

www.prestoungrange.org

brushstrokes

and GOTHENBURG NEWS



Welcome...



I am sure many of you will recognise my picture – some from becoming regulars at the Goth and many from being friends I have met during the six years I have lived in Prestonpans.

When the Goth re-opened it was a wonderful opportunity to work close to home, but also to become part of an organisation that would make a difference to Prestonpans and its surroundings. With 20 years in the

catering industry under my belt I knew I was well qualified for the job of Bistro Supervisor – and I was right. I love every minute of it!

Our first festive season has been even busier than we expected – with Party Nights galore, carol singing and a full restaurant. Comments such as 'We'll definitely be back' and 'Excellent dining experience in such wonderful surroundings', make the whole team proud of the Goth and of what we have achieved so far – but this is only the start!

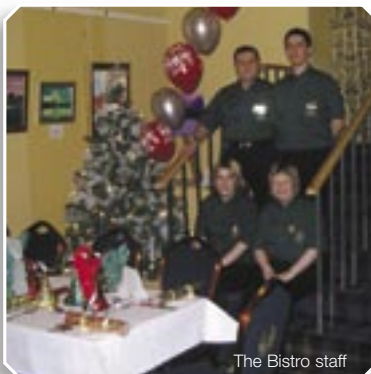
All the staff in The James Park Bistro are looking forward to 2005 and its challenges. Come in and say hello to the daytime staff – Leanne, Carol, and myself, or the evening staff under the supervision of our Head Waiter, Ali and his team Vicky, Adam and Manu. Stop by and enjoy our wonderful morning coffees, afternoon teas, lunch or dinner and ask any member of staff for a guided tour around this brilliantly restored building, lovingly known as the Goth.

There is masses going on at the Goth throughout 2005 but the launch of our 'Fine Dining Evenings' in February, in the Lord Mayor's Bar is what we are all preparing for. Be sure to check our website, www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg regularly or keep an eye out in the local press for further details, or why not come in and join up as a Goth member. That way we can keep you updated electronically on a regular basis.

We would like to wish you all a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year. See you in the Bistro!

Carol Black

Coffee Shop Supervisor



The Bistro staff



BURNS SHELTER GETS A FACELIFT

The Burns Shelter on the High Street is a well-known landmark in Prestonpans, and now it's also the latest addition to the murals trail.

Artist Kate Hunter, already responsible for four of the Prestoungrange murals, has been braving the elements for many weeks to create a wonderful frieze along the inside walls of the shelter.

Naturally the mural is a tribute to the Bard and shows many aspects of his life and work. The story of Tam O' Shanter is the main theme but there are also images from other works such as The Twa Dogs and To a Mouse. Burns' cottage in Ayr is featured, and a cameo of Robert Burns himself is among the 50 or so portraits included in the mural.

Children will have fun finding the mice hidden in the mural – there is at least one on each wall.

The members of the Airts Burns Club built the shelter in 1959 with money raised by public subscription. The Airts Club takes its name from the line 'from a' the airts the wind can blow', and runs Burns' competitions in schools, holds lectures and recitals.

Although the shelter will remain locked, the mural can be clearly seen from outside. East Lothian Council has welcomed the shelter's facelift and has added lights so that the mural can be admired at any time of day or night. The railings are also to be painted in the near future.

THE NEW-LOOK SHELTER will be officially dedicated on Saturday 29th January at 6pm when Kate Hunter will explain the many fascinating details in the mural.

A pipe-band procession, led by Baron Courts Musician, Lindsay Davidson, will then lead people to the Gothenburg where a sumptuous Burns Supper is on offer. Tickets cost £29.99 and places are limited, so early booking is advised.

Christmas Round Up

The Gothenburg's first Christmas and New Year has been officially declared a big success. Here are just some of the events that took place over the festive period.

Successful arts 'n crafts market

It was festive! It was creative! It was busy!

The Gothenburg car park was transformed into a market complete with green and white striped canopied stalls, Christmas tunes, tinsel and mulled wine.

