Alistair Bremner

Alistair moved to Cairndow with his parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters in 1972, he lived up Glen Fyne in Stalkers Cottage which was quite small with tiny rooms for a family of 7. They were there about a year when due to a change of employment his parents moved away.

Alistair decided to stay and so moved into Achadunan Cottage as a lodger with Mr. and Mrs. Baker for 6 months. He married June Livingstone and moved into Bridge Cottage which was a one bed roomed cottage at that time, they were there 2 years when they moved to No. 4 Hydro House in the village. It had 3 bedrooms and under floor heating which at that time was too expensive to have on, and as there was no fire in the house it could be quite cold. They were then offered Ardno Cottage, which again had no central heating, but this was put in before they moved in. This was a 3-bedroom bungalow.

After 3 to 4 years, Alistair ended up moving back to Achadunan Cottage where he had been a one-time lodger. At this point he was still working for Michael Noble. Unfortunately, while at this house his marriage broke down, and the farm was put up for let. It was taken over by Willie and Ken Findlay who asked Alistair to stay on and work for them which meant he could stay on in Achadunan Cottage. He did this until 1987, when he moved with his new wife into Rowantree cottage.

Rowantree had not been lived in for a few years. It had 3 outhouses joined on to the side of the house, one of which was the entrance to the back of the house. On entry there was a small corridor with the bathroom to the left, it was very cold as there was no central heating or double-glazing. You then entered the kitchen which had a Raeburn, but there was no central heating so the water when it got boiling hot had to be run off via the taps otherwise you would think the boiler was going to blow up. There was a great view from the kitchen window. Leaving the kitchen took you into one of two rooms which were living/dining areas, the one nearest the kitchen we used for a while as a living room till we did up the other room downstairs and used that as a living room and the other as a dining room. In between the 2 rooms a door led out to a small porch, which was pretty draughty, and we put up a big thick curtain to stop the wind blowing in. Both of these rooms had a coal fire in them and in the winter, it wasn’t unusual to have all 3 fires burning to keep the heat going. It was a lot of hard work. There was a steep staircase, which led upstairs to 2 bedrooms, which had combed ceilings. They lived there 6 years when they moved to their present home in the village which was a brand new 3 bedroomed, semi-detached, double grazed, centrally heated house which although has a fireplace in it, has never once been on (can’t think why). This is the first house they have owned having previously been in tied or rented accommodation.

So in total Alistair has lived in 7 quite different houses in the village of Cairndow.