

# WILLIAM CROSBIE & SONS

## GATEHOUSE OF FLEET

### A Brief Chronology

1867 – William Crosbie born at Borgue.

1885 – Probably started work as an ostler at the Murray Arms Stables in Gatehouse.

1890 – Married Jessie Mary Girvan at Kirkcudbright.

1895 – In partnership with Horatio G Murray Stewart of Cally, borrowed £1000 and took over Murray Arms Stables, with 20 horses.

1908 – First car purchased. There was probably a phased replacement of horse-drawn vehicles by motorised ones.

1910 – First bus purchased in 1910 (SW 130). This probably led to providing garage services as a business.

1910 – Obtained the mail contract from G.P.O. : mail collected 03:30 a.m. at Tarff, delivered to Twynholm & Gatehouse P.O.s.

1929 – No longer had mail contract : maybe William saw the future market in motorised transport and its maintenance.

1930 – William snr. and his 5 sons formed partnership of William Crosbie & Sons Automobile Engineers.

1935 – Built Woodside Garage in Gatehouse on one of the drained mill ponds. Managed by William snr. assisted by Chris & Jack.

1935 – Murray Arms proprietor Mr Payne resumed running of the Old Posting Stables as the Murray Arms Garage.

late 1930s – Built Creebridge Garage in Newton Stewart, managed by William jnr. and James (Nick).

1940 – William jnr. left the business under acrimonious circumstances and George shared management of Creebridge with Nick.

1940 – Wife Jessie died aged 74

1945 – William snr. died aged 78.

1968 – Crosbies sold Woodside Garage to Mr Mathews from Edinburgh.

c.1990 – Woodside Garage acquired by Rogersons of Borgue

c.2005 – Woodside Garage closed and demolished with plans for new housing development.

In 1941 William and his 5 sons lived at the following addresses.

- William Crosbie Senior - 1 Ann Street
- Chris Crosbie - 16 High Street
- George Crosbie - 46 High Street
- John (Jack) Crosbie - 36 High Street
- James Nichol Cox (Nick) Crosbie - 59 Victoria Street Newton Stewart
- William Crosbie Junior - 2 Rowanlea Avenue, 5th Avenue, Merrylee Park Glasgow (ex Creebridge Newton Stewart).

# CROSBIES GARAGES GATEHOUSE OF FLEET

Galloway News article, probably November 1968.

## Gatehouse Brothers Retire

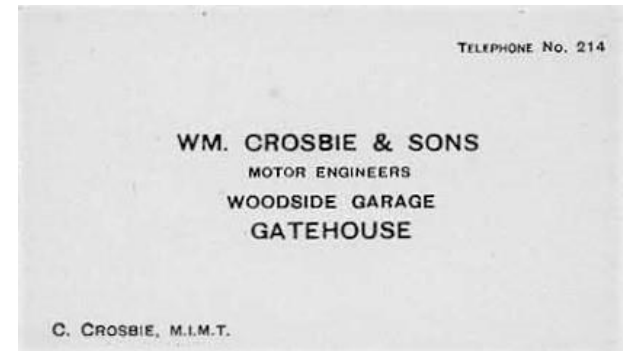
Two well-known Gatehouse brothers, Messrs. Christopher and Jack Crosbie, have retired from the motor engineering firm of Messrs William Crosbie and Sons which was founded by their father, the late William Crosbie in 1895.

The establishing of the business goes back to the days of the coach and horse. In 1910 the firm obtained the mail contract for the G.P.O. and this continued until 1929. During this period the mail was collected from Tarff Station at 3:30 a.m. and delivered to the Twynhom and Gatehouse post offices. Despite the adverse wintry conditions then experience, the firm had numerous commendations for having the mail delivered in good time.

Also in 1910 the firm purchased the first motor coach in the area, named "The Argyle", a handsome 16-seater, registered number SW 130. Top speed was 18 miles per hour, and it was used daily on the Gatehouse – Kirkcudbright route, return fare 1/6d.

Following the death of the founder in 1930\*, the partnership of Christopher and Jack developed quickly in promoting one of the most modern garage premises in the South of Scotland, where the workshop resembled a well-kept modern home. Despite long hours of work and a busy life, both partners have been keenly interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, which they have both served so well.

