

Glimpses of old **New Abbey and Beeswing**



Two horse drawn wagons in the Square at New Abbey.
Is it a flitting or gypsies moving camp?

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Introduction

The area covered by this book is the Parish of New Abbey. This comprises the villages of New Abbey and Beeswing, along with the rural area between and around them.

New Abbey started as houses outside the gates of Sweetheart Abbey at The Square and Gate End. When the Abbey ceased to operate people moved inside its gates and use the stones of the Abbey buildings to build more substantial houses along what is now Main Street.

The first house in what is now Beeswing was an Inn built in 1842 by Nathaniel Caven, son-in-law of James McLeod who had bought West Park from Loch Arthur Estate in 1840. The money for the purchase was reputedly winnings on a famous Northumberland horse of the day called “Bee’s Wing”. As other houses were built the Hamlet became Beeswing.

This collection of photographs has been assembled from two main sources. New Abbey Kirk Session became custodians in the 1960s of a set of glasses slides taken in the area between 1892 and 1930 by Robert L Collins from Lesmahagow, who had been brought up at Glenharvy in New Abbey. The others have been donated by generous members of the public to Rev Bill Holland for use in public historical exhibitions including Homecoming Scotland 2009. All the images have been scanned by Mr Holland and he has assigned copyright to Lochend and New Abbey Church. No images within this digitised document may be reproduced commercially without prior written permission from the Kirk Session.

Attribution of source is attached to each image. In particular, NACD = copy of old glass slide.

This selection was originally compiled to be used in the **Dumfries and Galloway *Through the Lens*** series put together through the Ewart Library. Unfortunately, before the booklet was ready for publication, Dumfries & Galloway Council discontinued the series.

Now that we have modern technology which allows us to publish in a format without printing into books, it’s been decided to compile an electronic publication which can be shared easily.



Shambellie Avenue with two ladies c1900

Two ladies are on a quiet Sunday afternoon stroll on Shambellie Avenue.

The lower part of Shambellie Avenue lines up as an avenue pointing at Shambelly House where the Stewarts lived, now Abbey House. The pines on the east side were planted between 1775-1780. Where the avenue meets the Pow there is a ford and the road continues past the former Criffel Inn garage and between the Corn Mill and Church House.

The earlier “Shambellie House” was built just to the west of Shambellie Grange Farm - under what is now the stackyard. The only remnant of that is the wide arched gateway which is still visible. The present Shambellie House was built in 1854 as the finest Stewart Residence.

This road is relatively new. The previous line of the road left the Dumfries - New Abbey road at Shuttlefield and ran to the west of Shambellie Grange outbuildings, continuing across the field to reach the Ford and Bridge over the Pow. Shambellie Papers dated 1718 record a payment of £100 Scots to Baillie John Paterson for a new bridge over the Pow.

The building at the bottom was the Free Church at Bridgend. It was built c1878 using materials bought at the roup of the Parish Church building, built in 1731 within the Abbey Green and demolished when the present New Abbey Church was built in 1877.

Bridgend Church shared a minister with Lochend Church, Beeswing - where the minister lived. It became part of the UF Church in 1900. After the Union of 1929 Lochend became a parish within the Church of Scotland. Parish Church members in Beeswing area joined Lochend. Most Bridgend members joined New Abbey Church. In 1966 a kitchen was built on to the Church and it became the Guild Hall.

The present road from the bottom of Shambellie Avenue through Craigeside was built towards Beeswing in early 1800s.

**Erected A.D. 1816
To record the Valour
Of those British, Belgian
And Prussian soldiers.
Who under WELLINGTON and BUCHER
On the 18th of June 1815
Gained the victory
Of
WATERLOO;
By which, French tyranny
Was overthrown;
And peace restored,
To the world.**



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The photos on this page show the interior of New Abbey Church c1900, and the Burne-Jones Memorial Window to Dr J S Wilson inserted in 1915 by his family.



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New Abbey Main Street with Abbey in background. On the left, a thatcher is working on the roof of Low Croft. The two single storey houses beyond the Odd Fellows Hall (now Village Hall) are now double and the Coffee Shop is at the end. On the right, the low buildings were byres. The man in the foreground is Mr Brown, a builder from Beeswing, identified by his bowler hat. In the middle is a cart taking timber from the sawmill to the Bogue Quay for transporting to Maryport.



Ian Kingan



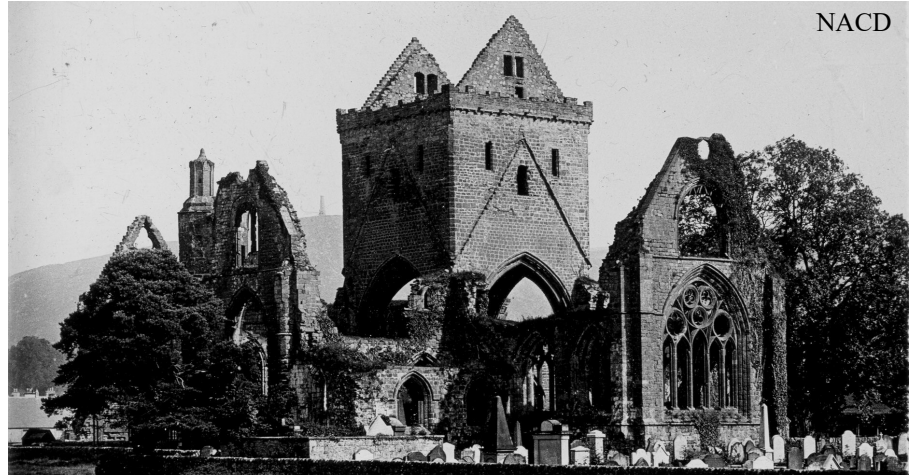
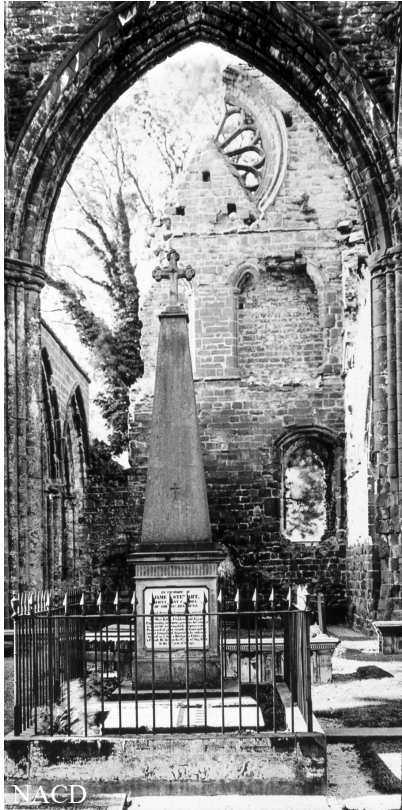
Lorry at Sawmill c1962

