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Portobello magazine

August 2026



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Charlie Cowdy

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FESTIVAL & FRINGE IN PORTY

The city centre is almost completely taken over by the International Festival and Fringe so it is good to see some of the activity spread to other areas. Portobello is a vibrant town and has great facilities to accommodate much of this so it is good to see its Festival use improving. With it comes pressure from more visitors including parking, litter, and toilets along with opportunities including easier access to shows for local residents, better turnover for businesses and support for community facilities.

Portobello Town Hall is one of the facilities due for a boost and you can see some more info on the "Things-to-do" pages (10 & 11) .

A large influx of visitors will need careful management by the Council, Police, Venues , Performers and residents. It will take a team effort and I hope our local communities show tolerance, patience and

resilience. However, vigilance will still play its part and reporting major issues or anti-social behaviour to the Council, Police, and venues remains as important as ever.

I am very much looking forward to the excitement, energy and fun of the festival and fringe and hope you are too.

The excitement continues with another local political election just around the corner - take a look at the News on page 7 for more info as local Councillor Tim Jones helps a budding new candidate learn the ropes.

Charlie Cowdy

Editor

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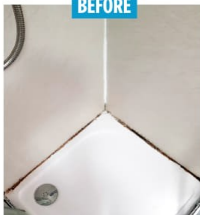
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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets and posted on our Facebook Page that relate to our local area of Portobello, Craiginny, Joppa and Brunstane.

A Portobello man who is also known as the Kilted Runner Down Under, believes he has set a new Guinness World Record for completing a marathon in full Highland dress. Nick Ghamgosar now lives in Brisbane, Australia and took part in a marathon on the Gold Coast reported **EdinburghLive**



Portobello was ranked the No. 1 best neighbourhood in Edinburgh in a report by **Edinburgh News** that described it as "This seaside suburb in Edinburgh was voted the best neighbourhood in the UK and Ireland at the 2020 Urbanism Awards. Portobello has many things to offer - including a sandy beach, ice cream parlours, arcades and beach-side cafes and bars. "



The same paper however also ran an article that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency advised people to avoid **Portobello bathing water** following a week-long pollution incident. That advice was then withdrawn as water reading improved.

Soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Scotland tackled a **gruelling beach workout at Portobello** just weeks after returning from a major Nato exercise near the Russian border according to **Edinburgh News**

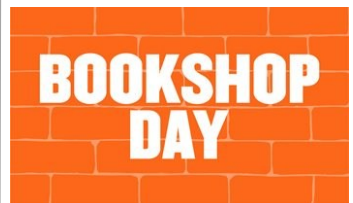


Four men were arrested in East Ayrshire and charged with attempted murder in connection with an incident that saw a lorry **crash into a**

house in the Christians near Portobello.



Brigid Lowe, a Welsh **author now based in Portobello** as been named as a Bookshop Day ambassador for 2026 according to Herald Scotland



Portobello High School has launched its new Girls Cycling Programme, bringing together more than 70 young women from across the school community to embark on a journey of adventure, empowerment, friendship and discovery through cycling.

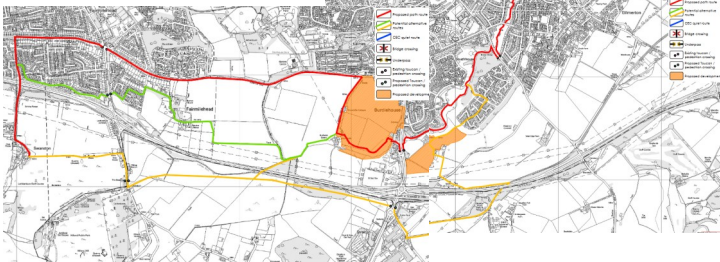
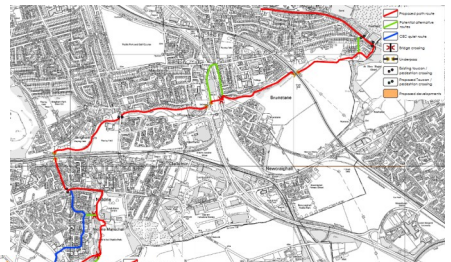




The recent Scottish election saw Portobello Councillor Kate Campbell elected to the Scottish Parliament so a by-election has been called for 3rd September to replace her on the Council. Haris Young has been selected to stand for the Conservatives and is pictured here in the foreground, with ever popular serving Conservative Councillor Tim Jones, on Portobello promenade.

