



# **Coldingham**

# **The Writers Village**

Second edition September 2021

# The Coldingham Society

This peaceful village with its links to history and literature has attracted writers and artists as visitors and residents for centuries. No less a writer than Sir Walter Scott set his *Bride of Lammermoor* in the fictitious castle of Wolf's Crag modelled on Fast Castle.

This booklet is a guide to those writers who lived in Coldingham and were influenced by the area in some of their works.

Where possible, the sites where they lived have been identified and a guide to a walk around the village is included in the booklet.

**The houses where they lived are private residences and, as such, are not accessible to the public.**

## Availability

The works of these authors are, in many cases, out of print but most can be read on line at several websites such as:

Google books

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

[www.openlibrary.org](http://www.openlibrary.org)

[www.bookdownloadlibrary.com](http://www.bookdownloadlibrary.com)

Copies can be searched for at several book sites such as [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) where reprints and originals are available.

## Acknowledgments:

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## **COLDINGHAM'S WRITERS**

<b>Geoffrey of Coldingham</b>	<b>Coldingham Priory</b>
<b>Reginald of Coldingham</b>	
<b>Patrick Brydone</b>	<b>The Old Manse &amp; Abbey Park</b>
<b>Eliza Logan</b>	<b>Milldown Farm</b>
<b>David Pae</b>	<b>Douglas Cottage, High Street</b>
<b>William Edwards Tirebuck</b>	<b>St Margarets, The Hill</b>
<b>Evelyn Blantyre Simpson</b>	<b>Bonar Dub, Eyemouth Road</b>
<b>Annie S. Swan</b>	<b>Templehall Farm</b>
<b>W. G. Burn Murdoch</b>	<b>Westloch House</b>
<b>Jessie Lamont</b>	<b>The Old Manse</b>

## **The Early Writers (late 12<sup>th</sup>- early 13<sup>th</sup> C.)**

The Priory of Coldingham would, no doubt, have had a scriptorium where monks would have diligently copied texts and existing documents perhaps with illuminated capitals as are seen in the Lindisfarne Gospels. Two were more than mere scribes and contributed original works of hagiography, biography and history.

### **Geoffrey of Coldingham monk and chronicler**

Geoffrey or Gaufre who was the sacrist and, later, the prior of Coldingham wrote a history of Durham Cathedral which, at that time, had jurisdiction over the Priory. Geoffrey died around 1215 and his work ends abruptly at that time. The history was later added to by subsequent writers.

*Historiae Dunelmensis Scriptores Tres, Gaufridus de Coldingham, Robertus de Graystones et Willielmus de Chambre*

He is also credited with hagiographies of St. Bartholomew of Farne, a hermit who lived in St Cuthbert's cell and of Godric of Finchale a traveller, pilgrim, and holy man though this work is usually attributed to his contemporary, Reginald.

### **Reginald of Coldingham hagiologist and biographer**

Reginald was possibly a native of Coldingham. As a monk at the Priory, he was commissioned by Prior Thomas of Durham (1156–1162) and by Prior Ailred of Rievaulx, aware of his literary ability, to visit the hermit Godric at Finchale, near Durham, with a view to writing an account of the hermit's life. As Godric was dying, Reginald took care of him and recorded his memories, his life story and songs he had composed.

He catalogued four songs of St Godric's. They are the oldest songs in English for which the original musical settings survive. Reginald describes the circumstances in which Godric learnt the first song. In a vision, the Virgin Mary appeared to Godric with, at her side, "two maidens of surpassing beauty clad in shining white raiments." They pledged to come to his aid in times of need; and the Virgin herself taught Godric a song of consolation to overcome grief or temptation ("*Saintē Mariē Virginē*").

The novel *Godric* (1981) by Frederick Buechner is a fictional retelling of the hermit's life and travels. It was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize thus Reginald's influence extended even to the 20th century.

Later, Reginald compiled a Life of St Cuthbert and a Life of St Ebba as well as an account of her brother, King Oswald of Northumbria

The original MS. of *St Ebba* is in the Bodleian Library

Many of the works of these writers has been published by the Surtees Society of Durham

## **Patrick Brydone (1736 – 1818)**

### **Man of the Scottish Enlightenment, pioneer in the study of electricity, traveller and travel writer**

Patrick Brydone was one of the celebrated men of letters of his day. Praised by Burns and Scott, he is now almost forgotten.