Ian Kingan

“General Havelock” at Bog Quay. The General Havelock was owned by James Kingan & Sons – who were Timber and Grain Merchants. This was reflected in what the General Havelock was used for. Its New Abbey base was the Bog Quay on the Pow. Its other port was Maryport in Cumbria. Timbers of various sizes and types were prepared for the coal mines in Cumbria. They were taken in small loads from the sawmill, to be stored at the Bog Quay until a ship load was gathered. In season, potatoes were also carried to Maryport. On the return journey there would be coal. Also grains like maize and molasses, originating from abroad and imported through Liverpool were brought back for the cattle feed side of the grain business. This method of trade ceased as roads were improved, lorries became available and cost of dock labour soared

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Sweetheart Abbey from graveyard and showing the Waterloo Monument on the skyline of the Glen Hill.

Interior view showing memorial to Lt. Col. Jas Stewart, Shambellie. He was a younger brother of William Stewart of Shambellie. He had a distinguished career serving for 25 years in the Black Watch. Although he retired in 1804, he kept an active interest in the Regiment and inspired the building of the Waterloo Monument.

When the Abbey was taken into custodianship by the Secretary of State it was managed by what became Historic Scotland. In clearing the ground for more efficient grass cutting, all the graves stones, including the plaques on this obelisk, were set into the ground



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Bell Yett House and School in front of Abbey. The arch is still there and it had a bell on top of it. It was the Yett or gate into the Abbey. The curved entrance wall to the Manse is on the right.

This is one of a set of drawing made by Mrs Wilson of the Manse. This one is dated 1874.



D Kimm

New Abbey Pipe Band at Devorgilla Cottage - opposite the Abbey.

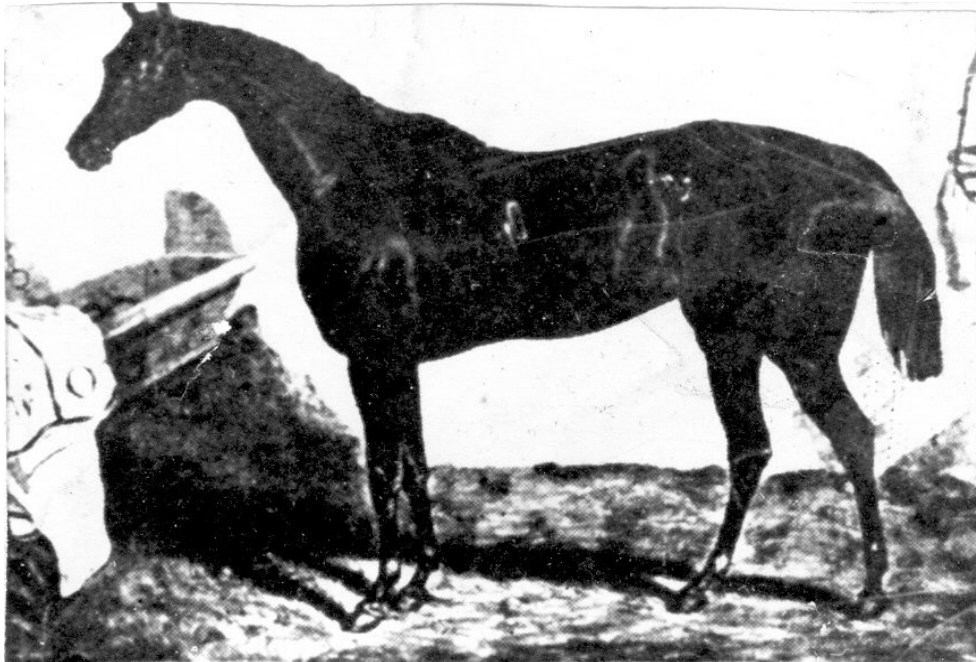
It was under the tutelage of Douglas Kessock of Barbeth.

Main Street from the East

“Putting in the coals” There is a small flap – which opens to allow access to a chute into the cellar of the house.



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We reproduce a photograph of the celebrated racehorse, Beeswing, after which the Stewartry village was named. Beeswing was the property of Mr Robert Orde of Morpeth, who, after an amazing series of successes on the turf, opened an inn which he called The Beeswing Inn at Lochend, and in the course of time Beeswing became the name of the village. The racehorse started her career as a two-year-old in 1834 and finished in 1842, during which period she had entered 64 major races and won 51. The photograph is from a picture which was the property of the late Sir Alexander Bateson of Lotus, and was sold this week.

This picture is in the Memorial Hall, Beeswing



Beeswing Main Street looking east towards Dumfries.

The two storey house is Hamilton House.

The longer house in the middle with the two windows was probably the original Bee's Wing Inn.

The UF Manse roof is showing over the houses.



Joiner Robert Kirk, twin daughters, Isabella (Mrs Currie) and Jane r (Jeannie Kirk, Postie) b1870 d 1942.

This picture is taken in the access area behind the last house in the previous picture,



Maisie Wishart

Photograph of Jeannie Kirk "postie". We don't have a photo of her in her working clothes. This is one of her dressed to go to a wedding.

