

## **Random snippets of Cottage history:**

1. We first came to this area in 1956, camping for two weeks in the Summer on the foreshore just opposite the entrance to what was then Craignarget farm. We got our milk from Craignarget Farm and our water from a spring on the hillside just above the farm. When this dried up, water came from a spring opposite the site of the ruined chapel on the road to Port William. We were well supplied with provisions as the butcher's van called at our tents, as did the baker and the mobile shop! The postman delivered our mail to OFW 396 Craignarget Foreshore, Wigtownshire, Scotland! If a real storm blew up, we decamped to a small disused quarry on the Mochrum road until the storm had passed, then returned to the beach.

We returned every year until 1960 when following someone advertising the 'wonderful unspoilt free camping they'd discovered' in a caravanning magazine, the Council banned overnight camping and caravanning. Our parents approached Mr. Ramsay at Gillespie Farm to see if he would consider selling the unoccupied cottage on the farm above Gillespie but he didn't want to do so. However, he said we could use it free of charge if we wished! This we gratefully did, and continued to holiday there until we purchased the cottages in 1963. High Gillespie can still be seen on the skyline above Gillespie Farm, but the house is derelict now, without a roof.

The owners of the cottages – the Fisher family who farmed at Barnsallie on the road to Glenluce – put the cottages on the market when Miss Wilson, died. She occupied No. 1 cottage and Miss Hyslop occupied No. 2 cottage. Both were living out their retirement having been in service with the Fisher family, or possibly one of the previous owners of Craignarget. Miss Hyslop continued to live in No.2 cottage until her death in 1965. When her family cleared out the cottage after her death, they found over £400 hidden away in jugs etc. around the cottage! Our parents transferred the ownership of Cottage No. 1 to my brother on his marriage in 1972, and No. 2 to myself similarly in 1981. The land around the cottages remains in our joint ownership. When purchased, the cottages had no electricity or running water and there was an ash privy in the shed at the end end of the cottages, that stood where the woodshed now is.

2. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, a hearth tax was introduced and a record was made of everyone who had a hearth and/or kiln throughout Scotland. Records for Wigtownshire show that at Craignarget, Janet Mcilrae had a hearth and kiln. Also, the following had hearths:- William McDowall, Andrew Mcmillan and Alexander McBryde.
3. The following information was given to us by Mr. Willard McGee. He has a small croft on the Stranraer road out of Glenluce, (now between the old and new roads), where he keeps horses. In the 80s and 90s, it ran as a small riding school. Craignarget and Gillespie were owned by a Mr. Hamilton of Penkiln, Garlieston. Mr. Young was tenant of both farms until 1936 when they were sold to Mr. James Smith from Pinmore, Girvan, who bought them for £9000. Mr. Smith was a horse dealer who travelled frequently to Ireland to buy horses. He at

one time, had in excess of 100 horses. He sold these properties in the early 50s and went to farm in the Vale of Limerick in Southern Ireland.

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