

On July 27th 2004 the Barons Courts of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun in their Final Trinity Session granted an Absolute Pardon, quashing the original sentences of those accused of witchcraft in Prestonpans.

The Barons Courts are determined that remembrance of this outrageous period of injustice done in the name of Scots law shall be the proper context for the 'fun' that always goes on at Hallowe'en. And so each year we celebrate Witches Remembrance Day on the 31st October with a series of events performed by local people (many of whom are related to the 81 witches) and remembrance ceremonies accompanied with the laying of herb wreaths.

In honour and memory of these 81 men, women and children, we have created a Witches Experience in the Garden Courtyard and on each side of the southern Staircase of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg, which takes you on an solemn emotional journey from the signing of the Witchcraft Act in 1563 by Mary Queen of Scots to Helen Duncan (a modern day witch), the last person convicted under the Witchcraft Act in 1944.

This leaflet accompanies *81 Witches of Prestonpans — Pardoned They Are* written by local writer Annemarie Allan supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The booklet gives you a full historical account of the witch hunts in Scotland whilst this leaflet details the artwork content of the Witches Experience.

Every Hallowe'en we dedicate a week's activities to the 81 Witches of Prestonpans. These include a guided tour around the Witches Experience with muralist Andrew Crummy, writer Annemarie Allan and Witch Expert Roy Pugh (author of the *Deils' Ain*).

Details of our complete Witches Remembrance week from our website www.prestoungrange.org/gothenburg or to book the guided tours contact Adele Conn on Telephone: (44) (0) 1875 819922.

THE TOURS

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg is open all year round for guided group tours by arrangement. These guided tours only cater for a minimum of 8 people with the maximum capacity for 15 people.

Each tour is classed as a private tour and needs to be booked in advance. The benefits of this are:

- Services of a dedicated guide
- Flexible start and finish times
- Decide for yourself the length of the tour ...

and why not finish up at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg with lunch, dinner or a snack treat?

Prestoungrange Arts Festival runs 3 set tours on the WITCH! Experience but we also run tailor-made tours in which we can cater to all your requirements — you may want to be collected in our private Wiles bus from Prestonpans train station or you may want to include a private dinner or lunch upstairs in our Lord Mayor's Bar. For pre-arranged tours, we provide refreshments with tea and scones or a light lunch.

WITCH! 1

A 20 minute tour of the Witches Experience at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg. Includes tea/coffee and scones. (Prestonpans Ales optional) — **£5.95.**

WITCH! 2

A 20 minute tour of the Witches Experience at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg. Includes a light lunch — **£9.95**

WITCH! 3

A 60 minute tour around the Witches Experience and bus trip to the mural at Cuthill Park. Includes a light lunch — **£12.95;**
Group booking of 15 (discounted rate) — **£175.00**



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guide to the 81 Witches of Prestonpans experience

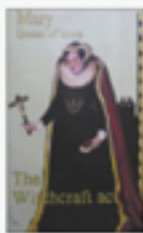
*"81 Witches of Prestonpans
— Pardoned They Are"*

OUTSIDE

Outside in the garden of the Prestoungrange Gothenburg we encounter one of the most controversial trails—The 81 Witches of Prestonpans.

The plight of these local people is highlighted in a number of panels, gates, scenes, quotes and a named memorial designed to restore dignity & humanity to each of the accused.

THE GATES (by Tom Ewing) — This historical journey begins at The Witches Gates and depicts some of the main characters in the witch hunts. On the east facing side of the gates we find **Mary Queen of Scots** who signed the Scottish Witchcraft Act of 1563 which

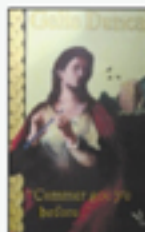


forbade on pain of death any use of magic in addition anyone who consulted a magic user was subject to the same penalty. Such legislation was driven by the fear of Scotland's most famous Reformation Minister John Knox.



On the west side of the gates we have Gellie Duncan, a servant who in 1590 was accused of witchcraft by her master, David Seton of

Tranent. This triggered the witch panic of 1590/91. It was a fear of a conspiracy of witches that led King James VI to take a personal interest in the investigation.



