

brushstrokes

www.prestoungrange.org

CREATIVE WRITING

The Spring Creative Writing Workshop has come to a close with the members graduating from the 10 week course under the tutelage of John Skinner. It was at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg that the budding writers came together. They had not met before but shared one thing in common: they knew they wanted to write - and were looking for some guidance as to how to release this onto the written page. John provided the "triggers" that allowed them all to produce some excellent work.

On behalf of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival and John Skinner, we congratulate and thank the workshop members – Elaine, Moira and Marion – for their companionship, sense of fun and for their wonderful work. Their outcomes are accessible on our website at www.prestoungrange.org. If you would like to join our next Workshop series, please call Adele Conn at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg on 01875 819922.



Creative Writing Members; Elaine Leitch, Moira Walker and Marion McLaughlan.

BURRISS BURSARY

Our first recipient of the Burriss Bursary, local lass June Coull, ended her bursary reign on the 12 July, after opening her very successful one man exhibition at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg. June sold 9 of her paintings that were created during her year as bursary winner. She will continue to paint and be working towards another exhibition here at the Goth in 2006.

As for the recipient of this year's Burriss Bursary, it was a close call. In fact too close, so we decided to have 2 winners. These artists are unique in their own right and will contribute much more than just their artwork to the Goth and local communities. The winners are Adele Robertson and Maggie Fraser.

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The bursary is not just open to painters from East Lothian, but is available to artists in the widest sense. We are hoping to receive even more entries next year and for varying media. The 2006 Burriss Bursary application will be available in January 2006.



Burriss Winners: June Coull, 2004; Adele Robertson, 2005; Julian Wills, Baron of Dolphinstoun; Maggie Fraser, 2005; Andrew Crummy, Arts Convenor.

Prestonpans beach needs your help!

As part of the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) *Adopt-a-Beach* scheme, Prestonpans beach has been adopted! Volunteers are needed to help with litter clean-ups and surveys, which take place at the beach on a seasonal basis.

The information gathered during the surveys will be used to raise awareness of the problems and dangers of coastal marine litter to both humans and wildlife. It will also enable the main sources of local litter inputs to be identified and the polluters responsible targeted.

This is a real chance for everyone who knows and uses Prestonpans beach to get involved and help look after it. The surveys take place four times a year and provide an ideal opportunity to have fun and learn about the coast, whilst making a real difference to the local marine environment.

The next beach clean and survey is due to take place on Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th September 2005. The meeting place is the Prestoungrange Gothenburg Car Park with FREE "Gothen-burgers" courtesy of the Prestoungrange Gothenburg handed out to all who participate. Please contact Jan Barker on jan@barker-family.info or phone her on 01875 819696 for more information on times and to register your interest.

INTRODUCTION

By Anne Taylor, Chief Executive

On Sunday 3rd July the Prestoungrange Gothenburg celebrated its first birthday – or its 97th, depending how you look at it. It was quite an emotional day for the staff here and for everyone associated with the Prestoungrange Arts Festival.

As most of you know, The Gothenburg has reopened under the original 'Gothenburg Principles' which were the reason it was built in 1908. This means that the more successful we are, the more funding will be available for the Prestoungrange Arts Festival's activities in and around Prestonpans.

It takes time to build a business, and our target is £1 million per year so that sufficient profits can be realised to fund around £100,000 for the arts each year. With grants and funding from other sources, this figure could well rise to £200,000. That's the target. The trends are extremely good but we certainly aren't there yet. We plan to be there by 2007.

Throughout the year our business has grown steadily as our reputation has spread. Its not the main reason people come here to eat and drink, but most are impressed by the fact that every pound they spend helps sustain arts initiatives for the good of the community.

People tell us that what keeps them coming back is the quality of the food and ales and the varied entertainment on offer. They also appreciate the stylish surroundings and the friendly staff.

To some extent, this has been a year of experiments, with a chance to learn what our customers want. We've tried to provide something for everyone and some things have been successful and some less so. We are refining our services all the time and taking on board what our customers have to say.

The two years leading up to the opening last year were far from easy, and many people doubted the wisdom of renovating and re-opening the old 'Goth'. But we persevered and, in my humble opinion, we've created something remarkable and unique. All the original features of the 1908 building have been restored, but great new facilities added too – such as the microbrewery and the Thomas Nelson function suite upstairs.

