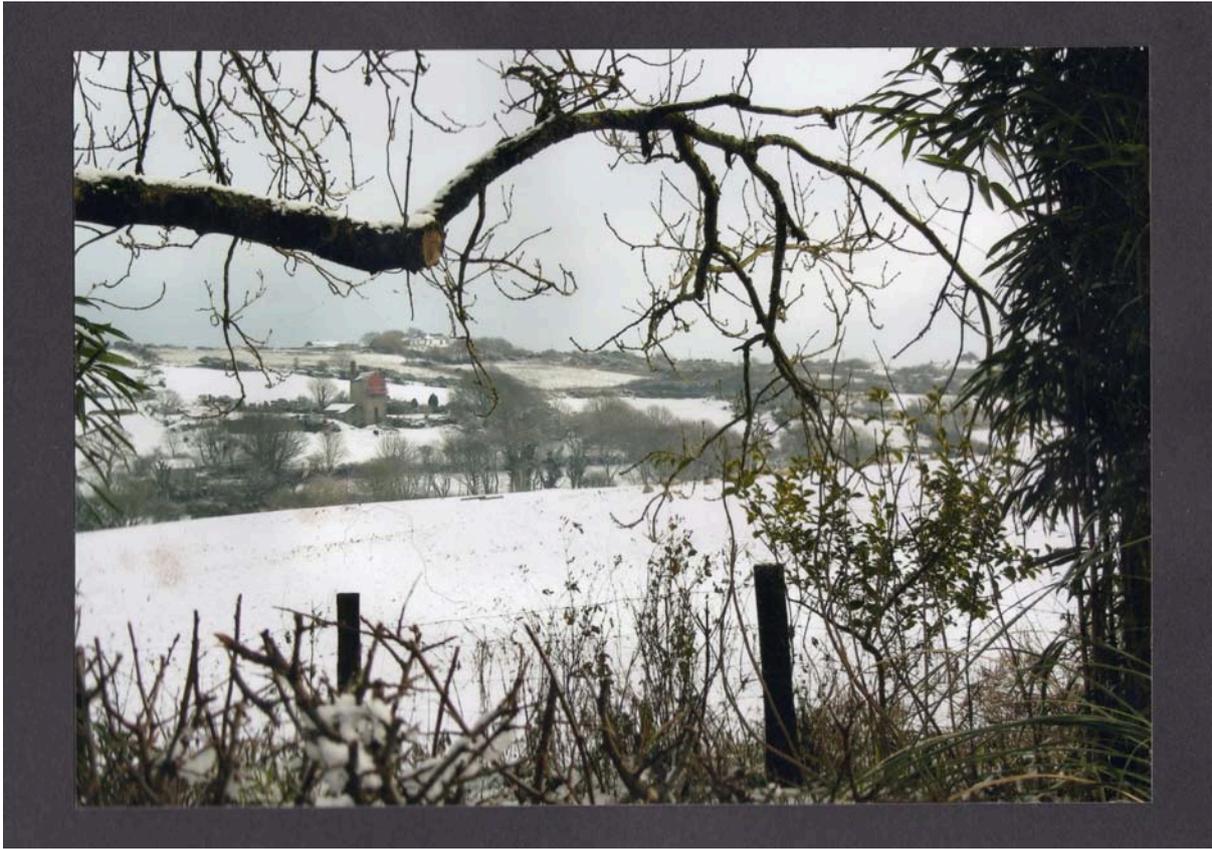


## Wheal Enys Account House.



A neighbour from across the valley was kind enough to deliver me a Christmas card yesterday which was a photo taken of my house and land in the snow from where she lives across the hill in a hamlet called Lezerea. She referred to it as my manor! Of course it is not this now as I only own half the once imposing house and a fraction of the land that used to go with it. However it once could be said to have been the manor house of Porkellis.

