

www.prestounrange.org

brushstrokes

and GOTHENBURG NEWS

Best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft-a-gley



This issue is full of good news about our Open Day on June 19th; and the subsequent re-opening of The Prestounrange Gothenburg on July 13th under Gothenburg Principles once again. But as more than a few readers here will know the work of restoration was not all plain sailing. Indeed most of us believe it was a test to see if we had the stamina to stay with it!

As can now be seen, we did have the stamina for these new beginnings at The Goth; and we have a great deal of excitement in store for you over the coming months and years as we get into our stride to make it a commercial success, based on great service, that will fund the Arts Festival. We are all delighted we have finally got the doors open after so many of our plans were frustrated.

The Pans has always been a place to be reckoned with; and we know we can make that reckoning yet more true with the community's support – which basically boils down to: 'Visit the Goth and enjoy it. Share in the events. Bring your friends and relatives along too.'

Bill Robertson and his construction team took a lot of the strain, some of their own making and some of it ours! Kate Hunter designed the superb interior décor, Robert Atherton restored all the glass, and Jim Forster was, not surprisingly, responsible for the garden areas - including our 'genuine' Colonel Gardiner thorn tree sapling. But name dropping is invidious because so many others worked tirelessly to get our doors hung then open, our new kitchens gassed up and ventilated, our spanking new lift rising and descending, the cutlery, beverages and crockery in place, Belhaven tea-pottery reproduced, the EPOS system working with its associated GothPoints, the microbrewery well established, the menus printed and myriad tasks that go un-noticed until they are overlooked. And the whole cycle was indefatigably led by Anne Taylor, The Goth's Chief Executive, and the story told out far and wide by Adele Conn, the Montjoye, and Kris Cunningham.

What a great team - we all must be proud to have rebuilt The Goth. As they now rollout their further 'Best Laid Schemes' we expect nothing more than to 'gang aft a-gley'. And I offer them all here, as I am sure you do, a gigantic "Thank You" for everything so far accomplished and "Best Wishes" for what comes next.

Baron of Prestounrange



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GothPoints Latest...

Tuesday is Members Prize Draw Night at the Gothenburg, with £100 prize every week starting September. If you are a Goth Member and have spent money in the bar or restaurant, and are still there when your number is called – you win £100. If there's no winner the prize rolls over until the next Tuesday.

Goth Diary

Check the notice boards and website www.prestounrange.org for the latest diary updates.

- 22 Aug - Jazz Sunday
- 28 Aug - The Swing Kings
- 29 Aug - Greek Evening
- 04 Sep - Folk Music – Slainte Mhath
- 11 Sep - Ceilidh
- 12 Sep - Funkstar
- 30 Oct - Hal'ween Witches
Remembrance Day
- 5 Nov - Fireworks and Bonfire on Beach

WATCH OUT for our bumper Christmas Diary



Lots more on the 19 June Open Day inside



New Faces

The Goth is up and running and many people will already have met the new staff who have joined the team and helped make it all happen.

A mighty talented and experienced lot they are too, having come from some very well-known organisations. Almost to a man (and woman), they come from the local area and are thrilled to finally be able to work close to home.

In total, the Goth now employs 28 people in the bars, restaurants and function rooms, and taking care of marketing and admin. At a senior level they including Steve Wilson and Steven Cross, managing events and functions; Andrew Laurie as Head Chef; Dawn Robertson, the Housekeeper and Lynn Drummond as Bookkeeper.

"It's great to become involved in something right at the outset", comments Steve Wilson, "especially when it's right here on my home doorstep. I'm really looking forward to putting the Goth on the map as the place to come for a good night out in East Lothian."

Steve is typical of the level of experience of the team. He has worked for over 20 years in arts administration and management with organisations like the Edinburgh International Festival and the Brighton Dome. He is sure to put this to good use to create a packed programme of events and entertainment over the coming months.

