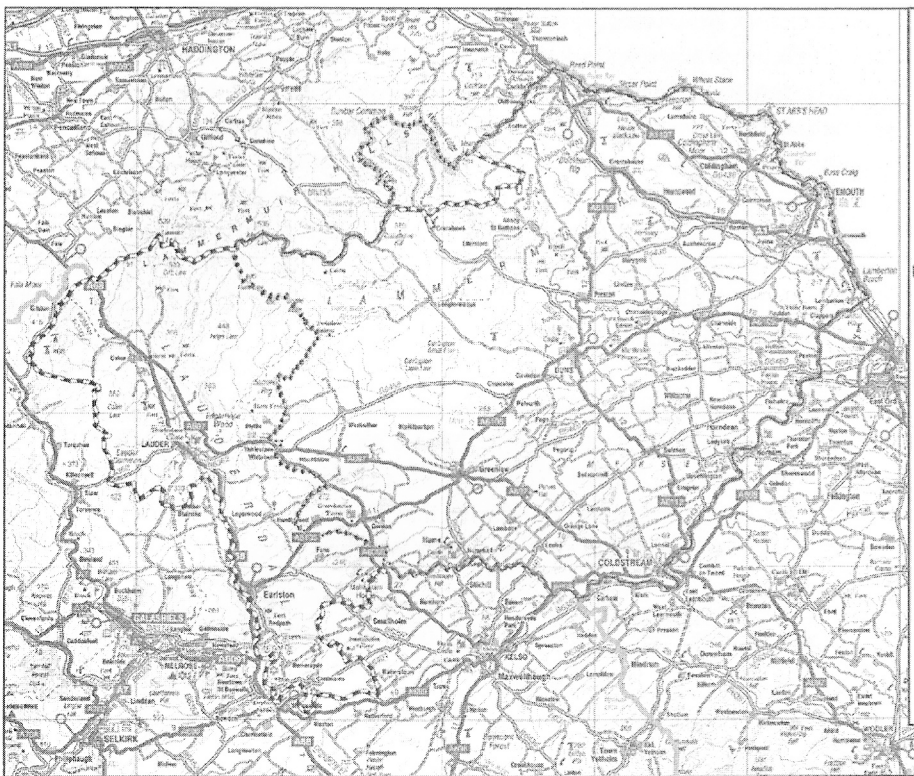




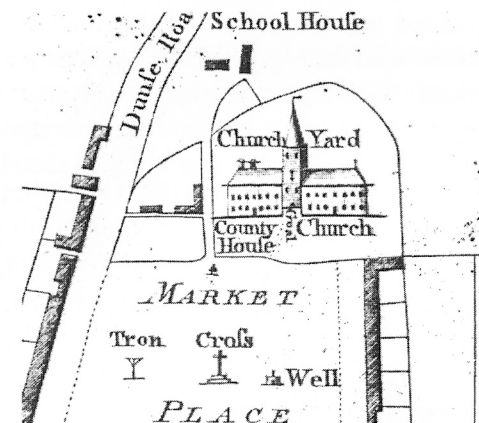
KEY: Historical County Boundary: — — — — —  
 SBC Area Committee & .....  
 Historical District Boundary

*Historic Berwickshire and successor Berwickshire District 2006, with acknowledgements to Scottish Borders Council and Ordinance Survey*

Of course the one major feature missing from the original Shire is Berwick itself, but I don't think members would wish the Society to get involved in that particular boundary topic!

*Ian Maitland Hume*

## Greenlaw Tolbooth



Following his acquisition of the Barony of Greenlaw Redpath in 1696, Sir Patrick Hume of Polwarth, first earl of Marchmont, succeeded in having Greenlaw designated as the Head Burgh of Berwickshire (for the second time in its existence). He thereupon had a courthouse and tollbooth erected as part of the complex which included a rebuilt parish church. The tollbooth tower was built adjacent to the church to give it the appearance of a church tower and it reflects the influence of the Dutch style, familiar to the earl during his exile in Holland. An old rhyming couplet goes:

'Here stands the gospel and the law  
 Wi' Hell's hole atween the twa.'

The courthouse was demolished in 1831 following the completion of the new County Building on the green, leaving the Tolbooth adjacent to the church. There was a stone inscription on the front wall of the courtroom:

'D. Patricius Hume Comes de Marchmont, &c.,  
 Hoc Burgi Pretorium suis sumptibus adificari fecit'

('This burgh court house was built by Patrick Hume,  
 Earl of Marchmont, etc., at his own cost')

On the demolition of the courthouse this was moved to a garden wall at Marchmont House.

The Tolbooth itself consists of five cells and a jailer's room. The ground floor cell, which formerly had a substantial yett, or forged iron gate hung outside the iron studded oak door, was aptly named 'thieves' or 'hell's hole'; it has a vaulted roof and staple in the wall to which most of the criminals were chained. One known criminal was Robert Scott who lived at Mellerstain; he murdered two Greenlaw men as they returned from Earlston Fair on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1823. He was hung in October of the same year.