He was a son of the manse. His maternal grandfather and his father successively held the post of parish minister in Coldingham. His father, Robert Brydone, was minister from 1724 until 1761. He had married Elizabeth, the only daughter of his predecessor, John Dysart.

Patrick attended university and seems to have spent some time soldiering. David Hume refers to him in a letter as “Captain Brydone”. Around 1767, he became interested in electricity.

That year Patrick travelled to Switzerland to continue his experiments with the new medium. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1772 for his work on electricity published as *Philosophical Transactions*, a great honour, considering the august scientists such as Sir Isaac Newton who held the same distinction

One of the early exponents of this new science was Benjamin Franklin, co- author of the American Constitution and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Patrick corresponded with him and Franklin was to become, as was Patrick Brydone himself, a founder member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

After his return from Switzerland, he went travelling again. In 1770, in the company of a Mr. Glover and a Mr. Fullarton, he travelled from Naples through Sicily and Malta. His account of their travels was written as a series of letters.

*“A Tour through Sicily and Malta, in a series of letters to William Beckford Esq.”*

The book went into nine editions and was, for its day, a best seller. He was interested in, and wrote about, botany, geology, agriculture, politics, social conditions and customs and recounted them in a highly readable fashion.

His book was of great influence on subsequent writers.

In retirement at Lennel, Coldstream, he was visited by Burns and Scott and lauded in verse by both. He is alluded to in *The Vision* by Burns where Fullarton is referred to as “Brydon’s brave ward “and a as a “reverend pilgrim” in *Marmion* by Walter Scott.

Here was a man a writer, scientist, a part of the Scottish Enlightenment, a friend and associate of the great and the good of his day, admired by all and lauded by poets and philosophers. He is commemorated by a plaque in the community garden at the Priory and, further afield, he has a street named after him in St Julien, Malta and another in Zafferana Etnea, Sicily.

## **Eliza Logan 1779 -1861**

### **Historical Novelist**

Eliza Logan was the daughter of Daniel Manson, a major in the American Loyalist Army who had fought, unsuccessfully, to retain the American colonies for the British Crown. By the time of Eliza's birth, the family lived in Ednam near Kelso.

Eliza married Robert Logan (1771-1853) on 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1798 and came to live in Coldingham where her husband had the tenancy of Colemill farm.

Colemill was later named Milldown

Here, their son George was born in 1779.

By the 1820's, Eliza was writing the first of her two novels. She wrote to Sir Walter Scott, presumably for advice or for his opinion of her work. Unfortunately, her letter is lost but Scott's reply, dated 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1824, is still lodged in his correspondence.

Her two novels deal, not surprisingly, with the mysterious deeds and plots in which her husband's ancestors, especially Robert Logan of Fast Castle, had been involved.

*St Johnstoune or John, Earl of Gowrie* revolves around the Gowrie conspiracy, a controversial episode in Scottish history, and entwines the fictitious Lady Agnes in a romantic relationship with the factual Earl of Gowrie. By weaving historical fact into her plot, Eliza manages to create a sense of realism in her account and links it through the fictitious character of Walter Logan to the second of her books where, again, she blends historical events with fiction to great effect.

*Restalrig, or Forfeiture* once more recounts part of the Logan family saga. One of the Logan forefathers, the notorious Robert Logan, was posthumously tried and convicted of treason by involvement in the Gowrie plot to kill King James IV. The Eyemouth notary Sprutt had letters in his possession implicating Logan. Eliza believed the letters to be forgeries and, in her novel, they are proved to be so and the Logan lands are restored to the family

Eliza was known to, and influenced by, Scott. This is not surprising given his pre-eminence at the time as a writer of historical fiction.

In his letter to her he refers to her "well esteemed novel" and he seems to have taken an interest in her writing

Eliza Logan's two linked novels, written as fiction, are historical romances about famous people and well-documented events that took place two hundred years before her time. Eliza ensures that the climax in the three volumes of *St. Johnstoune* is an account of what she believes occurred at Gowrie House, where the alleged conspiracy took place.

*Restalrig* appears to have been written to allow Eliza to create a story behind the factual Sprutt letters; in order for her to 'prove' that they were forged.

