



Portobello magazine

Promoting local organisations and informing residents

April 2026



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Portobello magazine

April 2026



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Charlie Cowdy

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2026 IS MOTORING ALONG

Springtime in Portobello can be some of the best months of the year, as nature recovers from winter, with flowers beginning to spring and cherry blossom starting to bloom. Local beauty spots such as Porty beach and The Newhailes estate look spectacular around this time of year - I would definitely recommend a visit.

There are 2 significant events currently at the forefront of my mind. The first (and most important) is the recent registration by my Father for the Victorian Pool Crawl with Edinburgh Leisure to raise funds for their Active Communities Programme.

It is a charitable initiative supporting people facing struggles with health and wellbeing by providing accessible, low-cost physical activity and helps over 14,700 people each year.

Transparency statement - My Father was elected to the City Council in 2022 and as part of

this role was appointed to the Board of Edinburgh Leisure.

He says it has been a very constructive experience, particularly learning about the great work of the Active Communities team.

You can read more about it opposite and if you would like to donate, visit his Facebook Page @CandidateCowdy and click on the pinned post.

The exciting local part is that the finish will be hosted by the Portobello Swim Centre so he is particularly looking forward to that.

The second event is, of course, the impending Scottish Parliamentary Election on 7th May. It is very important you vote and we have included some info on where your polling place can be found in our "News" feature (Page 6).

Charlie Cowdy

Editor

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Christopher Cowdy



I will be taking part in the 2026 Victorian Pool Crawl that will see around 75 people walking 16km and swimming 1km in each of the city's 5 Victorian pools in a single day to raise money for Edinburgh Leisure's Active Communities programme.

My target is to raise £1,000

The Active Communities programme supports people of all ages facing barriers to physical activity and sport. This includes people experiencing poverty, disabilities, and those living with long term ill-health.

The programme helps thousands of people a year and, as a charity, Edinburgh Leisure is on a mission to help more people lead better, active and healthy lives.

If you want to donate, visit my

Facebook Page - @CandidateCowdy

and click on the pinned post that links to the Just Giving website



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inequalities

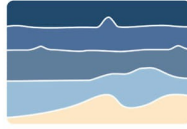


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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets and posted on our Facebook Page that relate to our local area of Portobello, Craighentiny, Joppa and Brunstane.



The **Oscar's Gelato family-run shop in Portobello**, has been crowned the best in the UK after winning the prestigious Golden Scoop National Champion award in March. The shop also took home top prizes for its innovative salted pistachio and chilli gelato. Since opening in the summer of 2020, the artisan gelateria has amassed so many accolades for its homemade creations that it required a dedicated display cabinet, which now proudly houses their new national champion title, report **Edinburgh Evening News**.

A recent six-week consultation on mobile phone restrictions in Edinburgh schools gathered



almost 14,000 responses, from adults and pupils. While 97% of secondary school staff and 94% of parents favour restrictions, with many supporting a whole-day ban, only 3% of pupils agree to a full-day restriction, with the majority preferring access during lunch and break times. The council is currently analysing this feedback to finalise the strategy, with a report expected in June 2026, say **Midlothian View**

The Daily Record report that a dozen people celebrated International Women's Day with a **sunrise swim at Portobello Beach**, raising



money for Women's Aid. The celebrations continued with a march to the Scottish Parliament. The day's events honoured the historic efforts of suffragists while fostering unity for ongoing global and local campaigns for equality

Midlothian View report that **Portobello Running Club** have been allocated extra funding

PORTOBELLO RUNNING CLUB

as Edinburgh councillors approved the distribution of money through the Sports Events Grants Fund. Aimed at promoting physical activity, the grants will back activities ranging from grassroots competitions to higher-level tournaments

Joyce Freeman, a 75-year-old with Multiple Sclerosis, is at her 'wits' end after being forced to climb three flights of stairs for five weeks due to a **broken lift at her Joppa flat**.

The property factors say they cannot carry out repairs as there are insufficient funds to because several owners in the block have not yet paid their share, report **Edinburgh Evening News**.



With Scottish parliamentary elections coming on 7th May, City of Edinburgh Council have developed an interactive online map to help people find their polling place. If you search “[Find my polling place Edinburgh](#)” on a search engine, the top result will take you straight to a map where you can click on your house to be told the relevant polling place.