His other 'events' half, Steven Cross, is also extremely well qualified. He grew up in Prestonpans and still lives here. Steven began his career in catering before going into management and has been in charge of a number of well known bars and hotels – most recently the Quayside in Musselburgh. His passion is for music and sport and his main ambition is to organise a music festival for East Lothian. Watch this space!



Steve Wilson



Steven Cross

We aim to please

"These Fowler's Ales are really good, and so is the food."

"The bar looks just like I remember it from years ago."

"I love the upstairs areas. I'll definitely be having my anniversary party here."

"The live music was great and we had a smashing night out."

These are just some of the compliments from customers so far. The Fowler's Ales are flowing, kitchens producing glorious food and bookings for the function rooms are coming in thick and fast.

Inevitably, there have been some hitches to sort out – like the delay in opening caused by the late arrival of the lift – but everything has settled down according to plan.

The James Fewell Bar will open...

Mon-Thurs 11.00-23.00
Fri-Sat 11.00-midnight
Sun 12.30-23.00

Coffee and teas are available in the James Park Lounge between

Mon-Sat 9.30-12.00 & 14.30-17.30
Sun 10.30-12.30

Lunch is served

Mon-Sat 12.00-14.30
Sun from 12.30

and dinner

Mon-Thurs 17.30-21.00
Fri-Sat 17.30-21.30
Sun 12.30-21.30



Having a party?

Already there have been several private functions in the Thomas Nelson Suite. Linda Duncan, for example, was over the moon with her birthday party

The suite, which can cater for up to 100 people, is very flexible and has been designed to screen off if necessary for smaller events. The Lord Mayor's Bar can be hired on its own, or can join up with the main function area. The seating is also entirely flexible and can be arranged for banquets, lectures, conferences, performances or casual seating for parties.



Business as usual

Several organisations have also already booked space for their regular meetings and businesses have expressed strong interest in holding conferences and meetings there.

Few venues can rival the sea views from the Lord Mayor's Bar, which, coupled with the arts and crafts surroundings, provide a most unusual and tranquil meeting place.

There is already a firm booking for a major international conference in 2006!

The function rooms are ideal for office parties and the bookings diary is filling up fast for around Christmas – so book now to avoid disappointment.

Never a dull moment

With no less than two Events Managers on board, there is a packed schedule of entertainment and events planned in the Gothenburg – some regular and some special one-offs.

Music will feature strongly, from jazz to opera, with a fair selection of other styles in between. Some will involve musicians performing in the bars as people drink and eat, while others will be more formal 'concert' evenings upstairs.

Regular art exhibitions are taking place and look out for details of theatre performances throughout the year. The first of these, on August 12th – Lorca and August 16 – Evening with Sheila, will kick off the newly established 'Pans Fringe' which is our very own rival to the Edinburgh Fringe.

That's just for starters. Many other events are in the planning stages. They include tea dances, sportsman's dinners, wine and beer tastings, Casino nights and themed food nights from around the world.

So watch this space. There's a special notice board outside the Goth which gives all the latest news of events and these details are also available on the website at www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg



Food and Drink

As well as the three Fowler's Ales always on tap, the two bars carry an extensive range of beers, wines and spirits. And in keeping with the old Gothenburg temperance principles, there is always an ample supply of soft drinks, tea and coffee on offer as well.

The Jug Bar at the entrance to the Fewell Bar will once again operate a take-out service.

In the first three weeks of opening alone, over 700 people came to sample the food on offer – from morning and afternoon snacks to banquets on a grand scale. Head Chef Andrew Laurie is delighted with the brand new state of the art kitchen and has recruited a first-class team to assist him. They have worked hard to create menus which combine good quality traditional standards with new and exciting dishes... something for everyone.

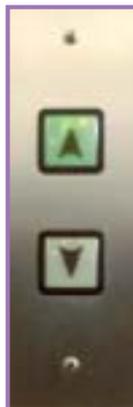
By 12.00noon each day the chef will post that day's Specials menu on the website – www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg. The Baron's wine suggestions will also be available to view.