On the top floor, which has always served as a belfry, is housed the town clock. It was installed by public subscription in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. It is a very fine piece of Victorian engineering, which keeps good time to this day

Eventually the Tolbooth was considered unsuitable for housing criminals and felons and a new jail was commissioned to be built on the other side of the Duns Road; it was completed in 1824.

My aim is to preserve the historical and authentic character of the tower. I have already collected some artefacts and other items of local interest which were exhibited on the day of the Greenlaw Fayre this year, when both the church and tower were open to visitors. Greenlaw schoolchildren also showed great interest and enthusiasm when they visited the Tolbooth which tied in with a school topic under study. This convinced me that the Tolbooth is a worthwhile place of interest and curiosity, which should be shared and appreciated by others. I very much hope that the Berwickshire Civic Society will lend its support to the further restoration of the Tolbooth and the further work necessary to enable the proper display of artefacts.



Graham Watson

## Edrington Mill

The Civic Society has recently taken an interest in this ancient Listed Mill, the last remaining on the Whiteadder with all its huge (decaying) machinery still within it.

In the "14<sup>th</sup> regnal year" (1320) of Robert 'The Bruce', there is a confirmation of a feu (i.e: not the superiority) to Adam de Paxtoun and his spouse Mariote, of the total multures of Paxtoun, and **Edrington Mill**. In the accounts of Sir Alexander de Seton, Collector of the Burgh of Berwick, dated 16th March 1331, it states: "Allowed to accountants for the fisher of Edermouth [mouth of the Adder] now in possession of Sir Robert de Lawder [d.c1370] **by right of inheritance**. This is confirmed in the [Scottish] *Exchequer Rolls* (1878, p.361) where he is described as "Domini Roberti de Lawedre". All subsequent confirmations for the fishing rights from the mouth of the Whiteadder up-river are included together with the Edrington estates, castle, mill, etc. The Battle of Halidon Hill occurred in July 1333, and Berwick & district fell to England. Sir Robert Lauder took part in that battle and was forfeited in his lands by Edward III.

By a Deed, dated at Berwick-upon-Tweed on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1335, King Edward III of England granted to his Warden of Jedburgh Forest, William de Pressen and his heirs, the village of Edrington, the fishing water of Eddermouth [mouth of the Adder], the mills of Berwick and Edrington, with the 'grists' belonging to them. (Neither William de Pressen nor this English grant appear in *The Great Seal of Scotland*). He later appears as an arbitrator in a compensation matter for a Scottish ship wrecked near Bamburgh and subsequently looted on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1358.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1376 a Confirmation was made by King Robert II (Stewart) of a hereditary feu to his cousin, John de Ross and John Lyon (jointly), of Edrington Mill and fishings, following the forfeiture of Adam de Paxtoun [the forfeiture may have been some time before unless this Adam is a son of the 1320 Adam].

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1425, King James 1<sup>st</sup> confirmed to Sir Robert de Lawedre **of Edrington**, Knt., (b.c1382 – 1451, before Michaelmas) Justiciary

of Scotland, his inherited estates, which included the superiority of the lands of Edrington &c., in Berwickshire. Witnesses included his brother, William [Lauder], Bishop of Glasgow (c1380 – 14/6/1425). In 1452 it is recorded that Edrington 'Tower' was 'destroyed' by the Duke of Gloucester 'but was soon rebuilt', and probably the mill just below it would also have suffered at this time.

It seems clear from these records that the superiority of Edrington Mill was held by the Lauder of The Bass family from at least about 1300 and that in early times they sometimes feued the mill. Records in the following centuries show they themselves were operating the mill, simply employing millers. Edrington estate, including the 14<sup>th</sup> century castle, mill, and lands, remained in the possession of the Lauder family until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when being unable to redeem a mortgage they were foreclosed upon by two Edinburgh burgesses, who then sold the superiority on 16th June 1661 to James [Douglas], Master of Mordington, eldest son of William, Lord Mordington. Sir John Lauder, Lord Fountainhall, states that during a journey he made with his father to the Borders in 1670 he "saw Paxton, and Edrington a part of [Lauder of] Basses lands, and given away to a brother [William]; now belongs to my Lord Mordington." The last Lord Mordington was a Jacobite in the '45 and was forfeited, and since then the castle, mill & estate has passed through numerous owner's hands. In 1890 the mill was rented from the Oswald family by Mr. George Hogarth, in 1892 the whole estate was sold to Mr. Edward Grey, sold in 1937 to a Mr.Scott, and sold again in 1949 to the Misses Robertson. It is today owned by Michael Thornhill, a retired solicitor.

In 1789 a major rebuild of the mill commenced and a stone to this effect can still be made out on the structure. The mill's water-power came from a dam or breakwater just up-river via a specially constructed tunnel which, by the time the water arrived at the main water-wheel, carried significant pressure. On the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1948 the massive floods of this year all but covered the mill, (a stone on the wall today shows the high water mark) completely destroying the dam, blocking the tunnel and causing some damage in the mill itself. All work ceased and the mill has been derelict ever since. The last miller was a Mr.Walker.

