

AUTUMN 2004

ECMHA NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- Chairman's report
- Grant from Awards for All
- Money matters
- Wheal Benny visit
- Painting of cottages
- Committee matters

CHARITY NUMBER 1082887

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM AGM, 19 JUNE 2004

Some eleven days prior to the AGM I attended the launch of the new AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Association. This particular plan covers the period 2004 - 2009 and the intentions outlined therein will inevitably concern our more modest endeavours. To put the launch into context: all 41 AONBs in England and Wales had to submit new management plans to government earlier this year and I can honestly say that the Tamar Valley team have produced a nice professional looking document. As is usual with such things one has to go to the appendices to see the specific actions they wish to adopt and it is one or two of these I shall now mention.

Regarding the issue of "Landscape Heritage" there are seven specific projects itemised one of which is titled "Historic Sites Conservation" about which they say - "Encourage proper management of scheduled sites of historic importance. Target: Map sites, develop programme". Well, I think we are ahead of the game on that one. It is important though that we remind them about our two sites and how our plans fit into the project just described.

Now moving onto the issue of "Leisure Landscapes" one of the projects is for a Copper Mining Trail linking the Tamar Valley to Caradon Hill with a target completion by 2009 (subject to funding). I'm not sure that a route has been firmed up yet but it seems likely that it will be close to the East Kit Hill Mine site. Therefore we are more than a little interested in exactly what is going to happen with this and we would need to liaise with our friends at the AONB as things develop.

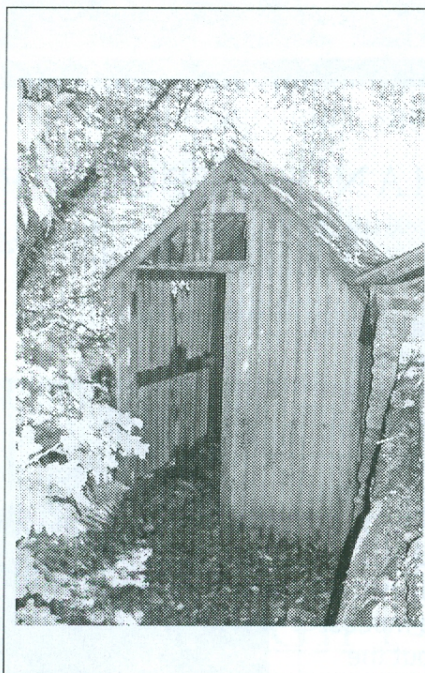
Space doesn't permit to go into more detail about the Management Plan but if you wish to see the whole thing go to their website at www.tamarvalley.org.uk



Brian Spencer, Chairman, and Caroline Vulliamy, Secretary, ready to start the AGM in the Old School, Stoke Climsland

Brian Spencer

'AWARDS FOR ALL' LOTTERY GRANT APPROVED



The restored privy with galvanised iron roof and sides. Old sheets of galvanised iron were used to give it authenticity.

Caroline was pleased to announce at the AGM that she had just heard from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant scheme that ECMHA's application had been successful.

The grant will enable detailed specifications for the restoration of the miners' cottages to be drawn up. This will be done by David Scott, the historic buildings expert who has given advice on the cottages in the past. The application for the grant was supported by the Conservation Officer of North Cornwall District Council and the grant will pay for David Scott's fees.

Once the specifications have been drawn up Listed Building consent will be required. ECMHA will also be in a position to make an application to the Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant towards full restoration.

All this involves considerable work by Caroline and the committee. At the AGM all were thanked for their commitment and dedication.

All the restoration work on the miners' cottages scheduled for 2003 has been done. Now we look ahead for detailed specifications for complete restoration to be drawn up.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We started the account period from 19 July 2003 with £265.52p and finished it on 19 June 2004 with £739.83p, so our balance is in a healthier position than last year.

19 members paid for membership in this accounting period, with renewals and new membership totalling £120. This figure is higher than £5 per person because a few people have paid for either past or future years as well. I would like to thank Susan Pittman for her help as Membership Secretary.

Our highest outgoing payments at £396.41p are to give us full insurance cover.

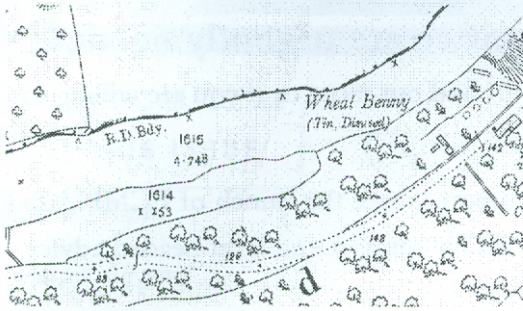
Unfortunately, the Bank stopped paying interest on the account in September 2003 and we are currently investigating the reason for this. Hopefully, the problem will soon be rectified.

