanks for the info Dave, all the best with the new shop.

Dear Sir,

First of all I should like to congratulate you and your volunteer workers on the production of a paper, the print of which is so clear that I can almost read it without the help of my glasses — something I can't do with any other paper, be it the *Sunday Times* or locals. In fact, I have very often to have recourse to a hand magnifying glass to decipher the latter. The quality of the paper itself is obviously very good and the whole turn-out is a compliment to printers and editorial staff alike. May your efforts long continue to succeed in both quality and clarity.

Secondly, thank you for printing the articles dealing with filth in our public parks and their misuse by canine lovers and late night diners with their Chinese 'carry outs'. The hazard to health in the form of discarded or regurgitated meals and dogs filth, which you so effectively expose, is on a par with smoking, so fiercely attacked by members of ASH. Would that the good folk in that organisation take up these offences to others, and especially small children, with the same enthusiasm. It is so easy to criticise the faults in others and gloss over those in ourselves.

How one could go on about the reduction in our living standards; broken bottles in our parks, walking through the flower beds, parking on the pavements, cycling on the pavements, speeding on the High Street, crashing the 'green man'. If our official law officers and 'City Fathers' are incapable of coping with the breaking of the bye-laws, must we continue to accept the deterioration in common courtesies or resort to retaliation. There are many who are becoming increasingly intolerant of others and the feeling of the decent law abiding citizens cannot remain subjugated indefinitely.

Thirdly, may I say that all of us, no matter what our background or upbringing, have standards and opinions which we either live up to or not. We make decisions which according to our lights are right ones and try to abide by them without infringing the privacy of others. May I therefore express my view to our MP, and may I say it as a Tory and an OAP, that in my opinion History will applaud the action taken by the British Government in its decision to re-take the Falkland Islands from a totally cynical and inhuman bunch of thus. A 'Junta' which can, without feeling for or consideration for human rights what so ever, shut away thousands of people, mothers, fathers, sons or daughters, never to be seen or heard of again, just because they disagree with the point of view of the junta and oppose their lust for power. A nation whose soldiers, when in defeat, sacked, desecrated and covered with human excrement, the homes of the helpless inhabitants of the Falklands. I think that history will also record the misdemeanors of the Argentinians but still hope that someday we may all, with Gods help come out of the darkness into light. After all, we are all human beings, although it would appear that some of us are a little more humane than others.

Yours Faithfully,
ROBERT GRAHAM

Portobello
July 7th 1981

Dear Editor,

Amendment to the article about the Towerbank School Music Makers (see last issue) Barry Gray is the name of the boy who played Viola at the Festival, not Barry ??????

Miss Sheena Black gives viola lessons to Primary 7 pupils as well as to primaries, 4, 5 and 6.

Fortunate indeed are these children who are chosen to get her excellent and conscientious tuition.

The Towerbank School Music Makers also put on a first rate production of Tom Sawyer in St Phillips Church Hall at the end of the school session. The St John's Music Makers put on a first rate production of Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat in St John's School Hall.

I'm sorry to learn from Mrs Paddy Ross of your editorial group that she knew nothing of these two events. I shall make sure that the *Portobello Reporter* is notified in advance next time. The bairns deserve all the support of all the citizens of Portobello.

Yours Sincerely
MARY DALE
Music Teacher at Towerbank and St John's Schools.

ED: We really did try to find out Barry's surname but that information just was not available to us. We did however, feel that the report was important enough to go in without it and we are happy to make amends by printing it here.

Dear Sir,

Many congratulations to Aiden Bremner of Bath Street, Portobello on having his cartoon published in *The Scotsman Magazine* at the beginning of August. With such a talented artist in our midst, would it be a practical proposition for *The Portobello Reporter* to hold a similar context as *The Scotsman* effort for say people under the age of sixteen? Perhaps, Mr Bremner and your editor could act as the judges.

Yours Etc.
DAVID G. ALLAN
ED: It has been suggested that our editor IS a cartoon.

ON THE MEND

We are pleased to report that RUSSELL SHEPHERD of Portobello Video is well on the way to recovery after his car crash some four months ago. Russell expects to be back at work soon but is still on crutches at the moment.

Russell and his parents, Margaret and Hamish, would like to thank all their customers and friends for their cards, gifts and good wishes during this difficult time.

KIDS CORNER

I say, I say, I say. The zoo aquarium now has a man eating shark.

That's nothing, once on the promenade I saw a man eating herring.

Teacher: "What was the King of Russia called?"
Jimmy: "The Czar."
Teacher: "Correct, and the Queen?"
Jimmy: "The Czarina."
Teacher: "Correct, but what were the children called?"
Jimmy: "Czardines."

Send us your favourite joke and spare the editor having to read all these, and worse!

Northfield Drive
Edinburgh
July 16th

Dear Sir,

After reading your article on the question of the Portobello Pool and mentioning especially your ideas on the subject, I thought you might be interested to learn that I had approached 'Butlins' and Sean Connery in the hope that some good might come of it. As you see from the enclosed replies nothing did come of it.

