

ECMHA NEWSLETTER

REPORT FROM THE AGM, 19 JULY, 2003

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Special points of interest:

- Emergency repairs to cottages carried out
- Water colours of cottages acquired
- News of East Kit Hill Mine
- Photos from AGM day
- AGM and accounts

Although only about a dozen people attended the events on the half-day of the AGM, it was an enjoyable occasion all round.

The display masterminded by Caroline Vulliamy was extensive and covered some unexpected aspects of the miners' cottages, East Kit Hill mine and their context.



The AGM itself went smoothly, with useful interventions from the floor!

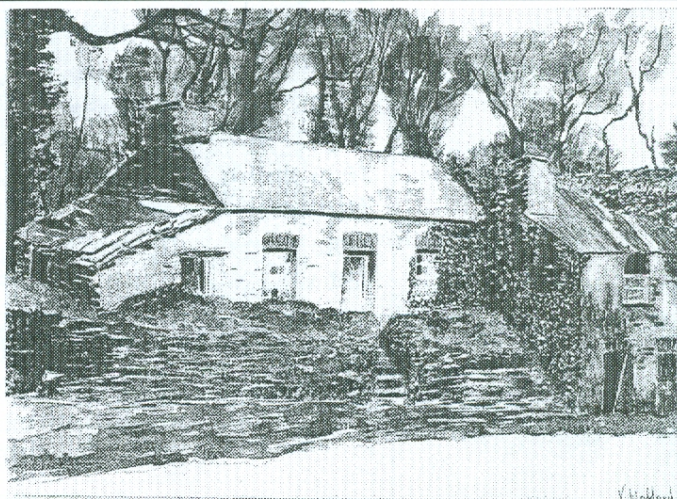
THE COTTAGES

Although the cottages appear to be unchanged and boarded up, actually essential emergency repairs have been carried out by a local craftsman builder:-

- Restoration of two lintels and the stonework above
- Replacement of the galvanised iron roof at south end with new timber support
- Temporary roofing and sealing of the link between the two cottages
- Restoration of outside privy
- Covering of the rear of the upper roof with galvanised iron

One repair which still needs to be done is the provision of temporary gutting to protect the back and front walls.

Featuring the top miner's cottage - from a water colour painted by Valerie Walford in the early 1990s. Another painting details the lower cottage. Both have been acquired by the Association and are currently in the safekeeping of the Editor.

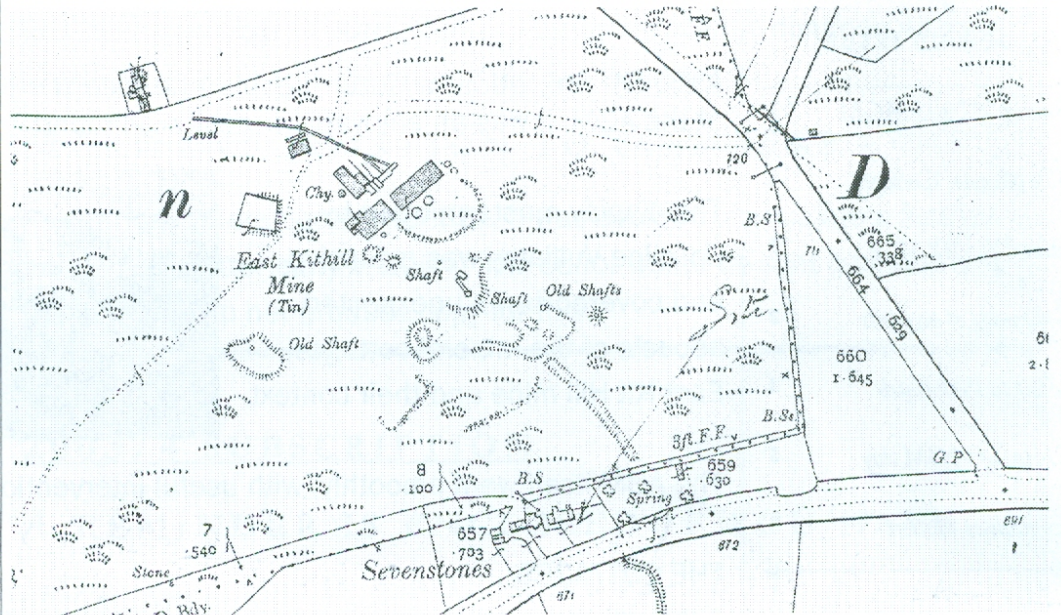


MORE NEWS FROM THE AGM

EAST KIT HILL MINE

Once again the Countryside Stewardship grant has enabled the Association to liaise with a local farmer to cut or graze off the grass around the site.

