

[www.prestounrange.org](http://www.prestounrange.org)

# brushstrokes

and **GOTHENBURG NEWS**

## Welcome



Being a 'Panner' all my life it gives me great pleasure to play a part in the newly restored Gothenburg. I've also been in the hotel & catering industry almost all my life, and when the offer came along from Gordon, the Baron of Prestounrange, to work as part of his team, there was only one decision to be made.

For those of you I've not yet had the pleasure of meeting during a visit to the

Goth, I hope it won't be too long before you come through our doors. I can promise you once you see the surroundings and taste our food and ales, you will want to come back again and again.

As our 'new' regulars already know, our events and activities have taken off with a bang. We have folk music on Sunday evenings in our James Fewell Bar and Thursday nights reserved for our indie guitar sessions. Live music with bands follows luncheon during Sunday afternoons. Regular short plays, cocktail evenings and comedy sessions are all part of our events calendar using the brilliant Thomas Nelson Suite and Lord Mayor's Bar upstairs.

Over the coming months, and especially over Christmas, we have much more planned. Later, watch this space for two major and very exciting events taking place in 2005. Check the website, [www.prestounrange.org/gothenburg](http://www.prestounrange.org/gothenburg), for all the details, or better still pop in to sample the hospitality on offer.

We've hosted our first weddings and anniversaries which have received excellent reviews, so we're really looking forward to lots more celebrations taking place – especially over Christmas with the Goth's own, your Clubs and corporate parties.

Come in and see our facilities for yourself at your leisure. The team and I will be delighted to welcome you.

*Steven Cross*

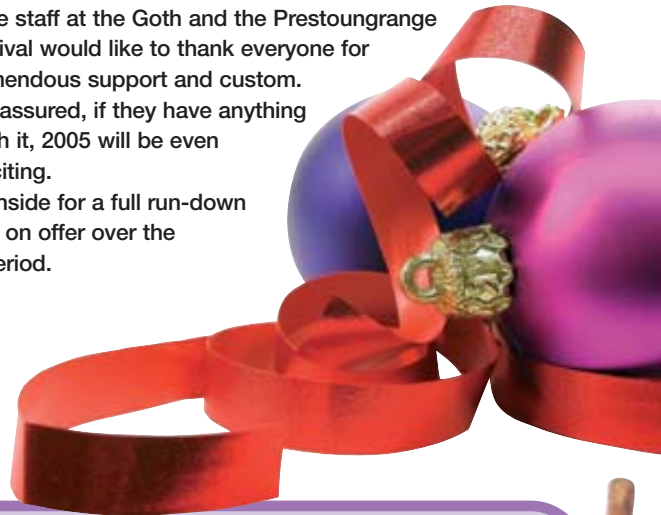
Events &amp; Functions Manager

## *Festive Greetings* *from all at the Gothenburg and* *Prestounrange Arts Festival.*

It's been a fantastic year for the Prestounrange Gothenburg and everyone associated with it. The Christmas and New Year programme will be the icing on the cake – with something for everyone to enjoy.

All the staff at the Goth and the Prestounrange Arts Festival would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and custom. And rest assured, if they have anything to do with it, 2005 will be even more exciting.

See inside for a full run-down of what's on offer over the festive period.



## Our witches are world famous!

Halloween is a time for fun and dressing up, but here in Prestonpans it's also become something more meaningful and serious - and the whole world knows about it.

As reported in Brushstrokes, the last session of the Baron Courts in July granted a pardon to the 81 Prestonpans residents put to death for witchcrafts some 400 years ago. It was also decreed that every year at Halloween the injustice done to these people should be recognised and commemorated in Prestonpans.

No one could have predicted how successful this first year's Witches' Remembrance Day would be. The event and the history behind it hit the headlines in virtually every newspaper in the UK, TV and radio stations here and abroad and in newspapers from Canada to New Zealand.

So now that the world knows about the wronged witches of Prestonpans, future years' Remembrance Days are set to become even more successful. More inside about the Halloween event and future plans...





# What's on at the Gothenburg

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg' reputation for good food, ale and entertainment is spreading fast. Every week of the year there's something special happening, but over Christmas and New Year there's even more than usual – and much of it completely FREE.

**Throughout November – A light for a Loved One**  
Sponsor a message tag on our Christmas Trees for just £1.00

**Throughout December – Advent Calendar**  
From 1 December through 'till Christmas Eve a daily raffle at the Goth, with fantastic prizes up for grabs.