A Famous Lift

The Goth now boasts the only lift in the whole of Prestonpans. This means that the Thomas Nelson Suite is truly accessible to disabled people and anyone with mobility difficulties.

In fact, so important was the lift that its late delivery from Spain was the main reason for the delayed opening. At £50,000, it has been as big an investment as the new kitchens, so everyone who might have need of it in Prestonpans is expected to try it out at least once over the next few weeks!



Tea-time treats

The afternoon teas have proved a great success, just as they were when the Goth first opened in 1908. Many people have commented on the traditional tea sets being used. They are of course reproductions based on the traditional 'Broon Coos' tea pots and milk jugs which were made directly across from the Gothenburg at the Belfield pottery. These, as well as matching mugs, are available for sale at the Gothenburg.



AN OPEN DAY TO REMEMBER

Although the planned opening of the Gothenburg on July 19 had to be delayed for a week or two, the Grand Open Day still went ahead and proved to be a huge success.

Around 600 people from far and wide came along to see what had been done to the Goth and to meet up with staff, guests and celebrities. The day consisted of a number of highlights and unveilings, with time to look around and sample some soft drinks and snacks in between.

Stalls and pictures were dotted around with information on the facilities and history of the Goth and the activities of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. The staff found the day as interesting as most visitors did and they learned a great deal more themselves about the role of the Goth in the Pans over the years.

The event coincided with Gala Day and the Committee kindly awarded the Goth a Highly Commended for the effort made to make it look festive for the passing of the parade at lunchtime.

The Gala Parade passes by >>



Thomas Nelson III portrait by Tom Ewing



Thomas Nelson V unveiling the plaque

Thomas Nelson III

The first highlight of the day, soon after the doors opened at 10.30am, was the visit by Lorne Thomas Nelson V, the grandson of Thomas Nelson III – a real hero as far as the Goth is concerned.

He was responsible for the loan of £2,000 which built the Gothenburg back in 1908. He and his partners in the East of Scotland Public House Trust were convinced that by creating a great building where food was served and promoted, as well as drink, and where miners could bring their families, would lead to less alcohol abuse. They also had the idea to donate all but a five per cent return on their investment to good works in the community.

Led by the Master of the Court's Musick, Lindsay Davidson, on the pipes, everyone made their way to the Thomas Nelson Suite – the new functions and events rooms upstairs. Here Lorne Nelson unveiled a commemorative plaque in honour of his grandfather. He spoke movingly of the life and work of his grandfather who was responsible for running his family's publishing house, whose books are still familiar to schoolchildren across the country.

Above the plaque is a copy of the original £2,000 loan note which made the Goth possible. The plaque also tells how Thomas Nelson died during the Great War, at Arras in April 1917 and declares that the rooms shall be named in his honour.

Tom Ewing, the local Pans portrait artist, had also painted a portrait of him for the occasion.

June Lake Returns at Last

Regular readers will know that the search for June Lake, the Tennent's Lager girl who helped re-launch the Goth way back in 1986. After much web-sleuthing, she was traced and agreed to come back to help celebrate the Gothenburg once again.

The years had done nothing to lessen her good looks and glamour, although her figure was not quite as sylph-like – she was eight months pregnant!

June spent most of the day at the Goth and mingled with guests and staff. Her main role however, was to unveil one of the new murals inside the Gothenburg itself. The Cat Fight, by Wei Luan, was acquired by the Arts Festival last year during a Global Mural workshop in Lindsay, California. Now it can be enjoyed by all as they pass through the entrance hall of the Goth.



Lord Lieutenant Makes the Day

Barons owe their feudal loyalty to their Sovereign, and who better than Her Majesty's Representative in East Lothian, Garth Morrison CBE, the Queen's Lord Lieutenant, to put some fine icing on the cake at the Prestounrange Gothenburg.