To Jeanie Kirk, Beeswing Postmistress,
on her retiral.

"A TOAST"

Throughout the years ye've served us weel
With watchful eye and constant skill,
Retiring, no' for want of will
But waning strength
To plod the roads by loch and hill,
Their weary length.

The springin' flooers ye did enjoy
And autumn's tints like ony boy:
Though winter storms micht whiles annoy,
They couldna daunt ye.
Nor man nor beast need time employ
To come ayont ye.

And lovers' notes, and holy tracts
And curt demands for income tax,
Unpaid accounts or cures for mawks,
Ye got them here:
For ony trust wi' Jeanie placed
We ne'er need fear.

An' now the book draws near its close,
But don't let ony man suppose
Beeswing forgets the debt it owes
For honest work.
These lines a rousing toast propose
"Tae Jeanie Kirk"

Adam W McIntosh

14 April 1942



This picture shows the full length of Beeswing Village in 1900.

Photographer's note: "In the old coaching days there used to be an inn here and the horses were changed. On the sign above the inn door there was a portrait of a famous race-horse called Beeswing, and this is how the place came to get its name."

There were many trades and professions reflected in the inhabitants of the one street of the village. From the west at Kirkbank, which was a farm (just outside the picture on the left), to the Schoolhouse in the East there were 18 families – which included a farmer, minister, schoolmaster, 3 blacksmiths (active, retired and apprentice), stone mason, stone dyker, railway signalman and clerk, hotel keeper, grocer, joiner, sewing mistress and agricultural labourers.



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Chicken, baker Maxwelltown -
at one time Provost of Maxwelltown

Two horses were needed for
the long, steep climb up the
Long Wood from Dumfries.



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Frank Wilson, grocer from
Dalbeattie at New House,
Beeswing.

Beeswing residents were served
by tradesmen from both
Dumfries and Dalbeattie.



Killywhan Station on the road from west side of Beeswing to Lochfoot

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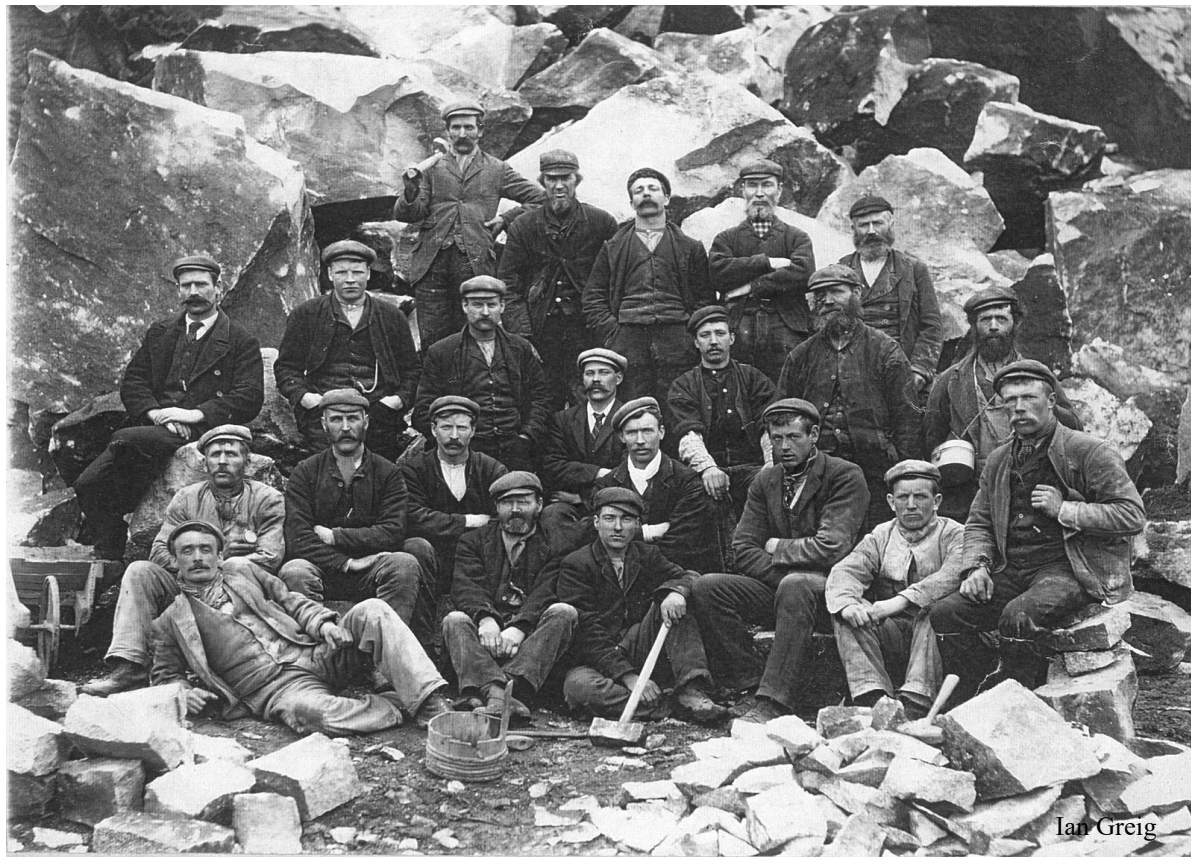


Lochanhead Station: This is at the top of the “Long Wood” and was on the Castle Douglas Branch of the G & S W Railway.

Note that there are no trees on the skyline.

