

# NEWSLETTER - 2012

## EAST CORNWALL MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

CHARITY NUMBER 1082887

### Dear Members and Friends,

You will notice that the Newsletter is in a simpler format this year. This is because I am sending it to most of you by e-mail, and not all can download the Publisher version which I have used in the past. Most of you agreed that it be sent by e-mail to save postage costs, but others will have received this by post because you are not on e-mail, or I did not know your e-mail. If you are on e-mail and would like to let me know ([susanpittman@btinternet.com](mailto:susanpittman@btinternet.com)) I can e-mail any future correspondence to you.

I have inserted the Cornish Mining World Heritage logo as a reminder that East Kit Hill Mine and the miners' cottages at Luckett lie within it.



### Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012 at Luckett Social Club

#### Highlights from the Report of Caroline Vulliamy, ECMHA Secretary

##### **Insurance and Safety Works:**

We have spent much of this year having to prioritise the requirements of NFU, their assessor, and their agent 'Riskstop' in order to renew insurance cover, and these are now complete. Following a site visit we have:-

- Added more posts around the top of the mine shaft (extra wiring was provided last year) and added netting along the lower part
- Erected additional signs with approved wording
- Added warning signs and handrails wherever there were changes in level or walls to go over
- Added warning signs and safety barriers at the drop behind the lower cottage



#### **A4A follow-up work – the bluebell wood behind the cottages**

Rowena Millar has written more pieces for use by local school groups, etc. No organised groups were arranged this year because, due to the inclement weather, it looked as though it was going to be a very bad year for bluebells! However, we have been putting down stepping stones and these will be given a number or symbol whenever they are close to one of the points on Rowena's trail.

The Forest School group members are getting to the age when they will be able to follow the trail. The area, such as the possible former horse whim, where they would sit for songs, etc. can now be provided with wood rounds to sit on from a tree recently felled in Luckett. Exercises, like making a string cobweb, may evolve on site, if members agree.

#### **Surveying and renovation work at the cottages**

Robert Waterhouse kindly spent a half day working out with us how to go about recording the difficult lower cottage. Due to the urgent needs for insurance this hasn't happened yet, but Jenny Kestle is ready to help as soon as we can get going again!

- Ken Smith has provided suitable board for all the replacement floorboards needed in the two rooms.
- Paddy Hoare carried out the difficult task of replacing an internal lintel between the two cottages, along with that of a tiny window there.
- He later completed the protection of the upper wall of the lower cottage (thankfully before the start of the wet weather) by adding a layer of galvanised iron where required! This was part of the grant work.

We are now waiting for an estimate from him to be able to apply for funding for all the interior work. We hope that he and Ken Smith will be able to do this – they are the best craftsmen we could hope for, and local!



Brian Spencer and Susan Pittman, with Caroline Vulliamy as photographer, clearing out earth closet

Restored window frame in the top cottage with some original glass saved

Brian Spencer and Caroline Vulliamy have worked out a maintenance plan for the sites, and Brian has carried out a cut and tidy entirely single-handed.

### **SCATS – Stoke Climsland Amateur Theatrical Society**

Katherine Clarke from SCATS is writing a play about mining in Stoke Climsland during the mid-1800s, focusing on Lockett Mine. SCATS members have made a visit with Caroline, including the cottages and mine site. Katherine, who has also been looking at written records, was already interested in why and how the mine caused temporary closure of the school, and now is researching the teaching staff and methods at the time. She has talked with David Seccombe (Withywind) who is going to write the music / songs to be used.

### **Future plans**

- Fix shelving in the new education area
- Sort stored ‘finds’ from the loo
- Record and remove layers of detritus from the earth closet prior to restoration of this feature
- Survey the lower room of the lower cottage, removing floor as part of process, and recording of upper walls.

The earth closet inside, ready for survey, and outside before clearing inside



### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance of £2,295.84p included subscriptions paid since the 2011AGM and all the subscriptions for 2012-2013, because everyone paid so promptly! Membership currently stands at 21 life members and 17 members, who pay annual subscriptions. The largest contribution to income was £2,506.60p from the Rural Payment Agency,

with a welcome £40 raised from the sale of unwanted, donated computer monitors and cables. Our thanks go to Neptune Shipping Agency at Higher Sherwell for these items. Insurance payments of nearly £70 a month took up much of the income. Although the balance has increased from £982.02p last year, money is urgently needed to carry out a programme of progressive restoration.

### Committee matters

Members of the Committee were re-elected: Brian Spencer (Chairman), Caroline Vulliamy (Secretary), Kim Tasker (Treasurer) and Deri Parsons.

Susan Pittman will continue as membership secretary and editor of the newsletter.

The Committee is small, and might not always meet the quorum, so **other volunteers are urgently needed**. Please make contact if you would like to find out more or if you are willing to offer your services.

### Visit to Lockett Mine



(l > r) Gerald and Chris Perrett, Daphne James, Ross and Janet Cambridge, Ann Martin, Kim Tasker and Simon Streatfield

The group of ten, including leader Caroline Vulliamy, met before the AGM to explore that section of the newly established Kit Hill Link Walk running from the Lockett road to Deer Park Farm. This area abuts the woodland behind the miners' cottages and was a thriving ore processing plant into the 1950s, during the last period of Lockett mine's reopening and reworking. Shrouded in woodland was the old arsenic stack, which once poisoned Victorian children in the nearby school, necessitating the building of a new flue and stacks higher up the hill, where one can still be seen near Sand Lane.



Arsenic stack  
along Kit Hill Link  
Walk off Lockett  
Hill

Having explored the woodland walk area, we visited the miners' cottages before going onto the more open parts of New Great Consols mine, where the outwash of the crushing mills has smothered older workings.



After the enjoyable walk in favourable weather, we gathered in Lockett Social Club for a very welcome and delicious tea, produced by Simon Streatfield.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- If you know a group who would **like to visit** the cottages and/or East Kit Hill Mine please make contact (Chairman's details below)
- If you would like to make a **donation** or have any ideas about how to raise immediate income, again please make contact
- If you would like to help gain grants by sending a **letter of support**, contact the Chairman or editor (details below) for guidance and send a copy of your letter to either, so that a file of support letters can be compiled.

## **2012/13 SUBSCRIPTION**

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - NOT ONLY TO SHOW AN INTEREST AND BECOME INVOLVED, BUT ALSO IF YOU WISH TO BOOST REVENUE AND HELP US TO INDICATE LEVEL OF SUPPORT WHEN SEEKING OUTSIDE FUNDING.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £5, LIFE MEMBERSHIP £50**

Editor/Membership Secretary:

Dr Susan Pittman  
27 Old Chapel Road  
Crockenhill  
Swanley  
Kent BR8 8LL

Chairman:

Brian Spencer  
9 Crockers Row  
Gunnislake PL18 9DG

Phone: 01822 834294

Email: [brian.spencer@uwclub.net](mailto:brian.spencer@uwclub.net)

[www.eastcornwallmininghistoryassociation.org.uk](http://www.eastcornwallmininghistoryassociation.org.uk)