**Thursday 25 November – Alex Hodgson**  
In the James Fewell Bar from 8pm.  
Entrance FREE

**Thursday 25 November – Chinese banquet**  
In the Thomas Nelson Suite - 7:30pm.  
Tickets are £10.00

**Saturday 27 November – Steven Clarke**  
In the James Fewell Bar from 8pm.  
Entrance FREE

**Sunday 28 November – FUNKSTAR**  
In the Thomas Nelson Suite, 4-6pm.  
£3.00 pp

**Sunday 28 November – Mike Wheelans**  
In the James Fewell Bar from 7pm.  
Entrance FREE

**Saturday 4 December – 60/70's Night (Fancy Dress)**  
2 course Hot Buffet and Disco  
£14.95 pp

**Saturday and Sunday 4/5 December  
Goth Christmas Arts 'n Crafts Market**  
The perfect place to pick up some presents with character and support your local arts and crafts – or to sell your wares. All the boutique items from the Prestoungrange Arts Festival collection will also be available.

**Wednesday 8 December – Tea Dance**  
Christmas Lunch and novelties  
£12.95 pp

**Thursday 9 December – Dinner Dance**  
Dance and dine with FUNKSTAR in the Thomas Nelson Suite.  
7:30pm start.  
£19.95 pp

**From Sunday 12 December  
Christmas Lunch and Dinner Menus served in the Bistro**

**Sunday 12 December – Fowler's 12 Day Ale begins**  
12 brewing processes are progressed through the 12 days of Christmas. On 24 December we celebrate by drinking the lot!

**Sunday 12 December – Santa's Grotto**  
Children's Christmas Afternoon – ages 6-11.  
Kids entertainment with Santa and Elves.  
£10.00 pp

**Friday/Saturday 17/18 December – Christmas Party Nights**  
Christmas dinner menu, disco and novelties  
£24.95 pp

**Sunday 19 December – Carol Singing**  
Goth Car Park – Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas carols  
£3.00 pp

**Tuesday 21 December  
60/70's Christmas Night (Fancy Dress)**  
Christmas dinner, disco and novelties  
£24.95 pp

**Friday 24 December – Christmas Crack**  
Live entertainment in the James Fewell Bar from 7pm.  
Bar closes at 10pm.  
Entrance FREE

**We are closed Christmas and Boxing Day**

**Tuesday 28 December – Davie Robertson**  
Folk in the James Fewell Bar. 7:30-9:30pm.  
Entrance FREE

**Wednesday 29 December – Ceilidh**  
Battlefield Bands' Mike Katz with Kevin McKenzie.  
Light finger buffet.  
£10.00 pp

**Thursday 30 December – Yard of Ale**  
Traditional folk music in the James Fewell Bar 7:30-9:30pm.  
Entrance FREE

**Friday 31 December – Hogmanay Hullabaloo**  
Disco at the Prestonpans Community Centre in conjunction with East Lothian Council.

Over the coming months live entertainment continues every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday in the James Fewell Bar from 7:30-9:30pm. Entrance is FREE and some of the 'acts' signed up include:

-  **Stuart Wilson**
-  **Steven Clarke**
-  **Jim Condie**
-  **Mike Wheelans**
-  **Alex Hodgson**
-  **Sandy Tweeddale**
-  **Yard of Ale**





« Sisters, Rena Thomson and Helen Cowan assisting Roy Pugh with the pardoning ceremony.

The protective circle of descendants and well-wishers. »

# Our witches remembrance day

Across Scotland, as many as 4,000 people were tortured and killed for witchcraft in the 16 and 17th centuries – a ‘mini-holocaust’ that until now was rarely acknowledged.

After the Baron Courts’ official pardon for the 81 local Prestonpans witches, the first Witches Remembrance Day took place on Halloween and centred mainly around the Gothenburg.

Everyone in the area who shares a surname with any of the 81 witches was invited to attend a special event, although it was also open to anyone who wanted to come along.

Roy Pugh, the eminent local historian and author of *The Deil’s Ain*, is an expert on the witchcraft trials in Scotland and was guest of honour at the event.

The Thomas Nelson Suite was transformed for the occasion, with the chairs laid out in a ‘protective’ circle, in keeping with the mystical witchcraft theme of the evening. The ceremony was led by Roy Pugh who gave a short talk on the injustice and suffering of the witchcraft trials.

