



Portobello magazine

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Oct 2025

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Portobello magazine

Oct 2025



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Charlie Cowdy

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HAVE YOUR SAY

This month we have a bit of a theme of "Have your say".

Firstly is the ongoing engagement we are having with readers about the closure of Duddingston Low Road. Unsurprisingly there are differing views and, having published a letter last month, we received further in response and they are anonymised and published opposite. We remain happy to continue publishing letters on this or any other issues readers feel inclined to write in about.

The second part of the theme is about the Scottish Elections due in May next year. It might seem a long way away but time flies and our journalism student (Shaun McGeachan) is keen to hone his skills so we have started what I hope will be a series of interviews with each candidate. The first (Page 14) is local Councillor Tim Jones who has been selected as the Scottish Conservative

candidate for the new Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh & Tranent Constituency.

Finally, an issue not otherwise mentioned as it doesn't have particular local relevance but nevertheless important to mention, is a Consultation by the City Council on a proposed Tram extension between Granton and Little France. All views are sought and I encourage you to take part. Best way is to search online "Edinburgh Tram Extension" then click on the "Council seeks views on tram expansion plans". The £3Bil project would need an initial £44Mil to produce a business case report before anything can be done and at such huge expense it is important to get as many views as possible before a decision is made.

Charlie Cowdy

Editor

CONTENTS

06-07 NEWS

Local online tit-bits

10-11 THINGS TO DO

What's on locally

14-15 EDITORIAL FOCUS

Beach wheelchairs

18-19 SCHOOL INFO

Holiday & Term dates

22-23 PROPERTY

For sale in the area

26 PUZZLES

Brainteasers

28 USEFUL INFO

Local contact details

30 PORTY LIBRARY

Services & times

Dear Charlie,

I'd like to respond to a couple of recent letters on the Low Road closure. I'm frankly flabbergasted by the entitled attitudes of some drivers — and I say this as a driver myself. Convenience should never come before community safety and environmental impact.

The Low Road is closed due to an extreme risk to life from rockfall, as confirmed in a Historic Environment Scotland report. As a resident of Duddingston Road West, I welcome the peace it has brought, especially in Duddingston Village which I now use more often. Access to the Low Road through the village was always horrendous, with cars beeping, weaving, and queuing - both in the village and past my house. If the Low Road were ever to be reopened, the council must address the access issues through Duddingston Village as currently it's not fit for purpose.

The Low Road closure is not to blame for perceived and over exaggerated congestion at Peffermill. This has always been a congested crossing. I drive through daily and have seen no increase. Drivers must consider closures at Niddrie Road, the Fort, the Commonwealth Pool, and Cameron Toll — plus terrible light sequencing. As for idling, vehicles do this whether stuck in the village, on the Low Road, or on Duddingston Road West.

For the first time, I feel safe walking and cycling on the Low Road and now cycle to work most days, it's also great to now see so many other people walk and cycle along a road that was previously a risk due to the volume of cars and vans. Not to mention the potential rock fall. The village is calmer and safer as a result also — something worth preserving.

Duddingston Resident

Dear Charlie,

I think it's terrible that they want to close Duddingston Low Road. The Park is lovely to drive through and the road is there for that reason.

I have never seen an animal dead on the road (and I don't want to). The park is for everyone to enjoy, not just walkers and cyclists. It's more like the residents in the village complaining but we all have cars driving past our houses.

I have walked that road on many occasions, spotting deer quite a lot. People respect the area and the traffic doesn't put them off the setting. The area has been there many years and will stay the same for many more years. It's people trying to find an excuse. We are so lucky to have this park in the town so let's carry on enjoying it.

I enjoy your magazine very much too.

Everything is for cyclists. Portobello Prom never allowed cyclists years ago and now they do and it's not safe for people walking along. They are so inconsiderate and never ring their bells. Their place is on the road not on the Prom.

Northfield Resident





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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets and posted on our Facebook Page that relate to our local area of Portobello, Craigminty, Joppa and Brunstane.