I was totally un-prepared to find that I couldn't just walk into some building in Portobello and have a talk with you about this and other related subjects, so I didn't have writing paper to leave a note accompanying the documents that I left with the lady at the CAB. I will be pleased to have your reaction to the papers.

I have been enamoured with Portobello since I was a child and spent my school holidays on the sands and was taken to the Marine Gardens by my parents who held season tickets. Those were the days when Fred Graham Yuill was the entrepreneur of that era.

Yours Faithfully
CHRISTINA EGAN (Mrs)

18 Lee Crescent
Portobello
21st July

Dear Sir,

Ref: *Portobello Reporter*, July/August.

Under the heading 'The Mandala' I should like to correct the error in the first line. Parish boundaries in Scotland relate to post Reformation times when the official religion of Scotland was eventually deemed to be the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

The Parish Boundaries can be determined at any Library, Register House or 121, George Street, Edinburgh. St John's Church stands within the Parish of St James' Rosefield Place, Portobello, the Parish Minister being Malcolm MacDougall, 63 Durham Terrace, Portobello.

Yours Faithfully,
HARRY WATT

... left out of the last issue by an oversight was the credit for most of the photographs in the centre spread. They were taken, developed and printed within a matter of hours to meet our deadline. Our grateful thanks — belatedly — to Martin Peebles of the Pilton Commune. Thanks Martin (Actually, if you look closely enough at the right hand centre page, you will see the space I left for the credit).

Master Butcher, but he is also a very competent handyman and the Association are deeply indebted to him for all the hard work he put in to this effort.

I cannot disclose what he plans to do for the next Festival Procession, but he is already hard at work making the necessary preparations.

Yours Faithfully,
ALEXANDER BRYCE
President.

3 Elcho Terrace
Portobello
August 1982.

Dear Editor,

So Councillor Berry feels some mothers 'abuse facilities' by putting their children in nursery and then taking part time jobs and that children of 3 should be at home with their mothers, (see last issue). Could he please tell us what part time jobs are available between the hours of 9.15 and 11.30 a.m.? Only someone totally ignorant of child development could propose that for a child of 3 'at home with mother' all day is the best place to be.

Be honest, Councillor Berry, and admit the education and nursery cuts are pure political expediency. Isn't it strange that during the war, when women were required for munitions work, nursery schools sprang up everywhere and we didn't have politicians shouting about a mother's place being with her child?

The cuts will hit primarily the child; certainly nursery cuts will hit mothers too, but mainly the 'stay at home' ones to whom so much lip service is paid — many of whom need a short break from their pre-school child and in some cases a nursery place can avoid a complete breakdown in the family with children being taken into care (at the ratepayers expense) and/or mother requiring psychiatric care.

Just remember, Councillor Berry, mothers are voters too — and if you don't consider education a priority next election, we'll vote in someone who does.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr. VIVIEN M. E.
IRELAND

ED: What Councillor Berry ACTUALLY said was that some mothers abuse these facilities. Not all of them.



Letters

PORTOBELLO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
32 Brunstane Crescent
Edinburgh

Dear Editor,

It was very good of you to give such an excellent report on the Victorian Splash organised by the Association.

By the time your next issue appears, the Sir Harry Lauder Festival will have taken place and I hope that it will be possible for a full report on this event and possibly with some photographs to be incorporated in the September/October 1982 edition of the Reporter. (See Page 00).

The Association were naturally delighted to be awarded the first prize in the Portobello Festival Procession on 20th June. I have been rather disturbed however to hear comments and reports that it was only to be expected that we would win, since the float had been designed and built professionally.

This of course is totally untrue. The whole design was devised by Mr Hamish Shepherd and most of the construction work was also done by him at nights and weekends, although admittedly we have the use of the facilities of a workshop in Windsor Place and we are extremely grateful to the firm who made these facilities available to us. The float had already appeared in the Edinburgh Festival Procession last August and a great deal of hard work was done by Hamish Shepherd and other members and friends of the Portobello Tourism Development Association. It was placed in store so that it would be available for the Portobello Festival Procession and on the Friday and Saturday evenings the Committee worked hard erecting the float and adapting it as a different lorry with different dimensions was used for the two appearances of the float. Hamish Shepherd was in Windsor Place at 5 a.m. on the Sunday morning making final preparations and was joined by a number of the Association Committee and their friends to decorate the float to have it ready for the Procession.

For the record, I should say that Hamish Shepherd is a



"Where did Pete Wraith get the dog?"

Have you noticed how dogs and their owners often look alike? Next time you are in

Brighton Park, have a look at the dogs out walking and look at both ends of the lead!

PORTOBELLO PAPER MILL

After completing Charlie Terry's general history of Portobello, we hope to feature more detailed bits of Portobello's past, in particular, the various industries on which Portobello flourished. A reader has kindly provided information about a mill near the mouth of the Figgate Burn. Our reader remembers it's years as a paper mill before it closed in 1925. Later she worked in supplying the paper making trade, including the then "Galloways" Paper Mill of Balerno. Galloway's 50th anniversary in 1966 was marked by a publication which tells this story.