Below I will post something of the history of my home. These are just really my personal notes as I used to write as a correspondent for local newspapers and also take great interest in the history of the local area and over the years have talked to those that remember some of its history. I once thought of writing a small book on it so I took notes.

Below are my notes pertaining to the history my house and land and some of the area.

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I have no exact idea of how the house I live in came to lose its true name which is Enys and wish it had not as on my documents referred to as Wheal Enys Account House, Enys Estate, Enys House and Enys Mansion?

All I know is that when I bought it, it was then called Bayview? Which seemed to me to be quite inappropriate as you can indeed just see a bay, but only from the top windows, on a very clear day, about 10 miles away.

I asked Catherine Roberts who I bought the property from why it was not any longer called Enys and she said that when various parts of the estate were sold off, those buying these houses and farms etc called their properties Enys, so thus there was by that time a Wheal Enys Farm – owned by the Richards family in the farm next door to us who bought it from the Enys Family at some point, an Enys Cottage, Wheal Enys Cottage, Enys House, Wheal Enys House and many other properties called Enys nearby. She said it confused the postman so it was changed to Bayview.

I think it is a shame that the original Enys House lost its name and others have it. I disliked Bayview so I compromised by calling it Toad Hall. This was supposed to be a temporary name as I always meant to at some point to sort it out and change it back to Enys House or Wheal Enys but gave up the idea when I mated it with Roma Richards in the farm next door and this caused a bit of an altercation as she got very angry and said her farm was the true Wheal Enys!! Roma was a lovely woman and was my friend for over 20 year until she sadly died a few years ago. However she was a fiery lady and for the sake of peace I just left it as it was and compromised by having my address as Toad Hall, Wheal Enys Farm.

But the house I live in it is the original and first Enys House in and around Porkellis and I believe was built to service the mine, Wheal Enys and its employees and to house the mine offices, the owner who was an Enys, weigh the tin and pay the workers.

I have no idea exactly how my house relates to Enys House and gardens in Penryn, but it must. I am guessing that my house was originally the mine account house, it is marked as Enys Account house on old ordinance survey maps, and built when they found tin.

But as the Enys family were an ancient Cornish family going back to at least 1708 and beyond, had made their money with other merchant businesses before they mined tin, I am guessing their town house and gardens was always the one in Penryn?

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enys\\_family\\_of\\_Enys\\_in\\_Cornwall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enys_family_of_Enys_in_Cornwall) .

They probably owned as part of the Enys Estate the land at Porkellis as farming land before they discovered tin on it.

They may have split as a family, one part owning the mine and my house and the land and properties that went with it and the other the Estate in Penryn – someone may be able to enlighten me on this? The Rev Enys Henry Rogers who is mentioned in some of the deeds to my house was the son of Henry Rogers who was in direct line to the Enys's of Penryn.

However my house was owned and built - or rather extended from an existing cottage now about 300 years old as we can see when and where it was extended in about the 1840s - by the Enys family who made money from mining. Not just Wheal Enys Mine as some married into the Bassett mining

family and had stakes in other mining so they had interests in other mines, but Wheal Enys was the only one named after them. And the Enys family owned much of Porkellis, land and many of its cottages up until about 1951 when the Rev Charles Reginald Saltren Enys died and gradually much of it was dispersed amongst relatives or sold off to tenants.

The estate was inherited by The Rev Charles Reginald Saltren Enys in 1907 from John Davis Enys and at that point it was a fairly large estate consisting of a few hundred acres, much of the properties in Porkellis that were rented out, Porkellis Bal and at least some of where the picture was taken, which was then known as Lizerea – now I believe this is what is called Lezerea.

They also owned local tenanted smallholdings, farms and farm buildings, the mine ( Enys Mine) consisting then of both the stamps engine house that is still in existence and owned now by Bob Kellow and the shaft winding engine that was situated in what is now our yard, along with the shaft that I fear one day may collapse in!