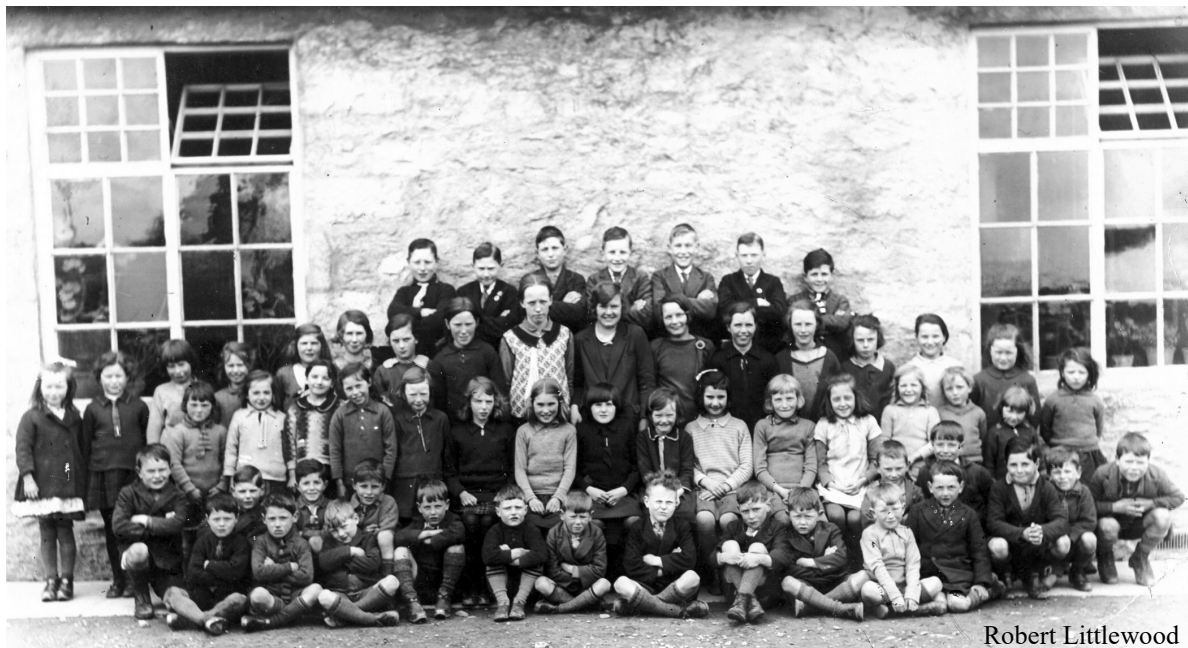


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Ian Greig

Workers at Beeswing Quarry c1900. There was a quarry on Lotus hill on Lotus Estate.
The 10 houses at Locharthur Terrace were built to house workers.



Beeswing School - 1933-34

Top Row - from left: Alick McAdam, Cassels Little, Alan Cook, Alan McCauley, Jack Wright, Peter Little, Andrew Hall.

2nd Row: Lily Telfer, Jean Beattie, Florence McAdam, Margaret Bolton, Annie Wilson, Maisie Hood, Annie Moffat, Maisie Thomson, Mary McMichael, Janet Dickson, Janet McAdam, Mary Wright, Loise McClelland, Edith McClelland, Margaret Smith, Isabel Kingan, Betty McCarlie.

3rd Row: Jean Muir, Carruthers, Bessie Carruthers, Nelly Nicol, Margaret McGuffy, Marion Wilson, Peggy Wright, Elsie Landsborough, Lizzie McGuffy, Bunty Carruthers, Jean Henderson, Nettie Maxwell, Mona Hall, Alice Bolton, Margaret Bell.

4th Row: David Dalrymple, John Wilson, Sandy Hall, Douglas McClelland, Walter Bolton, Willie Blackwood, Hugh Wilson, Bert Littlewood, Alick Kirk, Jim Kingan, Alan Beattie, William Henderson, Jacky Lawrie, Ernest Bolton (behind), Bobby Hall, Sandy McClelland, John McCarlie.

5th Row: John Dalrymple, George Coupland, Bobby Gold.



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Cairnyard House: The house was built in 1898 from stones quarried on Garloff Hill. William Smith of Garloff was engaged to Miss Grace Laurie from Locharthur, and had to build a house in the style she was accustomed to. George Brown, mason, Beeswing was at the building of it. William Hamilton Smith was 7 in the 1881 census, so was 24 at the building of Cairnyard.

The Hamilton family owned Garloff, Netherfield and Brekonside. James Smith, William's father, died soon after 1881 – aged 40.



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Lochend Farm. This is now part of the Locharthur Community. In the early years it was the outlet for their cheese and other produce.



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Old house at Cairnyard, Beeswing 1892. Mr Shennan, grocer, Muirend, giving a lift to Mr Donnelly, postman.