Entering the Witches Experience we now see a series of murals, portraits and a memorial to these 81 men, women and children that were put to their deaths under the Witchcraft Act. These fantastic humane images were painted by Andrew Crummy with help from Adele Robertson and June Coull.

PANEL-1 — This shows George Mott's house in Prestonpans. His wife was executed as a witch and it was in his house that they supposedly prepared the potions and the spells.



PANEL-2 (lower section) — The Fiery Hills of Acheson Haven. This shows a large number of "witches" assembled. They have with them a poison extracted from a toad (seemingly prepared at George Mott's house) and a wax image of the King wrapped in a cloth. They pass the image from hand to hand, declaring harm to the King in Bothwells name.



PANEL-2 (upper section) — 81 names of people that were accused of witchcraft and the logo "Witches of Prestonpans — Pardoned They Are". These names are fired into special tiles by artist Tim Clapcott, ensuring the longevity of the memorial. The stone carving is by Gardner Molloy.



NAMES OF THE ACCUSED

1. Margarett Aitchesoun (1590) from Prestonpans
2. Masie Aitchesoun (1590) from Prestonpans
3. Agnes Aird (1661) from Prestonpans
4. Marjorie Andersone (1678) from Prestonpans
5. Margaret Auchinmoutie (1661) from Prestonpans
6. Marioun Bailzie (1590) from Prestonpans
7. Christian Blaikie (1661) from Prestonpans
8. Meg Bogtoun (1590) from Prestonpans
9. Janet Boyd (1628) from Prestonpans
10. Bessie Broun (1590) from Prestonpans
11. Thomas Brounhill (1590) from Prestonpans
12. (Wife of above) Brounhill (1590) from Prestonpans
13. Duncan Buchquhassan (1590) from Prestonpans
14. Margaret Butter (1661) from Prestonpans
15. Marthia Butter (1659) from Prestonpans
16. Jonett Campbell (1590) from Prestonpans
17. Elspeth Chevillie (1661) from Prestonpans
18. Thomas Cockburn (1591) from Prestonpans
19. Marioun Congiltoun (1590) from Prestonpans
20. Bessie Cowane (1590) from Prestonpans
21. Beatrix Cuthbertsoun (1629) from Prestonpans
22. Janet Darlig (1628) from Prestonpans
23. Agnes Dempstar (1628) from Prestonpans
24. Gellie Duncan (1590/91) from Prestonpans
25. Catherine Duncane (1590) from Prestonpans
26. Thome Fean (1591) from Prestonpans
27. John Fian or Fiene (1597) from Prestonpans
28. Jonett Gall (1590) from Prestonpans
29. Mollie Geddle (1590) from Prestonpans
30. Heleen Gibesone (1661) from Prestonpans
31. Johnne Gordon (1590) from Prestonpans
32. Catherine Gray (1590) from Prestonpans
33. Jonnett Gray (1661) from Prestonpans
34. Robert Greirsoun (1591) from Prestonpans
35. Issobell Greirsoune (1607) from Prestonpans
36. Issonell Gylloun (1590) from Prestonpans
37. Margaret Hall (1661) from Prestonpans
38. Agnes Kelly (1678) from Prestonpans
39. Cristian Kerington (1590) from Prestonpans
40. Helene Lauder (1590) from Prestonpans
41. Issobell Lauder (1590) from Prestonpans
42. Agnes Liddell (1628) from Prestonpans
43. Katherine Liddell (1628) from Prestonpans
44. Jonett Logan (1590) from Prestonpans
45. Ewflame McCalzean (1590/91) from Prestonpans
46. Catherine McGill (1590) from Prestonpans
47. Gilbert McGill (1590) from Prestonpans
48. Johnne McGill (1590) from Prestonpans
49. Barbara Mathie (1628) from Prestonpans
50. Wife of George Moitis (1590) from Prestonpans
51. Jonett Nicolsoun (1590) from Prestonpans
52. Wife of Nichol Murray
53. Ann Nain
54. Marioun Nicolsoun (1590) from Prestonpans
55. Margaret Oliver (1628) from Prestonpans
56. Marie Patersoune (1590) from Prestonpans
57. Portar of Seton, wife (1590) from Prestonpans
58. Helen Quhyte
59. Alexander Quhyte Law (1590) from Prestonpans
60. Ramsay, wife of: John Ramsay (1590) from Prestonpans
61. Agnes Rankin (1628) from Prestonpans
62. Marion Ranking (1591) from Prestonpans
63. Janet Reid (1628) from Prestonpans
64. Bessie Riddell (1628) from Prestonpans
65. Margaret Ridpeth (1628) from Prestonpans
66. Donald Robinson (1661) from Prestonpans
67. Anny Ryheson (1590) from Prestonpans
68. Daughters of Agnes Sampson (1590) from Prestonpans
69. Agnes Sampson (1590/91) from Prestonpans
70. Marioune Schaw (1590) from Prestonpans
71. Ann Simson
72. Wife of Smythe (1590) from Prestonpans
73. Elizabeth Steven
74. Jonett Straittoun (1590) from Prestonpans
75. Janet Straittoun (1628) from Prestonpans
76. Margaret Thomson (1590) from Prestonpans
77. Bessie Thomson (1590) from Prestonpans
78. Katherine Wallace (1590) from Prestonpans
79. Charles Wat (1591) from Prestonpans
80. Bessie Wrycht (1590) from Prestonpans
81. Margaret Young (1628) from Prestonpans