He read out the names of the 81 pardoned witches and presented copies of the pardon document to the 15 descendants and namesakes who attended. A minute’s silence followed, and then everyone laid a sprig of rosemary, thyme, rosehip and lavender as part of a wreath at the official plaque which will permanently hang in the Gothenburg.

Many others, not descended from the 81 also attended, and shared in a suitably ‘witchy’ meal and some ‘Absolute Pardon Ale’. A spirited party of 20 then headed off to take part in a Witchcraft Tour of the old town in Edinburgh. It was led by two ‘real’ white witches from the Blue Dragon Coven and was very serious and informative.

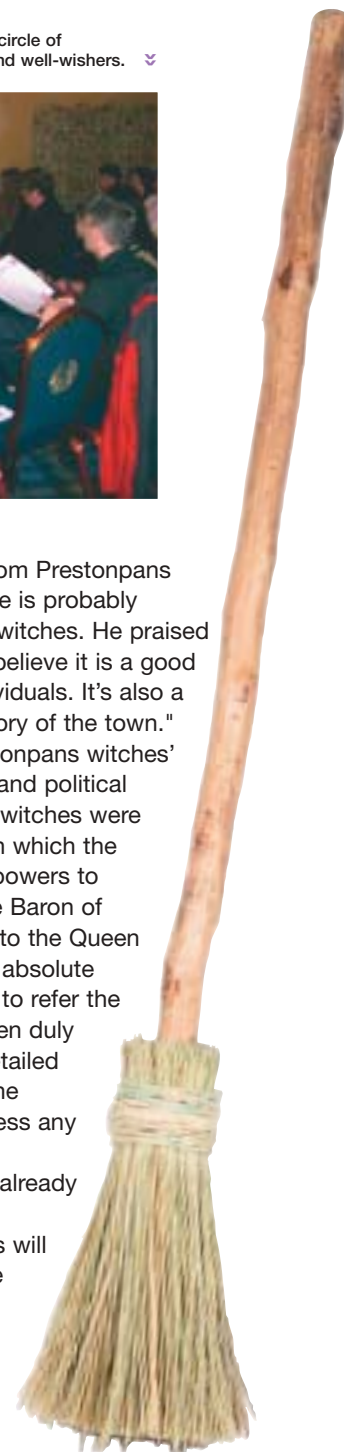


## The Prestonpans witches’ pardons have also caused a stir in Royal and political circles

Andrew White is a graphic designer from Prestonpans who took part in the event and believes he is probably descended from one of the 81 pardoned witches. He praised the idea behind the ceremony, saying: "I believe it is a good thing to honour the memory of these individuals. It’s also a great way of emphasising the unique history of the town."

As well as the world’s press, the Prestonpans witches’ pardons have also caused a stir in Royal and political circles. Many of the 81 witches were also accused of treason which the Baron Courts have no powers to pardon. So Gordon, the Baron of Prestoungrange, wrote to the Queen asking her to provide the witches with an absolute pardon. She replied that she was obliged to refer the request on to her ministers, and it has been duly passed to the Home Office. They have detailed the steps that need to be taken to have the witches cases reviewed, but did not express any optimism that anything would be done.

Meanwhile, in Prestonpans, plans are already well under way for next year’s Witches Remembrance Day. The commemorations will extend to other parts of the town and one thing is certain - they will be every bit as exciting as this year and will have the world flocking to Prestonpans.







Neil Gray and Emma Yorkston, both 11, helping Tom Ewing celebrate the completion of his mural. [↗](#)

# A Co-operative Venture

Another new mural was completed recently on the wall at the Co-op car park in Prestonpans' High Street. It was unveiled earlier this month by pupils from St Gabriels and Prestonpans Primary Schools – bringing together the past and the present.

Painted by artist Tom Ewing, the mural is dedicated to the history of the Co-op in Prestonpans with lots of faces from the past. Tom is 31 and has lived in Prestonpans all his life. He is a graduate from the Edinburgh College of Art and has paintings on display at Fenton Barns. He also runs the Monday night art classes at Cockenzie Business Centre.

Audrey Middleton - Member Relations and Community Development Officer for Scotmid and Patricia Fletcher, Manageress for the Prestonpans Scotmid were also on hand.

This site is also to become the home of an existing Prestoungrange mural which did not have a permanent position until now. The Salters mural by Kate Hunter shows aspects of the salt making industry. It will now hang on the wall adjacent to the Co-op mural.