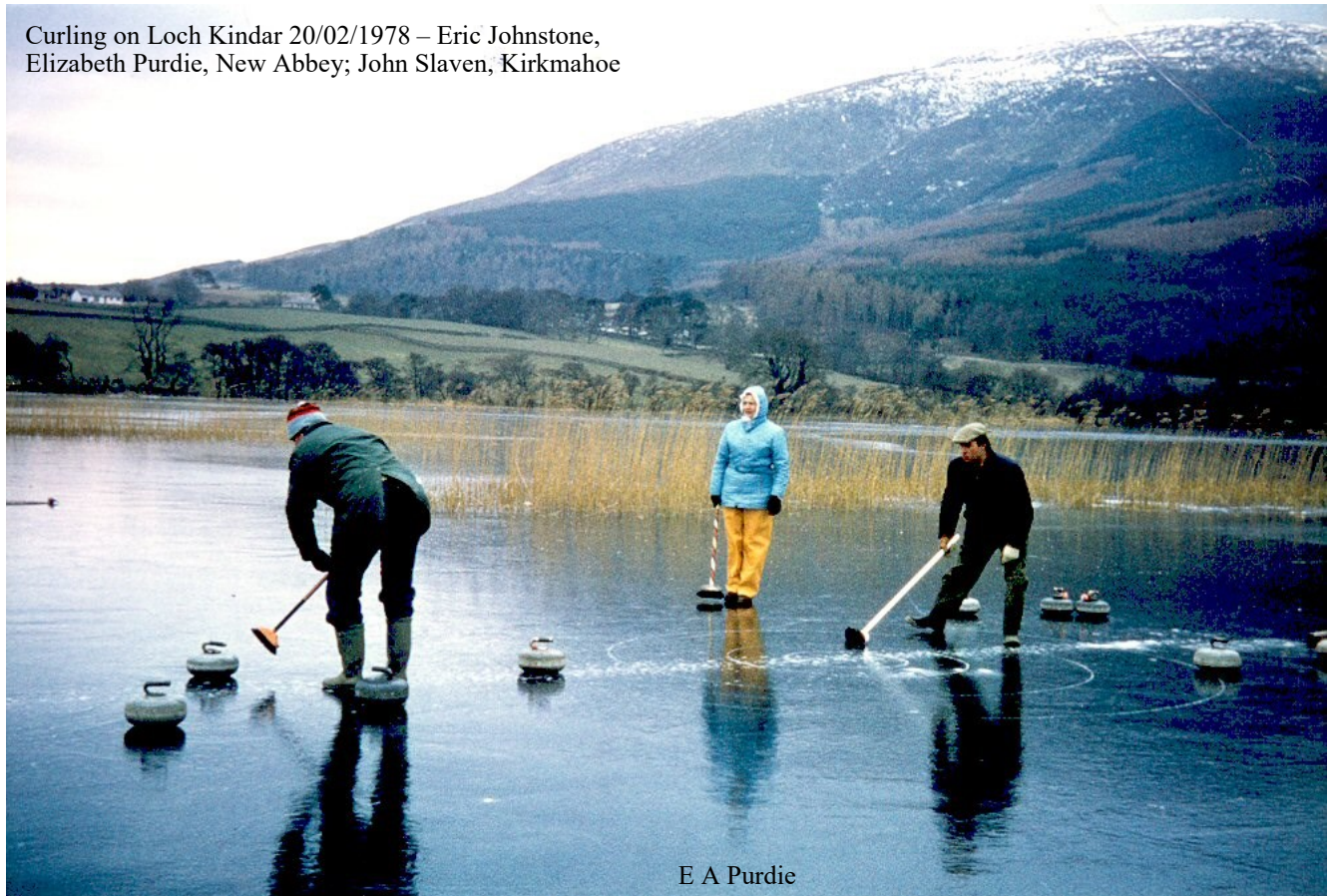
Curling game, c1900. Loch Arthur Loch was one of the places in New Abbey Parish where curling took place. New Abbey Curling Club had an Upper and Lower section covering Beeswing and New Abbey respectively. For a time there was a separate Lochend Club.



Curling on Loch Kindar 1979.

Centre: Bob Martin, Lochhill Cottages
and John Duncan, Brickhouse.

Curling on Loch Kindar 20/02/1978 – Eric Johnstone,
Elizabeth Purdie, New Abbey; John Slaven, Kirkmahoe



E A Purdie

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Shopping in the country. This shows the way in which goods reached country people – and gives a good idea of how special such a visit was. Although children are dressed up they have bare feet!



New Abbey Guild - 50th Anniversary 1952 - Top Table

Miss K Stewart, Miss N Mitchell, Miss P Riddick, Mrs M McMillan, Mrs E Walker, Mrs J Kingan, Mrs E Kingan, Mrs M Purdie.
Mrs Murphy, visitor from Presbyterial Council, Mrs W Campbell, Mrs Carruthers, Mrs Cullum .



New Abbey WRI 50th Anniversary 1974

Mrs M Tennant, Mrs M Stitt, Mrs Gulline, Mrs H Smith, Mrs I Riddick, Mrs M Wilson, Mrs J Robertson
Mrs R McWilliam, GUEST from WRI, Miss M Kingan, Mrs Waugh, Mrs K Johnstone



David Kingan

New Abbey School - 1931

Ian , , D Purdie, A Robertson, W McWilliam, A Stitt, Sharp, R Stitt, Teacher.

M McLatchie, C Moffat, J Taylor, A McWilliam, I Hewitson, W White, A Moffat, , R Cavell, D White, J Coupland.

T Wagstaff, E Black, M Wilson, M Ferguson, M Allan, , T McGinily, J Hewitson, R Stitt



New Abbey School was a Primary and a Secondary until Cargenbridge School was built in 1959. The last Headmaster, Douglas Walker, became the Head of the new school. This shows girls gardening, including Myra Gourne and Morag Hood, in front of one of the Horsa Huts.



Sports day at New Abbey School. Presentation of trophies.



Sports day winners at New Abbey School.

L to R Top

Margaret Pringle, Senior Champion

Graham Barbour & Hazel Muir,
House Captains

??? McWilliam, Senior Champion.

L to R kneeling

?? ?? Junior Champion

Margaret Clingan, Junior Champion

New Abbey School



New Abbey School



New Abbey School. The main part of the school, from which this was taken, was built in 1870s, to replace the older one beside the Abbey. The Main building faced the road and had classrooms, gymnasium and kitchen. As more classrooms were needed temporary "Horsa" huts were built on the ground behind the school. This shows one of them, which included the chemistry and woodwork sections of the Secondary. A new Primary school was built on this site in the 1970s.