Scottish Heritage have Listed it, but the mill is ripe for a restoration project. How many other buildings in Berwickshire have such an ancient heritage?

Gregory Lauder-Frost

#### References:

*The Great Seal*, (printed edition), 1306-1424, no.575, plus appendix 1, no.50, plus indexes.

*The Great Seal*, 1425, no.29.

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*Berwick-upon-Tweed, The History of the Town & Guild* by John Scott, London, 1888, pps.248/9.

*A History of Berwick-upon-Tweed* by John Fuller, M.D. Edinburgh, 1799, pps: 103-4.

*History of Scotland*, by Patrick Fraser Tytler, Edinburgh, 1866, vol.II, p.43.

*Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, 1357-1509*, edited by Joseph Bain, 1888, vol.IV, p.3, no.10.

*Journals of Sir John Lauder, Lord Fountainhall, 1665 – 1676*, edited by Donald Crawford, Edinburgh, 1900, p.202.

## Ecological Building Design: a Synopsis

A report published in 2004 calculated that the lifestyle of the average Scot required 5.35 hectares (or gha – global hectares) per person, and if everyone on the planet had a similar standard of living, 2 more planets would be needed to support us all. This method of assessing our sustainability is known as 'Eco footprinting'.

Ecological building design aims to reduce the footprint of buildings by reducing their impact on materials, fuel resources, and waste. There are many different approaches ranging from 'high tech' where the building becomes its own mini power station, using solar power, wind collection, geothermal (collecting ground heat) and other technologies, to the 'eco-minimalist' approach.

Here is a very brief layman's synopsis of some of the principles of ecological design.

Use plenty of insulation and design for airtightness. If followed too rigidly this can lead to 'the plastic bag effect' with a build up of moisture inside whilst the outer layers of the building stay cold and damp, but there are ways of avoiding this.

Position and design the building to make use of solar gain and wind shelter. Conservatories are often added for solar gain but they are not essential - they can get too hot in the summer.

Maximise natural daylighting, but beware of too much direct sunshine and glare.

Install fittings and equipment which use water efficiently – although we have plenty of rain in Scotland, the water supply is usually drawn off river ecosystems, and pumped, filtered and treated with chemicals. On average 35% of the water used in a house goes down the toilet, so installing an ultra low-flush toilet could be a good place to start.

Try to avoid materials which have gone through complex chemical processes

(e.g. pvc, polystyrene, timber preservatives, most paints). There is a lot of toxic waste generated during manufacture, the materials often give off gasses which can affect indoor air quality and cause allergies, and at the end of their life they take a long time to break down.

Minimise the use of materials which are manufactured through energy-intensive processes, a prime example being cement. Cement, also, is hard to break up at the end of its life, and is difficult to reuse, except as hardcore.

Look for materials from renewable sources. Insulation can be made from wood cellulose, wool, flax, hemp. There are clay bricks and clay plasters, and water-based paints which make use of minerals and herb resins. Clay plasters absorb and release moisture, which can soften the atmosphere of a room. Many of the paints have a more beautiful sheen than standard paints, - but they are more expensive.

Home-grown timber, if you can find the quality you need, is generally the most sustainable. Timber cladding can be given a good 'hat and boots' (roof and foundations) and detailed so that it dries quickly and is easy to replace, so that untreated timber can be used. At the end of its life untreated timber is easier to reuse or dispose of than treated timber.

Build for durability and flexibility – a building that is a pleasure to live in and look at, one which is 'lovable', has a better chance of being kept well into the twenty-first century.

These basic principles can also be applied to renovation work; in fact, in a recent report<sup>1</sup> the Sustainable Development Commission suggested that 'any increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and water consumption from the occupation of new homes should be offset by efficiencies in existing housing stock in the same region'.

*Gill Pemberton*

1. *Stock Take – Delivering Improvements in Existing Housing, July 06, report of the Sustainable Development Commission.*

### *The Objects of the Society*

*The objects of the Berwickshire Civic Society shall be to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means, but not otherwise:*

- a) To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the County of Berwickshire.*
- b) To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.*
- c) To encourage high standards of architecture and town and country planning in Berwickshire and comment on plans or decisions of the Local Authority.*

*(For a copy of the full constitution please contact the Secretary)*

### **APPLICATION FORM** (Please complete in Block Capitals)

I.....(full name)

of .....

.....(full postal address)

hereby apply for Membeship of the Berwickshire Civic Society and agree to be bound by the Constitution thereof. I deliver herewith my first Annual Subscription of £5.00.

### **BANKERS ORDER**

To the Manager of .....

.....  
(insert above the name and address of your Bank)

Please pay now to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Market Square, Duns, Berwickshire for the credit of the Berwickshire Civic Society (Account No. 00 11 16 67), and on the 6<sup>th</sup> April annually hereafter the sum of FIVE POUNDS (£5.00).

Name .....A/C No. ....

Address .....

.....

Signed

Date

Please send this application form, with cheque or Bankers Order Form, to:  
Mr. Robin Lindsay, Broomhill, Todlaw Road, Duns, TD11 3EW.