The new owner is Mr S.R.P. Mathews of Edinburgh, who intends to continue trading as William Crosbie and Sons.



\*William Crosbie actually died in 1945.

Murray Arms Stables – with Girthon Church in the background



Model "T" Ford

Fiat (Chris Crosbie)

Minerva (Wm.Crosbie jnr.)

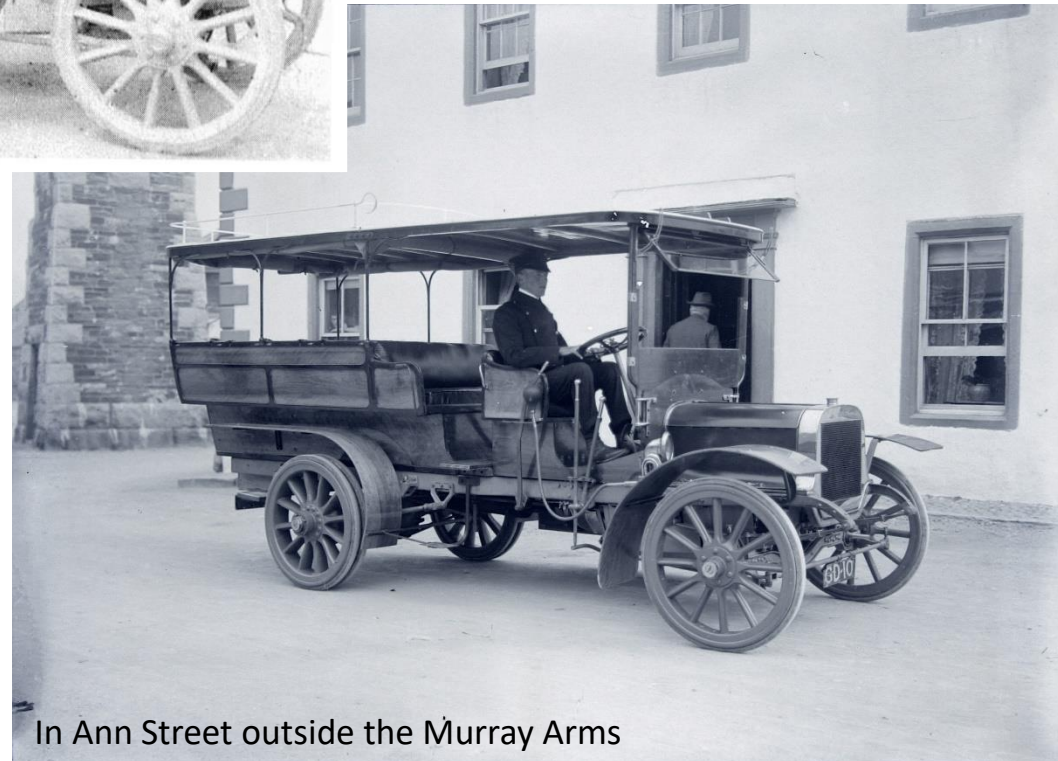
Sunbeam hearse

# “The Argyle”



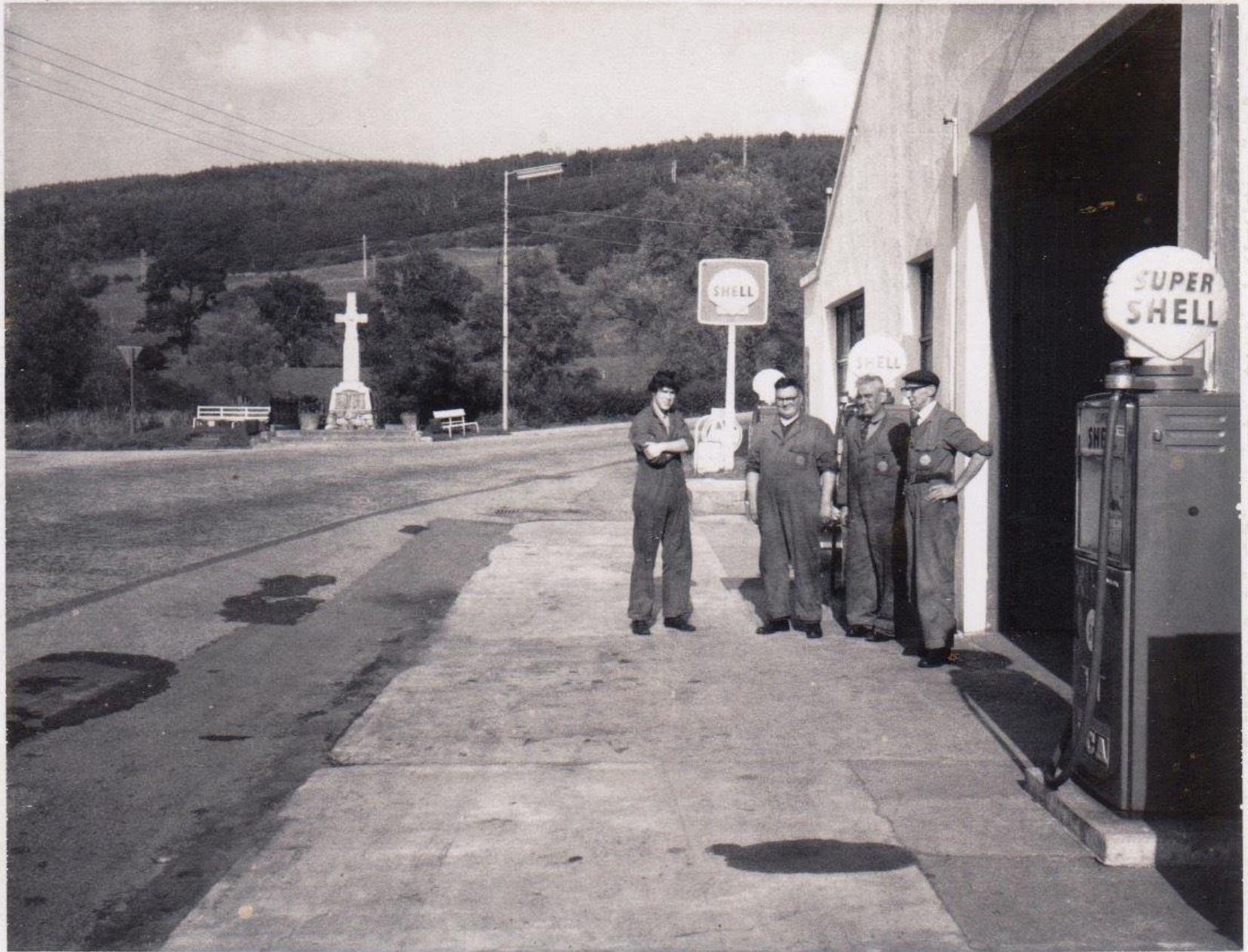
Outside the Old Posting Stables

The upper photo shows SW 130, the first bus to operate between Gatehouse and Kirkcudbright. The driver is George Crosbie and the man standing is Tom Shaw. The bus on the right appears to be a later addition, number GD 10, the driver being William Crosbie jnr.



In Ann Street outside the Murray Arms

# Outside Woodside Garage



From the left : unknown, Dodd (George) Crosbie, Bert McMurray, Jack Crosbie – photo probably taken by Chris Crosbie