The market ran over two days, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December with around 20 different stalls participating over the two days. Each day had a very different feel, with different kinds of stalls selling a variety of goods.

Members of the public were asked to pay a mere 20p entrance fee, which was donated to the Prestoungrange Arts Festival charity. Along with their ticket, they received the latest edition of East Lothian Life, kindly donated by the editor, Pauline Jaffray, and a 15 per cent discount voucher towards food at the Gothenburg. Bustling at the best of times, the James Park Bistro then became doubly popular, providing warmth from the winter chill and that well-deserved cup of coffee and snack.

Adele Conn, Marketing Manager at the Goth, was overjoyed at the success of this first market: "East Lothian has a wealth of artistic talent, and it's great that we can hold an event that promotes this creativity. Stallholders came from near and far, but it was great to see so many local Panners support the event. I'm sure it will develop into something that is held on a regular basis.

"On behalf of the Goth, I would like to thank everyone who took part, especially those stalls that were raising funds for their own good causes such as the Prestoungrange Church and Aberlour Trust.

"The feedback from both the public and stall holders was extremely positive and we're all looking forward to the next arts 'n crafts market just before Easter 2005."



⤴ A wide range of products on display at the arts 'n crafts market

ART CLASS EXHIBITION OFFERS A RICH VARIETY

With subject matter as diverse as toucans, palm trees and bridges, the Christmas Art-Class Exhibition had something for everyone.

Monday 29 November saw the private viewing and the opening of the second exhibition from the Prestoungrange Art Classes. The calibre of paintings was better than ever, thanks to Andrew Crummy and Tom Ewing. As tutors on the Monday and Thursday evening classes they provide advice and criticism on a personal level to each and every one that attends the classes.

The Thomas Nelson Suite was transformed for the two-week long exhibition, with the walls awash with the colour of the many canvases.

In the course of the exhibition six paintings were sold, raising over £700 for the Prestoungrange Arts Festival Art Class Fund.





Christmas Carols...

'Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright.'

– certainly described the first ever carol singing event at the Gothenburg.

The five-piece Brass Band from Tranent assembled in the Goth car park, dressed very smartly in their uniforms, braving the bitter cold. 30 or so residents, soon joined them who managed to sing along to 10 traditional Christmas carols and instil some Christmas cheer!

The children all bought glow sticks in a multitude of colours, the parents drank mulled wine, ate mince pies and managed to sing or repeat THAT one line that they knew or hum along to their favourite carols. Even Bob from Musselburgh, known to us as the Banjo Man, managed a delightful tune of Jingle Bells.

The children all brought glow sticks in a multitude of colours

Although people didn't turn up in their droves to take part, this is something new for Prestonpans, and all new events take a while to become established. The organisers at the Goth are sure this seasonal bit of good cheer and fun will grow in strength and numbers each year and look forward to bringing more favourite Christmas carols to the Pans next year.

Become a 'Goth' Giver

The Prestoungrange Arts Festival is a charitable organisation, which promotes arts and culture in and around Prestonpans to help generate income for the area.

Throughout the coming year it plans to organise a vast range of events, centering mainly around the Gothenburg, but also involving other part of the town. Many of these events are being run by local residents, for the benefit of others in and around the 'Pans. They are always in need of extra help, so if you can give a little of your time, expertise or experience, then your assistance would be very much appreciated.

You don't need to be a world expert at anything, but an interest in the arts, history and culture would be especially welcome.

If you would like to become a 'Goth Giver' and volunteer to run or help out with some events to benefit the community, then please get in touch with Adele Conn or Anne Taylor on 01875 819922.

GOTH DIARY DATES

These are some of the events taking place in the Goth over the next weeks.

Check the website www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg, local press or the Goth notice board for more details and future events.

JANUARY

Sunday 23 – Tam White, Blues in the James Fewell Bar. Entrance is free.

Monday 24, 7pm – Psychic Evening. Tickets £5.00

Wednesday 26, 2pm – Tea Dance. Tickets £5.00

Thursday 27 – Politics in the Park – a play by Ian Heggie – returns to the Goth. It stars Lynne McCallum from BBC's Still Game and Elizabeth Strachan who has appeared in Taggart and Rab C Nesbit. Tickets £5.00.