Originally built in 1783, the Portobello mill at different times produced flax, lead

paint, mustard, and then low-grade wrapping paper from wood pulp, before John Galloway bought it in 1916 and upgraded it. John Galloway had not succeeded to his father's managing directorship of a Fife paper mill as had been expected. He bought the Portobello mill and then survived several hard and ill-fated years, despite installing more equipment and switching to the better quality esparto grass raw material.

Balerno

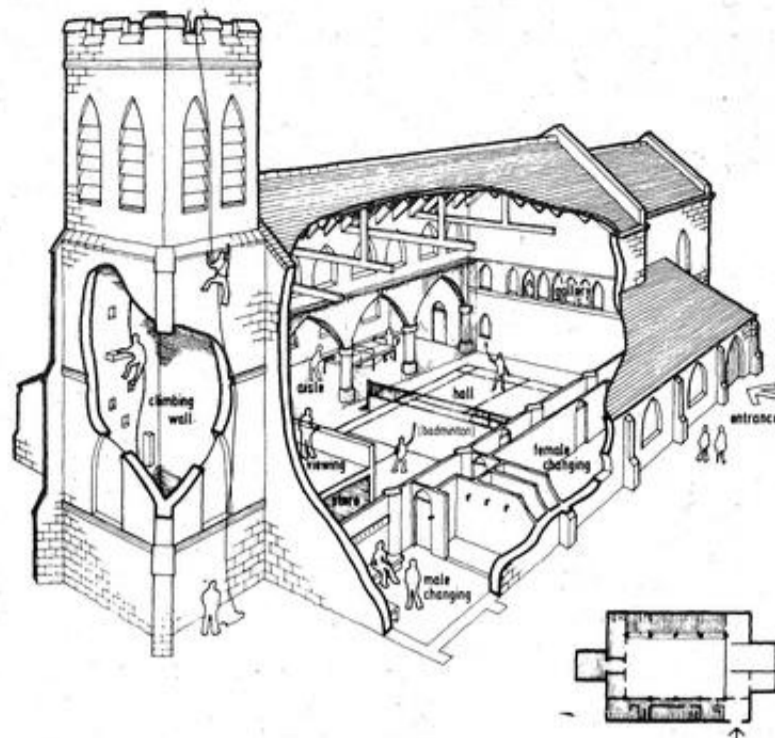
By the '20s, with John Anderson as works manager, they were doing well producing ivory boards and imitation art paper. Schemes to expand into Rosebank pottery next door and with really up-to-date machinery fell through. Anyway, the Figgy Burn tended to dry up in summer or get mucked up by the flour mill up-stream. So in 1924 Galloways moved to Balerno (keeping their account with their friendly Royal Bank in Portobello) and continued to flourish until 1972 when Dickinsons took it over. The Portobello mill stopped producing paper in 1925 and the empty open air pool now covers the site.

Dog Mess and Litter

Do we really love our dogs if we let them get a name for the filth and disease they leave for others? We certainly don't love our town and the children who may catch the diseases.

Perhaps gentle personal contact to persuade other dog-owners to "kerb their dogs" by those of us who really do not want dogs to get a bad name would be the most effective way. They would expect you to object if it was their child doing their jobbies on the pavement or beach. Perhaps we should even go to stronger measures — it is illegal to let your dog soil the pavement. An embarrassing fine or two might make dogs everybody's best friends again.

As for litter, perhaps it is the price we pay for having visitors around Portobello, and for cutting back on street cleaners and dustbin rounds. But there are always plenty of litter bins around. Sometimes they are stuffed with obviously household rubbish bags, and then the strong winds do the rest. But it's so easy to just drop litter anywhere — as if we still have maids around to clear up after us, or as if we're Clint Eastwood tossing matches and deadmen around a desert. Well, maybe the Sheriff of Portobello Town should get together with a posse and run in a few litterers for the odd hangin and lynching - well, at least a fine... then we will all naturally hold onto our litter like decent law abidin' citizens who're proud to be Portobellan.



Windsor Place Church

Could this be Windsor Place Church? It is certainly one use that could be made of this fine old building, now owned by Telecom. It would certainly be of better use to the community than a telephone exchange. Not that we don't need a new telephone exchange. But, do we really want to see this building replaced by a concrete and glass monstrosity.

Police Station Moves

There's a fair bit of activity in the old place these days, with Dave Allan moving shop, Colin Thomson doing likewise, and now "Wur Polis" are getting in on the act. The Police Station on the High Street is being closed for some months to allow for a major refurbishment. At a cost of over £200,000 the finished job should be on a par with Mistys.

Temporary arrangements are being made at the old electricity board premises at the West End of the High Street (opposite the pool site). Chief Inspector Brian Day, tells me that the public counter will be open from 6.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m. Outwith these hours special arrangements will be made to talk to the officers inside. Apart from the change of scenery it will be business as usual.

