NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2022.

Seafield Cottage, Tarbrax – a little history I hope you will enjoy. I was christened there in 1934 by Rev Richmond Scott who had retired there from his ministry in North Ronaldsay. He actually did the same for my siblings Betty, John & George & was nearly blind by the time George came along. I was 12 yrs old then in 1946 so I can remember that. The 4 villas were built by the shale mine owners to house the managers, so when the mine closed the houses were sold in 1927. Rev Scott had a local lady, Nancy Dick, as his housekeeper & when he died he left the house to Nancy. She married Thomas (Tam) Kerr, who had one leg which could not bend. I can remember him cycling to the Inn at Auchengray on his bike with only one pedal at the weekend and it did not seem to stop him from working & leading a normal life. Nancy died before him so he lived in the house alone for his final years but gave up on its maintenance eg. When he got a leak he just closed off the lead pipe & eventually the only water was from a standpipe outside. When I was a teenager I remember the Arthur family coming to stay on holiday at Seafield (they had a dishy son, Bert,) & when Tam died it was left to one of the Arthurs. They had known Johnny years before & got in touch to get his help to sell the house, so being up for a challenge he bought it himself & that’s how we ended up living out of buckets of water, & a dirt floor as the wooden one had gone ! There was a large tree in front of the house, making it very dark, so it had to go. The following is obviously before health & safety but I hope it will give you a smile as no animals or humans were harmed. Part of Johnny’s job with British Rail was to maintain the telephones on the Forth Bridge, housed in small huts on the underside of it. Back to Seafield he warned the neighbours that their phones would be off for a short time, then he disconnected the wire to avoid damage from falling branches & he & brother-in-law, Archie, attacked the tree with saws. Afterwards he re-attached the phone & all was well. It was a great benefit to us & our neighbours on both sides. We did a massive amount of work on the house & garden & it was my favourite as I would still be there if my legs had not let me down. In the days before monoblocks we laid an area at the back with bricks salvaged from the Bing using a roll crate in the boot of the car.

Today’s Smile.

Noo, is a dove a doo, Dad, is a doo a dove, and is a cow a coo, Dad, a sparrow jist a spyug, & is a wall a wa’, Dad, is a dog a dug. She’s gonna warm my ears, Dad, instead o’ skelpin’ ma lug.

Grace.