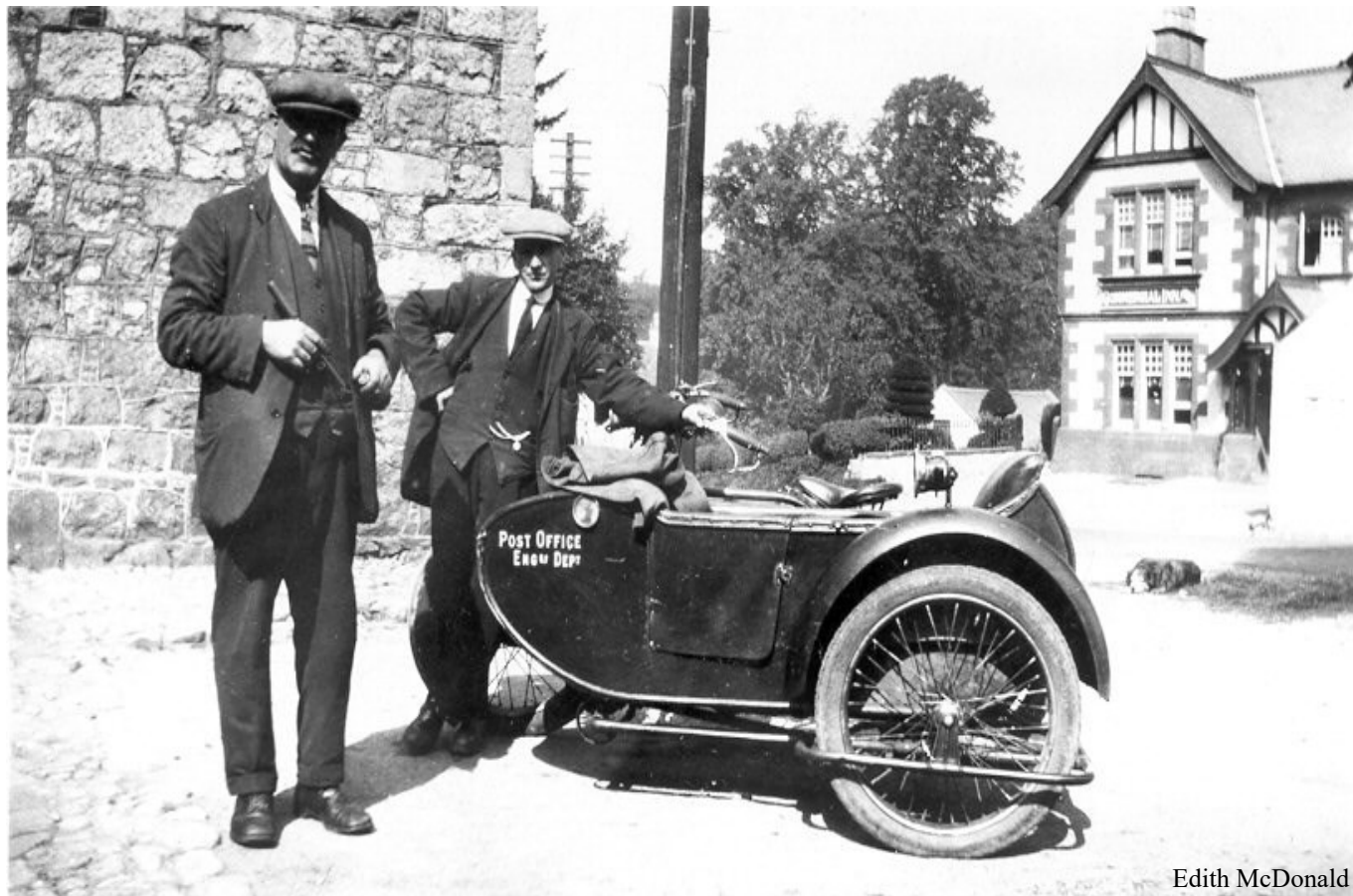
Boys doing “practical” gardening work in the Secondary School.

Edith McDonald



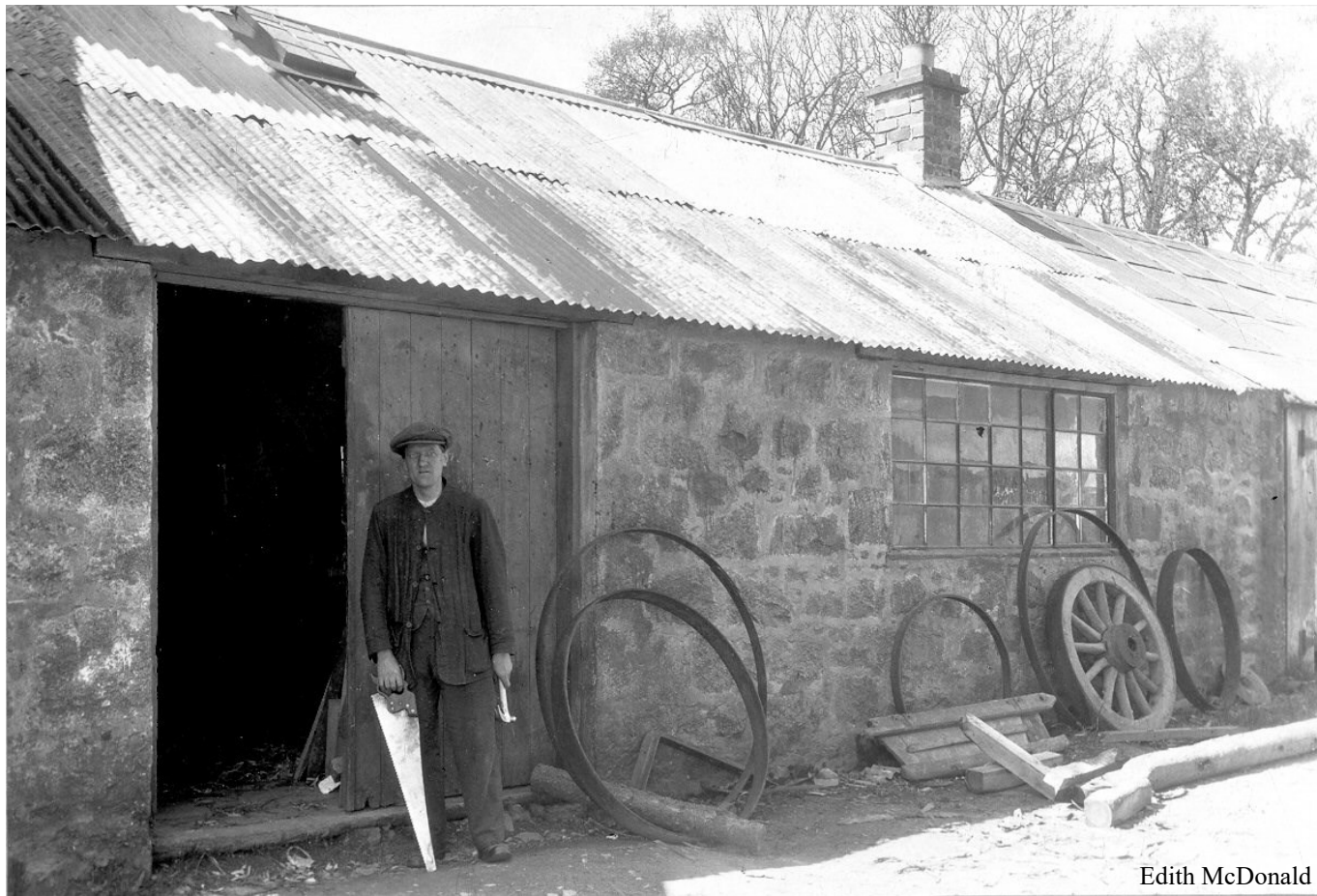
Jardine's shop & bus c1930. The Criffel Inn is to the left and Jim Carruther's house to the right.