It will make a change for the staff to have some decent facilities at their disposal. Present arrangements for things like meals, are far from satisfactory and wouldn't be tolerated in any factory. The existing building in its present state is very difficult, if not impossible, to keep warm in the depths of winter.

No accurate date for reopening is available, but work should be completed by next summer. I wonder if they'll have a house warming!

...Brian (Hundry Mouth) had his dog returned after it was dognapped on Boxing Day from a Portobello Bar...

...Portfield AFC have moved their headquarters to Kelly's Bar, just across the road...

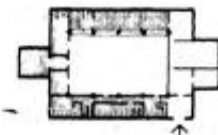
...the Sun Cabin at Seafield Road is going great guns. The ideal place to keep your holiday tan...

...hope the Round Table had a profitable day at the end of JULY when they had a charity car wash at Braefoot Garage...

...our sympathies to the people of Leith who are just entering the fight to have the former Town Hall developed as a leisure and recreation facility. Hope it doesn't take them as long as it is taking us...

Overheard by the secretary of the Lauder Society in a local establishment. "Ah think am goin' aff ma heid George". "Why's that Tom", "Well, it's tae dae wi' Harry Lauder. That paint shop opposite the Town Hall has some cards in the window and there's another card there that says all proceeds tae Harry Lauder, — I kent he wis mean but I canny understand what he wants wi' proceeds where he is!"

In explanation Audrey tells us that what the card actually says is that all proceeds go to the Lauder Society, but the society bit had slipped down behind something else!



FESTIVAL IDEAS

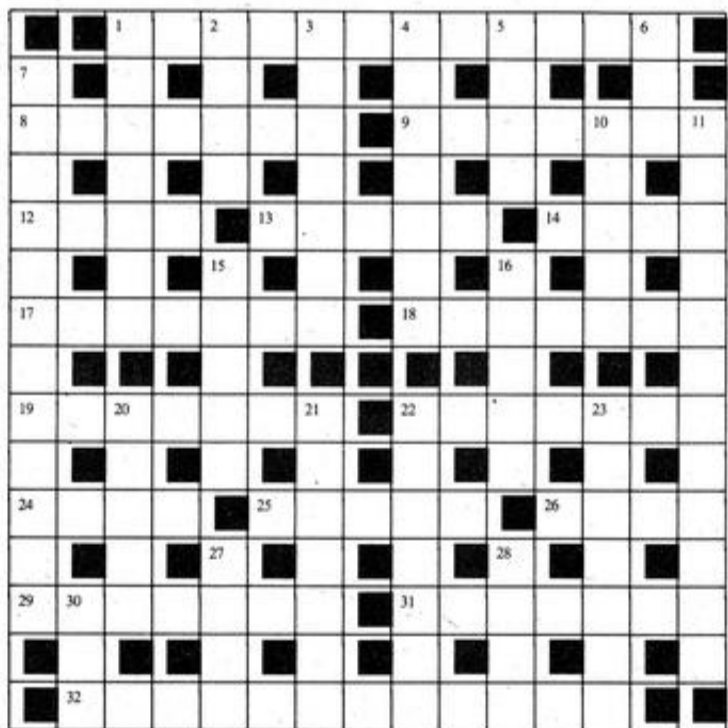
Hope the broad-based Portobello Festival Committee proposed at the PADCA meeting at the start of this year is getting itself together to prepare for an even better Festival in 1983.

If as many of the Portobello summer events could be timed to coincide with the weeks of the Glasgow Trade holidays, then Portobello could run a special advertising drive on the west coast to attract the old crowds back (Edinburgh is probably not such a good market). To add to the amusements, bingo and cafes, some kind of music hall entertainment could be arranged (Harry Lauder and all that), with film-shows and playschemes so it would not matter if it rained. With enough warning, all the residents who don't like the noise can plan to take their holidays elsewhere (Glasgow?) at the same time. Whenever there's anything on in Portobello, couldn't there be a banner announcing it stretching across the busy High Street?

...did you know that Portobello had an established Music Hall BEFORE we had a church...?

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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. A private matter, really (12)
8. Seethe but not inwardly to shock (7)
9. A gossip with sober insides (7)
12. Hit it on the head (4)
13. Merit reward (5)
14. Lay man (4)
17. Drawing not by an artist (7)
18. Elevenses (3,4)
19. Enters into battle (7)
22. Onion species turns to finally (7)
24. Made cheese (4)
25. First lady with learners around is straight (5)
26. To exist in reverse is plain wicked (4)
29. Street celebration? (7)
31. Bells do (4,3)
32. Portobello introductory thoroughfare (5,7)

