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brushstrokes

COCKENZIE AND PORT SETON SPECIAL EDITION

and **GOTHENBURG NEWS**

Cockenzie joins The Murals Trail

Most people in Cockenzie and Port Seton will be aware of the growing trail of murals in Prestonpans. Many will also have noticed an artist hard at work on the wall outside the Cockenzie Power Station.

The 4th October saw the official dedication of this latest mural, led by Marlene Love, leader of the Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council. The occasion was marked by a release of balloons and was attended by several of the local people actually featured in the mural – including Marlene and her husband Stan, a power station worker for many years.

Andrew Crummy is the artist responsible for the mural and himself comes from Cockenzie. He is an internationally renowned mural artist who has already painted several of the existing murals in Prestonpans.

The Murals Trail is the work of the Prestounrange Arts Festival which was set up to use history and culture to help generate income for the area. All the murals have historical themes and the Cockenzie mural is no exception. It illustrates the importance of the power station to the economy of the area since it was built in 1967 and also shows many other aspects of the rich history of the site itself.

Measuring 90 feet by ten, this

is the largest of the 12 murals that have been painted since 2001 and is set to become the trail's 'gateway' mural for people approaching from the east. It was painted with the help of a grant of £2,000 from Scotland UnLtd.

At the dedication event, Marlene Love said: "It's great to see this fabulous mural completed and fascinating to look at all the detail it contains. This is a real tribute to our community which has such a long and rich history. Andrew has done a great job and it's been a fun project to be involved in.

"I'm really pleased that Cockenzie is now part of the Murals Trail and I'm sure it will have benefits for us into the future."

A booklet has also been printed with details of the site's history – right back to 1715, through the famous battle in 1745, its coalmining operations through to the 1960's and the building of what was then the largest power station in Scotland.

THE MURALS TRAIL has already attracted a reputation at home and abroad. In 2006, this area will play host to the 6th Global Murals Conference which will see over 100 representatives from all over the world converge here for several days to examine and discuss murals, arts and tourism.



SEE FOR YOURSELF...

Why not come and have a close look at the new mural and see if you can spot some of the events and faces it depicts:

- The Cockenzie Fishermen's Association banner
- Musselburgh Ash Lagoons
- Fishing boats with a distinctive shape, still to be seen on the Forth.
- The waggonway
- Chalmers memorial Church
- Prestonlinks Colliery
- Generators vital to the power station

The people include:

- A 1950's Gala Queen
- A girl born on the day the first brick was laid who presented a bouquet at the opening six years later
- Stan and Marlene Love
- Fisher wives from Cockenzie
- A priest holding salt
- A miner
- The bagpipe band sponsored by power station workers
- The head of the Electricity Board at the time it was built, with the site architect.

Why stop at the Cockenzie mural?

Why not carry on along the Mural Trail, through Prestonpans High Street to the Prestounrange Museum at the other end. Don't forget to stop at the Prestounrange Gothenburg on the way for some refreshments. By eating and drinking here you will be helping to fund more murals in the future.

Cockenzie and Port Seton...

will soon benefit from a much needed Outdoor Classroom/Arts Venue in the grounds of the School. Preparations are underway to prepare the area during the October School Holidays. Brushstrokes will be bringing you a complete update in the near future.



At a windy mural dedication, (from left) Bill Kelly, Technical Manager at the power station, Marlene and Stan Love, Andrew Crummy and Eileen Inglis from Scotland UnLtd.

Local Witches pardoned at last

Halloween is a time for fun, but from now on it will also commemorate all the people who were wrongly put to death for witchcraft in East Lothian over the centuries.

Gordon, the Baron of Prestoungrange is the inspiration behind the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. Together with his son, Dr Julian Wills, the Baron of Dolphinstoun, he convened his Courts on 27 July for one last sitting before such rights are abolished later this year with the end of feudal tenure in Scotland.

Until then, Barons have the right to dispense justice within their Baronial lands and hand out fines of up to 40/- or time in the stocks. Both Barons have a strong interest in the history of this part of East Lothian and were aware of the injustice of the witchcraft trials of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Throughout Scotland, around 3,400 people were arrested, tortured and executed for witchcraft, usually on what now seems ridiculous evidence. In 1590 alone, 39 people were put to death in Prestonpans, out of a population of around 1,000. Among them was John Cunningham, a local schoolmaster, who became known as one of the most notorious sorcerers of his time.

So the Barons took the opportunity to redress some of the injustice and officially pardon the witches, and their cats, who were executed here.

To make sure that the witches' story continues to be commemorated, the Courts also declared that Halloween

should from now on also be a day of remembrance in their honour. It will be celebrated with a range of special activities in the Gothenburg and Prestonpans generally.

A special plaque has been prepared with the names of 81 of the witches which will hang in the Gothenburg. Among the surnames are many which are still common in the area today. Letters have been sent to people bearing these names, inviting them to play a special



part in the commemorations – as potential descendants of the wrongly accused witches.

This year, the celebrations will revolve mainly around the Gothenburg, but in future years there are plans for a special witchcraft mural and for re-enactments of the witches' story.

The Gothenburg Evening of Witchcraft

Open to all, with special invitations to those with the same name as one of the 81 condemned witches.

5.00pm – Guests assemble and Roy Pugh, celebrated author of *The Devil's Ain*, will formally read the pardons and present them to the descendants present.

Pumpkin Soup, Wizard's Hot Pot, Veggie Cauldron Casserole and a specially commissioned Fowler's Brew will be served.

6.00pm – Travel by coach to Edinburgh's Royal Mile to take part in the Witchcraft Auld Reekie Tour.

8.30pm – Return by coach to the Gothenburg. Cost: £19.95, including food, coach and tour.

Meanwhile, customers in the James Fowell bar can join in the celebrations. There will be pumpkins on the bar, staff dressed in Halloween costumes, and Pumpkin Soup with crusty bread and vapour shooters.



Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society

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SPECIAL GOTHENBURG OFFER

— COCKENZIE AND PORT SETON

If you've yet to visit the newly restored Prestoungrange Gothenburg, then here's a special incentive to try it out.

In keeping with the way the Gothenburg operated when it was first built in 1908, all profits above a five per cent return will be used for the good of the community through the Prestoungrange Arts Festival.

Customers are encouraged to become Goth Members, at a cost of just £1. This helps generate more funds for the Arts Festival and also allows you to collect Goth Points which work a bit like loyalty points at supermarkets and can be exchanged for food and soft drinks.



Present this special voucher at the Gothenburg before 1 November 2004, buy a soft drink or a meal, become a Goth Member, and get an extra 100 bonus Goth Points.