

The images on the smaller fish:

An Airliner, the present form of transport by "Homecomers"

The Year of the Scottish Homecoming

A Globe and Compass: the world is now a global village for both work and play

A Coronet from the village coat of arms signifying that it is a "Community Council"

"We make our way back home" a line taken from Frank Reynolds' song, Cullen Bay (2001)

The Saltire

A modern Fishing Trawler

Green No 8 at Cullen golf course, a short walk from Portknockie

A contemporary Celtic Knot tattoo

Local bus number, the only form of public transport for the village

An Oil Rig, modern offshore industry and local employment

Alec Green's hand, which manages a fine tune on the tin whistle

Barley, one of the main ingredients used in the making of whisky

"Fit like", a typical local Doric expression. It means "How are you?"

Burn's birth and death details

A Laptop, a modern way to communicate, powered by renewable energies

A Melting Telephone, a casualty during the freak electrical storm that hit Portknockie on Sunday 21st January 2007 at 9.30pm knocking out TVs, computers, telephone lines and causing major structural damage to No 33 Seaford Street

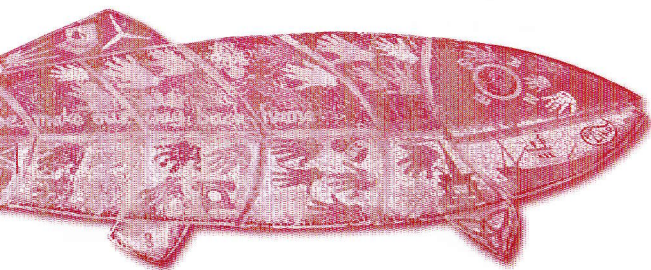
One of the artist's titanium hip implants, made possible by medical innovation in Scotland

A Portknockie tattoo

A Pot of Flowers celebrating local success in Moray "Village in Bloom" competitions

A Dog on a Skateboard - many dog owners walk their dogs locally and skateboarding in the streets is a favourite pastime for local youngsters

The overall skeletal outlines of the two fish are based on Pictish stone carving technique



About Portknockie: Portknockie is a cliff-top village overlooking the Moray Firth just a mile on the A942 from the A98 trunk road and midway between Aberdeen and Inverness. Close by are Cullen, Findochty and the town of Buckie. The village of 1 217 (2001 census) was a significant herring fishing port during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with its harbour once crowded with fishing boats. Portknockie still retains many of the features of its fishing heritage days with its traditional stone houses dormer-end to the sea and the northerly winds. Today for visitors the "Portknockie Experience" includes the 1890 built harbour, an interesting heritage trail around the old houses, the Green Castle, a site of Pictish interest, the memorial to fishermen and two well-known coastal features – Bow Fiddle Rock (a wave-cut natural arch) and the Whale's Moo (a distinctive sea cave). The cliff-top paths are alive with wild flowers including orchids, heathers, thrift and primroses and there is a rich variety of wild life to see including frequent sightings of the famous Moray Firth dolphins. The newest feature for visitors to experience is the Portknockie Homecoming Mosaic, a 5m wide artwork created by local artist, Geoff Roberts in 2009 and inspired by the two fishes on the village coat of arms.

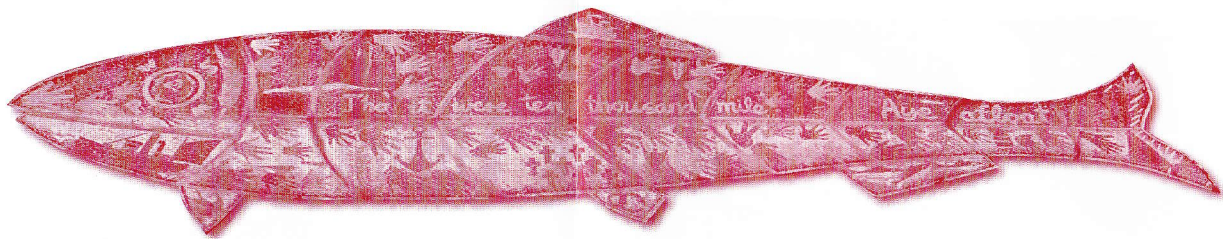
Portknockie Experience logo designed by John Tasker, Drybridge

