

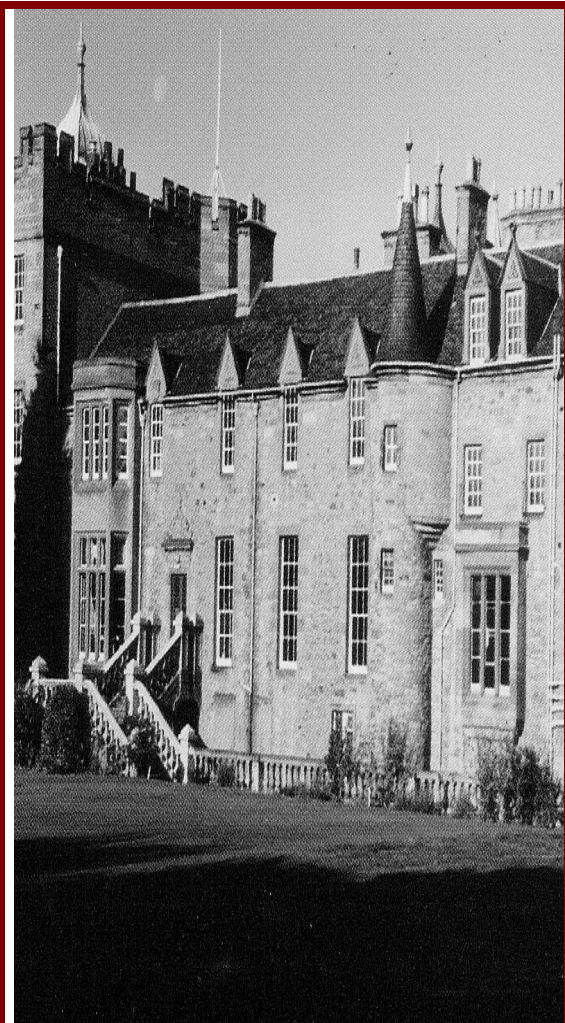
Prestongrange House

A resource pack for teachers and students

This Resource Pack is one of a series offering an introduction to local history while fulfilling National Curriculum targets across a number of subject areas. It has been designed for the 5-14 age range and mixed abilities.

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1. A Brief History of Prestongrange House

To 1170: De Quincy

The earliest records of ownership regarding Prestongrange are associated with the De Quincy family and the Cistercian monks of Newbattle Abbey near Dalkeith.

1170-1587: Newbattle Abbey

A charter dated 1170 records an agreement to lease the lands to the abbey, but these early records refer to land rather than buildings: the charter makes no mention of a dwelling house and implies that only agricultural buildings occupied the land. Prestongrange was worked for agriculture, coal and the salt extracted from the waters of the Forth by the monks of Newbattle until the Reformation in the mid-sixteenth century.

1547- c1609: Ker

After his appointment as Commendator of Newbattle Abbey in 1547, Mark Ker controlled the land of Prestongrange. His appointment as Abbot in 1557 extended his control to the disposal of these lands. Mark Ker's career as a churchman was essentially a secular one. As Commendator, he had little involvement in the religious life of the Abbey and, though a priest and not yet married to Helen Leslie, he was already a father. It is at this stage that the earliest evidence of a house at Prestongrange emerges. There is some evidence that this house

was Ker's primary residence, especially the painted ceiling which was uncovered during renovations in 1962 and subsequently removed to Merchiston. The ceiling is dated 1581, when Mark Ker was owner of the property. It is difficult to judge whether an existing building was modified or whether a new property was built, but variations in window shape and different floor levels suggest that an existing building was incorporated into an extended residence for the Ker family.