An **historic 157-year-old clock from Portobello Baptist Church** will be restored and reinstalled after more than 20 years, funded by £150,000 from the city's common good fund. Originally gifted in the 19th century, the clock was removed around 2004 due to deterioration. The reinstallation will cause temporary street closures, but officials say the clock's restoration will be widely welcomed report **BBC News**.

A design competition was launched to redevelop a **disused toilet block on Portobello Promenade** into a sustainable civic hub with improved public facilities, social space, and community amenities. The contest invited creative, low-cost



proposals from architects, designers, and artists, with the winning scheme (due to be announced on 2nd October) intended to be developed in consultation with Edinburgh City Council, report **Architects Journal**.

Edinburgh Evening News report that Edinburgh councillors have rejected a proposal to run **jet ski safari tours from Portobello Beach**, citing serious safety and practical concerns. The applicant repeatedly failed to attend hearings, while



objections were raised by council safety officers, Police Scotland, the coastguard, and Forth Ports, who warned of risks in the busy Forth shipping channel and difficulties with launching jet skis from the beach.

Deadline News report that a large **multi-agency search at Portobello Beach** for a reported missing swimmer turned out to be a false alarm,

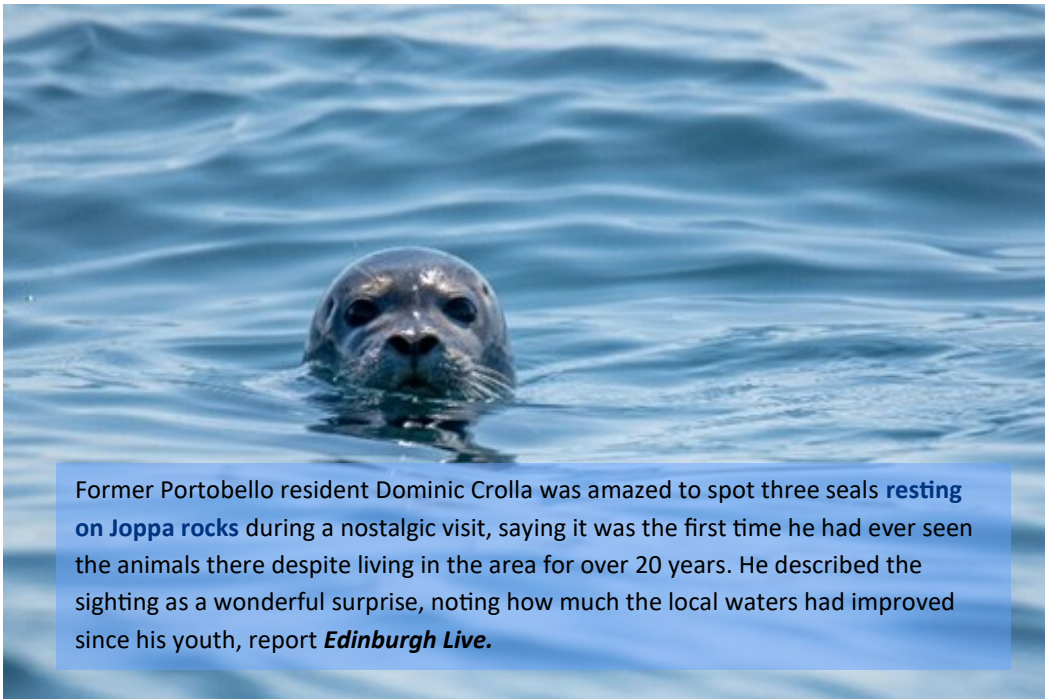
after authorities determined the person had safely made it ashore. HM Coastguard, RNLI,



Police Scotland, and rescue teams were involved, with a helicopter and lifeboats deployed, but nothing was found.

