

PUB TO CELEBRATE AWARD WITH ITS CUSTOMERS

Goth transformation is hailed by design judges

Report by
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A day of celebration is being held at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg next month following its success in the 2005 Pub Design Awards, organised by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Having clinched the coveted conservation award, the winning team wants to share its achievement with the Prestonpans community on Thursday, February 9.

Sponsored by English Heritage, the aim of the award is "to recognise work which conserves what is good in a pub to ensure its future for generations of customers."

The Prestoungrange Goth was one of many Gothenburgs built in the early 1900s as part of a unique social experiment in temperance.

The philanthropists responsible wanted to create a place of beauty for the local miners where soft drinks and food were actively promoted and families encouraged.

In this way it was hoped that the worst excesses of alcohol abuse could be reduced.

As a result, the bar, dining room and function suite were all built to the highest standard of the day and incorporated fine arts and crafts features to rival the best tea-rooms in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Although the Prestoungrange Goth had gradually become run down and eventually closed for several years, it retained many of its original features when it was bought by Baron and Lady Prestoungrange in 2001.

Over the next three years it was meticulously restored and extended to provide modern facilities and its own microbrewery.

The original Goth principles have been reinterpreted and profits are used to fund arts and cultural projects in the community through the



Prestoungrange Arts Festival.

Commenting on the Goth, the judges said: "Here is a pub which celebrates, not hides, its colourful history, and which makes excellent use of its unusual floor plan.

"The differing bars, each with their own sense of tradition and atmosphere, have been admirably restored."

Staff at the Gothenburg were delighted to clinch the award just weeks after receiving the Best New Enterprise accolade at the East Lothian Business Awards 2005.

CEO Anne Taylor said: "The CAMRA/English Heritage award is a fantastic endorsement of the hard work of everyone involved in the 're-birth' of the Goth. It's been a team effort all the way.

"The old Goth used to be a real hub of the community here in Prestonpans and the brilliant thing is that since it reopened in 2004 the new Gothenburg has quickly become the same.

"As well as conserving a very special building and charitable concept, we are providing something unique for the local community."

Provost Pat O'Brien, a long-time supporter of the Goth, also welcomed the award.

"It's a worthy and well deserved award — 11 out of 10 — and coming from the English as well as from CAMRA, its taste is even sweeter," he stated.

●Head brewer Craig Allan is pictured receiving the award from Andrew Davison of English Heritage.