

EAST CORNWALL MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Charity number: 1082887

From: Susan Pittman, Membership secretary and Newsletter editor
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Dear Friends,

I have had to have an extension for completion of my PhD so there is no specially designed newsletter again this year. However, on the reverse of this letter is a page of up-to-date information taken from Caroline Vulliamy's report to the AGM.

The treasurer also made a report to the AGM, the accounts showing a healthy balance of £9018.25p. £8700 of this total is the grant from the Lottery Fund, and is already being spent on recording the window and door details of the Lockett cottages, prior to their restoration. Chief outgoings have been for insurance and to BTCV for clearance of vegetation at the two sites. As many of you are life members, our annual income from membership is falling. We need to recruit more members and hope that when work has been done on the cottages more local support to forge further ahead will be forthcoming.

By the way, do look at our website. We are hoping to update it more regularly as work progresses.

I do hope you will continue to support the Association and that next year you will enjoy a proper Newsletter from me,

With best wishes,

Other Contacts:

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Treasurer:

Miss Kim Tasker

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NEWS UPDATE FOR 2010 (based on the Secretary's Report at the AGM)

East Kit Hill Mine – Trenches have been completed to take extra earthing for the lightning conductor. These went through what appear to be a) a lot of waste from the boilers, b) spare stone brought to site when building the stack, etc. Robert Waterhouse is coming this week to draw these on sections, for future use with groups of children etc making educational visits. During the initial work, which showed up the two tunnels coming from the boilers to the stack – one blocked and superseded by the other when the boilers were enlarged – several bricks were found. These are marked ‘COPP’ which show that they came from brickworks on the Channel Islands, presumably pre-dating all the brickworks on Hingston Down etc. The lightning conductor earthing will be completed and the trenches back-filled as soon as Robert has been.

Luckett Cottages - Work has been advancing on recording everything possible at the cottages. Last year it was the ground surrounding them, and this year it has been the interiors – beginning with the floors and surfaces at the south end, layers of different dates were revealed, including market garden jars and boxes of the later 20th century. Now the slate floors are clear and clean, showing that the slate hearth doesn't quite tie up with the fireplace in the main room – why ?? We have moved on to the windows and doors, starting again at the south end. We were lucky in being awarded a grant to cover the restoration of the doors and windows, and this work has already begun. The carpenter was fascinated to see how very fine are the wooden parts to the windows with glass only 1mm thick ! Our drawings will eventually show all this, too. The window frames appear to have been painted on the inside, but not outside until the Second World War period, when we believed they were lived in for a while – buttermilk and cream paint cover some modifications made and some of the glass panes were mended. Luckily, the jackdaw has not been nesting and Brian Spencer and Susan Pittman removed the huge pile of nesting material on the floor just after the AGM this year..

Several people helped with recording last year, and this year it has been mostly Jenny Kestle of Downgate, together with Brian Spencer and Caroline Vulliamy.

Photos and Documents –

Stoke Climsland Local History Group has been sent a CD of photos held by the RIC Museum, Truro. They include a few which were new to us. One was of the engine house by the Count House in Luckett, which had a square chimney, rising out of the roof, meaning that it was very early - possibly from the late 18th century.

We have a list of Mine Plans at the County Record Office, and it looks as though there may be more, which we have not looked at.

A member of the Mining List is collating a list of all the Abandoned Mine Plans in the country, and where they are held. He has nothing for East Kit Hill as yet, but we can keep hoping!

We are sad to announce the deaths of two inaugural members of ECMHA – Arthur Eade and Geoffrey Walford. Caroline attended both funerals on our behalf. We send condolences to Anne and Valerie and their families.

Requests

- As always, suggestions for groups who may like to visit would be greatly appreciated – please give contact details to Brian or Caroline.
- The ECMHA needs a keeper of documents and other historical information stored in the Parish Archive, but not indexed or catalogued. Any volunteers??