DOWN

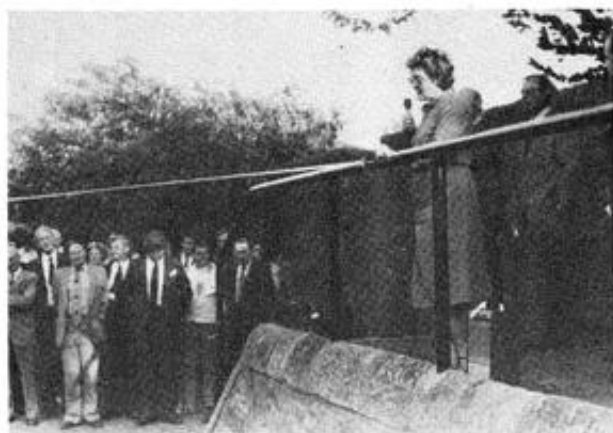
1. Railway excavation showing metal innards (7)
2. A close thing (4)
3. Floater with tip (7)
4. Pull out part of a book maybe (7)
5. Bet on it (4)
6. This down for repose (3)
7. Don't heed burn goes mad (5,3,4)
10. Steal the smallest amount (5)
11. Once more go over the important details finally departed (12)
15. Burn a shortcoming to start (5)
16. First man follows a thousand for a lady (5)
20. Way of the wood mostly wet (5)
21. Flimsy round the East is trickery (7)
22. The sheep leave him lighter (7)
23. Poem of fondness (4,3)
27. Portobello had one (4)
28. Indian coin (4)
30. I am mixed for a purpose (3)

Solution from last issue.

Across: 1, 9 Wakefield Avenue; 10 Edinburgh; 11 Fringe; 12 Knocked on; 13 Quai; 17 Ass; 19 Princes; 20 Taffeta; 21 Pay; 23 Ragged; 27 Bound over; 28 Sprite; 29 Assistant; 30 Elaine; 31 Promenade.
Down: 2 Adding; 3 Eunuch; 4 Injured; 5 Legions; 6 Ever Huffy; 7 Uninvited; 8 Fever Heat; 14 Oppressed; 15 Kings Road; 16 Accepting; 17 Asp; 18 Sty; 22 A Booser; 24 Infirm; 26 Morton; 26 Penned.



Go World give it big licks



New Cycleway

NEW CYCLEWAY

Wednesday 11th August provided a much sought after boon for SPOKES, the Lothian Cycle Campaign. This was the official launch of the new cycleway from Duddingston to the Commonwealth Pool along the track of the former 'Innocents Railway'. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs Lynda Chalker MP, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Transport. Mrs Chalker is responsible for the governments policy on cycling in England and Wales. Unfortunately this policy does not, as yet extend to Scotland — like so much more government policy.

Whilst welcoming the new path, Spokes would also like to see much more use being made of disused railway lines — of which we have quite a few — and possibly the whole

network enlarged to take in the Central Edinburgh area right through to Dalkeith, Musselburgh and Portobello.

Valuable Resource

There's not a lot you can do with an old railway line and this appears to be one satisfactory use. There must be an awful lot of land lying about unused since the closure of many of our railway lines. This seems to be a waste of an otherwise valuable resource and if this is one way of getting people back into the countryside it will be well worth the expense. Not that it is all that expensive to turn an old railway line into a brand new walk/cycleway.

Spokes are to be congratulated on their success and we hope that their continued pressure pays off.

Swimming Lessons by STA qualified teacher. (Swimming Teachers Association). Beginners, Stroke Improvement, Diving and STA awards. Please phone, 669-3148.

Mr. & Mrs. Monsvoll wish to thank all customers for their support over the past twenty-seven years, and wish Mr. Allan Every Success in his "new" premises.

PORTOBELLO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

The club meets every night of the week and the hours are as follows:

Monday: Main pool swimming.
 Tuesday: Main pool 8-10 p.m., Small pool 7-9 p.m.
 Wednesday: Main pool 7-9 p.m., Small pool 6-8 p.m.
 Thursday: Main pool 8-9 p.m.
 Friday: Main pool 8-10 p.m., Small pool 9-10 p.m.
 Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Polo training and games.
 Fridays: small pool Polo for ladies. The rest of the time is for swim training.

Started in 1912, the club has had many distinguished members including Ned Barrie, who was President for many years as well as being a founder member of the club. Over the years the club has had a fair number of success stories and former Scottish champions in both swimming and diving, Peter Heatly, Drew Kennedy and Geoff Berry. Charlie Grierson was the first Porto lad to represent his country in water polo and went on to become a great polo coach.

Polo is well represented at the present time, the seniors having been Scottish champions for 7 years including this year, and the juniors won the English Cup in 1980, '81 and were runners up in 1982.

Anyone interested in the club can join, or get more details, simply by going down to the baths at any of the specified times.

Tennis Courts

Good news about Joppa court and green (to be published at end of season)! Rosefield courts — PADCA making arrangements.

CHANGES AT TOWERBANK

New members of staff at Towerbank are Mrs White, who takes over in Primary 2, and Mrs Gray, the new fabric craft teacher. That is the good news. Not so good is the news that Jim McArthur won't be back and Mrs Gardner is restricted to one morning per week (Wednesday). This represents a 75% reduction in the physical education training at the school. Music has suffered a 50% reduction and will now be available on Friday's only. However the ir-repressible Mrs Dale has volunteered to play for the school services which will now take place on Mondays.