Business owners in Portobello and Joppa warn they may shut up shop if a proposed Controlled Parking Zone goes ahead, fearing it will drive customers away and harm the local economy. Traders argue the scheme lacks public backing and relies on flawed data, while the council says the plans aim to ease parking pressures and will be reviewed carefully before a decision is made, report **Edinburgh Live**.





Former Portobello resident Dominic Crolla was amazed to spot three seals **resting on Joppa rocks** during a nostalgic visit, saying it was the first time he had ever seen the animals there despite living in the area for over 20 years. He described the sighting as a wonderful surprise, noting how much the local waters had improved since his youth, report ***Edinburgh Live***.



A new £600,000 sports facility with 3 covered Padel courts has opened at **Powerleague Portobello**. The courts will be available year-round on a pay-and-play basis, with lessons, social events, and sessions from £7 report The ***Edinburgh Reporter***.

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We scour the internet for interesting things that you could do or see locally and list them here.

Portobello Town Hall

The Scottish Pink Floyd

Friday 3rd October, 19:00-23:00

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Wish You Were Here* with an unforgettable night as the Scottish Pink Floyd come to Portobello for a powerful tribute to one of rock's most iconic albums. Experience the magic as the band performs *Wish You Were Here* in its entirety, capturing every haunting lyric and soaring solo with stunning precision.



Portobello Library & Tribe Party

The Portobello Book Festival

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th October

The programme for this year's festival is lengthy and can be found on their website -

www.portobellobookfestival.com



If you know of a local community event to promote, drop us a line.

Northfield & Willowbrae Community centre

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Tim Jones has been serving as Councillor for Portobello and Craigmillar since 2022.

However, next year he will be running for election as an MSP to represent Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent at Holyrood.

Cllr Jones believes that, with his experience and knowledge of the area, he would be an effective representative in Parliament and focus on issues that matter to locals. Whilst representing the ward during his council term, he has been a lead campaigner for the reopening of Brunstane Road, which affects travel and everyday life for locals. He also disputed the proposal of controlled parking measures along King's Road to Joppa, which many residents appeared to be severely unhappy with, showing he is not afraid to stand up for those he represents and aims to avoid neglecting their

opinion. This is something he hopes to continue on a national level, should he be elected as an MSP, as he believes it is vital to gain trust of the public.

One of the Committees Tim has been a part of during his Council term is the Culture and Communities Committee and believes Portobello Community Council needs to be reinstated in order to connect people and enhance the representation of the public when decisions that affect them are being made.

Another Committee Tim is currently a part of is Policy and Sustainability. During this stint he has worked to prevent vulnerable structures on the coast, such as buildings near Portobello Beach, facing major damage from storms, which had a large impact on many people at the start of this year. However, this is something he believes needs

more work, time and money in order to assist as many affected households and business as possible.

As an ex-teacher, Tim is very passionate about education, something he believes needs immediate change and improvement. He thinks the education system needs restoration after a dramatic decline, partly connected to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and feels a need for more alignment between the curriculum and assessments, that should feature outcomes for children to achieve through stages.

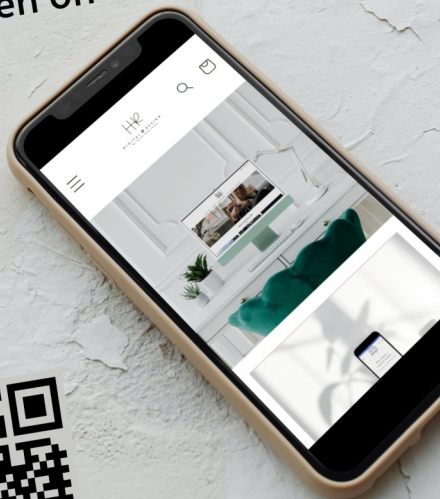
Cllr Jones is a real admirer of one of the biggest landmarks in the constituency, Portobello Beach, and particularly enjoys visits on busy, hot days, when a walk along the promenade, enjoying the grand beach and its glistening sand, can be a real help.