A readers' letter to **Edinburgh News** highlighted a proposal to create a "**Pentlands to Porty**" pathway through Fairmilehead, Burdiehouse, Moredun, Gilmerton, Niddrie and Craigmillar and all the way to Joppa where it could meet the Portobello coastal cycleway and link up to the city's entire waterfront.

(Maps from Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust)



It could in theory create a triangular route that would include the Water of Leith Walkway. That route would be around 25-30 miles and would include some of the finest green space and views in Scotland.



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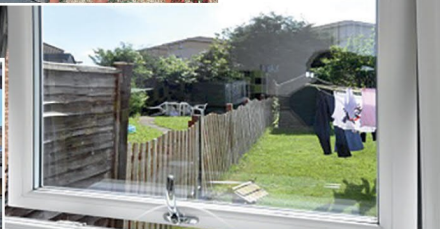
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We scour the internet for interesting things that you could do or see locally and list them here.

Portobello Town Hall

Porty Fringe

5th - 16th August

As the Fringe buzzes across the city, Porty brings its own stage to the celebration - right on your doorstep. Expect lively crowds, unforgettable performances, and something new around every corner. From laugh-out-loud comedy to toe-tapping concerts and magical moments for kids, this is your summer, your neighbourhood, your Fringe.

For info visit www.portyfrings.com



Portobello Baptist Church

Community Fridge

Saturday's - 10:30 - 11:30

The main aims are to reduce Food Waste in the local area, increase awareness of the environmental impact from food waste, inspire positive changes to behaviour, and address issues of food poverty and reach those most in need.

Everyone is welcome.

Receiving active support from local organisations like Action Porty, the Town Hall, the Wash House, the Timebank and PEDAL, the hope is to create a sociable space for the community to cook, eat and share food.

Mindful of carbon use and impact the intention is to increase use of cargo bikes in collecting and delivering food.



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

Bellfield

Friday Cafe

Fridays' -10:00am - 12:30pm



Go along to Bellfield's Large Hall for a weekly volunteer-run Community Café. Meet new people, connect with other friendly faces, learn new skills and, of course, have some tasty nibbles. The café is open to all and it's 'pay what you wish' (by donation)!

www.bellfield.scot/bellfield-cafe-kitchen

Brighton Park

Portobello Market

Saturday 1st August - 9:30am - 1:30pm

Set against the charming backdrop of **Portobello**, Edinburgh's beloved seaside neighbourhood, **Portobello Market** is a vibrant gathering of **local farmers, artisans, and independent traders**. Held monthly, this community-driven market is the perfect place to find **fresh produce, handmade goods, and delicious street food** while soaking up the friendly atmosphere of this coastal town.






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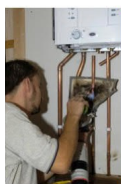
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TERM DATES

HOLIDAYS



Total: 189

- 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)

Summer Term 3 (45 days): Tue 22nd April -
Thur 26th June
Autumn Term 1 (86 days): Wed 13th Aug -
Fri 19th Dec
Spring Term 2 (58 days): Mon 5th Jan - Thur
2nd April



2025/26

Aug					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sep		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
Oct				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Nov						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Dec		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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Jun		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
Jul				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

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.

