Gather GothPoints and help paint murals

Most people are familiar with loyalty cards offered by the large retailers. Now here’s a card with a difference - the Gothenburg Card. Profits from the bars and restaurant above a five per cent return go to the Prestoungrange Arts Festival - a registered charity running cultural projects in the community. These include the growing series of murals, historical booklets, commissioned artworks, pottery and music.

Now, in exchange for a donation of at least £1, you too can become a member of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. You then receive a Membership Card which you should present every time you buy anything other than alcohol or tobacco. Just like in the supermarket, you receive points, called GothPoints, which can be redeemed against meals, non-alcoholic drinks, teas, coffees, souvenirs or Fowler’s BrewSet registration fees.

The number of points you receive will vary according to the day and time you visit - with more points available during less busy periods. Also sure to be popular is the £100 Lucky Member Weekly Draw. On a designated evening each week, members who are present with their Gothenburg Card and have earned GothPoints that day are eligible to win £100 if their membership number is drawn. If no-one wins, the ‘jack-pot’ keeps rolling over to the next week until it is won.

GothPoints can also be bought by members in the form of gift certificates to give away to others as presents.

Spot the painting competition

The Gothenburg will also house the majority of the Arts Festival’s collection of paintings which have been commissioned over the last few years.

Two of our visitors at the Gothenburg on 19 June can win a celebratory meal for four on either night of the Pans Fringe in August, up to the value of £40. Tell us which artist was responsible for the large painting hanging in the Thomas Nelson Suite.

Entries should be sent to Adele Conn, The Prestoungrange Festival Society, 227 High Street, Prestonpans, EH32 9BE, or by e-mail to aconn@prestoungrange.org. Don’t forget to include your name and address.

On June 19, come and see the new Prestoungrange Gothenburg

June 19 marks a special day in the long history of the Prestoungrange Gothenburg. On that day the restored Gothenburg officially opens for business, including all the new facilities and old restored parts.

And the doors are opening in style, with a grand open day and invitation for all to come and see what’s going on. There will be lots happening, including a visit from June Lake, the Tennent’s Lager Girl who helped re-launch the bar for Tennent Caledonian in 1986. This time she will be unveiling the mural presented by Lindsay, California, in the main entrance.

Thomas Nelson V, grandson of the man who lent £2,000 in 1908 to fund the original building, will formally open the new function facilities and name them the Thomas Nelson Suite. And Garth Morrison CBIE, Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian, will perform the formal opening ceremony itself by unveiling the Bicks Memorial.

There will be a chance to meet the staff, old and new. They will be standing by to show you around and give you a taste of the many events that are planned over the coming months.

Since it opened its doors in December 1908, the bar and function room have held a special place in the affections of Panners. Now it is reopening as a unique establishment, not just to Prestonpans, or even to Scotland, but probably to the whole of Europe and beyond.

Nowhere else, as far as we know, is there a bar and restaurant, with its own microbrewery on the premises, offering group tuition in brewing. Add to this the original arts and crafts décor and the outstanding extended function suites upstairs.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing is that it will be the first hospitality venue in nearly 100 years to open under the charitable Gothenburg system of management. Profits from the Gothenburg will help to pay for arts and heritage work in and around Prestounpans, which in turn will help generate tourism which helps the economy.

Gothenburg Day

23 July


WHAT’S ON AND WHEN

10.45am Prestoungrange Gothenburg opens its doors
11.15am Thomas Lorne Nelson V opens the Thomas Nelson Suite
12.15pm June Lake unveils the Cat Fight mural
2.30pm Lord Lieutenant officially declares the Gothenburg open
3.00pm Mural tour of Prestonpans sets off, led by the artists
4.00pm The official festivities end - but the James Fewell Bar stays open until 11.00pm

Gala Week Celebrations

Happily, the opening of the Prestoungrange Gothenburg coincides with the annual Prestonpans Gala Day celebrations. Saturday 19 June is the highlight of the week long Gala celebrations which start the previous Saturday. On the 19th, festivities kick off with the crowning ceremony at 11.30am, followed by the parade which leaves from Middlesson Square at around 12.30. The afternoon continues with fairground attractions, a puppet show, face painting, stalls and races. Gala week is always very well supported by residents and business in the town, and it’s sure to be a fun day for all, no matter what the weather does.

Painting Competition 4

Bounty of Arts and Crafts 3

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An up to date list of all our events is always to be found at our website - www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg

16 Aug An Evening with Sheila – dinner & show with Sheila Fraser
13 July Barons’ Courts Judgements and Stocks
23 July Barons’ Courts in Session
13 July Buntos Bursary announcement and Exhibition
20 June Jazz Sunday – an afternoon with Edith Budge & Tam White
12 August Pars Fringe performances
18 Aug Lorca – a Spanish evening
16 Aug An Evening with Sheila – dinner & show with Sheila Fraser
The day the Fowler’s started flowing

Baron Courts in Session

For the last 1,000 years, Barons in Scotland have been able to dispense criminal and civil justice within their lands through Baronial Courts.

This right will be abolished later this year, but to celebrate the tradition, the Barons of Prestoungrange and Dolphinston are to hold two final joint Judicial Sessions on 13 and 27 July. The two Barons will be convening their Courts in all their glory at the Caput at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg

They already have a fascinating array of Petitions to consider, some of which might well result in penalties being handed out. Under the present law, dating from 1746, Baron Courts can impose fines of up to £2 and up to three hours in the stocks. Significantly, a new set of stocks has been ordered for the occasion!

Although these sessions are meant to be light-hearted, they also represent a serious attempt to redefine the function of Baronial feudalism. Among the petitions is one to create a Scottish Charity which will carry out work for the good of the community. Also to be heard is a petition to pardon all witches and their cats that were put to death before the Witchcraft Act of 1735. Another will declare 28 November Scottish Barons’ Day, with fireworks in Prestonpans at least.

Anyone interested in presenting a petition should do so by the end of June. Details of all petitions to be heard will be published ahead of the first hearing.

A Bounty of Arts and Craft

In 1908, the inside of the Gothenburg was considered to be the height of sophistication - comparing favourably with the fashionable new tea-rooms in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The ornate and detailed decoration, in evidence all over the Gothenburg, is typical of the arts and crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th century. Attention to detail was central to the philosophy, as was craftsmanship and individuality. Charles Rennie Mackintosh was heavily influenced by the movement and many of the Gothenburg’s decorations are very similar to the beautiful designs on the tiles that surround it and by the leaded stained glass in all the windows.

As soon as you set foot inside the James Fewell Bar you are struck by the intense colour and shapes and colours he used.

The shape of the bar is unusual as is the design of the arched fireplaces and seats both here and in the adjoining James Park Lounge. Here the original wood wall panelling remains, as does the dumb-waiter.

Going up the staircase there is another feast of colour from the original tiling. The glass doors at the top are a modern addition, but inspired by the arts and crafts door in the Whitechapel Gallery in London.

The area which is now the Lord Mayor’s Bar was originally a tea-room, with stunning views of the sea through the highly individual bay windows and kept warm in winter with the ornate fireplaces. The Lord Mayor in question was of course from Gothenburg and visited on 23 July 2003.

Thankfully, despite its frequent refurbishments over the years, the original features of the Gothenburg remained largely intact. Renovation of the building has taken three years, but has preserved one of East Lothian’s best examples of the arts and crafts movement. And every effort has been made to ensure that the additional facilities now available enhance its reputation and character.

Come and see it for yourself!

You can join a Fowler’s Brewset, telephone 01875 819922 to book your place.

www.prestoungrange.org www.prestoungrange.org