It can be concluded that the novels were written with the clear aim of convincing her readers that her husband's forbearer, Robert Logan and the Ruthven brothers - The Master of Ruthven and the Earl of Gowrie - were unjustly convicted of a conspiracy against King James VI, but they stand on their own merits as historical novels.

Eliza died on 12<sup>th</sup> April at Seafeld Lodge, Leith.... part of the old Logan lands.

## **David Pae (1828-1884)**

### **Journalist, Novelist, Religious and Political Commentator**

Almost entirely forgotten today, David Pae, evangelical controversialist and founding editor of the *People's Friend*, was undoubtedly one of the most widely read novelists in mid-Victorian Britain. Over fifty of his sensational serial stories were syndicated in a wide range of weekly newspapers throughout Scotland and the English provinces from the mid-1850s to the 1880s

William Pae, a meal miller and Janet Paterson married in Ayton in 1818. They moved to Perthshire where David, the youngest of their children was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 1828. A tragic accident resulted in the death of William, causing Janet to return to Coldingham with her family and the infant David. They lived at Douglas Cottage, High Street  
The 1841 census records the family as Janet aged 45years, Margaret (teacher) aged 20, William aged 15 and David aged 13.

By the time of the 1851 census, he was lodging in Edinburgh and working as a printer's warehouseman. Printers ink was already becoming part of his life.

He continued to work for Thomas Grant, the Edinburgh publisher and contributed stories to the *Penny Post*, *The North Briton*, and the *Theatre* in Edinburgh. Later he moved on to Dundee where he had twenty seven works of fiction serialised in the *Peoples Journal* from 1863 to his death at the comparatively young age of fifty-six in 1884. He also worked as drama critic for the Dundee Evening Telegraph

He was, if not the originator of the serialised novel, then one of its greatest exponents.

He was the founding editor of the *People's Friend*, a Scottish institution to this day.

His most famous novel was *Lucy the Factory Girl*. It was well received and hugely popular

'William Black, James Payn, Walter Besant, and even Miss Braddon . . . cannot hold up a candle to David Pae.'

Jesse Quail, editor of the *Northern Daily Telegraph*, in 1886

'*Lucy, the Factory Girl* includes a substantial element of fantasy and wish fulfillment . . . it is an urban fairy-tale with echoes of Cinderella and Ali Baba, but . . . the main intention is deadly serious.

The novel delivers an unrelenting attack on the commercial ethos, the devouring materialism which the author saw as threatening to engulf Scotland.'

William Donaldson, *Popular Literature in Victorian Scotland* (1986)

Pae's works also included scenes remembered from his childhood. *Eustace the Outcast* is subtitled *The smugglers of St Abbs*, no doubt recalling tales he heard as a boy.

Other titles include:

*Jessie Melville or the Double Sacrifice*

*George Sandford or the Drapers Assistant*

*Fraud or Friendship*

*The Merchant's Daughter or Love and Mammon*

And many more

Pae also wrote several religious and political books such as

*The coming struggle among the nations of the Earth*

*The powers of Europe and the world's great quarrel*

His son, David Pae (1864-1948) continued in the family tradition, joining the Institute of Journalists in 1893. He was the author of numerous serialized stories and books of Scottish sketches.



## **William Edward Tirebuck (1854-1900)**

### **Journalist, Essayist, Critic and Novelist**

Born in Liverpool of Welsh parentage, William left school early to seek employment in various offices while searching for a career in journalism. He was a lifelong friend of Thomas Hall Caine who had also left school early and, like William, was largely self taught. The two set up various ventures into journalism and publishing in Liverpool with limited success. They formed, with others, the Notes and Queries club to discuss art, literature and politics mainly of a Christian –socialist, left wing philosophy.

Caine became secretary to the poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti and their paths diverged. Hall Caine, as he became known, went on to become the highest paid author in Britain and his novels achieved huge success, some being dramatised for the stage and early films. He was later knighted.

William continued to work as a journalist on the Liverpool Mail and the Yorkshire Evening Post, joining the Institute of Journalists in 1887 and producing art criticism and essays on the poetry of Coleridge and Lamb

He wrote several novels; one of his early works, *Miss Grace of All Souls* was praised by none other than Tolstoy who considered some of the passages as “the best works of English fiction” Inspired, perhaps, by this glowing tribute, he decided in 1894 to devote himself entirely to novel writing. To this end, he took a cottage in Coldingham where he was looked after by his devoted sister. They lived at St Margarets, The Hill where he produced many of his later works including his final book, *Twixt God and Mammon*.