Restalrig Road will undergo up to four months of phased closures and restrictions for resurfacing, pavement, and drainage works. The nine-phase project, stretching from East Hermitage Place to Sleigh Drive, involves road closures, temporary lights, and parking suspensions. The council guarantees pedestrian and emergency access and will observe an Easter break (3rd-12th April), while pledging to minimise disruption to the local community, report *Deadline News*



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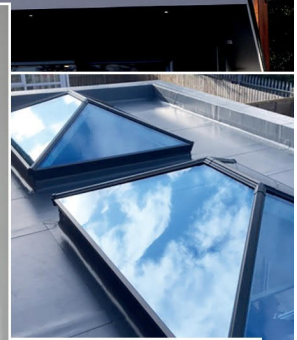
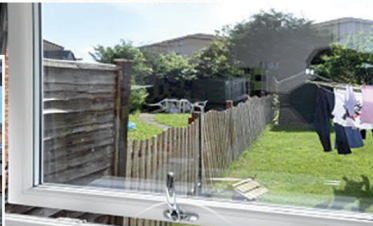
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We scour the internet for interesting things that you could do or see locally and list them here.

Portobello Town Hall

The Portobello Bookshop presents: An Evening with Evelyn Clarke

Sun 19th April, 19:30 - 20:45



The Portobello Bookshop team are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming Evelyn Clarke – AKA V.E. Schwab and Cat Clarke – to Portobello Town Hall to celebrate the publication of *The Ending Writes Itself* with an evening of conversation!

Don't miss out on your chance to hear all about the buzzy locked room mystery crime thriller that everyone will be talking about this year.

Traade

Neighbourhood Ultra

Sun 5th April, 9:00-16:00

Run a 5km loop starting and finishing at Traade on Porty high street. Run as many loops as you want/think you can, between 9am & 4pm. Each time you complete a 5km loop lululemon will add a raffle ticket to the pot against your name. Lululemon and Traade are donating raffle prizes. Run more loops, get more tickets, give yourself more chance of

winning the raffle. There will be DJ's, coffee and pastries, make shift photo booths, and a group social run at 12pm.

Not running? No problem...people will be

stationed at Traade all day for coffee/cheer/chat.

Free but sign up via Facebook or Eventbrite



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

Tribe Party

The Dead Curious Café

Thursday 23rd April, 18:30



Newhailes House & Gardens

Easter Explorers & Rainforest Adventurers

Fri 3rd - Sun 5th April, 45-55 minutes between 10:00 and 15:00

This creative workshop teaches children about biodiversity and the global impact of rainforest environments. Participants will explore the different layers of the forest and encounter exotic critters, from forest floor snails and understory stick insects to climbing snakes, jumping tarantulas, and canopy tree frogs. The adventure concludes with an exciting, hands-on opportunity to meet and safely handle some of the animals. Suitable for children aged 2-12. Check availability and book on eventrbite.co.uk





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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

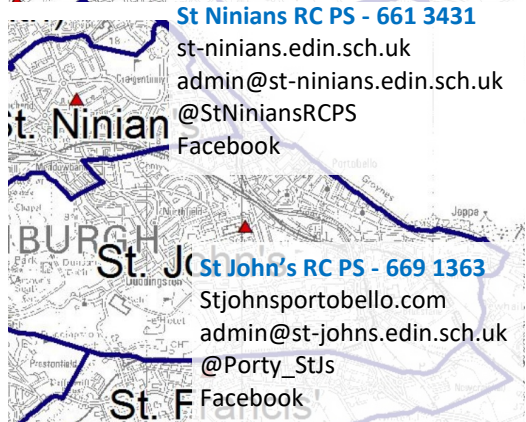
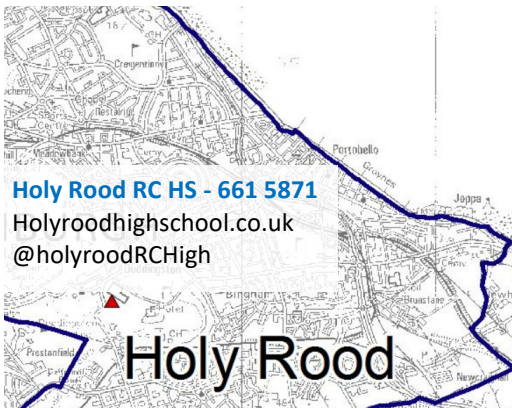
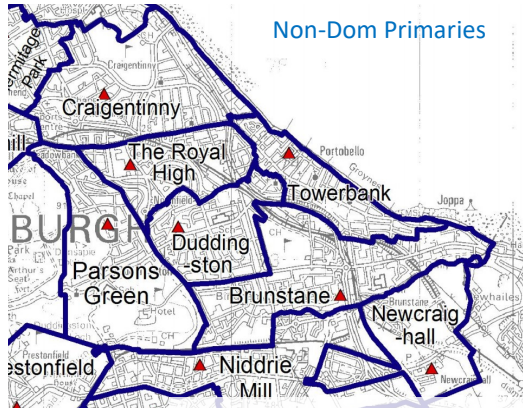
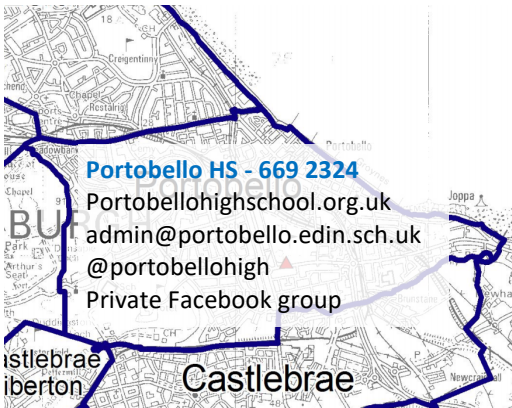
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2025