Incidentally, plans are already being made for the end of term sale and Mrs Gray would welcome all those odd balls of wool. The wool can be handed into the school at any time, as soon as possible.

our register teachers, they showed us to our classes. We got to know our teachers and then it was time to go home.

That was our first day and I think it will be good and I am going to settle down, but I can't wait to go to the main school.

by CAROL SMITH

1983 is the centenary of Towerbank School and in the next edition (due in November) we'll have a preview of the plans to celebrate this significant event.

Royal High Rugby Fixtures

We are pleased to publish the Royal High School Athletic Club's rugby fixture list for the coming season. Home matches to be played at Jock's Lodge, Piersfield Terrace, Edinburgh.

September 4th, DUNFERMLINE (H)
 September 5th, KELSO 7's
 September 7th, MELROSE (A)
 September 11th, LEITH ACADS. (H)
 September 18th, PERCY PARK (A)
 September 22nd, TRINITY ACADS. (A)
 September 25th, HIGHLAND (H)
 October 2nd, BOROUGHMUIR (league) (A)
 October 9th, HERIOTS (league) (H)
 October 16th, JEDFOREST (league) (H)
 October 23rd, HAWICK (league) (A)
 October 30th, BROUGHTON (A)

Any other clubs — rugby or any other sport — who wish to advise the community of their activities do not hesitate to send us the necessary information, we will gladly publish.

WHERE?

In a world struggling for perfection it's a relief to find others with problems similar to your own. In the newspaper world it is particularly difficult since this business is fraught with problems and every nook and cranny holds hidden terrors for the unwary or the less than vigilant.

It was with a certain malicious pleasure therefore that I read the *Evening News* of Wednesday, August 25th.

Page 5 has a lovely photo of Jennie Swan, Linda and Elaine Slight, and Liza Thorburn handing over a cheque for £300 to Sheriff J. L. Martin Mitchell, chairman of the New Trinity Centre which is run by the Scottish Council for Spastics. So far so good. The story reads that the children's holidays weren't frittered away aimlessly because they held a sale of work with goods they had made themselves...on Portobello pier.

That's bad enough, but just three columns away on the same page on a totally unrelated subject, it is pointed out that the Pier was demolished in 1917.

WHAT?

Page 4 of the same issue of the "News" carries a letter signed "S.H. Portobello" which infers that no-one cares for Porty. "Going past Bath Street is an eyesore with broken down empty shops which must have been four or five years in that terrible condition.

Nobody seems to want to take an interest in making Portobello a clean and respectable place to live in or encourage holidaymakers to come again.

This is exactly the kind of letter which makes me sick. Especially in the light of so much hard work being done by so many people to combat the problems which beset our community. Is the upsurge in interest in the community council a sign of an uncaring society? Are PADCA, PTDA, PAS, PMHA and all the others barking in the wilderness. Oh no S.H. If you are sufficiently interested in your community to be reading this, may I ask what YOU are doing about it? Or will "they" have to do it all for you.

H.D.

Tramps Ball

After the success of the barbecue during the Portobello Festival the Lauder Society are organising a Tramps Ball. The venue is the Town Hall on the 21st October. Tickets are £2.00 each and will be available early September from Dave Allan's Music Shop and Home Decor.

Other local organisations are invited to help make this a really good night out. Further details from Audrey Bullen.

XMAS LOOMS NEARER

It is hard to think about the Christmas holidays, when the little dears are just back to school after what appears to have been an interminable summer. Unfortunately we, like a few others, have to plan ahead. We hope to have the next issue out in November, and we are putting together some ideas for the younger element. Unusual gifts that they can make — which will save mum a fortune and keep 'em quiet. Inexpensive gifts with a Porty flavour for the overseas relative. All kinds of everything, in fact.



Lauder Lunch (See page 6) (SPD)



"Ah might be interested. Dae they get free lunches and foreign travel?"

The Floral Art Club resume their winter programme starting on Wednesday, 6th October at 7.30 p.m. Thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month. All interested will be made welcome.

New innovation at the Windsor Leisure Centre — Disco Parties as well as the trampoline variety. Drew tells us he also has a Video Camera and he will film the party. So you can have a lasting souvenir. Details from the centre.

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Duddingston Primary

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

As the new school year begins our thoughts are guided toward winter activities and extra curricular events. The parents association committee have planned an interesting and varied syllabus for both parents and pupils. We will be grateful for the support and encouragement from parents at the school and we hope that the coming year is a big success for Duddingston Primary. All parents are invited to become members of the association and a syllabus will be provided.

Remember that the success of the association depends on us, the parents, and we are there to take an active interest in our school. The committee look forward to welcoming lots of new members, and past members at the first meeting, notice of which will be given at the beginning of the term.

V.B.

Wednesday 18th

It occurred to me that one of the most frightening days of my life was the day I first attended "the big school". Would it be the same for today's youngsters? Let's find out. (Ed.)

