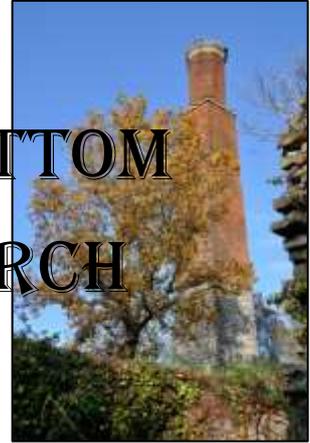


# FRIENDS OF BRANDY BOTTOM COLLIERY, PUCKLECHURCH

Newsletter N<sup>o</sup> 6, February 2015



The emphasis was on reconstruction again this quarter. The roof of the Horizontal Engine House is now watertight and rebuilding of the base of the chimney is almost complete.

## Progress: December 2014 - February 2015

The masons completed laying the waterproof membrane on the roof of the Horizontal Engine House by mid-November 2014, though there is still some work to be done by the volunteers in securing the edges and finishing off the drains at the corners. The photo to the right shows the top in early December. Ken and Martin can be seen walking on the protective layer of gravel that covers the membrane. Somebody remarked that the gravel would make a fine pitch for a game of boules. The benefits of the membrane can be seen already, as the inside of the house has been kept dry over the Christmas/New Year break in work parties. Another, if unintentional, benefit has been the creation of a dry spot where we can shelter from inclement weather.



Work on rebuilding the base of the chimney in the Old Boiler House continued. The photo on the right shows progress at the end of the 06 December work party. The original flue, which is being kept as a feature, can be seen in the centre of Fig 2, which was taken on 09 November. Fig 3 shows progress towards the end of the 11 February work party, while Fig 4 is a close-up of the top of the rebuilt flue. As can be seen from Fig 3, the brickwork to the left of the flue is now complete. The base of the rebuilt section is solid brick, and above it is a brick skin, keyed to the existing masonry with wire ties and filled with concrete. The bricks used have been recovered from the debris in the floor of the building.



The rebuild of the first section of the north-east wall of the same building was completed, apart from trimming the capping stones, and this can be seen in Fig 5.

There was a site inspection by English Heritage in mid-December, at which plans for future work were discussed. English Heritage may be able to fund some work by the masons in 2015, though this has still to be finalised.

The path along the base of the north-west wall of the New Pit heapstead has almost reached the bottom of the ramp, greatly improving access to it. Among the finds were the two track spikes seen to the right.



An account of progress, with photographs, can be seen on the AIBT's website, together with copies of past newsletters.

## Future Projects

There was a meeting in December to review progress in 2014 and plan what was to be done in 2015. The top priority items for 2015 are: finishing the repairs to the top of the chimney; stabilising the brick roof of the Pumping Shaft crossover; and rebuilding the side of the Pumping Shaft. In the next level of importance are: conserving the New Pit Passage; clearing the fan ducts and repointing their walls; clearing vegetation from the tops of the Cornish Engine House walls and strengthening the southern end of the bob wall; bracing the north-east wall of the Old Boiler House against the heapstead and finishing work on the building's curved north-western wall.

Dates of proposed work parties for the remainder of 2015 are:

Sat 21 Feb; Wed 11, Sat 21 Mar; Wed 08, Sat 17 Apr; Wed 06, Sat 16 May; Wed 03, Sat 13 Jun; Wed 01, Sat 11 Jul; Sat 01, Wed 12, Sat 29 Aug; Wed 09, Sat 26 Sep; Wed 07, Sat 17 Oct; Wed 04, Sat 14 Nov; Sat 05 Dec.

Please note that these dates may be altered at short notice. Newcomers are advised to first make contact via the AIBT's email address of [info@aibt.org](mailto:info@aibt.org).

## Photographs



Fig 1 – The work party inspects the newly-laid membrane on the roof of the Horizontal Engine House on 19 November 14.



Fig 2 – Progress on rebuilding the base of the chimney on 19 November 14.



Fig 3 – Rebuild of the base of the chimney towards the end of 11 February 15 work party.



Fig 4 – Close-up of the capping stone on the top of the rebuilt flue on 11 February 2015.



Fig 5 – The finishing touches being made to the rebuilt section of the north-east wall of the Old Boiler House.



Fig 6 – The top of the New Pit heapstead on a cold December morning.

All photos are by Robin Whitworth (© 2014, 2015). Size is indicated by either a yellow/black 30 cm, or a black/white 1 foot, or a white/blue 5 cm scale.