

Leper's Squint

Another item of interest on the outside wall is a leper's squint. There was a Lazar (leper) House serving the Borders at Legerwood in the 13th century. Lepers were considered pariahs and completely isolated in a hospice. The leper's squint was provided so that, under escort, they could see and hear some of the service - but they were not permitted to arrive before it started, and had to leave before Benediction.

The acoustics of the building are a testimony to the craftsmen of centuries ago. The choir of St. Giles occasionally come to sing in the church as they claim that their voices are heard to better effect than in the high vaulted roof of the High Kirk.

In 1831 the parish had a population of 565. It is now less than 100 but it is essential that such a heritage be preserved. It is not without significance that the Department of the Environment in a pilot scheme to assist ancient churches, chose Legerwood in 1977 as one of the two in Scotland, the other being Whitekirk in East Lothian.

Legerwood Kirk is just off the A68, three miles north of Earlston. Any APRS members passing that way would find a visit there a rewarding experience.

I am indebted to Mr J. Scott-Aiton, the late Laird of Legerwood, for his helpful information about this interesting church.

Dr J.L. Trainer

HUME CASTLE

Last year my report on the state of affairs at Hume Castle was a long explanation of the efforts by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) team and subsequently a team by Employment Training (ET) which was under the management of the Borders Region Council. Money had initially been allocated by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Division of the Scottish Development Department (HB&M) for a three year period to bring the "consolidation of the masonwork" to conclusion.

However our arrangements, which had been established after much tedious negotiation with the HB&M Division, the MSC and the ET departments of Borders Regional Council, came to an end without much warning. Despite previously written assurances to the contrary, the ET people decided in the early autumn 1989 that the scheme couldn't warrant a team leader and that the scope of the work didn't suit their programme for Employment Training.

After further negotiations with the HB&M Division agreement has now been established to engage the local contractors, Henry Steel & Sons of Greenlaw, to carry out the work. Strenuous efforts are now in hand to get the work started with rising wages costs causing complications. The adjusted cost of some several months ago has now to be maintained if possible. My own heart-surgery in January has unfortunately delayed the initiation of the amended contract. However, it is hoped to have the work completed by the end of March 1991 or shortly thereafter.

The success of keeping a Visitor's Book in the site caravan may have helped to demonstrate to the HB&M Division the value of Hume Castle as a place that is visited. In just thirteen months to the end of October 1989 265 people from all parts of the world recorded their names and addresses. It has to be remembered that the whole arrangement was very casual. If the team were off the site at classes, etc and, of course, at weekends, the book was unavailable.

After very many months of correspondence The Berwickshire Civic Society now has the lease signed and agreed with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Scotland), who own the ground. The Society has arranged the sub-let of the grazing to the neighbourly farmer at Hume Mill, who has always enjoyed that privilege.

Mention must be made of the invaluable support we have received from C.H. Dexter Limited, Chirnside. They helped sponsor the scheme with time and effort generously given to the training of the MSC and ET teams in matters of safety and with the supply of certain safety equipment. We are pleased to have the management of C.H. Dexters pledge their continued support for this scheme of restoration.

David Mylne
Architect

HILTON and HORNTON (Horndean)
CLARIBAD and PAXTON,
EASTERLAWS and WESTERLAWS,
KIMMERGHAME and MUNGOSWA'S,
BUGHTRIG and BELCHESTER,
LEITHOLM and the PEEL,
If ye dinna get a wife
In ane o' thae places,
Ye'll ne'er do weel.

HUTTON for auld wives,
BROADMEADOWS for swine,
PAXTON for drunken wives,
And saumon sae fine,
CROSSRIG for lint and woo',
SPITTAL for kail,
SUNWICK for cakes and cheese,
And lasses for sale.

There's as good cheese in CHOICELEE,
As ever were chow'd wi' chafts,
And the cheese o' CHESHIRE,
Is nae mair like the Cheese o' CHOICELEE,
Than Chalk's like Cheese.

From the Popular RHYMES, SAYINGS and PROVERBS of
the County of Berwick: 1856.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

The Society receives for vetting copies of all Planning Applications submitted to Borders Region for listed buildings and within Conservation areas. Last year these amounted to 22, as compared with 20 in 1988/89 and 14 in 1987/88. Last year's applications were as follows:-

Application	Applicant	Date
1. Subdivision of Blythebank, Duns.	Mr & Mrs W. McLauchlan	May 1989
2. Erection of dwelling house & garage, Springhill House, Birgham.	Prof. H.R. Morris, London	May 1989
3. Alterations and change of use of garage/workshop/stable to dwelling house. Hutton Castle.	Mr & Mrs Shillinglaw, Cornhill-on-Tweed	May 1989
4. Change of use from part dwelling house to shop, 80A High Street, Coldstream.	D.G. Purvis, Coldstream	June 1989
5. Alterations to windows, The Manse, Duns Road, Coldstream.	Coldstream Congregational Board, Coldstream	June 1989

6. Extension to dwelling house, Sinclairshill, Duns.	Mr & Mrs S. Kellet	June 1989
7. Demolition of toilets, Langtongate, Duns, (Borders College).	Borders Regional Council	June 1989
8. Erection of two dwelling houses, Sinclairshill, Duns	Priory Estates (Glasgow), Per Aitchison, Gala	June 1989
9. Erection of garage, Courthouse Lodge, Coldstream.	C. Carmichael, Courthouse Lodge, Coldstream	July 1989
10. Repainting of frontage, 5 Market Square, Duns.	S.J. Schooling, Duns	Sept 1989
11. Extension of dwelling house, Todlaw, Station Road, Duns.	Drs. D. & W. McNeil, Duns	Sept 1989
12. Conversion of property to house, Bridge Street, Coldingham.	Mr & Mrs J. Foster, Coldingham	Oct 1989
13. Formation of visitors facilities, Paxton House, Paxton.	The Paxton Trust	Nov 1989
14. Wall mounted flag-Pole brackets, Market Square, Duns.	Duns Community Council	Nov 1989

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| 15. | Housing development,
Tweedhill, Berwick. | W. Herborn,
Tweedhill,
Berwick | Jan 1990 |
| 16. | Erection of two
dwelling houses,
Tweedhill, Berwick. | Mr & Mrs W.
Smith, Childrey | Jan 1990 |
| 17. | Upgrading and
refurbishment of
Peelwalls House,
Ayton. | Mrs N.R.
Stewart | Jan 1990 |
| 18. | Extension of Nursing
Home, Phase 4,
Lennel House,
Coldstream. | Senior Care
Consultants | Jan 1990 |
| 19. | Alterations to steps
and erection of sign,
69 High Street,
Coldstream. | David Lauder
& Company | Feb 1990 |
| 20. | Formation of
vehicular access and
car port, Lennel
House, Coldstream. | Senior Care
Consultants | Feb 1990 |
| 21. | Erection of projecting
type hanging sign,
Newcastle Arms,
Coldstream. | Alloa Brewery
Company Limited | Feb 1990 |
| 22. | Kitchen extension to
rear, The Old Thistle
Inn, Westruther. | Mr D. Silk | Mar 1990 |