## ...And More on the Way

A raft of new murals are in production or planning stages at the moment, so expect more launches and dedication over the coming months.

# New Gateway Mural at Cockenzie

The 4th October saw the official dedication of the Murals Trail's biggest mural to date on the wall of Cockenzie Power Station.

The event was headed by Marlene Love, leader of the Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council and was attended by others who feature in the mural – including Marlene and her husband Stan, a power station worker for many years, and Bill Kelly the current Technical Manager.

Andrew Crummy, the artist responsible, comes from Cockenzie. He's an internationally renowned muralist who has already painted several of the existing murals in Prestonpans, including the remarkable ceiling at the Gothenburg.

This is a very real tribute to our community

All the murals on the Trail have historical themes and this one is no exception. It illustrates the importance of the power station to the economy of the area since it was built in 1967 but also shows many other aspects of the rich history of the site. Measuring 90 feet by ten feet, it is the largest of the 12 murals that have been completed since 2001 and is the Trail's 'Eastern Gateway'. It was painted with a much appreciated grant of £2,000 from Scotland UnLtd that met half the total budget.

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 very 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 all into the future."

A booklet has also been printed which is available from the Gothenburg. It has details of the site's history stretching right back to 1715, through the famous battle in 1745, its waggonway and coalmining operations to the 1960's and then the building of what was at the time the largest power station in Scotland.



(from left to right) Bill Kelly, Technical Manager at the power station, Marlene and Stan Love, Andrew Crummy and Eileen Inglis from Scotland UnLtd.



## Fowler's Workers' Reunion – much to remember



The James Fewell Bar was abuzz recently with nostalgia, black and white photographs and the warmest greetings amongst old colleagues.

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg hosted a *Fowler's Brewery Workers' Reunion* to honour John Fowler's Ales.

Inevitably, with 42 years since the sad closure in 1962, many of the original workers are no longer with us, but it was good for all their families and friends to reminisce and pay tribute to those that had passed away.

More than thirty guests arrived in all their splendour for their first wee get together in a very long while, eating, drinking, catching up on old friendships.

And of course there was the significant tour of the *new* Fowler's Ales 'micro'-brewery led by the resident Head Brewer Iain Turnbull. Everyone was offered a half pint of today's 60/- Prestonpans Real Ale brewed by Fowler's Ales on the premises and a Fowler's Ales commemorative glass as a souvenir.

Our invited guests were workers from all areas of former Fowler's Brewery including coopers, office workers and ladies from the bottling hall. Those who attended included:

Karen Love and Adele Robertson - granddaughters of the late Jimmy Scott; Ian and Catherine Moffat; Jean McEwan Baillie; Jemma Campbell; Greta Copeland Telford; Catherine Ford; Elizabeth and Tommy Godfrey; Alice and Adam Rintoul; George and Frances Glynn; Margaret and George Hood; Agnes McGuire; Margaret and Pat Brogan; Alexa and George Dobie; Mathew and Pauline Smith; Elizabeth and Sonny Glynn; Eleanor Glynn; Jessie Fraser; Janet and Jack McCran; Nellie and Scott Ferguson; Anne Wynn and Donnelly; Kathleen Logan; Sarah Coyle; Margaret Black; Marilyn Pollock; Ebeth and Tam Rogers; Mary Logan; Marie Baillie; Beatrice Ferrier; Peter and Marian Logan; and Rita Renton.

For the occasion there was the most wonderful display of old Fowler's pictures framed and hanging in the James Fewell Bar by the fireplace that has already been crowned "Fowler's Haven". All these pictures have now been donated to The Prestoungrange Gothenburg as originals or copies.







# Man of many talents

## honoured on canvas

**J**im Foster is a very significant member of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival team who provides advice on everything from horticulture to history and knows just about everyone in the town. On October 12th he was honoured by us all with the unveiling of a specially commissioned portrait by Kate Hunter, which will hang permanently in the Gothenburg's staircase gallery.

People might know Jim primarily for his interest in gardening and history, but may not know that he was also an extremely talented athlete and sportsman in his youth. Born in Glasgow, Jim came to the Cuthill at the age of 12 where he lived with the Touppin family and attended Cuthill School. He started to play football for the YMCA and displayed the awesome athletic ability that would blossom later.