WED 15 APR 7PM



Project Hail Mary

A science teacher finds himself on a spaceship on a mission to save Earth from extinction.

Director: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller
Cast: Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller, Lionel Boyce
2026

WED 29 APR 7PM



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SAT 18 APR 7.30PM



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SAT 25 APR 7.30PM

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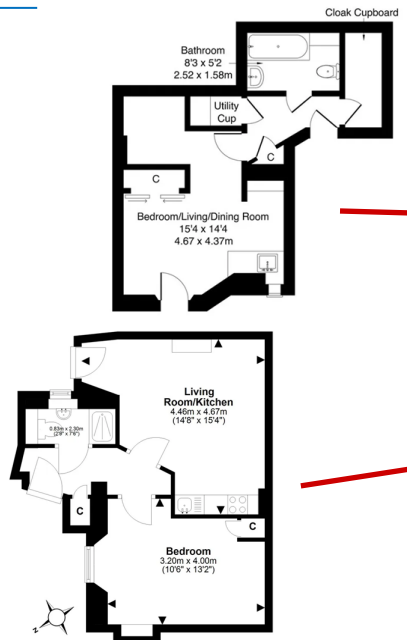
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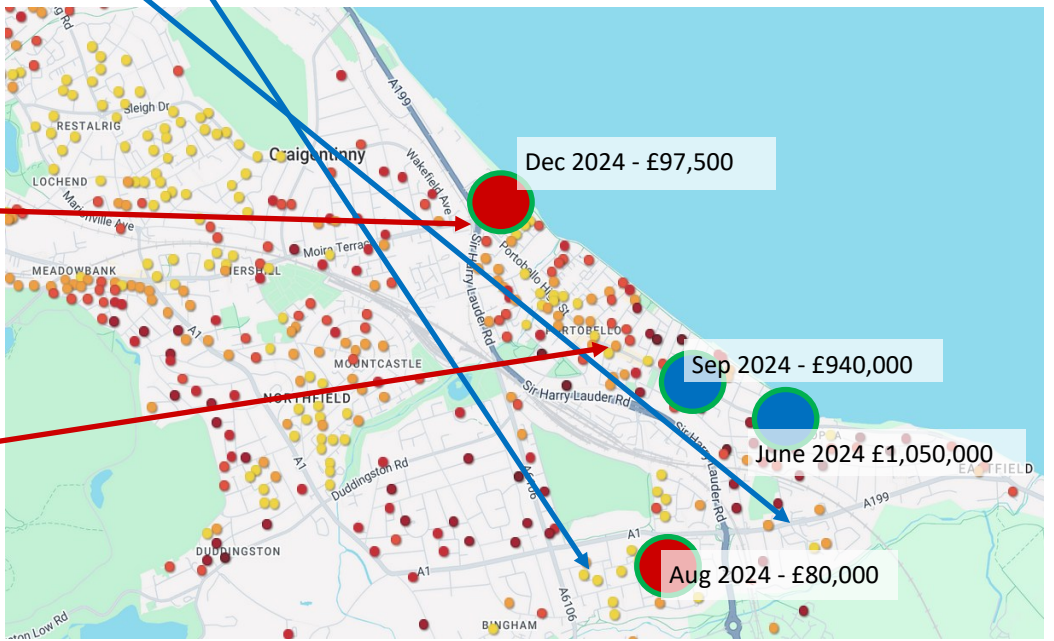
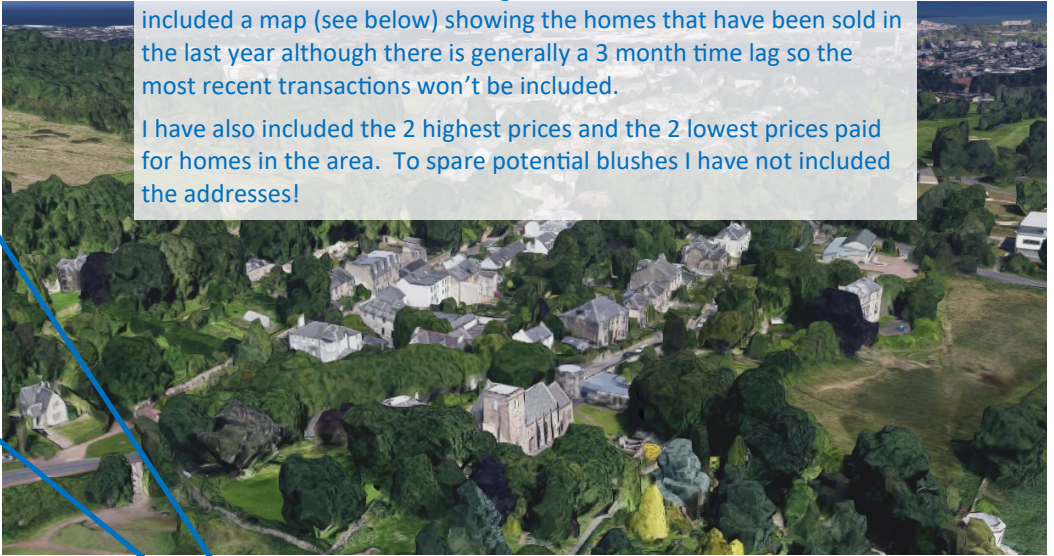
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Over 65% of the population of UK own their own home and this is one reason why we are generally interested and talk about them so often.