By Shaun McGeachan -
Student of Journalism at
Napier University

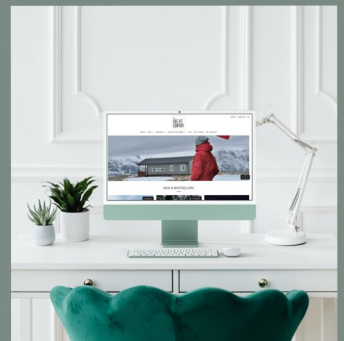
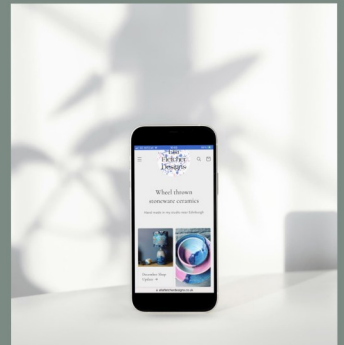
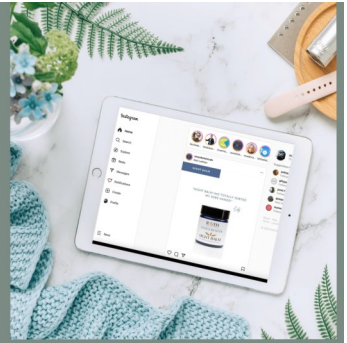
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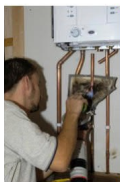
Volunteers teach basic obedience and socialise them while Guide Dogs covers all feeding and vet costs.

The puppy will normally be placed at 7 weeks old and will leave for formal training at 12-14 months. It is still possible to become a puppy walker even if you have a pet dog. To find out more, call Emma Murton on 0345 143 0203 or visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering.



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Summer Term 3 (45 days): Tue 22nd April -
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Autumn Term 1 (86 days): Wed 13th Aug - Fri 19th Dec

Spring Term 2 (58 days): Mon 5th Jan - Thur
2nd April

Total: 189

HOLIDAYS

7th Apr - 21st Apr (11 days)

5th & 6th May (2 days)

19th May (1 day)

27th June - 12th Aug (33 days)

15th Sep (1 day)

13th - 17th Oct (5 days)

22nd Dec - 2nd Jan (10 days)

16th - 20th Feb (5 days)

Total: 68 days



2025/26

[illegible]

Distribution of Portobello Direct covers 6 Primary school and 2 High School catchments and I thought you might be interested in a brief overview. I have given contact details for each one including Phone number and addresses for websites, email, Twitter plus where they have a Facebook Page. There is a whole range of info available on their online Pages but let me know if you think any else specific should be mentioned here.

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Parsonsgreenprimaryschool.co.uk
admin@parsonsgreen.edin.sch.uk