His time in Coldingham was spent “without much means or great prospects but with earnest purpose, high hopes and a good conscience”

Despite his books being well received, his income from writing was poor and he returned to Liverpool then went to live in Wales, his ancestral home. The early death of his sister was a great blow and his own life was cut tragically short by pneumonia at the age of forty - five. His last work *Twixt God and Mammon* was published posthumously prefaced with a *Memoir* by his life long friend Hall Caine.

“...it adds to the natural sorrow at an author’s death in his fullness and prime, that his work was stopped at the moment when his forces seemed entirely at his command... If he had lived he would certainly have gone far...”

A talented writer who was not given the time to develop his art, his stay in Coldingham resulted in many of his finest works.

**Bibliography:-**

St Margaret  
Sweetheart Gwen  
Miss Grace of All Souls  
The Little Widow  
Tales of the Welsh Hills  
Meg of the Scarlet Foot  
The White Woman  
'Twixt God and Mammon

**Essays and Criticism :-**

William Daniels, the Rembrandt of Liverpool  
Great minds in art  
The poetical works of Bowles, Lamb and Hartley Coleridge, selected  
Dante Gabriel Rossetti, his work and influence, including a brief survey of recent art tendencies

## **Evelyn Blantyre Simpson (1855 – 1920)**

### **Biographer and writer on folk-lore**

The daughter of the notable physician, Professor Sir James Young Simpson, she was christened Eve. Her father pioneered the use of chloroform in anaesthesia especially in childbirth. He was Professor of Medicine and Midwifery at the University of Edinburgh.

EBS was one of nine children, five of whom predeceased their parents.

Robert Louis Stevenson was a family friend especially of Walter Grindley Simpson, brother of EBS. Simpson family tradition has it that RLS requested Evelyn's hand in marriage but was gently refused by Walter as head of the family.

Evelyn never married. She wrote a biography of her father and of Robert Louis Stevenson. She also wrote a noted account of Lowland Scottish folk lore. She built the house called Bonar Dub on what was then a small holding at the edge of Coldingham.

### **Published Works :-**

Nelson and Puck: dogs of other days, 1882.

Sir James Y. Simpson, 1896, (Famous Scots Series)

Robert Louis Stevenson's Edinburgh Days, 1898.

Robert Louis Stevenson, 1905. ('Spirit of the age series')

Folk lore in lowland Scotland, 1908.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Originals, with illustrations, 1912.

## Annie S. Swan 1859 – 1943

### **Novelist, Writer of non-fiction and short stories, poet, suffragist, political commentator**

Annie Shepherd Swan CBE was a writer, journalist, novelist and short story writer. Although she used her maiden name for most of her literary career, Swan also wrote under the pen names **David Lyall** and later **Mrs. Burnett-Smith**. She was a highly popular writer of romantic fiction for young women from the Victorian era to the onset of World War II. She published more than 200 novels, serials, short stories and other works of fiction from 1878 to her death in 1943.

Many of her stories appeared in magazines of the period, such as *The Woman at Home* and *The People's Friend*, which she long regarded as the mainstay of her writing career.

She was one of the earliest female authors to contribute to women's magazines, especially when they were first becoming popular during the late 19th century, and later became an influential figure in the industry. Because of her dominance over the *Women at Home*, editor-in-chief W.R. Nicoll often called it "Annie Swan's Magazine". She later became editor of the magazine from 1893 to 1917.

Swan was very active in politics during her lifetime. A well-known suffragist, she was a member of the Liberal Party and was its first female candidate when she stood for the Maryhill division of Glasgow in 1922. She was also a founding member and vice president of the Scottish National Party.

Born near Gorebridge, Midlothian, she was one of seven children. Her father farmed at Templehall, Coldingham. The venture was unsuccessful and the family had to leave but she continued to visit the area. Her first successful novel *Aldersyde* is set in a coastal community in the Scottish Borders; *St Veda's or the Pearl of Orr's Haven* features St Abbs and *Carlowrie* is set around Tyneholm in nearby East Lothian.

Her contemporary, Margaret Oliphant criticised her work upsetting Swan who admitted being influenced by the Oliphant's own writing. She was, however, praised by no less a figure than Prime Minister, William Ewart Gladstone.