The Stamps was occupied as a home by the Arnold family in the 30s when they found themselves homeless. They did not convert it just lived amongst the machinery. Bob Kellow a builder who has won awards for restoring Cornish buildings bought it for £20k in about 1987 and converted into a home.

**Pictures below of the Stamps Engine before conversion and after.**



The winding Engine house that was in our yard was dismantled by villagers in 1886 to build the Wesleyan chapel. This is why the chapel building has such large and dressed stone that would have been too expensive for such a small village. I assume this was done with permission from the Enys's? Who probably under the option in these documents to allow building of Church buildings and a school house, the land was given to the village by the Enys family? Of course I do not know this for sure, if anyone has any information I would love to hear and record it.

(Not having any legal training I find the documents hard to read and understand but this is how I

interpret them from the deed documents the Enys family, very kindly for the day in my opinion, had in about 1907 several trusts taken out that allowed various people/families who were living in various properties to live forever in them although they had to pay rents to the Rev and certain members of the Enys family. Some who received this were his sister Marry Ann Enys and Nephew Enys Henry Rogers. The estate deeds also granted the main holder of the property on inheritance, regardless of actual surname, the right to bear the Arms of Enys, the surname Enys, the right to sell off even those properties held in trust as they saw fit.

I would have thought over time most got sold to those tenants?

The trusts in the documents I have seem to give permission for tenants to leave their tenancy of their home and land to their wives upon death and then the tenancies to be able to be divided between their children.

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My home, and the land not tenanted around the house was referred to in these documents as the **'Principle Mansion House and pleasure grounds and park'**.

So to be referred to like this it must have still been considered quite substantial at that time? There are indeed the remains of an Orchard and other gardens on my land. Another interesting fact is during the war one of my lower fields was used as a donation by the owners as the communal field for villagers to grow mainly potatoes but also other vegetables during the Second World War for the village.

I have also been told my yard was used by a grocer who distributed groceries in the local area on a horse and cart, probably in the first world war and beyond. This must have been something to do with the Enys family or leased to the grocer as the The Rev Charles Reginald Saltren Enys did not die until around 1951 and later the Roberts family used it as a haulage yard, hence the big ugly lorry garage.

However the documents has in them also the statement that any part of this could be leased – and I presume also sold – without any consent of the Trustees of any other part or needed any order of court. Which is why I assume the house I live in was is now two houses and only has 9 acres of land?

I can only assume this is how a once largish estate became gradually to be only now 9 acres as it was both split up as people died the land and properties gradually sold to the tenants and other parts and property sold off when times became harder. I have some of these deeds of sale to various local people.

The Enys also owned mining rights for all the land they owned and I still own theses mining rights as they were included in my purchase!!! Not that it is worth anything now!

However I know that the Enys family still owned a considerable number of properties in Porkellis and surrounding areas in the 1960s and to the early 70s.

As some 20 years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Ward Williams who for many years, in the

50s to 70s ran a professional Estate management business locally and took over the task from the Enys family of sitting in what was then called the 'Institute' at the bottom of the lane to my house and collecting the rents once a month from tenants of the Enys family.

The Enys family owned the land the Institute sat on but had given it to the village to build a community hall and a Men's Institute and paid for most of the cost. However they could not have been very well off by then, or just did not want to pay out for a proper building as both consisted of poorly built huts of corrugated iron and timber!!  
I have pictures of these if anyone is interested.

This 'Institute' once consisted of two huts; the one at the back was by the time I came to the village in 1985, both the land it sat on and the hut owned by a member of the Richards family and used as a tractor and wood store but had been built for and used as the community hall. They were known as the Enys Institute collectively.

In the early days of living in this village there were still those alive that remembered in the 20s and 30s the second hut, the community hall, being used as such. I spoke to many, especially in the early days when I first came here about its history. One event that was most remembered was that once a month a chap used to come from Falmouth on a motorbike and showed silent movies, using the engine of his motorbike to power the projector!! This was sold to Eric Richards, or his father and left to him, I am not sure when, probably in the 70s?