Parsons Green PS - 661 4459

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

Brunstane PS - 669 4498

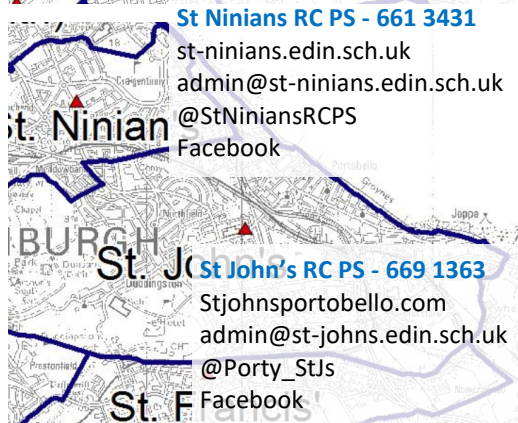
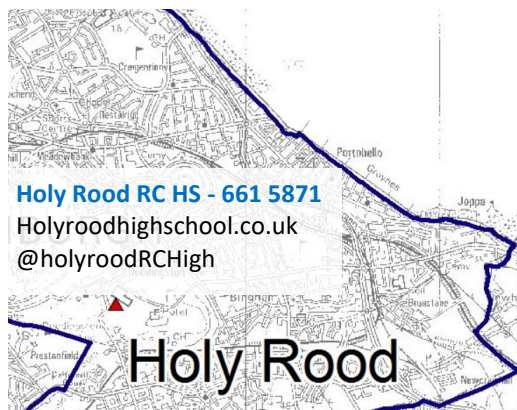
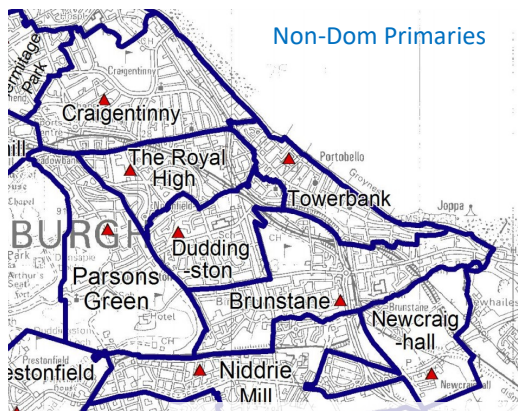
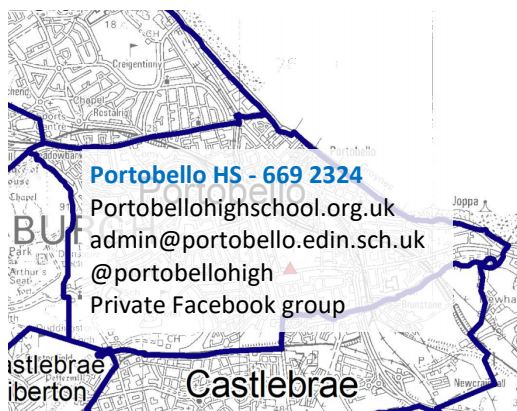
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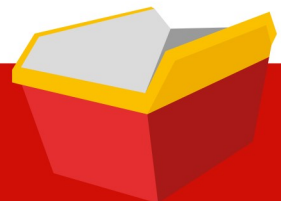
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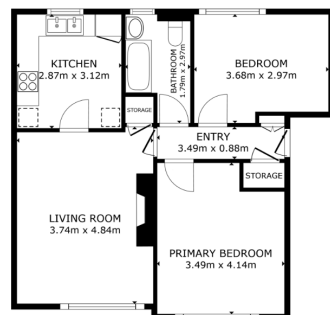
