Laundry Cottage

From 1968 to 197- Laundry Cottage was empty. Angus and May McGilvery having retired to Alston, in Cumbria after having spent their whole married life at Laundry Cottage 1928 – 1968.

In 1970 we moved from Garden Cottage to Laundry Cottage, we were their till 1978 when the buildings at the Laundry were renovated and made into two houses.

The front door of Laundry cottage is in the cobbled yard of the stable. Opening the front door you are into the living room which is a large room with a bay window at the far end. A triplex stove is on the left hand side, also on the left hand side, up one step is a door going through to the bedrooms and the scullery. There is a short passage off which to the right is the smaller of the two bedrooms, and next to it is the larger bedroom. Both have windows looking out to the wood. On the left of the passage down two steps is the scullery-come-bathroom. A window looks out onto the yard on the left. The sink and wash basin (joined together) are on the wall facing the door and adjoining them is the bath. Down another two steps at the end of the scullery is the toilet. All the floors are made of stone.

Two the right of the living room, a door goes through to the laundry, this is a huge room. There are large windows all along the front, looking out to the yard. Pulleys for drying the clothes hang from the ceiling and there are several long tables to do the ironing on. An iron stove heats the whole room. A door goes into the wash house. Entering it on the right is a window, looking onto the garden. This window is quite high as the garden comes down right against the building. Along the wall opposite the door is a row of sinks one has a wringer attached to it. A window at the far end looks out onto the road and Dacia cottage, there is a sink below this window. In the corner beside the window, is a large coal fired boiler used for boiling the clothes. At the end of the Laundry, a back door takes you up several steps to the garden and the drying green.

Attached to the scullery/bathroom side of Laundry Cottage is a double tractor garage and a cart shed.

In 1978 the laundry, Laundry Cottage and the garage were renovated and turned into two houses (Stable Cottage and Laundry Cottage). What was the scullery window, is now the door to Stable cottage, and the door of Laundry cottage is now Laundry cottage’s bathroom window, the front door having been moved a little to the right.

To access Stable Cottage you have to go up two steps to the front door. Entering the house the bathroom is right ahead of you, this had been the scullery/bathroom. The two bedrooms are to the right, these were originally Laundry cottages bedrooms. To the left (what was the tractor shed) is now the living room and kitchenette. Windows look out into the yard. In the living room is a multi-fuel stove, this heats the water and runs radiators in the house.

Through from the living room is the kitchenette. The sink is at the window, the kitchenette is a good size, big enough to take all the required electric appliances.

Laundry Cottage has been completely changed. Going in the front door, a short passage runs parallel to the front of the house. Straight ahead are cupboards for the hot water tank and an airing cupboard. To the left of them are two bedrooms, one is quite small, their windows look out onto the wood. At the end of the passage is the bathroom. This part had been the living room of the old Laundry Cottage, the bay window is no longer there.

To the right of the front door, a door goes through to the living room. This is quite a big room, it takes up about two thirds of what was the laundry. As you go into the living room on the left is a multi-fuel stove which heats the water and runs the radiators. The large windows are still all along the front. A door leads out of the living room into a small passage, to the right is another bedroom with windows to the front, this is the rest of the laundry. To the left, which had been the door into the washhouse is now the door into the kitchenette. The kitchenette is the full size of the wash house. The backdoor goes out at the end of the passage and the same steps lead up to the garden and washing green.

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