And so he did, a Morrison of the Clan that held the Baronies in the 17th and 18th centuries after the Kerrs. Wearing the tartan he unveiled the fine new brick sculpture and mosaic mural by local sculptor Gardiner Malloy immediately outside the new Main Entrance.

Gardiner's work has three main components. Firstly he used reclaimed window sills as the Thomas Nelson Suite was being constructed as the base for redressed stone work into which he carved our name PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG and the dates 1908 and 2004.

Secondly he used reclaimed bricks from the interior walls of The Prestounrange Gothenburg which had been discarded as reconstruction progressed to set off the carved stone both above and below, and most particularly showing above just where they had been fired in 1908 - at the Prestounrange Brickworks of course.

Thirdly, with many friends he gathered pottery shards,



Lord Lieutenant declares The Goth open



Gardiner Malloy's sculpture is unveiled

coal elements and glass fragments from the foreshores of Prestonpans to create a fine mosaic that presents the Prestounrange Arts Festival Badge.

The Lord Lieutenant pulled aside the flags of the two Barons and the third of the City of Goteborg, as presented in July 2003 by that City's Lord Mayor when he visited The Gothenburg. The outstandingly excellent sculpture was revealed to everyone's delight.

MOST WANTED!

Poetic Justice

Among the multitude that stepped through the door on June 19 and since, have been many who have something to contribute to the history of Prestonpans and to the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. One thing we have not found so far though, is a poet!

The Festival is looking for a local resident who can write in a range of poetic styles in order to commemorate the history of the town and surrounding area and the new initiatives taking place now.

Why not submit a sample of your work? We would be delighted to hear from you. Send your work to Annemarie Allan at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, or e-mail annemarie@prestoungrange.org

Fowler's Fellows and Ladies

The search is also on for ex-employees of the original Fowler's Brewery in town, and members of their families.

Let us know if you, or any of your relatives, worked at Fowler's and we will invite you to a celebratory re-union at the Gothenburg and a special insight into the new microbrewery.

With the Fowler's Microbrewery in full swing, the ales are flowing in the Gothenburg. Both regular ales, the 65/s and 75/s, have proved amazingly popular and are developing a real following, and so have the Specials that Head Brewer Iain Turnbull is delighted to prepare.

For an invitation to the re-union, just contact Adele Conn at the Gothenburg on 01875 819922. Give her your name, address, telephone number and tell her when you, or you relative, worked at Fowler's and what your job was.

A Coull Recipient of the First Burriss Bursary

A Prestonpans artist who never picked up a paintbrush until her 50s has won the brand new Burriss Bursary, sponsored by the Prestoungrange Arts Festival.

June (Coull) Morgan is delighted to receive the £2,000 bursary which will allow her to complete several works relevant to life in and around Prestonpans. These paintings will then be displayed with prints available for sale at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

June is the sister of Willie Coull, the late, well known local artist, and she herself paints under the name June Coull. Now 59, June had never painted herself until two years ago when she joined the Arts Festival's Drawing and Painting class run by Andrew Crummy. Here she discovered that she too had a real talent and passion for painting. At the Prestoungrange Arts Festival exhibition held in April this year all June's work sold.

The Burriss Bursary is awarded in honour of Jeannette Marguerite Burriss who produced a fascinating collection of drawings of Prestonpans when she was a schoolgirl here in 1928. She went on to produce an impressive body of paintings, mostly reflecting her love of the rural landscapes of Scotland.

June is very excited to be the first Burriss Bursary recipient: "I am going to make the best possible use of this funding,"

I would encourage anyone to take up art at any age

commented June. "It is such a thrill for me to receive this recognition and it has given me no end of encouragement. Now I can really concentrate on painting and on continuing to improve my skills.

"I want to thank Andrew Crummy especially. He really gave me the inspiration to paint and has taught me a great deal. I would encourage anyone to take up art at any age. Until you give it a try, you simply don't know what you are capable of."