### A Life-time of gardening

His first job was with Lowe's Market Garden and this was to be the start of a long career in gardening. Later he worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, then for Midlothian Council, Seton Castle and Edenhall Hospital, where he was Head Gardener. For the last 23 years Jim has taught gardening at St Joseph's School and is now naturally in charge of all things horticultural at the Prestoungrange Arts Festival.

### An All Round Sportsman

Also soon after leaving school Jim started to enjoy considerable success in athletics and a number of other sports. But he is probably best known for his running ability and won many races (and considerable prize money) – including the famous Powderhall and Jedburgh Gold Medals. The strict professional v amateur status demarcation of those days was probably the only thing that stopped him being selected to represent his country. Later he coached a number of successful runners.

At the age of 22 he was asked to play professionally for Portsmouth Football Club, but preferred to stay with professional athletics. Also a talented boxer, Jim regularly trained with the professionals at Riley's Gym in Edinburgh.

Golf is still a passion for Jim who has been a member of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club for 54 years. He is now an Honorary Member and a member of the RMGC committee.

### Youth Clubs

Jim has a long association with local youth clubs. He ran the St Gabriel's Youth Club for many years, initiated youth club activities at St Joseph's School and worked with disabled children at Preston Lodge. Boys at Loretto School also helped Jim with this work as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.



Jim provides advice on everything from horticulture to history

#### Author and Historian

Jim is an accomplished writer and is the author of, among other things, *The Tom Tait Story*, a book about a local sprinter of the 1930's.

Always passionate about local history, Jim became involved at the start of the Prestonpans History Society when it started in 1985. He has been chairman since 1987 and membership has flourished. He was editor and contributor to the Society's best selling *Tales of the Pans*, now in its 2nd Edition.

His writing skills and interest in history and sport have resulted in a string of articles in magazines and newspapers over the years.

#### Family

Last, but very much not least, Jim and his wife Bridget celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary earlier this year. They have three sons.



## The Antiquarians came to town

On Saturday 11 September, the Prestoungrange Gothenburg played host to the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Society. The Antiquarians have dedicated themselves to recording the history of East Lothian throughout their 80 year history.

Annemarie Allan extended The Gothenburg's warmest of welcomes to them all since the work of their Society has been an inspiration for much of her work as the Editor of the Arts Festival's historical publication series.

"The articles published by the Antiquarian Society have been an invaluable help to us in researching the history of Prestonpans", said Annemarie.

"It is a great honour for us now to be able to show them around the Gothenburg and let them see some of the history they have documented reproduced within our murals."

The visit included a guided minibus tour of the murals around the town conducted by Andrew Crummy and Kate Hunter, and an opportunity to admire the restored Gothenburg, followed by high tea.

They left vowing to return at a later date to sample the excellent dinner menu.



# Creative writing for everyone

The Prestoungrange Arts Festival already runs art classes, and now it is delighted to host its first-ever creative writing course.



Taking place at the Gothenburg, the course starts on Tuesday 11 January and will run each Tuesday evening from 7.00 to 9.00pm until March 22nd.

The course Tutor is John Skinner who works part-time for Napier University and for East Lothian Council's community education programmes. John lives in Tranent and is a writer and freelance journalist. He also runs the popular "Rebustours" based on Ian Rankin's books.

John's course is for everyone - even if you've never put pen to paper before!

Over the ten weeks you will be encouraged to write and discover how you can bring material out of yourself that perhaps is hidden. Poetry, prose, short stories and journalistic styles will all be investigated and encouraged along the way. Even if you have never so much as kept a diary, come along!

One of John's aims is to encourage participants on the course to relate their writing to the Prestonpans and East Lothian area, perhaps through personal memories or associations. These might then be published as a booklet.

Places on the course are limited to fifteen people so join now! Telephone Adele Conn on 01875 819922.



The Prestoungrange Arts Festival's art classes have been running for some time now and the participants have proved a highly talented bunch. Now everyone can see the best of their work which will be exhibited at the Gothenburg between 29 November and 12 December. All the paintings will be for sale, with prices starting at £50, and would make a perfect Christmas gift.



## Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg, 227 High Street, Prestonpans, East Lothian, EH32 9BE  
Tel: (01875) 819922 Fax: (01875) 819911 Email: [adeleconn@prestoungrange.org](mailto:adeleconn@prestoungrange.org) Web: [www.prestoungrange.org](http://www.prestoungrange.org)