As usual the Rural Payments Agency kindly sent us their payment which amounted to £791.75 this year. This covers work done under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Kim Tasker

NB . Paid-up membership totals 24, with 16 life members, 13 have submitted Gift Aid forms, which add 28p per £1 income to ECMHA from subs and gifts. (Susan Pittman)

VISIT TO WHEAL BENNY, 19 JUNE 2004



A small group met in good weather to explore Wheal Benny in Greenscombe Wood near Luccett. There are extensive remains to be seen including two impressive wheel pits with a lead we were able to trace from the c.1908 Ordnance Survey map. The mine and its associated buildings lie on a steep slope down to the river and this, and the dense vegetation, make exploration difficult, but we were able to pick

out the site of the Brunton calciner introduced by the 1850s, of which Wheal Benny has one of the best examples. The reverberatory calciners were earlier and 5 examples are known in the Tamar area, the one at Blogsters mine being one of the best, and the others are at Redmoor, the Lower Silver Valley mine and at our site of East Kit Hill mine. Alongside the footpath near Wheal Benny was the shell of the count house or mine offices, where it is believed the mine manager once lived. Unfortunately it was deliberately rendered uninhabitable to avoid squatters taking up residence in the Second World War period.

Interestingly, from ECMHA viewpoint, H.G. Dines in *The Metalliferous Mining Region of S.W. England* (1956) states that from about 1918-1920 Wheal Benny was run in conjunction with the East Kit Hill Mine, although he does not state the source of this information. Recorded outputs at that time were 5 tons of arsenic and 12 cwt of black tin and wolfram.



Caroline (left) with Bill Mason, Brian Spencer and Chris Perrett on the walk studying Wheal Benny wheel pit.

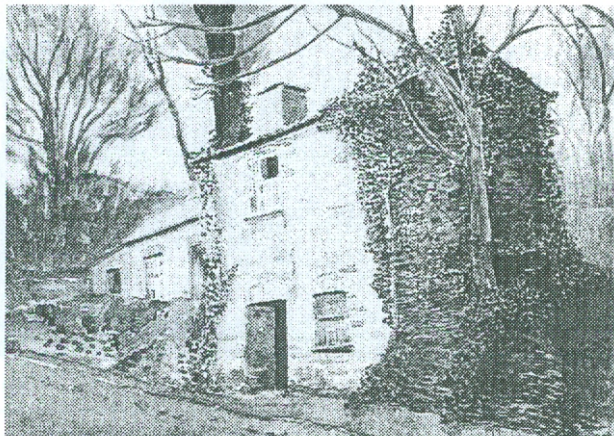
Thanks to Bill Mason and John Viant there was an interesting display of geological specimens beautifully set out and labelled at the AGM.

The TV programme videoed by Simon Streatfield turned out to be a fascinating, but harrowing, documentary about the silver mine Cero Rico in Bolivia. The miners work in atrocious conditions, die young and remain poor.

"The historic building conservation world is just waking up to the idea that small things like the miners' cottages are just as important in their own way as more impressive larger buildings."

Brian Spencer

Featuring Valerie Walford's second water colour of the miners' cottages painted in the 1990s. Both this painting and the one shown in last year's Newsletter have been acquired by the Association.



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COMMITTEE MATTERS -

Members of the Committee are: Brian Spencer (Chairman), Caroline Vulliamy (Secretary), Kim Tasker (Treasurer), Marcia Randall. This is a small number and is likely to cause problems with meeting the quorum. **Other volunteers to serve on the Committee are urgently needed.**

Please make contact if you would like to find out more or if you are willing to offer your services.

Jim James, who has served on the Committee since the launch of ECMHA did not seek re-election. He was thanked for his support and level-headed advice throughout his years of service.

2004/5 SUBSCRIPTION

A REMINDER IS ENCLOSED IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID £5 FOR 2004-2005. THE SUBSCRIPTION ROUGHLY RUNS FROM AGM TO AGM.

GIFT-AID FORMS

IF YOU DID NOT RETURN YOUR FORM LAST YEAR ANOTHER IS ENCLOSED. THERE ARE ALSO FORMS FOR LIFE MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME, SINCE THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE A GIFT IN THE FUTURE.

Broadgate Mine near Lockett, June 2004



ECMHA