



www.prestoungange.org brushstrokes

Special Interest Articles:

- **Fowlers Return from Jane Bonnar, Project Director**
- **Beach Clean-up**
- **Johnnie Moat**
- **Beam Engine Mural**
- **Karl Schutz**
- **New Murals**



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Beach Clean Up

We were very lucky to have the youngsters of Prestonpans turn out in force on the 12th and 19th May, to help us clean

up the Prestonpans foreshore. On Sunday 12 May, ten took to the beach armed (by East Lothian Council) with gloves, bags and 'Keep Scotland Tidy' tabards. The tide was nearly at its highest so the beach was swept above the water line, from the Morison's Haven mural almost as far as the sailing club. On Sunday 19th May, nine returned to work below the high water mark. Within a couple of hours, their skip was full to overflowing with bicycles, beds, washing machines, car wheels and trolleys. According to the Rev. Robert R. Simpson of Prestongrange Parish Church who facilitated the operation, all was conducted in good humour and the youngsters enjoyed a laugh along with the challenge. A donation was made to the Prestongrange Hall Development Fund. Anyone appreciating the cleaner beach and wishing to boost this donation should contact Rev. Simpson at Prestongrange Parish Church.

Fowlers Return



Whilst producing the latest *Prestoungange History Series* book by David Anderson, *Famous Since the '45* - John Fowler & Sons, the team came to appreciate just how

important brewing was to the people of Prestonpans. A high proportion of the population, both men and women, were employed in the Brewery so they worked together, earned together and ultimately socialised together.

It is the depth of research and the quality of work in David Anderson's latest publication that led us to appreciate this intriguing part of the heritage of Prestonpans. Evidence comes from the extensive records of John Fowler & Sons, the Leith Harbour Masters' customs records, the cargo lists of the ships that docked at Morison's Haven and the testimony of those who both worked there and enjoyed the brew.

To really show our appreciation of our Fowler's Brewery heritage we intend to reproduce the beer enjoyed by many, way back when, and by a few nowadays. We propose to establish a microbrewery in Prestonpans and start brewing 'Wee Heavy'.

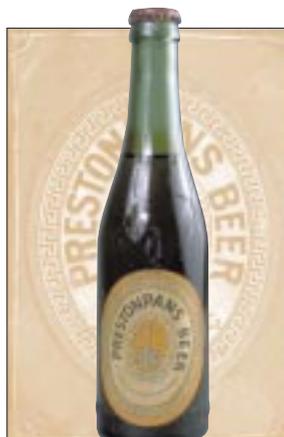
Should anyone have interesting Brewery photographs, bottles, beer mats, etc. then please contact us. We will use your artifacts as the basis for a mural, ensuring authentic representation. Anyone who was employed by John Fowler, or has recollections of an older relative working there, should contact us also.

Jane

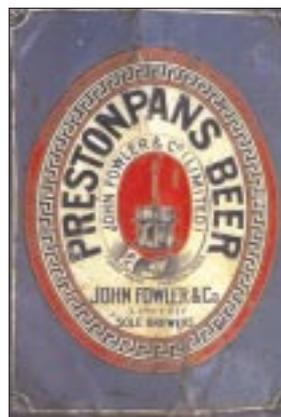
Jane Bonnar, Project Director



Gothenburg Jug Bar



Fowler's Ales Bottle



Metal Advertising Sign

The Legendary Johnnie Moat – *Sculpted by Nature*

Now our existing art - *Johnnie Moat* – the dark blue whinstone boulder which measures nine feet long, six feet high and six feet wide, has been conveniently sculptured for us all by nature!

On March 10th 1992, the *East Lothian News* reported that the Johnnie Moat was returned to its shelf after toppling to the beach in December 1952, forty years before. Sadly, those 40 years were amongst the most miserable in the history of the town with the closure of the colliery, brickworks, potteries and brewery with the loss of thousands of jobs.

The boulder was almost certainly left behind by the glaciers of long ago but many other charming and outlandish explanations are also in circulation - perhaps a meteorite or blast debris from an erupting Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh! The origin of the boulder's name however is much more certain. It is named after a huge figure of a man, big Johnnie Moat, who was Harbourmaster and Ship's Pilot at Morison's Haven in the 17th century. Local folklore tells us that lads walking along the foreshore had been so impressed by the size of the boulder that it reminded them of the man himself - hence the name that has stuck for over 300 years.