Mosaic photos by Alec Smith, Portknockie

Printed by Lessie Print & Design 01343 812175



THE PORTKNOCKIE "HOMECOMING 2009" MOSAIC



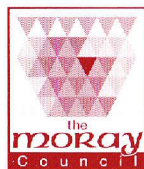
About the Portknockie Mosaic: The idea to commission a piece of permanent artwork for Portknockie emerged from responses to a feature in the village newspaper (The K'nocker) seeking a suitable activity to engage the community in a commemorative project for the 2009 Year of the Homecoming. A scheme emerged that would highlight the themes of the Homecoming and would involve the whole community, especially the children in the research, design and execution of a piece of public artwork that would excite visitors and enhance the village landscape. Resident artist, Geoff Roberts met the brief with his innovative design, using recycled tiles, of two 5m long herrings in mosaic inspired by the Portknockie coat of arms. Each of the fish features handprints taken from the community and cryptic images from the past and present story of the village. The Mosaic was created between March and June 2009 at workshops in the school and the village hall led by Geoff Roberts and completed in his studio in Hill Street. It was unveiled on June 27th 2009.

Villagers and friends of Portknockie have been very generous in supporting the project with funds and donations in kind and encouragement also came from grants provided by The Homecoming Community Grant Fund and the Arts Council for Moray. The project has been a unique community-wide collaboration yielding an inspired added attraction to the Moray coastline.

About the Artist: Geoff Roberts moved with his family from London to Portknockie in 1991 and has since worked from his studio at 18 High Street. Geoff gained his honours degree in Printmaking at Birmingham College of Art and, subsequently, a Master's degree in Printmaking at the Royal College of Art in London.

Geoff's work has been exhibited throughout the UK, Europe, the USA and Singapore. His other speciality, studio jewellery, is represented in both public and private collections and is illustrated in publications on the subject. Recent commissions include a mosaic fountain using turbine and solar energy for a sensory garden and a Foyer installation for the National Theatre of Scotland. Geoff was delighted to be asked to design the Portknockie Homecoming 2009 Mosaic as he had wanted for a long time to create something special for his adopted village.

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The images on the large fish:

A Steam Train – the 4pm service was used to take away the fish, crabs and lobsters en route to market. The railway came to Portknockie in 1886 and was closed down in 1968

“Tho’ it were ten thousand miles” – the last line of “My love is like a red, red rose”

Three German Bombs were dropped on Portknockie in February 1941; one exploded killing three residents

The initials of the four main family names of Portknockie: Wood, Mair, Pirie and Slater

A Silver Trowel, long since lost, used by the Dowager Countess of Seafield at the opening of Portknockie harbour on April 25th 1890

A Quill Pen, in use when Burns was writing his poetry

Not V for victory but a resident's hand damaged in an accident on May 12th 1963

A Rose from Burns' song “My love is like a red, red rose”

The Ring Rock off the mouth of the harbour and used to kedge off sailing boats when the wind was light or adverse

A Steam Drifter of the type being built locally between 1900 and the 1920s

An Anchor, a local symbol of stability

Three “Silver Darlings”, a local name for the herring, the village's main fishing catch

The Portknockie Village Motto first registered in 1964

A Swallow and Stars, a traditional seafarer's tattoo – favoured by local fishermen and symbolising safe passage and navigation

A Zulu Boat, a famous Moray Firth fishing boat design (over 40 were built in Portknockie). Up to 100 would cram into Portknockie's harbour during the herring boom of the late nineteenth century

A Weather Warning Cone that was flown from the Flagstaff either point or base uppermost to indicate the direction of expected gale force winds. It is shown with NE sleet showers

A Barrel of fish – the village once had its own cooperage

An Ocean Liner with a Maple Leaf, a Silver Tree Fern and £10 migrant's ticket – representing the scale of the Scots' diaspora around the world

A Gutting Knife used by the fishing “quines” when packing the herring barrels for export

The Welcoming Hands of friendship created by the community

A Thistle, the national emblem of Scotland

8 Crosses for the crew lost when the Zulu boat, Evangeline, sank off Stronsay on January 16th 1905