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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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 tops within the magazine catchment? (check out our website for a map)



Last month's answers:



Q1: Red Diamond = 6

Q2: The number = 3

Q3: Slovakia neighbours Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria & Czech Republic



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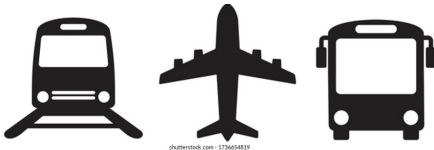


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St Johns RC Primary	669 1363
Portobello High	669 2324
Holyrood RC High	661 5871



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Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
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Lindsay & Gilmour, High St	669 4331
Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
Boots, Porty High St	669 1883



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assessment**



Edinburgh
Trusted Trader



OPEN
LIBRARY

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

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

Facebook Portobello Library Facebook page

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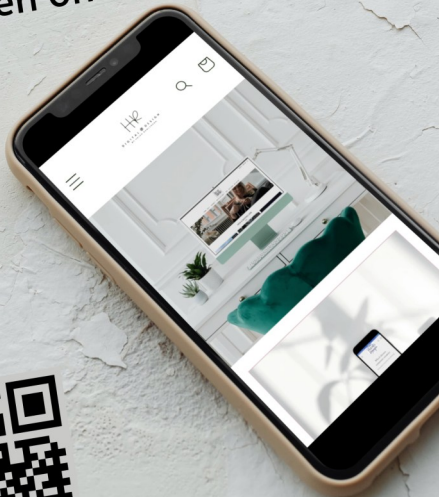
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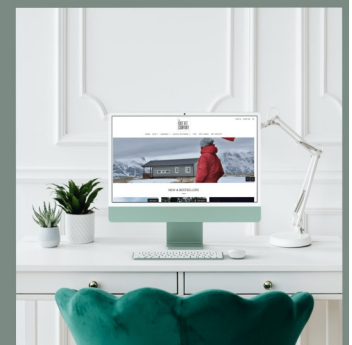
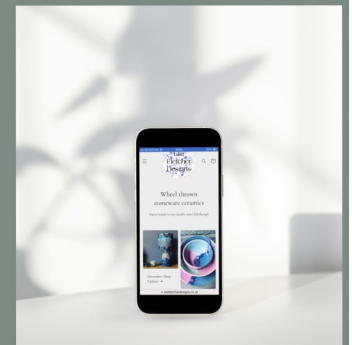
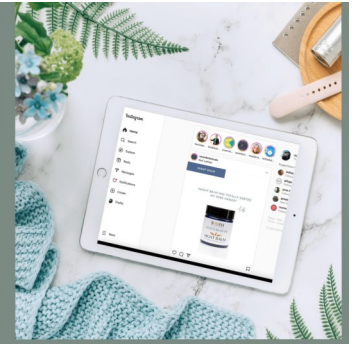
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Guide Dogs is seeking volunteers to raise a puppy for a year

Puppy walkers start puppies on their journey to fully -fledged guide dogs, caring for them until they are ready for training school. Like all puppies, they start off as little bundles of fluff and mischief and you get

to see them develop and grow. 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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