On his father's death in 1584, Mark Ker's son, also Mark, was confirmed in his right to the Newbattle lands by King James I and VI. In 1587 the king issued a charter granting Mark Ker the younger and his heirs the title to the lands of Newbattle monastery and the baronies of Newbattle and Prestongrange. He was given the title Lord Newbattle and in 1606 was created Earl of Lothian. On his death in 1609, his estate was worth almost £37,000. Although his wife, Margaret Maxwell, is recorded as having died at Prestongrange in 1617, their son Robert, 2nd Earl of Lothian, did not continue the family's involvement with the estate, probably due to the crippling burden of debt resulting from the effort to maintain a noble lifestyle. In 1624, he killed himself at Newbattle, having sold off the Prestongrange Estate some years before.

C1609-1745: Morison

Little recorded information survives about the early years of the Morison family's ownership of Prestongrange. John Morison and his wife, Katherine Preston, were succeeded by their second son, Alexander who enjoyed a distinguished career as an advocate and later as a Lord of Session with the title Lord Prestongrange. Alexander died at Prestongrange in 1631 when the estate passed to his son, another Alexander, also Lord Prestongrange. His mother, Helenora Mauld, survived her husband by 34 years, until 1665. Most surviving records of this period concern the borrowing and lending of money. There is little information concerning the house and grounds of the Prestongrange Estate. William Morison, Alexander's son, inherited Prestongrange, probably in 1684. He was a successful and wealthy landowner. However, his circumstances deteriorated after the death of Janet Rochheid, his wife, in 1716 and by 1734, his property was sequestrated, taken over by the lords of session to pay his debts. As a result, details of the Prestongrange house are recorded in documents relating to William Morison's goods, titles and items of value included within the policies, or lands, of the Prestongrange estate. It is evident from these documents that Prestongrange House was a comfortably furnished home, typical of a gentleman's residence of the period.

1745-1818: Grant

In 1745, the baronies of Prestongrange and Dolphinston were purchased by William Grant, a well respected establishment figure, whose life is documented in some detail. In his later years, as a Lord of Session, he took the title Lord Prestongrange. However, little

information is available about Prestongrange, possibly because his public duties made it difficult for him to spend time at his new estate. References in his letters include mention of the fitting up of a nursery by his wife, Grizel Millar, as well as the employment of workmen in the house, possibly to install a new plaster ceiling. He also displayed some interest in industrial development, particularly the repair of Morison's Haven harbour and he was also instrumental in promoting the development of the pottery industry in Prestonpans. At this time, a woman's property passed to her husband on her marriage, and William Grant had four daughters and no sons. To ensure ownership of the estate remained with the Grant family, the estate was subject to an entail. This meant that none of Grant's daughters would inherit. Instead, ownership would pass to the eldest male child of any one of the daughters. His eldest daughter Janet, Countess of Hyndford, took over management of the the estate on his death in 1764, but no details of the house are recorded during her ownership.

1818-1956: Grant-Suttie

Janet Grant died in 1818. Since she left no children of her own, the estate passed, by means of the entail, to James Suttie, the eldest son of her sister Agnes. On inheriting the estate, James took the name Sir James Grant-Suttie of Prestongrange and Balgone. At this time, estate revenue increased dramatically, thanks to the expansion of industrial activity on the estate. Much of this increased income was used to convert Prestongrange House from a typical country house into a building of significant architectural interest. Sir George Grant-Suttie, son of Sir James,

appears to have inherited the estate before his father's death in 1836, a short time after his marriage in 1829 to Lady Harriet Charteris. Sir George engaged William Playfair, one of the foremost Scottish architects of his day, to undertake a radical programme of improvements. The fact that one of Scotland's most prominent architects was willing to undertake this work, together with surviving records of the cost of these alterations, clearly indicate the status and affluence of the Grant-Suttie family at this period.

Sir George retained ownership from approximately 1830 until his death in 1878 and although his interest in the estate diminished in his later years, for much of that time Prestongrange House was his main residence.

His heir and eldest son, James, died very shortly after his father, leaving an eight year old son, another George. This had serious implications for the estate.

Thanks to a second entail, the value of the estate was divided between a number of people, at a time when revenue from coal was shrinking. This signalled the start of a decline in the fortunes of Prestongrange House.

