

**THOMAS LAWRIE**  
**Blacksmith & Farrier**  
**ST BOSWELLS**

*until 2013*

- Is by far the oldest surviving business in the village - records have been lost, but a headstone in St Boswells Cemetery at Benrig shows that a Thomas Lawrie, Blacksmith, was born in 1782. The Lawries may well be the oldest surviving family still living in the village.
- Lawries continued as Blacksmiths until the late Bert (1901-1976) diversified into the Motor Trade in the early 1920s.
- After that, Farriers continued to be employed under the Thomas Lawrie name - one photograph shows Sandy Duff, Tom Wilson and David Young (as a 15-year-old apprentice) with a wrought-iron gate made on the premises.
- The Lawrie Garage business split in 1956 into Lawrie's Garage Ltd and Lawrie (Electrical) Ltd, the latter specialising in the sale of televisions, radios and electrical goods from the St Boswells headquarters office and later also from shops in the Border towns of Melrose, Selkirk, Galashiels, Kelso, Hawick and Peebles.
- On 1st January 1998, Lawrie (Electrical) Ltd sold its television and video rental business to Ken Robertson, the Managing Director (who named his new company "Vision 2020 Ltd" and who continued in the St Boswells premises) and the remaining shops were closed.
- On 31st December 1998, Lawrie's Garage Ltd was sold to the Borders Automobile Company Ltd, the business located just north of the Garage site, but the family garage business name was retained.
- David Young (the young apprentice in the photo) bought over the Thomas Lawrie, Blacksmith and Farrier, business from 1st January 1999, retaining this family business name *until he retired in 2013.*
- Roy Thomas Lawrie and his wife Christine (whose 2 sons lived and worked outwith the village) retired from the family businesses with the sale of the 3 firms named above.
- Bill Hook worked for over 50 years as a Farrier with Thomas Lawrie - this included the 1939-45 war years when he kept farm horses shod and did agricultural machinery repairs. Bill was a great village character and can be seen in the photograph with Sandy Duff at the anvil. A poem written about Bill, who was referred to as Bill "Bloody" Hook (because of his most commonly-used adjective), is shown.