

# ECMHA NEWSLETTER

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### Special points of interest:

- AGM report
- Front elevation & plan of cottages
- Money matters
- Jopes & Broadgate visit
- Proposed bridge at Gunnislake
- Committee matters

CHARITY NUMBER 1082887

## FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM, 16 JULY 2005

The most important news was that David Scott, the historic buildings' specialist, had just sent in his detailed specifications for the consolidation and restoration of the two miners' cottages. There had been a delay in his inspection because his expertise had been required in Boscastle where the disastrous flooding had damaged or destroyed many historic buildings.



We like to catch them young! Committee member Marcia Randall with 7-month old daughter, Kelynen, which means Holly in Cornish

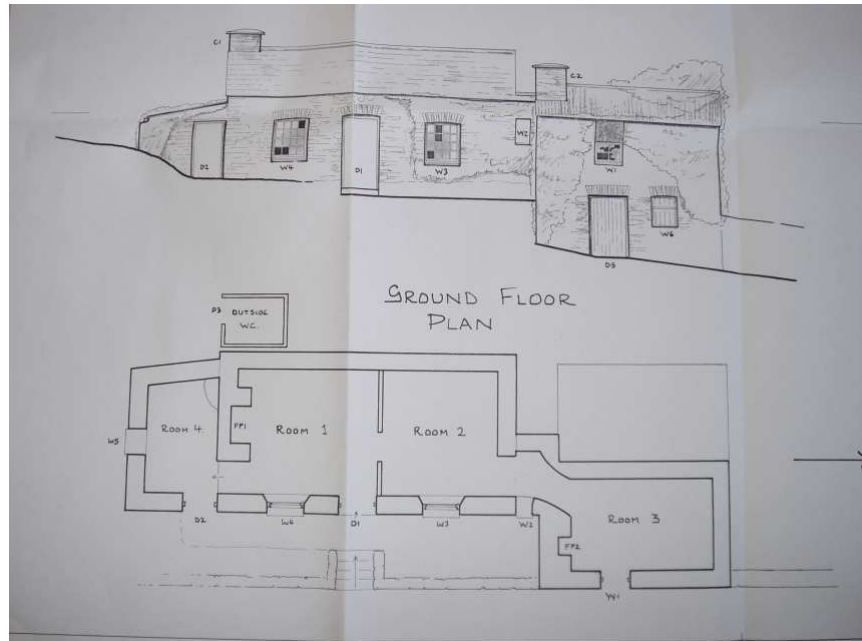
He recommended that urgent works be carried out before the autumn, which might be paid for with the remainder of the 'Awards for All' grant. This work includes the protection or restoration of the roof of the lower cottage and the restoration of the short linking piece of back wall. In general he was agreeably surprised by the condition of the cottages.

Below: Jim James who has been a mainstay of the Committee since its inception and has always been appreciated for his wise counsel and his



Jim James, following his retirement from the Committee last year, receiving a presentation from the secretary. This included a framed photograph of one of the many working parties at the cottages in which he has featured. Brian Spencer, chairman, in the background

## Copy of the front elevation and ground floor plan of the old miners' cottages



Reproduced from the 'Specifications for Repair and Conservation Work' by David Scott of Scott & Company, Truro

*Now that the specifications have been received a builder can be found to undertake urgent repair work in the autumn*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

We started the account period from 19 June 2004 with £739.83p and finished it on 16 July 2005 with £6755.24p, so our balance is in a very healthy position. This is simply because we have received two grants. £5000 from Awards for All, most of which will shortly be paid to David Scott for the plans and specifications for the consolidation and restoration of the old cottages. As usual the Rural Payments Agency kindly sent us its payment which amounted to £1461.65 this year. This covers management work, especially at East Kit Hill Mine.

18 members paid for membership in this accounting period, and with life members the total membership stands at 47. There had been a good response to the Gift Aid forms. I would like to thank Susan Pittman for her help as Membership Secretary.

Our highest outgoing payments totalling £336.07p were to give us full insurance cover.

*Kim Tasker*

VISIT TO JOPES AND BROADGATE  
ENGINEHOUSE,  
16 JULY 2005



A small group met in good weather in Lockett car park and walked across the New Great Consols mine area towards Jopes Cottage. At Jopes Cottage we were greeted by David and Margaret Seaward who led us down to the stream, which some forded and others jumped. In this area there is

evidence of extensive tin streaming, judging by the various humps and bumps all over the valley floor.

At the bottom of the valley slopes, on both sides, there are continuous, sinuous walls which we inspected. Along the Jopes Cottage southern boundary there used to be a mill leat, but no such feature would explain the wall on the other side of the stream. Also we thought that we had found signs of the leat on higher



The wall at the foot of the valley slope running parallel to the stream past Jopes Cottage, February 2005

ground above the wall. A very tenuous conclusion was that these walls represented the outer limits of tin streaming, demarcated to prevent the miners' intruding further into the ancient deer park.



We walked on towards New Mill and up to Broadgate to have a closer look at the very impressive Broadgate engine house, recently cleared of ivy and one of only four with their original roofs.

*“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*

PROPOSED NEW FOOTBRIDGE AT GUNNISLAKE

This proposal for a new bridge south of Newbridge has come from the Tamar Valley AONB service. Its purpose would be to link the Cornish and Devonshire banks so that new trails could be put in. There were several reservations expressed at the AGM. These centred on the visual intrusion; the effect on historic structures; the damage to wildlife if the woods were opened to more visitors; and highway considerations, such as the provision for parking. It was agreed that a letter be sent expressing our concerns

## 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.

## 2005/6 SUBSCRIPTION

A REMINDER IS ENCLOSED IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID £5 FOR 2005-2006. 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 SINCE THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE A GIFT IN THE FUTURE.

**ECMHA**

### INVITATION

*You are invited to join Stoke Climsland Local History Group for a walk, guided by Brian Spencer, through **Gunnislake** and along the **Tamar river bank** (be prepared for mud!)*

*On Saturday 4th February 2006.*

*Meet at 10.00 am at Stoke Climsland Old School (to share cars).*

*There will be a stop for a pub lunch.*

*Return to Stoke Climsland approx. 3.00—3.30 pm.*

For more details  
**Contact: Bill Watson**  
**370715**

East Kit Hill Mine from north, 13 July 2005