Playfair's improvements are recorded in his finished designs and legal documents arising from the existence of the entail adds some further background. A total of 212 drawings record the addition of a north tower during the early 1830s, followed by an eastern lodge and gateway in 1837, a range of offices and stables in 1845 and a final series of works, begun in 1850, on a massive tower at the westward end of the house. Although the interior was modernised and equipped with all necessary comforts. Playfair's designs are modelled on the external appearance of an original Scottish tower house.

Lady Susan Harriet Innes-Ker, mother of the second Sir George, 7th Baronet, remained closely involved in the local area. However Sir George himself did not live locally and left the estate management to his lawyers.

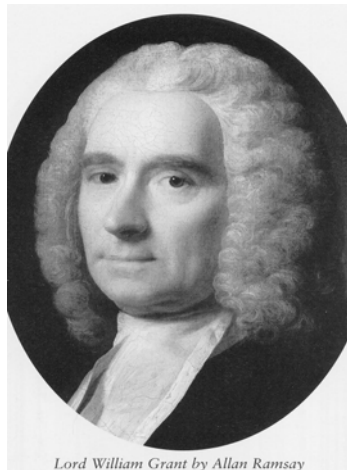
After Lady Susan's death in 1909, the house was uninhabited for a number of years, although its gardens and orchards were let separately. The Inland Revenue Survey of 1912-1914 describes a substantial property, with numerous public rooms and bedrooms, plus attics. Outbuildings included stables, coachhouses, a boiler house, cow byres and additional accommodation. But the nearby colliery and lack of modernisation inside were not attractive to potential tenants until, in 1924, its gardens and other grounds were re-designed to form a golf course and the house became home to its present occupant, the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club.

1956-2002: CISWO/Musselburgh Miners' Charitable Society

On the sale of the property and grounds by the Grant-Suttie family in 1956, ownership passed to the Coal Industry & Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO), on behalf of the Musselburgh Miners' Charitable Society. This was part of CISWO's commitment to the provision of leisure amenities for local people, especially miners. However, the house continued to deteriorate until the early 1960s, when extensive restoration was undertaken, along with the addition of an extension in contemporary style. This addition was the last radical restructuring of the property before the end of the 20th century.

In 1997, on the death of the 8th Baronet, the baronial title and remaining lands were acquired by Dr. Gordon

Prestoungrange, who maintains a close interest in the former baronial home and its associated lands.



Lord William Grant by Allan Ramsay

2. Summary

Early records

In 1170, the De Quincy family gave Prestongrange Estate to the monks of Newbattle Abbey, who owned the land until the **Reformation** in the 16th century.

These early records make no mention of any house.

Mark Ker: last abbot of Newbattle

By 1557, Mark Ker, **abbot** of Newbattle, had taken control of the Prestongrange **estate**. The painted ceiling dated 1581, proves that a house existed at this time. The Ker family were close friends of King James I & VI. In 1587, Mark Ker's son, also Mark, was granted the **baronies** of Newbattle and Prestongrange and in 1606, was created Earl of Lothian.

Life at **court** was expensive. In 1606, Robert Ker killed himself rather than face his **debtors**. He had already sold Prestongrange to the Morison family, who, in their turn, gave up the estate as a result of debt.

Two hundred years of the Grant family

In 1745, William Grant, Lord Advocate, bought the land and titles of Prestongrange. On his death, he left the estate '**entailed**',

The Grant (later Grant-Suttie) family, owned Prestongrange until 1956. They converted the house from a home into a mansion.

William Playfair: Edinburgh's architect

Playfair, a **prominent** architect, was responsible for rebuilding much of Prestongrange House. Much has been altered, but the house and estate we see today, with its gateways, its walls and its towers, is still Playfair's **vision** of a Scottish tower house modernised inside to 19th century standards of comfort.

Leisure: a new concept

The history of Prestongrange House is a lesson in social change. As trade in coal and other goods shrank during the 20th century, the house **deteriorated** along with the family fortunes. In 1924, the house and land were taken over by the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. In 1956 it was bought by CISWO (Coal Industry & Social Welfare Organisation) who added a modern extension in the early 1960s.

