Stable Cottage, The Square – Carol Burnapp 2008

I moved to Cairndow on 1st April 1994 because I had got a job working in the laboratory at Lighthouse of Scotland Ltd. My first home was a caravan at Amelia Mirrlees. I was only there for a month because she had it let to holidaymakers during May. For that period, I lived opposite the Post Office in Inveraray, but moved back when the holidaymakers had gone. I remained there until September 1994, when I moved into the portacabin in the car park at Lighthouse’s hatchery on Ardkinglas Estate.

This was better than the caravan – more space so I could retrieve the majority of my belongings that had been in storage at Lighthouse’s hatchery in Furnace. Again, this was supposed to be temporary until something more permanent could be found. With the high price of the few rental properties that became available in the village, I lived here until December 1997.

My next move, and where I still live now was to Stable Cottage at the Square on Ardkinglas Estate. A two-bedroom semi-detached bungalow with 18 inch thick walls. The last of the buildings at the Square to be converted into a house. The runners for the sliding doors of the garage are still there today. A proper house at last! Like many rental properties, it wasn’t what you would term modern. Although there was central heating, it ran off the back boiler so if the fire wasn’t lit it didn’t work. This meant the house was cold all through the winter, but at least you didn’t overheat during any summer heat waves! Nearly two years ago the back boiler sprung a leak and it was decided to replace it with a multi-fuel stove. At the same time a reasonable depth of insulation was placed in the attic. Winter warmth at last! For virtually no add cost the fire can now be kept alight all the time, so the house is continually warm. 18 months ago, a shower was installed over the bath, which has also aided the economy of running the house. Currently the property only has single glazing, but who knows what the future might bring.

Originally, Stable Cottage had no garden but about 6 years ago it was agreed to fence off part of the nearest field with which I could do as I pleased. I now spend many hours trying to keep the weeds under control (and more recently the sheep out) whilst growing flowers for pleasure and vegetables for food.