Victoria commemoration tree in foreground.



Edith McDonald

Post Office bike & side car with 2 men. Post Office was in McDonald's house beside Abbey Arms.



Edith McDonald

David B McDonald at Joiner's Shop at Townhead in 1920's



Edith McDonald

Mr Pratt's Caravan Mission for United Free Church (Bridgend Church was linked with Lochend Church. Bridgend Church later became the Guild Hall.)

E A Purdie



Loading bales via locally built loader

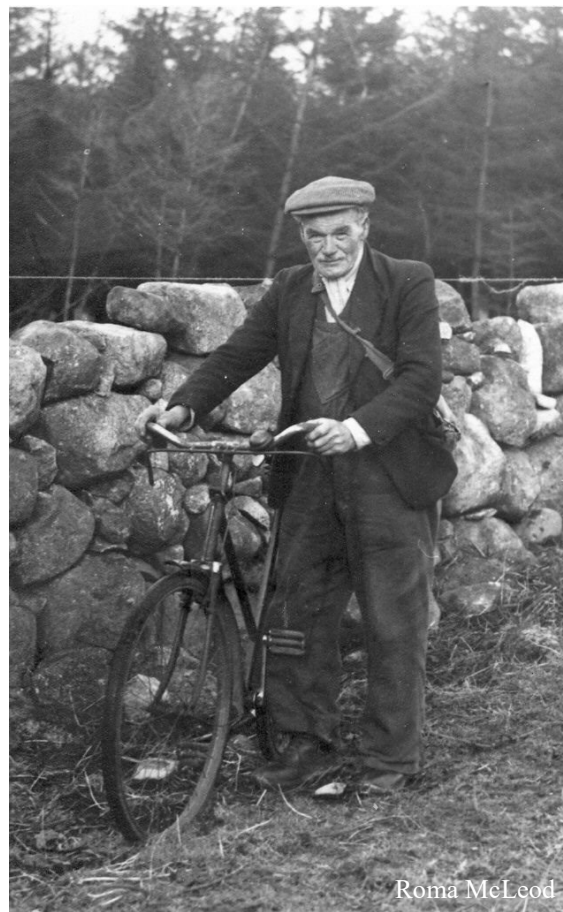
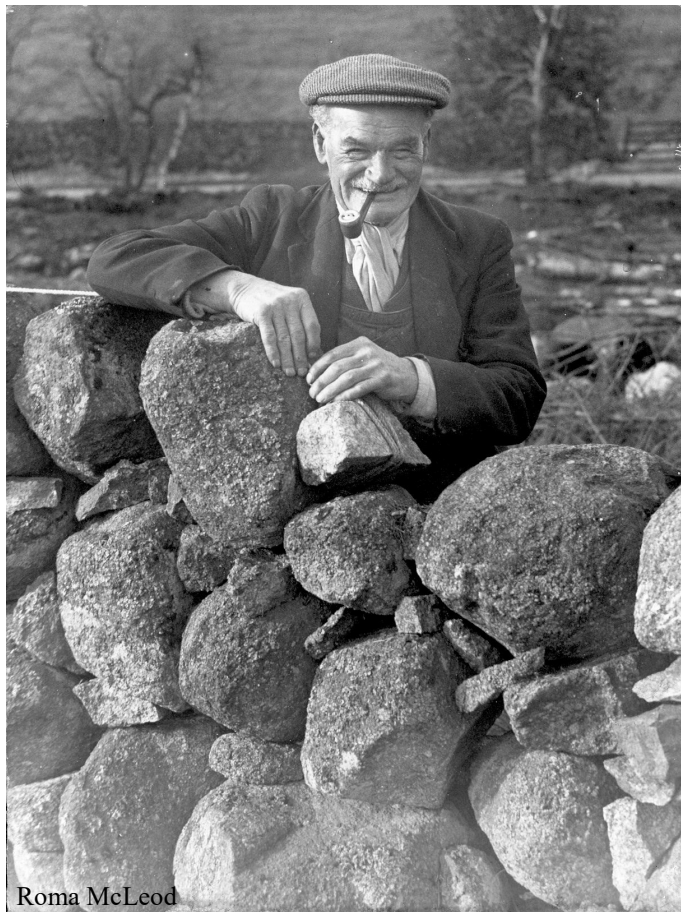