Duddingston PS - 669 5092

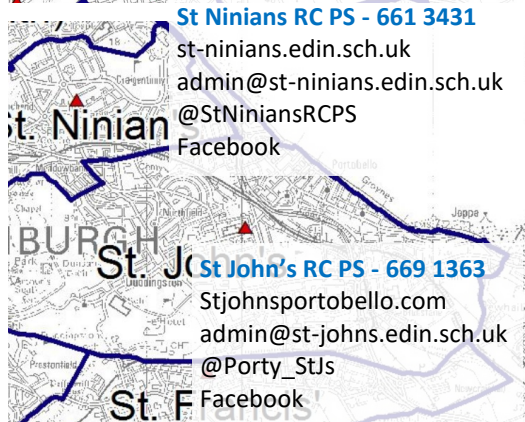
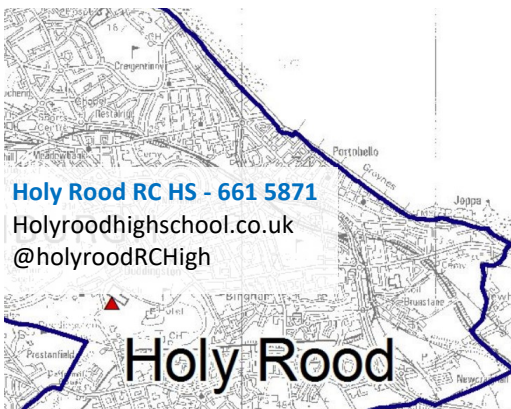
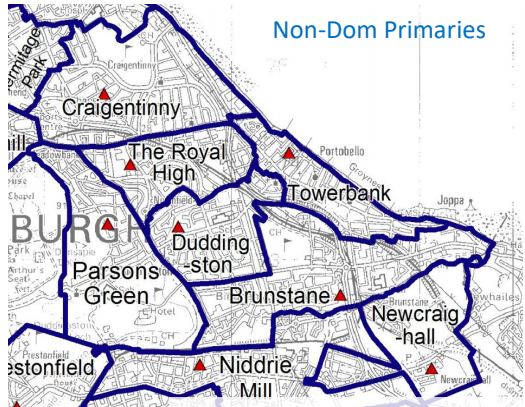
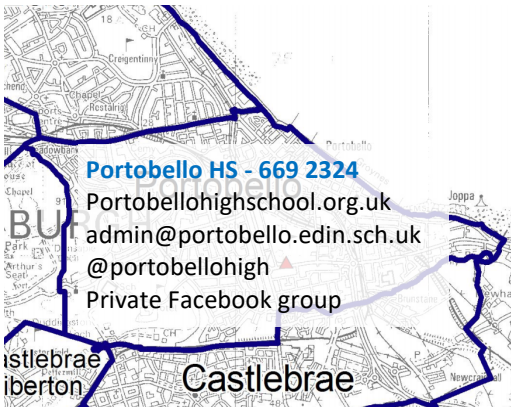
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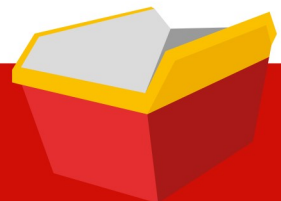
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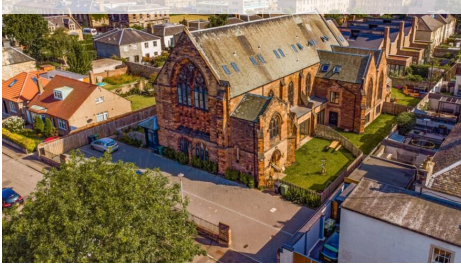