Old and new

In 1997, the title of Baron Prestongrange was acquired by Dr. Gordon Prestoungrange

3. Glossary

Estate

The land surrounding a large house

Monk

A member of a religious community

Abbey

A large church built for the religious services of a community of monks

Reformation

The establishment of the Protestant church in Scotland

Abbot

The leader of a community of monks

Barony

The land held by a baron, a member of the Scottish nobility

Earl

One of the highest ranks of the Scottish nobility

Court

The place where the king or queen lives and meets with their nobles

Debtor

Someone who owes money

Lord Advocate

The highest officer of the law in Scotland

Entail

At one time, ownership of a woman's property passed to her husband when she married. An entail meant that a daughter could not inherit her father's property and so neither could her husband. Instead, the property would go to the first son born to any daughter.

Mansion

A very large house

Architect

A person who designs buildings

Prominent

An important, well-known person

Imposing

Very impressive in appearance

Tower House

A house built tall and square, with small windows so that it is easy to defend from attack

Deteriorate

To get worse, or to decay

4. Timeline

- 1150s** - Charter grants the Cistercian monks of Newbattle Abbey by Seyer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester to establish a coalworks and quarry between Whytrig Burn and the boundaries of Pinkie and Inveresk.
- 1308** - Act of Parliament forbids the use of coal in London due to smoke and fumes. Coal is used to heat large monastic and nobles' houses in Scotland whilst being associated with trade and industry.
- 1300s** - James V allows construction of Acheson's (now Morrison's) Haven. The Abbey is granted the right to transport coal from the workings beside the River Esk for shipment in small boats. Packhorses make the return journey with salt and with goods traded for the salt and coal shipped at the harbour.
- 1450s** - Accessible supplied of coal diminish while demand for coal increases.
- 1500s** - Scottish coal output is approximately 40,000 tons, but still from small scale workings. However, 6 tons of coal were needed to produce one ton of salt (salt was very profitable).
- 1609** - Export of coal forbidden.
- 1606** - Law reduces colliers to a form of slavery (serfdom).
- 1700** - Annual output of coal c4 million tons
- 1705** - Thomas Newcomen patents the steam engine.
- 1707** - Union of the Parliaments of Scotland and England sees the decline of the Prestonpans salt industry.
- 1722** - Tranent and Cockenzie Waggonway laid.
- 1741** - Evidence of the use of horse gins at Prestongrange.
- 1743** - Morrison's Haven harbour ceases trading.
- 1746** - Mining temporarily ceases at Prestongrange due to flooding.
- 1780** - James Watt successfully modifies Newcomen's design.
- 1800** - Total coal output for Britain is 10 million tons
- 1812** - William Murdoch perfects a method for extracting gas from coal for lighting.
- 1814** - Sir John Hope's Pinkie Railway between Pinkiehill and Fisherrow is constructed.
- 1815** - Tranent and Cockenzie Waggonway replaces wooden rails with cast iron.
- 1830** - George Grant-Suttie leases land at Prestongrange to Matthias Dunn
- 1830** - No 1 shaft sunk, re-opening the mine after more than 65 years.
- 1831** - Edinburgh and Dalkeith Railway ('Innocent Railway') constructed.
- 1838** - Waggon road at Prestongrange runs from pit bottom to working. Bearers replaced by wheeled rails.
- 1838** - Matthias Dunn gives up the lease of Prestongrange.
- 1840** - No. 1 shaft flooded.
- 1850s** - Turnpike System is introduced in Scotland.
- 1850** - The Prestongrange Company takes over the Prestongrange lease.
- 1850** - Opening of the mineral railway junction links Prestongrange Colliery with the main East Coast line.
- 1870** - Total output of coal in Scotland is 15 million tons.
- 1874** - The Cornish Beam Engine is installed at Prestongrange.
- 1878** - The Mining Institute of Scotland is established.
- 1893** - The Prestongrange Company fails.
- 1895** - The first mechanical washer for cleaning coal in Scotland is installed at Prestongrange.
- 1900** - 439 employed at Prestongrange Pit: 61 above ground and 378 below.
- 1905** - The Cornish Beam Engine has its pumping capacity improved.
- 1910** - 873 employed at Prestongrange: 153 above and 720 below (including many Irish immigrants).
- 1910** - An electric turbine pump is installed to pump water from Prestongrange.
- 1913** - Total coal output for Scotland 42 million tons.
- 1915** - total coal output for Scotland 35.25 million tons.
- 1945** - Total coal output for Scotland less than 20 million tons.
- 1946-7** - Nationalisation. The government takes over the coal mines.
- 1962** - Prestongrange Pit closes.