It was Wednesday the 18th the day I started secondary. We had to be at the main school for 9.20 a.m. When we got there, there were 1st, 2nd and 3rd years waiting outside the school and in the street. Soon a janitor came and told us to line up in our primary school classes. Girls on one side, boys on the other.

Everybody lined up and had to wait again until the head of first year came and told us to go into the assembly hall. We were led in and sat down in rows of our schools. The head gave us our classes. When we had been told our classes we went out of the hall. On our way out our cards were checked to make sure we had the right one. Then we went down to the annexe with

Local Church Activities

Our local Churches have a busy winter schedule. Here is a selection of their various activities.

PORTOBELLO OLD

Monday: 7.30 Social Club.
Tuesday: 7.30 Women's Guild. 6.30-10.00 Brownies, Guides and Young Women's Group.
Wednesday: 7.30 Melville Music Hall.
Thursday: 2.30 Senior Club.
Friday: 6.30-10.00 Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts.

ST JOHNS

Monday: 8.00 Ladies Club, Parish Centre.
Tuesday: 9.30-11.30 a.m. Mother and Toddlers, Parish Centre. 7.30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous. 7.30 p.m. Junior Youth Group (under 15), Canon Ward Room.
Wednesday: 7.30 p.m. Senior Youth Group, Canon Ward Room. Over Twenties Group, Meetings arranged informally.
Thursday: Brownies and Guides, St Johns School.
Friday: Cubs and Scouts, St Johns School.
Monday and Thursday afternoons: 2.00-4.00 Senior Citizens. First Wednesday of each month, Parish Centre, 7.30, under 40s group for arthritis sufferers.

PORTOBELLO BAPTISTS

Wednesday: Prayer meeting and Bible study, discussion groups, Missionaries.
Thursday: 2.30 Women's Own, Ladies Group — speakers, singers, tea.
Friday: 7.00 Youth Fellowship, Bible Study, singing and drama related to scriptures.
Sunday: 12.45 Sunday School, Bible Class; Evening: Youth Fellowship.
 First Monday of month — women's group in evening.

ST JAMES

Sunday: 11 a.m. Sunday School; Youth Fellowship 13-16 yrs. 7.00 p.m. Youth Fellowship 17-25 yrs. 8.00 p.m.
Monday: Women's Guild 7.30 (fortnightly). Guides 7.00 p.m.
Tuesday: 7.45 Social Club alternating with Ladies Forum. 6.15 Cubs.
Wednesday: 5.15 Brownies, 7.00 Guides, 7.15 Scouts, 7.30 Rangers.
Friday: 7.30 Badminton.
Tuesdays: Old Peoples Club, Fortnightly.
Mondays and Thursdays: 3.30 Children's Dancing Class.

ST MARKS

Monday - Friday: Pre School playgroup, Hall a.m.
Sunday: 7 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Top Marks Youth Club.
Tuesday: First of each month, Afternoon Fellowship 2.30 p.m.
Thursday: Third of each month, Congregational Fellowship, 7.30 p.m., Rectory, Argyle Crescent.
 Annually Bazaar, 1st Saturday in November in the Hall.
 Plans in the pipeline include a caring group for the sick, aged and the housebound.

ST. PHILLIP'S, JOPPA

Sunday: Youth Fellowship, Church House, 7.30 p.m.
Monday: Coffee Club, Church House, 10.30 a.m.; Women's Guild, Hall, 7.30 p.m. (alternate weeks); Country Dancing, Hall, 7.30 p.m. (alternate weeks).
Tuesday: Badminton, Hall, 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday: Young Woman's Group, Church House, 9.45 a.m. (alternate weeks); Coffee Club, 10.30 a.m.; Brownies, Hall, 5.30 p.m.; Guides, Hall, 7.00 p.m.
Thursday: Ladies Badminton, Hall, 2.00 p.m.; Junior Choir, Church House, 6.30 p.m.; BB's (junior), Hall, 6.30 p.m.; Vestry Hour, Church House, 6.30 p.m.; Choir, Church House, 8.00 p.m.; Drama Group, Hall, 8.00 p.m.
Friday: Mother and Toddler Group, Hall, 10.00 a.m.; Coffee Club, Church House, 10.30 a.m.; Brownies, Hall, 5.30 p.m.; BB's, Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Saturday: Junior Badminton, Hall, 2.00 p.m.

DUDDINGSTON KIRK

Sunday: Sunday Schools, all age groups at 11.15 a.m. (from September); creche available for toddlers during Sunday Service at 11.30 a.m.
Monday: Guides, 11-15 years, 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday: Women's Guild and Young Women's Group, each alternate Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. starting October 5th (once a month on a Thursday at 2.30 p.m.).
Wednesday: Anchor Boys (6 and 7 years), 6.15 p.m. (from September 15th); Brownies, 7-10 years, 6.30 p.m.; Mother and Toddler Group (alternate Wednesdays) starting September 28th at 10.00 a.m.; Country Dancing and Badminton (alternate).
Friday: BB's (junior) 8-11 years, 6.20 p.m.