Legend has it that "as long as the Johnnie Moat stands on its rock shelf the town will flourish". And whilst it stood there from the Ice Age until December 1952, it watched over the original settlement by Norse fishermen at Althamer and its successor townships and baronial burghs as Priesttown, Sal Priesttown, Salt Preston and Prestonpans; and flourish we did. Salt works, oyster beds, potteries, ropeworks, soap works, chemical production, market gardens, coal mines, brickworks and breweries all played a significant role.



"as long as the Johnnie Moat stands on its rock shelf the town will flourish"

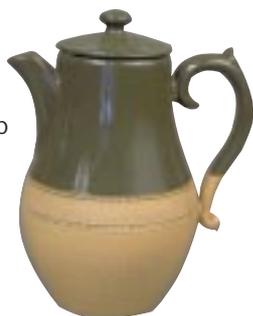
Luckily, in 1992 the resources were found to lift the toppled Johnnie Moat back on Girdle Rocks shelf; the contractors who were busy laying a new sewerage system along the foreshore.

The Johnnie Moat is only one example of our existing art; the Burns Shelter, the Thomas Alexander Memorial and the Kinetic Sculpture to commemorate the 'Pans' association with the sea are others. All of which we are incorporating into the *Prestoungrange Murals Trail*: to the old we add the new – the murals currently being created to celebrate our heritage.



PRESTONPANS Pottery on Show

To view, and appreciate, examples of Prestonpans Pottery online, visit the Virtual Pottery Exhibition at www.prestoungrange.org. Or, take a trip to the *Gone to Pot* Exhibition at Prestoungrange Industrial Heritage Museum, Morison's Haven, Nr. Prestonpans, EH32 9RY. Tel: 0131 665 2904. Open from 11am-4pm throughout the summer. Admission Free.



PRESTONPANS Pottery Heritage

The 30th June 2002 was the closing date for the Prestoungrange Pottery Competition 2002. The response this year was particularly enthusiastic and the entries spectacular. The best entries will be published in our next edition, when the winner will be announced. Of course, part of the prize is to invite the winner to reproduce their competition entry, for sale. So if you want to update your Prestonpans Pottery collection with a truly 21st century design – watch this space!

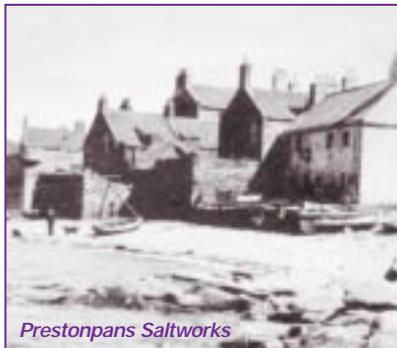


New Murals

Research is currently underway by budding historians and professional Muralists, Kate Hunter and Keli Clark. Both, we are delighted to announce, have agreed to create our next two murals and are currently sifting the galleries and archives for images. The themes are:-

The Saltworks

Prestonpans derives its name from the Salt Panning activities of the Newbattle Monks who, nearly nine hundred years ago, were granted use of the land and sea here to collect salt for their monastery. The process involved collecting salt water in large pans before boiling to evaporate the water, leaving the salt. Commercial concerns eventually took over and the Prestonpans Salt Works product was sought after for many a fine table.



Prestonpans Saltworks

'Pans Women

British women's history over the last hundred years has seen emancipation, home front war efforts and liberation. The history of Prestonpans women goes back even further; beginning with physical effort underground and laborious saltpanning to the repetitive tasks of the bottling plant and brick works to the semi-skilled pottery process. Pans' women have always been workers; their men were either underground, at sea or at war. With strong family ties, their efforts in working life have been mostly to serve the consumer needs of the City of Edinburgh, a tradition carried on today. The most memorable women are those who served their community; the village nurse, the Girls Brigade leader and the gala queen, all of whom will be commemorated in this fascinating mural.

To make sure that our muralists truly depict these aspects of Prestonpans history, we would be please to include any photographs and/or stories you might have.



19th Century Coal Bearer

Karl Schutz

Karl Schutz, the world's leading authority on themed historical murals, made his third visit to Prestonpans on May 5-7th and headed two Workshops at Cockenzie Centre.