Improvements have continued over the last year and new features are being added all the time. Our growing number of artworks and murals, as well as the old arts and crafts décor, mean that the Goth is well worth a visit just to admire the surroundings alone. You never quite know what's going to appear before the next time you come along!

GOTHENBURG PRINCIPLES

In the late 1800's, a group of philanthropists decided to try something radical to help industrial and mining communities where there was great hardship. They realised that alcohol abuse made poverty in these areas worse, but also accepted that it was unrealistic to expect total abstinence.

Instead they aimed to create a system where alcohol was allowed, but not encouraged, and where revenue from the alcohol sales would help fund alternative 'wholesome' leisure activities.

Their inspiration came from Sweden and from Gothenburg in particular. There distilling was licensed for the first time in the 1860s, with a fee payable, and retailing came under the control of the local authorities who used the money to improve local facilities.

Thomas Nelson and his partners, who established the Prestoungrange Gothenburg and many other such pubs in Scotland, set out to create their own version of this system. They built attractive pubs where managers got bonuses only for sales of food and non-alcoholic drinks, rather than beer and spirits and where families were encouraged. All profits above a five per cent return for the investors were spent on local good works.

As many as 600 such pubs appeared across the UK, with more than 60 in Scotland. In their time, they helped pay for a host of leisure facilities such as reading rooms, bowling greens or cinemas.

Only two others still operate under the Gothenburg system today – the Dean Tavern in Newton Grange and the Armadale Gothenburg. Gradually, the vast majority abandoned their charitable aims and were taken over by commercial enterprises, as was the Prestonpans Gothenburg in the 1920s.

When it opened again last year, the Prestoungrange Gothenburg was the first establishment to open under the Gothenburg Principles for nearly 100 years.

We are proud of that!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

Since the Prestoungrange Gothenburg re-opened again last summer it has hosted an incredibly wide range of events and entertainment.

The James Fewell Bar and James Park Bistro cater for everything from light snacks and refreshments to splendid lunches and dinners. There is entertainment every weekend and often during the week as well – with something to keep everyone happy.

The upstairs function suites were specifically designed to be as flexible as possible. Weddings with 100+ guests are no problem, but they're just as suitable for smaller gatherings. Exhibitions, drama productions and music of various kinds are also regularly on offer, as are a variety of workshops and classes.

Here is a roundup of some of the Gothenburg events of the last 12 months:
International Cuisine Evenings – Mexican, Spanish Tapas, Italian, Indian
Ladies Cocktail Nights
Coffee Mornings
Psychic Evenings
Arts 'n Craft Fairs
Plays from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
Tea Dances
Creative Writing Workshop
BookCross Club Meets
Burns' Supper
Arts Club

Music

The music programme has been particularly popular and the Goth is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best music venues in East Lothian.



Local band – FUNKSTAR

A wide range of musical tastes has been catered for – from jazz and blues to folk, soul, funk and disco. There has been a deliberate policy to showcase local talent such as Prestonpans own, Funkstar and Vintage but talent from further a field is also often featured.

East Lothian's first open-air beer festival was organised by the Gothenburg in June and proved also to be a highlight of the musical calendar featuring a day-long line-up of favourite musical talent.



Textile art by Ann Dickson

Exhibitions

The Gothenburg itself is something of a permanent art exhibition with murals, paintings, sculptures and photographs adorning every wall and corner.

A number of temporary exhibitions have also been held, some featuring very well-known artists, including James Fairgrieve, Gordon Boyd and textile artists Liz Neilson and Ann Dickson. The Prestoungrange Art Class has exhibited several times, featuring work by local amateur artists. Sale of their paintings has contributed considerably to the costs of running the artist-led twice weekly classes.



Textile art by Liz Neilson

Witches Commemoration

Last October Prestonpans hit the headlines worldwide as the town which was to commemorate the wrongful killing of 81 local people accused of witchcraft in the 16th and 17th centuries.

