

## **A VIGIL TO REMEMBER THE DEAD OF GAZA – 6.10pm – SUNDAY 17 MAY**

**Organised by Porty Pals of Palestine - Junction of Portobello High Street and Brighton Place**

*Porty Pals of Palestine was set up in 2025 with a vision that by 2040, people in Portobello will be able to host friends from Gaza and be hosted there in return. Our members are from Portobello and beyond. We aim to build cultural, educational and solidarity links between the community of Portobello and communities in Palestine, particularly Gaza. Through shared activities we will promote justice, human rights and lasting friendships. Our friends in Gaza live in and work from tents. We put up a tent regularly on Portobello beach in solidarity. We are working to explore the opportunities for twinning between Gaza and Portobello*

**Alastair Cameron writes:** ‘We are in regular contact with four people in Gaza, hearing from them several times every week via WhatsApp and holding occasional Zoom meetings. Two are health workers, one is a teacher and one an agriculturalist. They are desperate for people to know more about the conditions they are living under. One of them, Huda, keeps a blog in Substack:

<https://substack.com/@hudaabumusabeh/note/c-243511387?r=86yht6>

She has asked that we share it so you can read her first-hand accounts of family life under genocide conditions. Another thing that is very important to them is that the outside world recognises and remembers the individuals who have been killed in the course of the conflict. We have said to them that we will do our best on this; we are working on a number of ways of doing so.

**The next Porty Pals of Palestine event will be this Sunday 10 May at 2.00-4.00 pm** on the beach outside Portobello Swim Centre (foot of Pittville Street). Come at 1.30 if you want to help **put up the tent** - we always need willing hands! We will be serving mint tea and other refreshments; we will have information about our plans; we will engage in conversation about Palestine and Gaza. There will be activities for adults and children; this will include decorating pebbles through which we will remember the lives of health workers – about 1700 - killed in Gaza in the course of the genocide since October 2023. Our tent events are the key activity at this stage - it's our way of having a presence in Portobello, of keeping up awareness of the situation in Gaza, of meeting new people and making new connections. You are welcome to come for a few minutes or to spend the whole afternoon with us. Members of Porty Pals of Palestine are involved in the daily pot-banging at the junction of Brighton Place and Portobello High Street (6pm for 10 minutes if you want to join us.)

After that, **we will be holding a vigil on Sunday 17 May at the junction of Portobello High Street and Brighton Place; this will take place at 6.10 pm, following the daily 'pot banging'.** At this event, the names of some individuals who have been killed in Gaza since 2023 will be read out, and a brief outline of their stories. We would be very grateful if parishioners of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's would attend. We expect it will last about 20 minutes.

One of the other approaches is more ambitious: we would like to hold an inter-faith event in a church, mosque or other religious building as a way of remembering the dead. Watch this space...'