Saturday 29 – Burns Supper. Tickets £29.99. Booking essential.

Monday 31 – Exhibition of paintings by local artist Sally Rogers.

FEBRUARY

Thursday 3 – Storytelling Afternoon with Sheila Fraser. Enjoy a classic tale and wonderful coffee in the Bistro.

Sunday 6 – Sandy Tweeddale, jazz in the James Fewell Bar, Entrance is free.

Saturday 12 – Valentines Dinner.

Thursday 17 – Storytelling Afternoon with Sheila Fraser.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many thanks are due to Brushstrokes' distributor in Tranent, Louise of Ferguson's Pet Supplies at 69 High Street, Tranent, Tel. 01875 619789. Open 7 days.

We are looking for more distributors in the surrounding areas of Port Seton, Longniddry, Musselburgh, Gullane, North Berwick and Dunbar. If you know of anyone who has a local shop and would be willing to place our copies of Brushstrokes on their counters, please contact Adele Conn on 01875 819922.

Prestoungrange History Series

THE PRESTOUNGRANGE PRESS is proud to announce two valuable additions to the Prestoungrange History series.

Booklet no. 19, *A Journey through the Landscape: the Roads that led by Prestongrange & Vicinity*, by Andrew Ralton offers a fascinating insight into the history of the roads we walk or drive every day. It includes many historical maps, which demonstrate changes in landscape over many hundreds of years, and show how local links with the wider world reflected political, social and industrial change across the centuries.

Andrew Ralton is a local resident. His background combines an interest in heritage, tourism and recreation, all of which are reflected in his account of the landscape around Prestonpans.

Booklet no. 20, *Poverty, Self-help and Emerging Social Life in Prestonpans*, by Sonia Baker offers a thoroughly researched and entertaining account of the way in which formal and informal support systems helped to support both the physical and emotional well-being of local people during the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. She traces the ways in which a variety of institutions not only helped to provide food, clothes and shelter for the

needy of the parish but also acted as the focal point for the social life of the community.

Sonia Baker has already contributed one title to the series on the history of Prestongrange House. Her work as editor of the East Lothian Millennium Statistical Account has given her extensive knowledge of the history of East Lothian communities.



« Time to play for young and old.

Top business nomination

Although it's only been open for a matter of months, the Prestoungrange Gothenburg has already been nominated for a prestigious award.

The East Lothian Business Awards were announced on 19 November at a special event at Whitekirk Golf Club and Leisure Centre. The Goth was one of three nominees in the New Business category – together with La Potiniere in Gullane and Canine Therapy in Cockenzie.

Alas, the Gothenburg did not win the award, but staff were over the moon to be nominated at all so soon after opening. The other two businesses had been up and running for 18 months or more.

Steven Cross, the Goth's Functions and Events Manager, Andrew Laurie, Head Chef and Adele Conn, Marketing Manager attended the evening event. Steven commented: "Everyone at the Gothenburg worked really hard to make sure it would provide the best possible service to customers, right from the start. This nomination is a real pat on the back for everyone and shows we are absolutely on the right track."

The Bing Boy

*The young man strides purposefully home
Still agile after eight hours spent underground*

*In a world of damp tunnels, lit only
By lights flickering from safety hats*

*On his back with a pick in his hands
Pick, pick, picking away at the solid wall of coal*

*Then with a shovel, shovelling loosened lumps over
his shoulder into a hutch on wheels on rails to be
pulled by ponies*

*Now he whistles as he comes closer to home
His pursed lips show a flash of ivory in pink gums,*

*Bright eyes dance in a coal-dust face.
What gives him this look of delight and anticipation?*

It's Wednesday night. Football practice with the Bing Boys!

This poetry contribution from Annette Gilroy, Secretary to the Local History Society, gives us a feel for the work and leisure of young miners at Prestongrange in the 1930s. The poem is published in 'Not So Dusty – new writings from Mid and East Lothian writers groups' available from your local library.



Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society

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