5. Curriculum Target: Knowledge and understanding of people in the past

STRAND	LEVEL C	LEVEL D	LEVEL E	LEVEL F
<p>People, events and societies of significance in the past: Developing an understanding of distinctive features of life in the past and why certain societies, people and events are regarded as significant</p>	<p>Describe the diversity of lifestyles of people in the past, eg the life of a peasant as opposed to a landowner</p>	<p>Describe some features of societies, people and events of the past and suggest why they might be considered significant</p>	<p>Explain the motives or actions of people in particular historical situations Explain the values or attitudes that characterised various societies in the past Explain why particular societies, people and events from the past are thought to be of significance</p>	<p>Apply knowledge and understanding of the motives or actions of people in particular historical situations and/or the values and attitudes of particular societies in the past to reach conclusions on a given historical issue or question</p>
<p>Change and continuity, cause and effect: Developing an understanding of change and continuity over time and of cause and effect in historical contexts</p>	<p>Make a comparison between present and past lifestyles/circumstances/features. What is different? What is the same? Give some reasons for differences and for aspects of continuity</p>	<p>Identify important features of a development that have changed over an extended period of time eg transport, role of women Explain in simple terms why these features were important and describe what effects they had on people's lives</p>	<p>Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the main features of a particular event/development/attitude with regard to change and continuity Give some reasons to explain why a specific historical event/action/development took place and what the specific consequences were</p>	<p>Apply knowledge and understanding of the process of cause and effect to provide detailed explanation as to why a particular development/event took place and give balanced assessment as to the significance of its consequences</p>
<p>Time and historical sequence: Developing an understanding of time and how events in the past relate to one another in chronological sequence</p>	<p>Put a series of events with their dates in chronological order Use the words 'decade' and 'millennium' correctly</p>	<p>Explain the meaning of the terms 'bc' and 'ad' Place a number of events from a specific historical development on a timeline that crosses BC/AD divide</p>	<p>Explain the relationship between specific dates and the relevant century Name and place significant historical periods in chronological order</p>	<p>Compare and contrast timelines from a significant historical period in different parts of the world</p>
<p>The nature of historical evidence: Developing an understanding of the variety of types of historical evidence and their relative significance</p>	<p>Describe ways in which people remember and preserve the past, eg war memorials and suggest reasons why they should do this</p>	<p>Suggest a variety of sources of information about the past and what use they might be to someone studying a particular topic Explain the meaning of the term 'heritage' and give some examples, eg castles, literature</p>	<p>Suggest ways in which society's awareness of its own past can affect its present and future development eg devolution in Scotland, conflict/peace in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Describe how heritage and evidence can be used in both positive and negative ways eg to promote social, economic or political ends</p>