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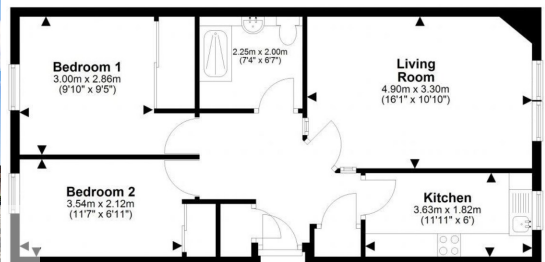
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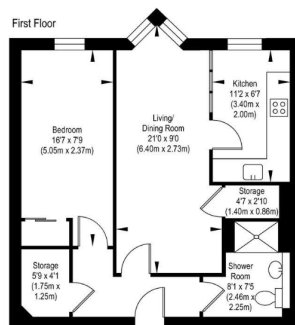
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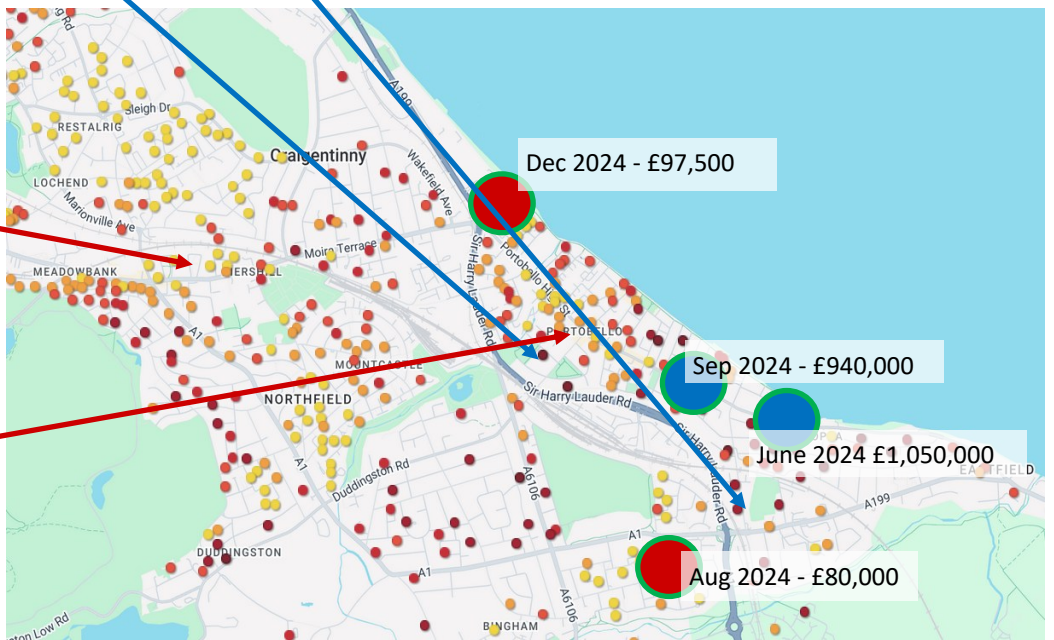
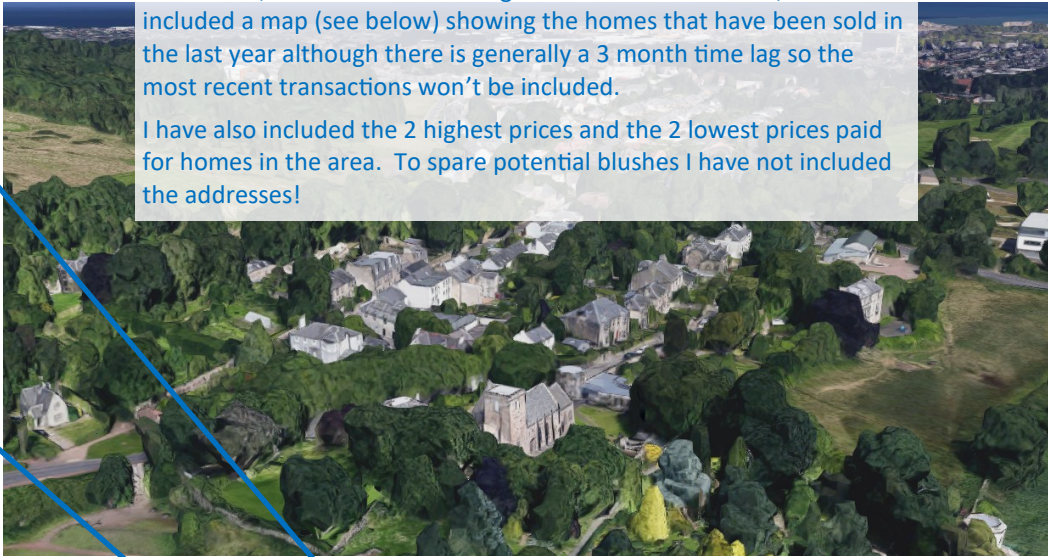
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Over 65% of the population of UK own their own home and this is one reason why we are generally interested and talk about them so often.

I have tried to include a regular feature of homes on the market and this month, as well as 2 of the largest and 2 of the smallest, I have included a map (see below) showing the homes that have been sold in the last year although there is generally a 3 month time lag so the most recent transactions won't be included.

I have also included the 2 highest prices and the 2 lowest prices paid for homes in the area. To spare potential blushes I have not included the addresses!





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For years I presented puzzles from the MENSA but thought it was time for a bit of a change, so here is a selection of slightly different puzzles to tease your brain.