Her influence was so great in this part of the world that several of her titles have been given to houses in the village and surrounding area viz. Carlowrie, Aldersyde, St Vedas, Orrs Haven

Recently, her contribution to the development of popular fiction has been favourably reassessed and some of her novels have been reprinted.

## **William Gordon Burn Murdoch (1862 - 1939)**

**Artist, explorer, hunter, geographer, angler, traveller, writer, piper Scottish Nationalist,**

It is almost impossible to categorise W. G. Burn Murdoch, his interests, expertise and abilities were so broad. He travelled extensively throughout the British Isles, Europe, China, the Arctic and Antarctic.

In 1880 he attended the University of Edinburgh to read law but his interests turned to art and he left to study at Antwerp under Charles Verlat who also taught Vincent Van Gogh. He also lived in Florence, Naples and Madrid

Through Patrick (later Sir Patrick) Geddes, another polymath - geographer, pioneer in town planning, biologist, botanist, sociologist, W.G. B.M. was introduced to William Speirs Bruce who arranged for the two of them to join the Dundee Antarctic Expedition. Despite its title, it was primarily a whaling trip but they did manage some notes, photographs and watercolours. Burn Murdoch later elaborated his sketches and notes into a book, written in an odd chatty prose style, uncommon for its day - *From Edinburgh to the Antarctic*.

His paintings and sketches were used to illustrate many other books and accounts. Geddes credited the two men with creating the interest that led to the great age of polar exploration culminating in Scott and Amundsen's race to the Pole.

His interest in whaling continued and he formed the St Abbs Whaling Company. Along with a Norwegian called Henrikson, he designed and had built, an advanced diesel powered whaler called the St Ebba which went hunting for whales in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. He wrote a book of his adventures - *Modern whaling and bear hunting*. The book contains a photograph of WGBM playing the bagpipes in Eastern Greenland where the narwhals answered "our sweet strains with groans, whether of approval or other wise one could not tell"

He hunted caribou in Newfoundland and presented a polar bear to Edinburgh Zoo, serving as honorary treasurer of the Zoological Society of Scotland.

Travelling with his wife to Asia in 1908, he cruised up the Irrawaddy and crossed into China. His book describing his travels was published as *From Edinburgh to India and Burmah*.

In addition to his many other talents, he played the guitar, "had a delightful singing voice", was an expert swordsman, and was said to have introduced skiing to Scotland!

There appears to have been no limits to his interests as he published several works on fishing and salmon and, at Westloch House, he conducted experiments on the rearing of trout.

He married Jean Binning Usher in 1897 and lived at Arthur Lodge, on Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh and at Westloch House, Coldingham. The Usher family had much to do with the development of Coldingham Shore as it was called, into modern day St Abbs. His wife died in 1927.

As well as being a fervent Scottish Nationalist, he was an active member of P.E.N. the international writers association and, in 1936 a special reception was held in his honour.

A painting by WGBM of Dr. Macdougall, the revered local doctor, hangs in the Robertson Memorial Hall, Coldingham

## **Jessie Lamont (1910-1999)**

### **Poet and linguist**

Jessie Lamont was born in Coldingham, a daughter of the manse, and is buried in the Priory kirk-yard.

Prior to WWII, she travelled extensively in Europe and was a published poet in *Time and Tide* and *Chambers Journal* alongside Robert Graves and Virginia Woolf.

Fluent in several languages, she worked as a translator at Bletchley Park, the famous code-breaking site in WWII before returning to a teaching career.

Much of her poetry reflected her love of Berwickshire.

Her work has been republished by the Coldingham Society and is available at the Community Bookshop

### **A Berwickshire Road and More Poems**

an anthology of Jessie Lamont's work published by Coldingham Society 2016

## A Walk with Writers

This is a guide to a walk round our historic village passing the places associated with authors who have stayed for a time, be it short or long, in Coldingham.

**The houses mentioned are private dwellings so are not accessible to the public** but following the trail and identifying each makes for a pleasant walk which can be varied to suit abilities and inclinations.

Stand in the Square with your back to the Priory. A glance along the High Street to your right will allow you to pick out the white **Douglas Cottage**, childhood home of **David Pae**, prolific journalist and author. Turn the other way to your left and set off down Bridge Street. You will pass a house called “Carlowrie” named after one of the novels of **Annie S. Swan**. Go on to the fork in the road and take the Reston Road up the rather steep hill. On the left at the fork is a small white cottage where **George Dunbar**, classicist and lexicographer was born.