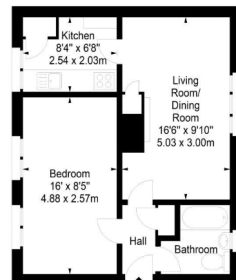
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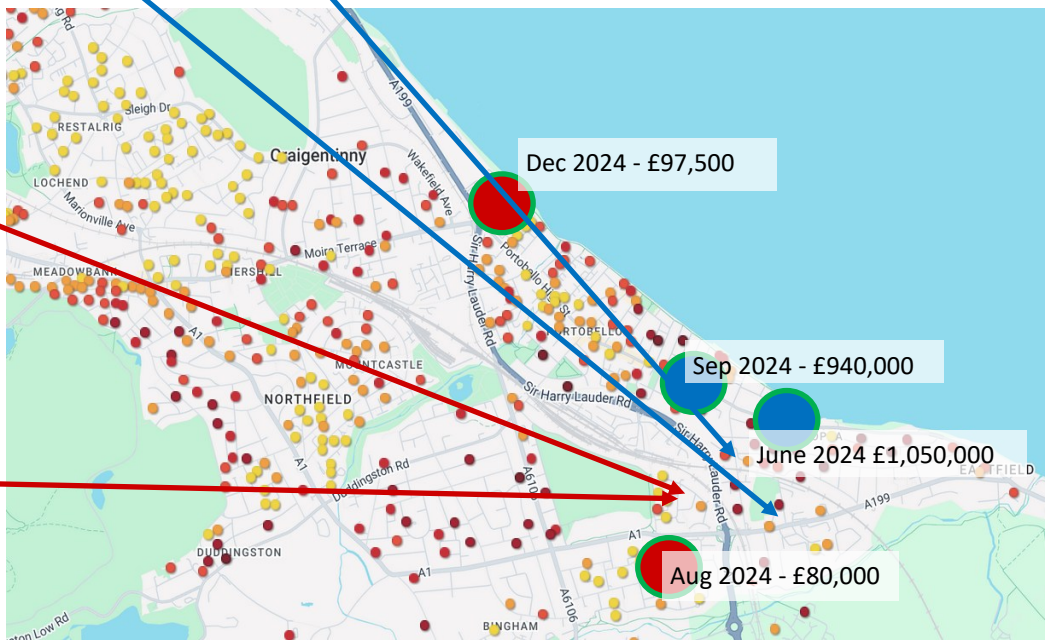
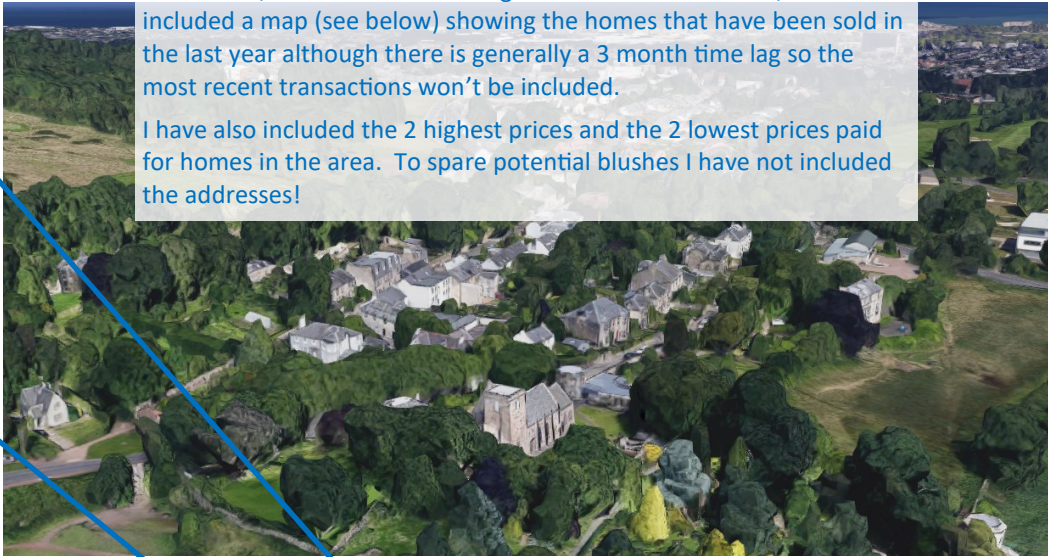
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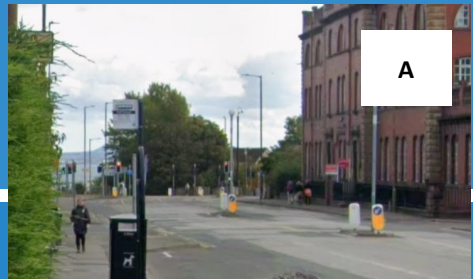
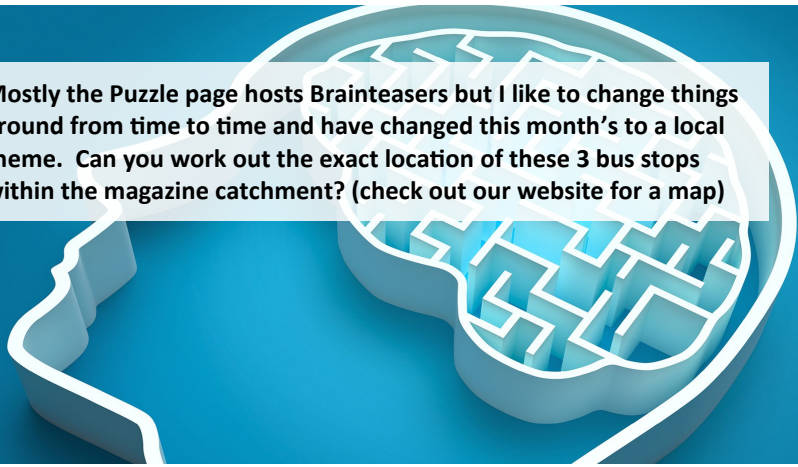
Over 65% of the population of UK own their own home and this is one reason why we are generally interested and talk about them so often.