In the morning, Karl engaged all present with his presentation on the success of the Chemainus Murals before leading the way to watch the Beam Engine mural being created. In the evening, muralists, authors and researchers mixed with the numerous members of the community who came to meet Karl and appreciate the art of Kate Hunter, Michael McVeigh and Andrew Crummy. All workshops were extremely well received – as always.



Karl meets the artists

Beam Engine Mural

Due to the proximity of the sea, whenever you dig a hole at Prestongrange it soon fills up with water.

This becomes a very big problem when one is in the business of digging coal and the mines at Prestongrange (which extend eight hundred feet) were frequently flooded. Closure meant no coal. No coal meant orders went unfulfilled jeopardising the future of the company; also men out of work meant no money home. So, it was in everyone's interest to ensure coal operations continued and the solution was provided by James Watt's breakthrough in steam technology, the steam condenser. It was first put to use at Prestongrange Colliery over one hundred years ago. The Beam Engine House was specifically designed around Watt's engine which was shipped into Morison's Haven harbour from its former Cornwall Tin Mine occupation in 1874. Once in situ, a new building was built around this enormous machine, which still stands today.



Jim Cursiter Freelance Scenic Artist





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It's our heritage, lets celebrate together

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.prestoungrange.org



PRESTOUNGRANGE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Include some snaps of Prestoungrange and the vicinity in your summer holiday photos for entry into our annual Photography Competition. The winner will receive some impressive photography equipment and have their images reproduced in our 2003 calendar. Further information in the Autumn edition of *Brushstrokes*, or give us a call now for entry forms.



Can you guess the weight of the Beam?

Entries on a postcard please. The winner will be announced in our next edition and will receive a full set of the Prestoungrange History Series.



Souvenirs

Ties - Beautifully handcrafted by local artist, Coreen Chipulina, the inspiration for these handpainted silk ties comes from Morison's Haven Mural. Available from us at £35.00 each, including P&P.



Davy Steele - Summerlee CD. David Steele was born in Summerlee an area in Prestoungrange where the miner's raws' were located. 10 tracks capture the essence and stirring quality of this talented folk singer. £12.00 each, including P&P.

Murals Trail Map - Ever looked at the Sculpture and wondered why? Ever stood in the memorial gardens, looking up at Dr. Alexander and wondered - who? All will be revealed in the *Prestoungrange Murals Trail Map* which will guide you along the coastal route to ponder thirteen of Prestoungrange artworks, old and new.

All items available direct from Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society. Visit our website for updated information, our Virtual Pottery Exhibition and Prestoungrange Resource Packs.

Competition WINNER

The lucky winner of last editions' competition was Mr. J. Park, Prestoungrange who receives a complete set of the *Prestoungrange History Series*. Mr. Park correctly identified walls that will soon feature murals:-

- Gablewall, The Coffee House, 163 High Street, Prestoungrange.
- North Boundary Wall, the Drummohr Estate, Ravensheugh.
- The Bathhouse, Prestoungrange Industrial Heritage Museum, Prestoungrange.



MAIL ORDER YOUR PRESTOUNGRANGE HISTORY SERIES CHOOSE FROM

- 1 PRESTOUNGRANGE HOUSE
- 2 ACHESON/MORISON'S HAVEN
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- 8 WATER AT PRESTOUNGRANGE & PUMPING IT OUT
- 9 DECORATIVE POTTERY AT PRESTOUNGRANGE
- 10 GEOLOGY OF PRESTOUNGRANGE
- 11 AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AT DOLPHINSTOWN.
- 12 FOWLER'S BREWERY
- 13 THE GOTHENBURG (available October 2002)



New publications for your summer reading include:

- GEOLOGY OF PRESTOUNGRANGE by Mathew Carter and Dr. Julian Wills
- FOWLER'S BREWERY FAMOUS SINCE THE '45 by David Anderson
- TALES OF THE 'PANS *reminscences of the good old days!*
- SAFE HAVEN *indulge the bairns with this delightful story*

ORDER FORM

Prestoungrange History Series

Booklet Nos _____ at £5.00 each

Second and further booklets _____ at £4.00 each

Set of all 13 Volumes _____ at £48.00

Safe Haven _____ at £3.00 each

Tales of the Pans _____ at £5.00 each

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post code: _____

Complete the quantities required before sending this order form to us together with your cheque made payable simply to 'Prestoungrange' to:-

Prestoungrange Arts Festival Society, 3 Cockenzie Centre, Edinburgh Road, Cockenzie, East Lothian, EH32 0XL.