Crosbie's Woodside Garage 1



Crosbie's Woodside Garage 2

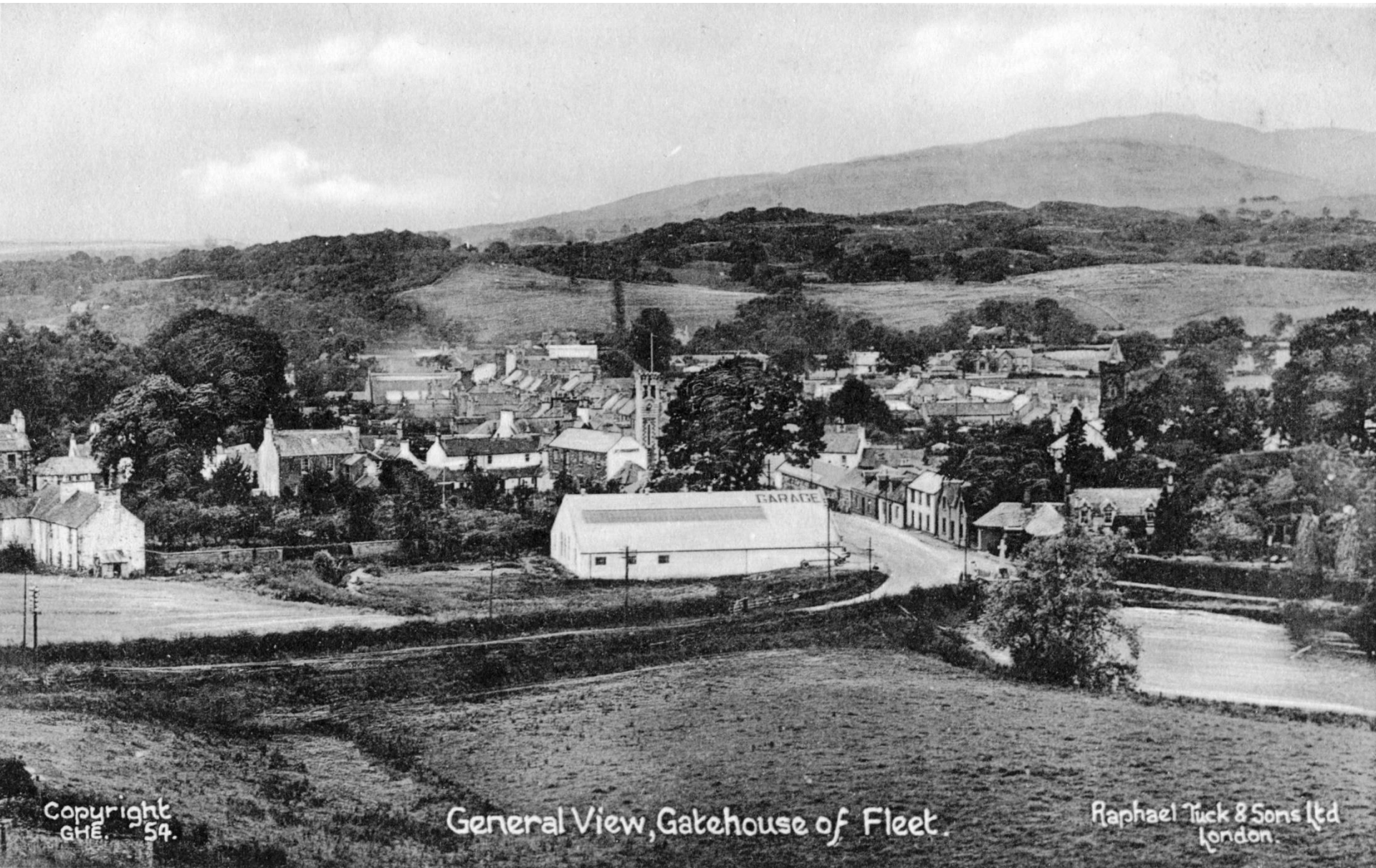


Crosbie's Woodside Garage 3





Postcard showing Crosbies Garage at the bottom of 'The Cut'



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GHE. 54.

General View, Gatehouse of Fleet.

Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd  
London.