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!



Mostly the Puzzle page hosts Brainteasers but I like to change things around from time to time and have changed this month's to a local theme. Can you work out the exact location of these 3 bus stops within the magazine catchment? (check out our website for a map)



Last month's answers

- A : Vandeleur Avenue
- B : Windsor Place
- C : Coillesdene Drive



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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
Holy Rood RC High	661 5871



HEALTH

Royal Infirmary & Sick Kids	536 1000
Childline	0800 1111
Children First	08000 28 22 33
Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
Well Edinburgh, Craiginny	661 2523
Lindsay & Gilmour, High St	669 4331
Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
Boots, Porty High St	669 1883



TRAVEL

Lothian Buses	0131 555 6363
Traveline	0871 200 2233
Airport	0131 357 6337

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Clarity is Authorised and Regulated by the FCA 453293

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

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.

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

Opening hours

Mon - Wed: 10am to 8pm

Thur - Sat: 10am to 5pm

Contact

Telephone 0131 529 5558

Email portobello.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

Facebook Portobello Library Facebook page

Twitter @PortyLibrary





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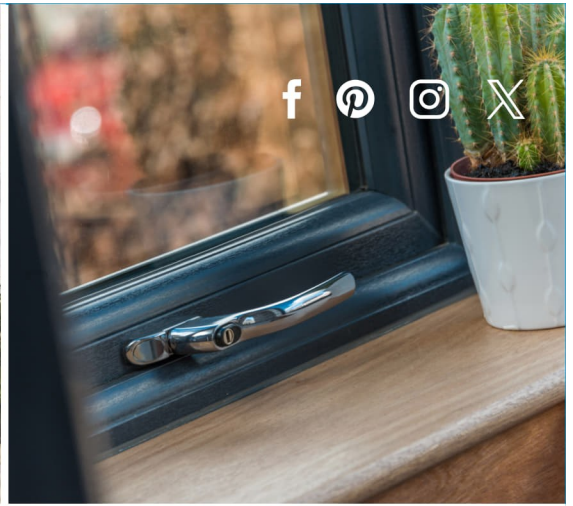
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