A pick-up service is operated by Mrs Rodger, telephone 661-2675. Further details from Rev. W. Ramsay, The Manse, Duddingston, 661-4240.

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What's Going On?

Activities in and around Portobello

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4th, Duddingston Village Festival, 12-5 p.m. (see page 8); **Murder At The Vicarage**, Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, £1.25 and 75p (O.A.P.)

Wednesday 8th, Brunton Theatre, Concourse, Antique Fair and Auction.

Saturday 11th, Barbecue, Coldingham Youth Hostel, 7.30 p.m., £1.25 from SYHA, 161 Warrender Park Road; **Coffee Morning**, Porto Old Parish Church.

Wednesday 15th, Brunton Hall, Lowrey Organ Demo and Concert, 7.30-10 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd, Nearly New Sale/Coffee Morning, Diabetic Society, Duddingston Kirk Hall, 10-12 noon.

Saturday 25th, Highland Ball, Carbisdale Youth Hostel, £3.25; **Buffet, Dance & Breakfast**, SYHA, Warrender Park Road; **Women's Guild Coffee Morning**, Portobello Old Parish Church; **Coffee Morning**, Town Hall, 10-12 noon, Portobello Floral Art Club.

Tuesday 28th, Cheese and Wine Evening, Towerbank PTA in school, 7.30 p.m.

OCTOBER

Friday 1st, East Edinburgh Gramophone Society, 178 Portobello High Street.

Monday 4th, Start of 4th Autumn Drama Season, Brunton Hall (details from Theatre).

Saturday 9th, Autumn Baking/Home Produce Sale, Towerbank School annexe, 10-12 noon.

Monday 18th, Copy Deadline.

Sunday 24th, Summer Time Ends.

Saturday 30th, Xmas Card Sale (charities), Portobello Old Parish Church.



"The inflatable getting some punishment"

PUB SPY

The Central Bar

The "Central" has been renamed from the Kilns since Alex May took it over some months ago. The changes didn't stop with the name however. The appearance of the place along with the character has had a tremendous boost since the installation of Davy McPherson as manager.

There aren't many bars where a pint of light costs just 52p and a nip only 50p, that alone makes the Central's price list unique.

The tables are cleaned regularly as is the bar top and the ashtrays. The service is smart and polite with no unnecessary waiting. The toilets, like the bar area, are kept clean and have a plentiful supply of hot water, soap and paper towels.

If you fancy a good sing-song drop in on a Sunday night where Davy Sands entertains and welcomes the participation of the audience.

Overall the place has been given the kiss of life, transformed from a pub in it's death throes to a lively bar where a good time can be had, if a good time is wanted. Star rating ★★★★★.

Summer Playscheme at Towerbank School

It would be nice, but misleading to report that the Playscheme held at Towerbank School from Monday, 5th to Friday, 30th July had been an unqualified success.

The reality is that while a lot of worthwhile and commendable achievements were made during the four weeks, it was hampered by a lack of planning, publicity, training and co-ordination. Hardly surprising really since the two local mums who were asked to make use of the finance available were given less than two weeks to get the show organised and on the road. Presumably, however, playschemes are set up to provide (at a minimum) a place and time for local kids and parents to come along to and have fun together at, and this at least happened. Certainly the fact that around 80 kids and 17 adults took part in the day trip to Dalkeith Adventure Playground indicates that there is a demand for a Playscheme in Portobello.

Problems

For a variety of reasons, playschemes held in Portobello in recent years have been plagued with problems and yet a number of encouraging points have emerged:

1. There are a large (relative to other playschemes in Edinburgh) number of local mums and kids who are enthusiastic and willing enough to be involved in some way;
2. There are more than enough kids around Portobello to justify a playscheme, or even two;
3. Playschemes are seen as being value for money, finance is available from the Region and we had at least one offer from a local businessman during the four weeks who was prepared to be involved in fund-raising to

supplement any grants received;

4. Excellent facilities are available at Towerbank School and Portobello High;

5. Portobello has a number of organisations and individuals who may be in a position to offer support in terms of advice, assistance with planning, administration and possibly even finance (e.g. PADCA, Round Table, Hotel and Retailers Association, Portobello Tourist Association, Community Education and not forgetting the *Portobello Reporter!*)

On the other hand, the problems experienced to date have had more to do with "in fighting" and "petty politics" regarding the organisation of the playscheme (e.g. under whose auspices should the playscheme be run? Who should be office bearers in any playscheme committee? Who should handle finance?) than encouraging mums and dads to get on with the job of providing a playscheme service to Portobello.

Surely a get-together of interested parties can come up with a structure which will allow the adults who want to get involved in playschemes to do so without having to take on a hundred and one other organisational and administrative tasks and end up with the feeling that they are receiving no support and banging their heads off brick walls. Already a few individuals have expressed an interest in such a meeting. If you or your organisation would like to be involved in any way, big or small, please contact Hazel Reid or Louise Millar.

Finally, a word of thanks to all of the people who gave up time to be involved in this playscheme and past ones, and for proving that we can provide a playscheme for Portobello kids.

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