This plan is from an old OS map. The buildings date from 1853-1870,



“East Kit Hill mine is an important complex in the landscape, and one that deserves every effort to conserve it.”

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

although a magazine building some distance away was probably associated with C20th re-working. The engine house was powered by a set of stamps on its NE side. A boiler house was attached to the other side with a stack attached to it. The dressing floor lay in front of the stamps, and a few buddles are still visible. An arsenic calciner lies nearby, and this appears to have used the boiler house chimney.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS-

The balance as of 22 June 2002 was £1185.78p. The cost of the purchase of the sites was not included in the accounts as it was paid directly by the CET (Countryside Environment Trust) to the Duchy. The emergency work to the cottages was paid out of the Association's funds and cost £1027.00p, but much of this will be recouped when the North Cornwall District Council's grant is paid. Other large expenditure was for insurance at £521.02p and the sum of £370.12p was paid to the Chartered Surveyors for drawing up specifications for the work required on the cottages. As the Association is a charity, the Surveyors kindly reduced their fees and a letter of thanks has been sent in appreciation of this. Apart from grants, the only income was membership subscriptions. (We had about 24 paying members, with 15 life members and 8 members on the list who have paid no subs since 2000 or before.) The time lapse between paying the builder and receiving the grant has meant that the balance as of 19 July 2003 stood at £265.52p, which, whilst rather low, is sufficient to cover short term needs

HOLMBUSH AND WINSOR MINES

A visit to these mine sites took place on the afternoon of the AGM. We were pleased to be joined on the walk by a new member, Bill Mason, whose enthusiasm for geology was infectious and who was able to identify and show us samples from the Holmbush mine dumps. Caroline's detailed commentary was, as ever, enlightening and added much interest to the various ruins. At Winsor mine we met a young couple from the complex of mine buildings, now dwellings, and were able to tell them a little background to where they were living.



The engine house c.1875 and stack of Holmbush Mine, 19 July 2003.

After the walk, we sat down to a delicious tea prepared by Simon Streatfield, ably assisted by Kim Tasker, before tackling the more serious business of the AGM.



The Old School, Stoke Climsland, 19 July 2003. Left to right: Janet Cambridge, Bill Mason, Brian Spencer (standing), Kim Tasker, Geoff Walford (standing), Jim and Daphne James, Caroline Vulliamy (standing). Photo by Susan Pittman.

"Kelly Bray grew up round this mine, which with its neighbouring workings was the principal employer in the district; in the 1840s it had over 250 men." Frank Booker

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COMMITTEE MATTERS—

Members of the Committee are: Brian Spencer (Chairman), Caroline Vulliamy (Secretary), Kim Tasker (Treasurer), Jim James, Marcia Randall (confirmed after AGM).

Philip Matthews retired from the Committee because of heavy commitments and was thanked for his contribution to the running of the Association over a number of years. Susan Pittman agreed to continue as membership secretary and as editor of the newsletter.

MORE INFORMATION TO MEMBERS -

To keep members better informed, It was decided to circulate a further simple newsletter early in 2004. The editor would be sent agendas and minutes to help her produce copy for this.

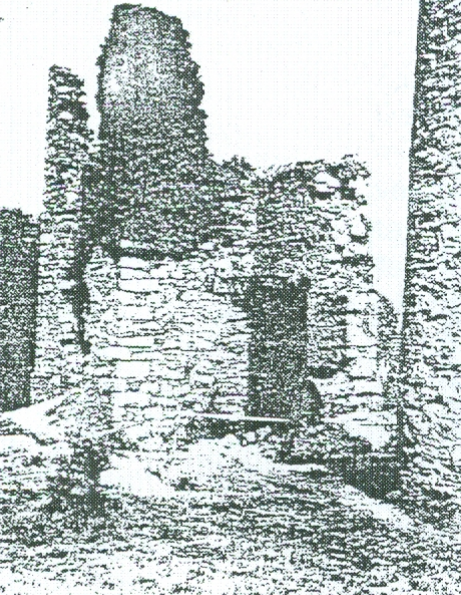
2003 / 4 SUBSCRIPTION

A REMINDER IS ENCLOSED IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID £5 FOR 2003-2004.

GIFT AID FORMS

FOR ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE FILL IN & RETURN THE GIFT AID FORMS , SO THE ASSOCIATION CAN GAIN THE TAX BENEFITS.

East Kit Hill Mine



PLEASE CAN YOU GIVE ANY HELP?

The Committee is a dedicated team, but needs more people to share in the decision making. There are also opportunities for people with practical, technical or specialist skills to become involved and all are urgently needed as restoration proceeds. Please contact the Editor if you would like to offer your services—anything from vegetation clearance, computer and clerical skills, to research is needed and a task can soon be found to suit!