These people, mainly women, were officially pardoned by the Baron of Prestoungrange who also declared that their deaths should be commemorated every year on 31st October. A special ceremony was conducted at the Gothenburg by Roy Pugh, local historian and author, attended by many towns folk believed to be descended from the 81 accused witches.

2005 will see an even bigger commemoration ceremony and a range of other events designed to make sure that the atrocities committed all those years ago are not forgotten.



Christmas Celebrations

Christmas and New Year was a very special time at the Goth, with a varied programme of entertainment for all ages. It also provided a great opportunity for the chefs to show their mettle with a superb Christmas menu.

Highlights were the Arts and Crafts Christmas Fair, the Children's Santa's Grotto and Party and the Xmas Party Nights

Many people visited the Goth for the first time as part of a Christmas party or office lunch, and many have since become regular customers. Our Christmas menus and party night dates will be available at the end of this month for Christmas bookings, book early as they say.



Christmas Market 2004

Fine Food and Ales

Gothenburg staff realise that the quality of the food and drink on offer is just as important as surroundings and entertainment.

Head Chef, Andrew Laurie, quickly made his mark, even in the early days when the kitchens where still to be completed! He and his team have built a popular menu, in the James Park Bistro – using only quality ingredients.

Over the year there have also been a number of themed events offering international food and related entertainment – such as the regular Tapas Evenings and Mexican Nights

Restaurant 1908, open most weekends in the Thomas Nelson Suite upstairs, offers the very best cuisine for a gastronomic night to remember.

Menus for all the dining options are available at the website – www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg



The Fowler's Microbrewery is now truly in full swing, with a range of regular ales available in the bars. One-off celebration ales have also proved popular as an unusual way to mark a special occasion. Our Prestonpans IPA and our new Pryde very pale ale are big sellers in the James Fewell Bar as an alternative for lager drinkers. Our Prestonpans 80/- is our most popular ale whilst the 70/- has unannounced disappearances as the special occasion beer is put through the taps in its place.



The BrewSets (a chance to brew your own ale) make for fantastic and useful presents – Fathers Day, Christmas, Birthdays, Stag Nights... the list is endless. Registration forms are available in the Goth or on our website www.prestoungrange.org/fowlers

CHARITY MEMBERSHIP AND GOTHPPOINTS

The Gothenburg Principles are taken one step further with the creation of a charity membership scheme, allowing the whole community to become involved.

In exchange for a donation of £1 or more, people can become Members of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival and collect 'GothPoints' when they buy non-alcoholic drinks, food or services from the Gothenburg.

These 'GothPoints' can be exchanged at the Gothenburg in the same way as supermarket loyalty points.

Always forward looking, the Gothenburg has invested in state-of-the-art technology to award and monitor 'GothPoints'. In the best tradition of such equipment, there have been a myriad of initial teething problems getting the scheme up and running. These are now resolved and if you are not already a member it is wise to become one at once.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Although this has been a great year for the Gothenburg, it's only the start. The goal is for the business to make enough profit by the end of 2007 to take over funding the Prestoungrange Arts Festival and its many initiatives.

Since 1998 the Arts Festival has been substantially funded by Barony Trust Funds. By the end of 2007, these funds made available for the first decade must be replaced for the continuation of arts activities. Other sources of funding, will include grants and awards from other charities and the public purse, and of course, surpluses achieved at The Gothenburg. Although Gothenburg Principles stem from the beginning of the last century, they've been revitalised and made relevant to modern times at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg. Today other organisations are looking to Prestoungrange with a view to emulating the format. Craigmillar Arts Festival, for example, is considering reopening an old Art-deco local pub to help fund its future activities.

To achieve its goals, The Prestoungrange Gothenburg must continue to grow and keep its customers happy, even delighted. As our honeymoon comes to an end, plans are well underway for a packed schedule of new and already established events and entertainment for the next 12 months and beyond. This, together with the continued high standard of food and drink, we believe make our goals perfectly achievable.