5. Curriculum target: skills in social subjects

STRAND	LEVEL C	LEVEL D	LEVEL E	LEVEL F
<p>Preparing for tasks: Planning tasks in a systematic and logical way Identifying appropriate sources of information</p>	<p>Plan a sequence of activities for tackling an enquiry, class or homework task Suggest relevant sources of information that might assist in a particular task</p>	<p>Plan a sequence of tasks or procedures, adapting as required Identify a variety of straightforward sources from which relevant information might be collected</p>	<p>Plan appropriate strategies, resources and sequence of tasks or procedures, adapting as required Identify a variety of sources from which relevant information might be collected and give reasons for choice</p>	<p>Plan appropriate strategies, resources and sequence of tasks or procedures, adapting as required Identify a variety of sources, including complex ones, from which relevant information might be collected and give reasons for choice</p>
<p>Carrying out tasks: Selecting relevant information and/or equipment. Observe, measure, find, select, record Processing information in a variety of ways Evaluating the usefulness and reliability of information</p>	<p>Select and record specific information for a given purpose from a variety of sources available in the school or local community Select simple techniques to process/classify straightforward information in a variety of ways Distinguish in an elementary way between fact and opinion, fact/truth and fact/fiction</p>	<p>Select and use known enquiry methods and/or equipment to access, select and record relevant information from a variety of straightforward sources Select techniques to process/classify information in a variety of ways eg the results of a questionnaire Make simple judgements about usefulness/reliability of information/evidence</p>	<p>Select and use methods and/or equipment to access, select and record a range of relevant information from a variety of different types of sources Select techniques to process/classify information in a variety of ways, justifying choice Make judgements about what evidence is relevant/reliable, eg by reference to bias, exaggeration and selective use of information</p>	<p>Make independent use of suitable methods and techniques to access, select and record information from a range of sources, including complex ones Make independent use of techniques to process/classify information in a variety of ways, justifying choice Recognise when information is likely to be irrelevant, biased, or unacceptably inaccurate</p>
<p>Reviewing and reporting on tasks: Presenting findings in an appropriate and coherent way Presenting conclusions that are relevant to the purpose or issue</p>	<p>Present findings in a report, communicating key points clearly Present conclusions giving reasons</p>	<p>Present findings in an organised and appropriate manner Present conclusions and justify these with reference to evidence</p>	<p>Present findings in report (orally or in writing) showing clear organisation and appropriate specialist vocabulary Present conclusions that are well supported by reference to presented information</p>	<p>Present an extended report (orally or in writing) showing a clear and coherent argument or analysis Present detailed conclusions, or conclusions on more complex issues, that are well supported by reference to presented information</p>

6. Activities

ACTIVITY 1

Can you make sense of the jumbled words in this passage?

Clue: If you get stuck, look in the **Summary**

‘The **HORTISY** of Prestongrange House is a lesson in **CLASIO** change. As trade in **COLA** and other goods shrank during the 20th **TRYNCEN**, the house deteriorated along with the family **SNEFTORU**.’

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

ACTIVITY 2

Prestongrange Estate had a series of different owners over the centuries. Some of these were families, others were organisations. Put a tick in the correct box:

To 1170: De Quincy

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1170: Newbattle Abbey

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1547: Ker

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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C1609: Morison

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1745: Grant (later Grant-Suttie)

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1956: CISWO/Musselburgh Miners' Charitable Society

individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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ACTIVITY 3

1. Using junk or lego, make a Scottish fortified house. Build it high, with narrow windows and thick walls. There should be an easy way in for times of peace and another one, more easily defended from raiders. Make enough space for the villagers who might need shelter, along with their sheep and cattle, and space for the family who live in the tower all year round.

2. Why did William Playfair base his design on such a building?

Answer: _____

Why was it not necessary for Playfair to create a stout, easily defended building?

Answer: _____

7. Further Investigations

For more information on the Prestongrange Estate, especially the Industrial Heritage Museum, try the following websites:
www.eastlothian.gov.uk/museums/index.html
www.prestoungrange.org

For images from Scottish history:
www.scran.ac.uk

For information on William Playfair, together with some images of the buildings he designed:
<http://www2.ebs.hw.ac.uk/edweb/edc/edinburghers/william-playfair.html>

National Gallery image:
http://www.rampantscotland.com/edinburgh/bledin_gallery.htm
Edinburgh University's Playfair Library image:
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/bgallery/Gallery/eighteen/>

For an excellent history website, try:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/>

For a fascinating story of how an entail can affect a family, try Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.