At the top of the hill there is a turning to the right which leads to **Templehall Farm**, where **Annie S. Swan’s** father farmed, somewhat unsuccessfully, in her childhood. Further up this road is Abbey Park, formerly known as Bee Park, which was bought for the parents of **Patrick Brydone** upon their marriage, by his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Dysart then minister in Coldingham. Returning to the Reston Road, cross from the end of the Templehall road to the track directly opposite. This is known as the Cockit Hat path, presumably because of the triangular shape of the field, now the archery field, at its end. The path affords some fine views of the village with Coldingham Law from whence Cromwell is said to have bombarded the Royalists in the Priory. Beyond the village can be seen St Abbs head with Kirk Hill, the site of Aebba’s original nunnery.

At the end of the path, turn left down to the Ayton road and, continuing to bear left, return to the village via the A1107.



As you re-enter the village, you will pass a house secluded behind ancient trees. This is **Bonar Dub** and was built by **Evelyn Blantyre Simpson**, biographer of RLS and daughter of Sir James Young “Chloroform” Simpson.

After Bonar Dub, turn right down Manse Road to cross the little stone footbridge that leads to the Priory.

Short walk down the road to your right alongside the burn will lead you to the entrance to the Georgian manse where **Jessie Lamont** poet and linguist was born.

Turn round and return to the little stone foot-bridge and proceed towards the Priory. On the right, the **Community Garden** in the grounds of the Priory has a plaque to **Patrick Brydone**. He was almost certainly born in the original manse which would have stood just beyond the far wall of the garden. His father had, by the time of his birth, succeeded his grandfather to be minister in the Priory church.

Take a while to explore the ruins of what was, at its height, one of the richest and important ecclesiastical foundations in Scotland and home to monks such as **Geoffrey and Reginald**, writers and **recorders of the lives of saints and clerics**.

Leave the Priory grounds by the path along the eastern boundary of the churchyard and go through the gate to take the “Chire-it” path. This is the local name of obscure origin. It has been misinterpreted as “chariot”. Follow the path round to meet the St Abbs Road at the foot of Fishers Brae.

At this point, you can decide whether to make the longer trip out to Milldown, above Coldingham Bay or take the shorter path within the village (see below)\*.

If you take the longer route turn right and walk down towards the beach road. You will pass a house called “Aldersyde”, another of **Annie S. Swan’s** titles. Follow the beach road by the side of Scoutscroft caravan site then take the lane on the right marked “unsuitable for vehicles” and follow it round to **Milldown Farm** erstwhile home of **Eliza Logan**.

The original Georgian house was demolished some years ago and replaced by a bungalow. Continue on the track past the farmhouse down to the St Vedas Hotel named after yet another of **Annie S. Swan's** books.

If you have time and energy, a short stroll takes you down to Coldingham's beautiful beach. At the far end of the sands is the path to St Abbs, the setting for **David Pae's** novel "Eustace the Outcast"

Return to the village by the path from St Vedas beside the beach road and cross the St Abbs road at Scoutscroft to take the unmetalled road opposite alongside the burn. Follow the burn along the pleasant path to the ford.

\*Alternatively, if you wish to avoid the longer loop to Milldown and the beach, cross the St Abbs road from the end of the "Chire – it" path and take the little lane down to the burn side, cross the bridge and turn left along the burn to the ford.

Having reached the ford, if at this stage you have had enough for one day, simply turn up Christisons Brae to the High Street; turn right along past Douglas Cottage and return to the Square for rest and refreshment!

If you wish to press on, then continue along by the burn, cross the wooden footbridge and climb the Hill Path. You will pass the cottage known as **St Margaret's** where **William Edwards Tirebuck** spent some years and wrote his later novels. At the top of the path, the road to the right leads to **West Loch** which is some way distant.

It was the home of **William Burn Murdoch**, travel writer, Arctic explorer, whaler, artist, and musician... a true polymath.

If the long walk to West Loch is not appealing, then a left turn will take you by the pretty winding lane to the school at the top of the School Road and thus back downhill to the Square.





Aerial photo courtesy of Aaron Wilson  
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**Coldingham**  
**The Writers Village**



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Wind Generation

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