Rose McWilliam

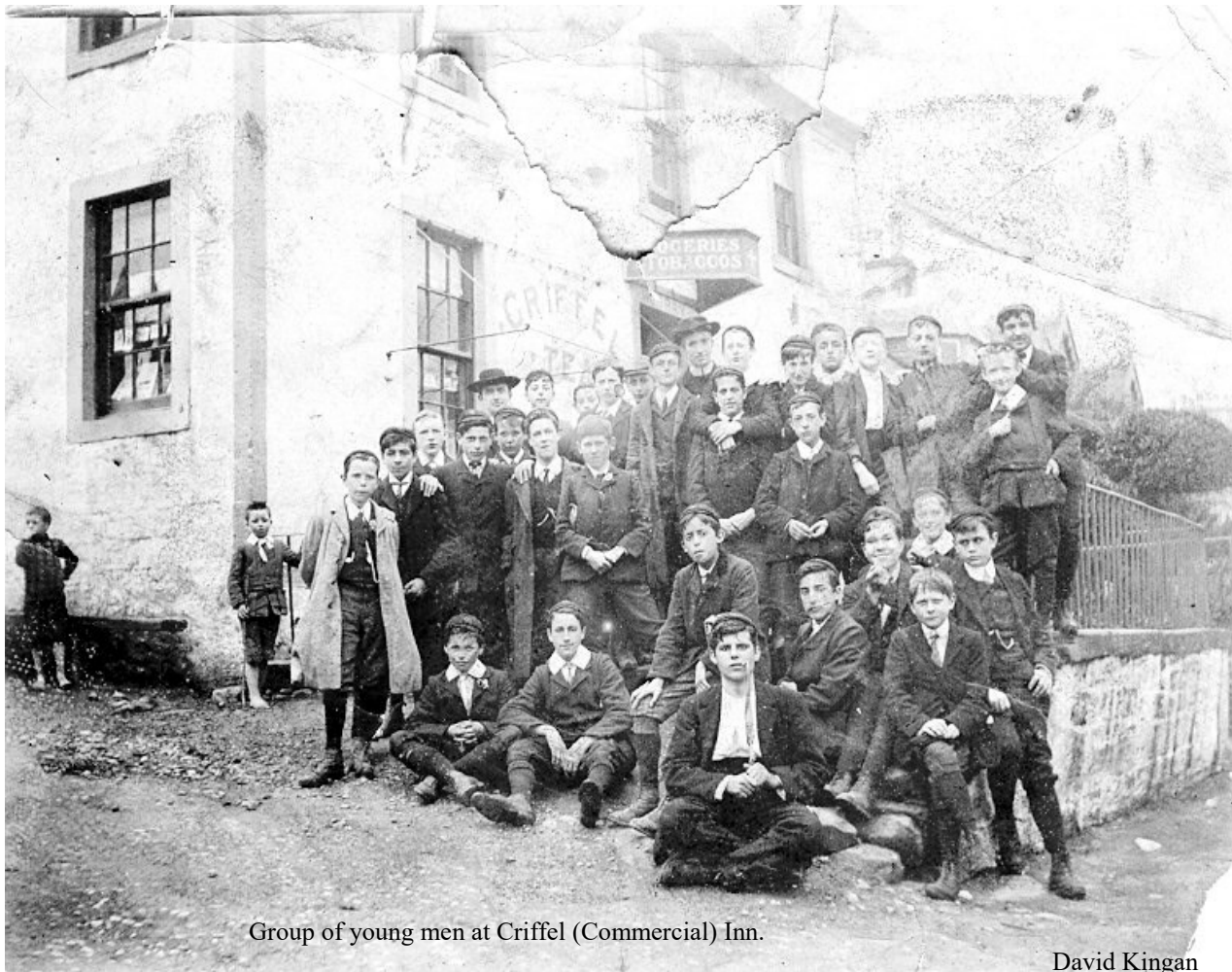


E A Purdie

William Purdie/Ben Swan - buying first baler for Inglestonford Farm.
William Purdie (R) was farmer at Inglestonford and Ben Swan (L) the salesman.



Alec Black, Annatland, with Bike – 1949 – at the age of 90.



Group of young men at Criffel (Commercial) Inn.

David Kingan



New Abbey Main Street from the west: Abbey ruins in background. Photographer's note: "A view further down the village, with the ruins at the back. Note the gentleman in blue, to the right, just as anxious to be included as any. He was just coming home from one of his country walks, laden with the spoils of somebody's flower garden"



Craigend: A Galloway Farm. Retirement home of Walter Newall, Architect.
It was demolished and only a few stones can now be found. It is within Mabie Forest.



This Monument was built in 1816 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

It was built on the Glen Hill, belonging to Shambellie Estate, following public subscription.
(Note that the Hill had no forestation on it then.)

Details of the subscriptions and arrangements for laying foundation stone can be found in the booklet Waterloo Monument, New Abbey, compiled by Rev Bill Holland.



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Wash day at a farm.



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The camera brought out spectators.



New Abbey Cornmill.

On the right is Church House: Parish Hall upstairs, Library and Beadle's House downstairs.
In 1966 the whole building was converted into the Beadle's House.



War Memorial New Abbey: Unveiling ceremony 10 July 1921.

Affleck family 3 seated; 4 standing. The Blacksmith's Shop was where the Roadman's House is now. Family lived in part of what is now Mellon's house. George Corrie, mason, was in other part.

Some Afflecks went to WWI.



Hastings Grocery Store: Village grocer & family. Joseph Fraser was grocer in 1881.

Dempster was next door till the 1920s

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Netherfield. Samuel Hood with horse. He was in Craigend in 1881. The road showing is road to Carswadda.



Locharthur House: Family and staff standing outside in snow – Mrs Laurie 3rd from the right.

Lochend Church, Beeswing c1900 (Built as Free Church in 1868.)

The first Free Church congregation in the area met in a barn at Lochend Farm in Kirkgunzeon (1860). Members resided in Beeswing, and in New Abbey, Kirkgunzeon, Lochrutton and Troqueer parishes.

The first Church was built on the Dumfries side of the Manse. When the present church was built one of the conditions was that the old church be used as the school.

When it came to naming the present Church a problem arose. The village was called Beeswing - after a race horse. The Free Church was anti-gambling, so that name was unacceptable. They decided to call it after the first meeting place i.e. Lochend.

The closing service for the Church was held on 02 May 2004. The congregation continued to meet in the Memorial Hall, Beeswing. Lochend and New Abbey congregations were united on 22 June 2006.

After WW2, a memorial stained glass window was installed.

Three men of the congregation are commemorated.

Rev Henry Smith, MA, CF, the minister, who became a Forces Chaplain and was lost at Singapore.

James Ferguson Hood, Liverpool City Police.

Lt Andrew Christian McCulloch, DSC, RN.