PANEL-3 — Torture implements and the Edinburgh Tolbooth. Most of the witches were interrogated at the Tolbooth and in some cases the King was present.



DOORS — Portraits of Helen Duncan and Winston Churchill. In 1944 the Scot, Helen Duncan was the last person to be convicted by the authorities under the Witchcraft Act of 1736. The authorities feared her clairvoyant powers enabled her to predict details of wartime movement of shipping. She spent nine months in prison and has yet to this day to be pardoned.

INSIDE

CORRIDOR

1. The Witchcraft Act of 1563 (Original from: Acts of Parliament of Scotland, Vol 11 page 589)
2. Quote from John Fian, *Newes from Scotland*, London 1591
3. Illustrations from *Newes from Scotland*, London 1591
4. Headline copy from *Newes from Scotland*, London 1591
5. Quote by Agnes Sampson 1581, High Court Records 1581/1582
6. Confessions from the High Court Records 1581/1582 detailed statements from those under investigation of witchcraft.
7. Copy of original document from the High Court Records 1581/1582.
8. Pictures of the Edinburgh Tolbooth and torture implements.
9. Quote from the Witchcraft Act 1603.
10. Quote from Mathew 4:16. First sermon by John Davidson, first reformation minister of Prestonpans, 1595.
11. Shakespeares Witches, based on events of 1590/1591, Macbeth Act 1 Scene III.
12. Quote from Exodus 22:18, King James' Bible.
13. Quote from Rev Deodat Lawson, Salem, March 1692.
14. Newspaper article about Helen Duncan, 1998.
15. Memo from Winston Churchill, 1944.



GALLERY STAIRCASE ENTRANCE TO THOMAS NELSON SUITE

— This is the Pardon that was issued by the Barons Courts on July 27th 2004. Copies of the Pardon were issued to local families sharing names of accused.



*"81 Witches of Prestonpans
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WITCH!

In addition to using The Prestoungrange Gothenburg's gardens as the main venue for the Witches Experience and as a stage for the many events at Hallowe'en, we also have a mural that is used as a wonderful backdrop for the cycle of outdoor "Witch!" plays. These plays are performed annually by the local drama groups to highlight events surrounding the 81 local people accused of Witchcraft. The plays are written by a local witch expert Roy Pugh and local author Annemarie Allan. Neatly tucked away in Cuthill Community Park and painted by Tom Ewing, it depicts the trial of the Prestonpans witches held at the Tolbooth in Edinburgh. You see Agnes Sampson – the accused, King James VI watching and ruling over the proceedings and John Fian, one of the most famous men accused of witchcraft.