The Burriss Bursary will be awarded annually and is open to any student or non-professional artist living in and around Prestonpans. The focus of the year can be from any branch of the visual arts.

Jeannette Burriss' Prestonpans original drawings as a school girl have been facsimile reproduced by the Prestoungrange Arts Festival and are available in a booklet called An Historical Survey of Prestonpans, at a cost of £7.50. Proceeds from the booklet will continue to help fund the bursary in future years.

The Prestoungrange Arts Festival Drawing and Painting classes are held every Monday and Thursday evening at the Cockenzie Business Centre, Lindsay Suite. New members are very welcome. Anyone interested in joining should contact Adele Conn on 01875 819922.





Goth's Famous Ceiling

The painted ceiling in the James Fewell Bar in the Gothenburg is already almost as well-known as the original Prestongrange Ceiling that inspired it.

June 12 saw a special reception at Merchiston Tower at Napier University to officially launch the historical study on the 400 year-old Prestongrange Ceiling commissioned by the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. It was of course removed from nearby Prestongrange House, now home to Musselburgh Golf Club, in 1962.

Present were senior staff from Napier as well as Gordon Prestoungrange, Annemarie Allan, the author, and Andrew Crummy who painted the modern interpretation in the Gothenburg.

The press also turned up and the coverage that followed has encouraged lots of people to travel from far and wide to Prestonpans to see our ceiling – and spend money in the Goth which will help fund more murals.

Up above the Jug Bar, beneath the ceiling, are Adele Conn and Andrew Crummy 

AnneMarie Allen, who wrote the historical study,  pictured against the 'Real McCoy' at Napier



Competition Winners

There has been a stream of entries to the last few Brushstrokes competitions and staff at the Goth are looking forward to serving complementary meals to the various winners and their guests at the Pans Fringe this month.

Many people recognised the mystery barman in issue 7 of Brushstrokes. He was **Sonny Smith** and the winning entries came from **Mrs B Hogg** and **Mrs Whitelaw**.

In the last Brushstrokes we asked you to identify the artist of the new painting hanging in the Thomas Nelson Suite of 19 June. **Mr Peter Loftus** correctly named Michael McVeigh and also wins a meal for four during the Pans Fringe.



Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society

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*It's our heritage, let's
celebrate together*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.prestoungrange.org

The Goth's Oldest Visitor – So Far

People of all ages have visited the Gothenburg in recent weeks, but the oldest – so far – popped in for lunch with friends to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Helen Middleton was born on 3 August 1904. To help commemorate the auspicious occasion, staff at the Gothenburg presented Helen with a bouquet of flowers.



Latest Mural News

2004 is going to be a very busy year for the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. Not content with the work involved in restoring and extending the arts and crafts décor of the Goth, the Festival's Murals Action Group is to create no less than five new murals around the town in the coming months.

So look out for

- **The Prestonpans Co-operative Society Mural** – Artist Tom Ewing will create this mural which will concentrate on faces from the past. It will be located at the Co-op car park on the High Street.
- **Redburn Dairy** – To be sited at the corner of the High Street and Redburn Road, this mural by Adele Conn honours the Redburn Dairy which stood there, and Tom McKinlay, its owner.
- **The Bing Boys** – Will be painted at the Prestoungrange Bowling Club on the High Street and will depict the lives of the people who lived on the old Bing which was situated opposite the Bowling Club. Artist Lynda Whyte will be responsible.
- **A Tribute to Rabbin Burns** – To be painted by Kate Hunter on the inside walls of the Airts Burns Shelter on the High Street, this mural will show scenes from the life and work of the Bard. It will be completed in plenty of time for Burns' Night in 2005.
- **Fowler's Brewery Remembered** – Andrew Crummy and members of the Prestoungrange Art Group will create this mural as a tribute to all past Fowler employees. It will be sited on Rollo & Sons yard on the High Street.