Place the words below into pairs so you have 5 lots of eight letters, each of which is an anagram of at least one other word.

What are the 5 words?

Peer
Time
Date
Wall
June

Tone
Snob
Seat
Pale
Veil

Which is larger, the number of seconds in a day or ...
... the number of hours in 10 years?



At the recent BrainBashers code-breaking convention, Billie Brisk won the speed contest.

The following sentence was deciphered in a record time of 123 seconds.

What was the well-known saying and how has it been encrypted?

MOOT CYNA SKOO IOPS
EHTL TORB YCBH

Last month's answers:

Q1: 1
Q2: C
Q3: Gate 2





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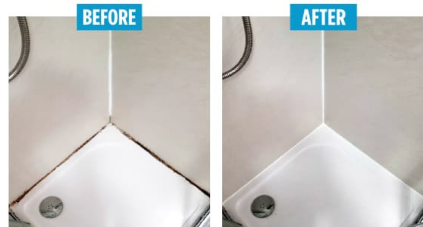


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Brunstane Primary	669 4498
Newcraighall Primary	669 3598
St Ninians RC Primary	661 3431
St Johns RC Primary	669 1363
Portobello High	669 2324
Holyrood RC High	661 5871


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Sick Kids	536 0000
Childline	0800 1111
Parentline	08000 28 22 33
Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
Well Edinburgh, Craighentinny	661 2523
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Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
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Regular activities for children and young people

Children's Storytime - Tuesday 4pm,

Lego Club, fortnightly +

Children's Craft session, fortnightly - Friday 2pm,

Chatterbooks reading group for children, fourth Saturday of the month - Saturday 2pm,

Bookbug Rhymetime sessions - Live on Facebook Tuesdays, 11-11:30

OPEN LIBRARY

Services

Visiting Portobello Library, you can: browse and borrow books- return your books- pick up free period products - use the photocopier- collect hearing aid batteries- use a public computer and print- use a study space- apply for a National Entitlement Card (bus pass).

Dog friendly day Thursdays.

Facilities

Disabled access - Public accessible toilets - Wheelchair accessible - Baby change facilities - Free Wi-Fi and computer access - Charging for personal devices and electric wheelchairs - Study areas - Seating area - Bookable community space

Regular events and activities for adults

Library Link fortnightly service for those unable to come to the library under their own steam. Please contact the library for more information - Monday @ 10.30am.

Adult Writers Group - 4th Monday of the month @ 6.30pm.

Home delivery service, fortnightly for customers unable to leave home. Contact library for more info - Wednesdays

City of Edinburgh Councillor Surgery - Wednesday @ 7pm.

Adult Book Group - 1st Monday of the month @ 6.30pm.

Opening hours

Mon - Wed: 10am to 8pm

Thur - Sat: 10am to 5pm

Contact

Telephone 0131 529 5558

Email portobello.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

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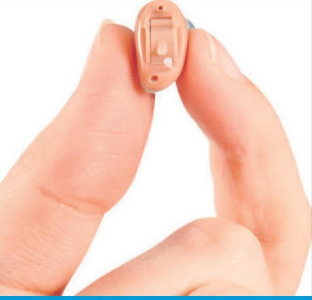


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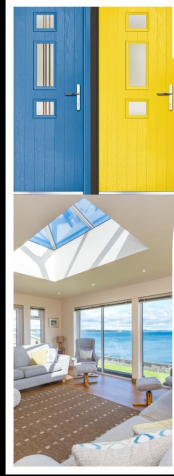
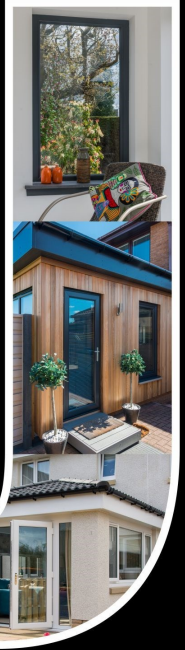
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