Some future highlights:

August

- ✓ Totem Pole carving and workshops
- ✓ Microbrewery new ales launch

September

- ✓ Battle of Prestonpans celebrations, including a Battle Ceilidh at the Goth

October

- ✓ Witches commemoration events, with re-enactments and launch of new book and murals

November

- ✓ Guy Fawkes Night
- ✓ Scottish Barons' Banquet and Fireworks

December

- ✓ A packed Christmas and New Year programme

2006

January

- ✓ Burns Celebrations and supper

March

- ✓ Second Totem Pole carving period, with workshops and social events

August

- ✓ Global Murals Conference held in Prestonpans, with week-long programme of events, culminating in the raising of the Totem Poles

2007 Prestonpans Pottery Year – Road Show and Exhibition

2008 Centenary Year ... watch out for this one!

TOTE THAT POLE

The Prestonpans Totem Pole project kicks off in late August with a five-day visit to the town of three carvers from the Canadian First Nations people.

They are here to work with local people to carve totem poles from two 40 foot red cedar trees which were donated and shipped from Chemainus in Canada earlier this year.

The carvers will be working with staff from the National Museums of Scotland and the Prestoungrange Arts Festival. They will be visiting local schools and running workshops to talk about their culture and develop designs for the poles based on local history, myths and symbols. There will then be an opportunity to get involved in the actual carving process.



Anyone from the community can get involved. If you are part of a group who might be interested in receiving a visit from the First Nations carvers, or just an interested individual, contact Kristine Cunningham on 07946 154760 or e-mail kcunningham@blueyonder.co.uk for further details as they're finalised. Keep an eye on the Prestoungrange website as well, for latest updates – www.prestoungrange.org

Goth News



The Prestoungrange Gothenburg

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WINE TASTING

Many of you will have met Craig Allan, our resident brewer but many will not know that Craig is also our resident wine expert. He spent two years travelling in France working successively in one of Beaune's 'organic' vineyards, at Chateau de Puligny in Puligny-Montrachat and finally in Santenay at La Domaine des Hautes Cornieres where he completed his Diploma in Vine Culture and Winemaking. Craig is introducing Wine Tasting Evenings here at the Goth with the first to take place on Thursday 18 August. He will be hosting the introduction to wine for beginners but also involving those of you that are wine connoisseurs. Please do come along to this fabulous evening and enjoy and learn what taste best suites your pallet.



****GOTH POINTS** can be collected and redeemed at many of the following events

FRIDAY 29 JULY: 7.30pm**

SPANISH TAPAS AND CABARET EVENING:

Tapas Buffet and Cabaret Act, Marti Waugh. Tickets cost £10.00pp.

MONDAY 1 AUGUST TO SUNDAY 14 AUGUST: Daily from 12 noon to 5pm

LINDA SNEDDON: Exhibition of photographs

THURSDAY 4th AUGUST: 7.30pm**

LADIES COCKTAIL EVENING:

Tickets cost £5.00pp and include canapés and cocktails on arrival. Cocktails cost £3.80 each

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST : 9-11pm

JOHNSON BROTHERS : Live music in the James Fewell Bar

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST : 6-8pm

RAB HOWITT BAND : Live music in the Thomas Nelson Suite. Entrance is £3.00pp

TUESDAY 9 AUGUST : 7pm

BOOKCROSS MEET : A worldwide library at your fingertips. All welcome

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST : 9-11pm

MIKE WHELLANS : Live music in the James Fewell Bar

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST : 7:30pm**

PSYCHIC EVENING : With Roberta Gordon. Tickets cost £3.50pp and numbers are limited

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST : 7:30pm

WINE TASTING : An introduction to wine by our resident Wine Expert, Craig Allan. Cheese and wine tickets cost £5.00pp

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST : 9-11pm

LIVE MUSIC : Act to be confirmed

SUNDAY 21 AUGUST : 6-8pm

FEEDBACK : Live music in the Thomas Nelson Suite. Entrance is £3.00pp

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST : 7:30pm**

THAI EVENING : Buffet. Tickets cost £10.00pp

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST : 9-11pm

STEVIE SCOTT : Live music in the James Fewell Bar

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST **

12-5pm : PSYCHIC FAIR : With Roberta Gordon. Individuals readings available. Tickets cost £5.00pp and numbers are limited

9-11pm : LIVE MUSIC : Act to be confirmed

BAR BISTRO FINE DINING CARVERY LIVE MUSIC FUNCTIONS MICRO BREWERY ARTS