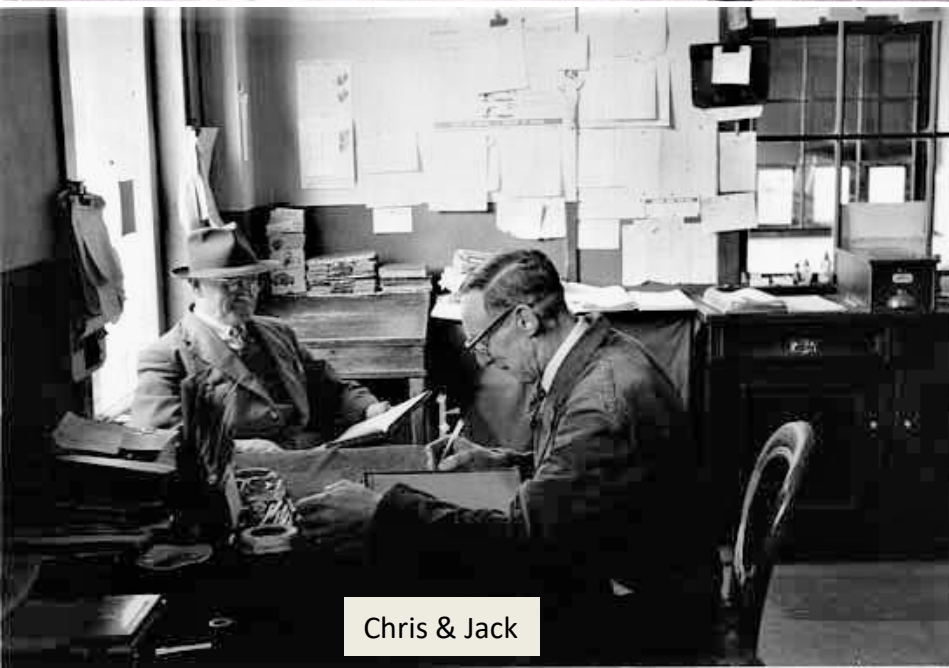


Photo taken by Jack Patterson 21<sup>st</sup> June 1948.  
Duncan Grant is the little boy. Tom Hamilton's Ford V8 is the approaching car.

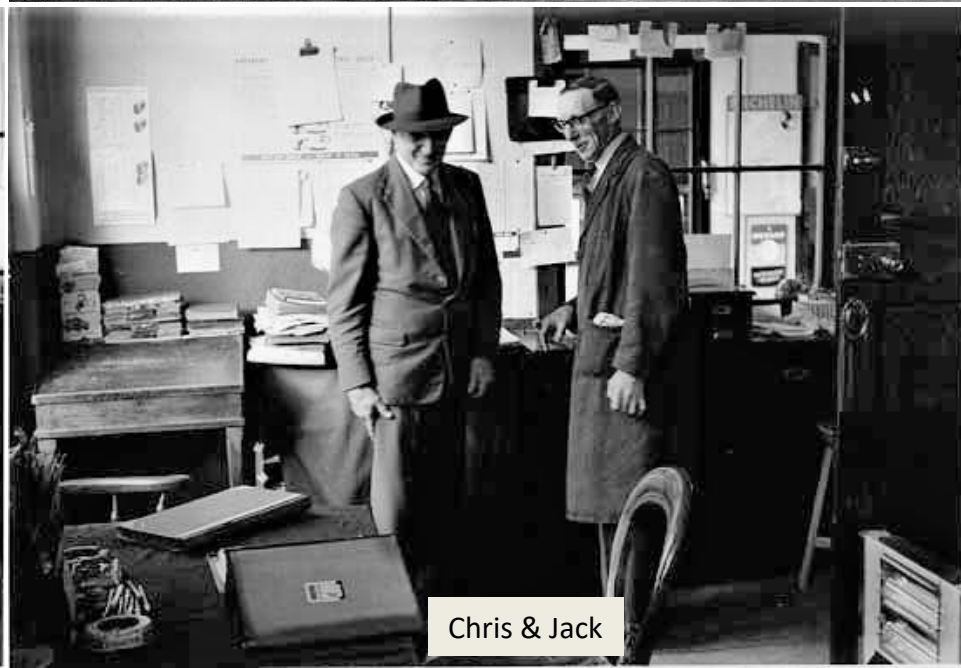


Dodd, Bert, Chris & Jack

Inside Woodside Garage



Chris & Jack



Chris & Jack

# Demolition of Woodside





### **Creebridge Garage, Newton Stewart**

George Crosbie is 2<sup>nd</sup> left, Nick Crosbie is 4<sup>th</sup> left whilst George's daughter Joyce is at the far right. By this time the Creebridge Garage was managed by Nick and George. George and Joyce lived in Creebridge Bungalow behind Joyce.

## Creebridge Garage, Newton Stewart