The other hut continued to be the Men's Institute and continued to be used occasionally by Wendron Band for Band practice and as much of it was taken up by a huge snooker table for men to play snooker right up to a few weeks before the Village Hall Association demolished it in about 1990.

I have no idea who actually owned the snooker table? Obviously someone in the village knew or took the 'opportunity' to take possession as a week before we demolished the hut, it disappeared!!!

I have no idea how it was taken out of this hut without demolishing it, nor where the snooker table went? However they must have had permission of those who used it as no one complained, yet many did complain to me about the actual hut being demolished, which they saw as my responsibility that it was due to my position then on the Porkellis Village Association that had jurisdiction over this Institute?

As I was at that time a youth and community worker for the area and as such had the privileged of being able to use my then, knowledge and skills, sadly now gone or faded, to help the village get the grants need to obtain a more suitable village meeting place. Many could have done this, and indeed the association had been meeting for at least 12 years before, as a group that was not at that time formally constituted as a charity, with the aim of building a new community hall but, enough means and money had not been found.

As said others could have done this but at the time due to my job I had easy access to where grants could be found and had constituted many charities as part of my work so I wrote a constitution and applied for and got charitable status, which meant we were eligible to apply for grants

Now we were a formal registered charity one of the first things we had to do was to demolish the men's institute the village association had the rights to as it was a unstable hut. One that had been up at least since the about 1910 maybe even longer and was by then dangerous. I can't remember now but it had an inscription on it of when it was build, someone may know. However as a now formally charity we could have been held responsible for any injuries occurring due to the state of the building, so it had to go!

Therefore the hut used as the Men's Institute was dismantled in about 1990 by the Village Hall Association that then had the lease on the building but not the land. It was demolished out of necessity because it was dangerous by then and there was no option.

I only have a bad photograph of it being dismantled. The Men's institute is in the foreground, the shed once used as a community hall that stayed up for another few years, is in the background.



I guess by letting the village have the land for these 'huts' for community use was part of the family giving back to the village. However by modern eyes to not help with enough money to build more than a couple of tin sheds, since the Enys family did make quite a bit of money out of Porkellis, from mining and rents, now seems just a 'little' mean!

As chairperson of this Village Association I sadly got a lot of stick personally for having this building that many men in the village had used for generations, demolished, when in fact it was a joint decision by the Association and the Parish Council of the time. However some held me, a comparative newcomer, personally responsible for the loss of their Institute. Which was for me my finest hour in this village as I only meant well and it truly had to be done before someone

was killed by a piece of flying corrugated iron or other disaster from an uninsurable tin building and no one had the money to build another.

However I had first worked very hard and using much of my personal time and effort to make sure the village now had the means to have a bigger and better community hall, before demolishing this one. As along with the Association because as though my employments as a Youth and community worker I knew well about available grants I applied for and got grants of about £21 thousand, and helped fund raise for more. The association had already raised about £1000 previous to this but some had been lost due to applying for planning permission elsewhere in the village that had been sadly turned down. However once we were a formal charity the church offered us St Christopher's Church further along the road for village use which was much more feasible and less expensive to convert than having to build from scratch. I took it upon myself to do as much as I could towards this end and applied for the grants got the plans drawn up, the planning permission and permissions

from the church who owned it to deconsecrate and convert what was St Christopher's Church.

We also had many benefits at that time, held in the village and the Star Inn pub for funds to go towards converting the church. The play group who had no where then to meet in the village also raised about £400 which they gave to the project and used the hall as their play group until they were invited to use Halwin School.

St Christopher's has its own history as it was built by a benefactor? Then it was given to the Church of England to be used as a local, Porkellis Church of England place of worship. He did this apparently because he was not a Methodist and the village only had a Methodist chapel at the time. I believe the land was given for this by the Enys's under the proviso in the documents I hold that land under 2 acres could be given free of tax for the purpose of a church or community, charitable buildings ( see below) In fact the person who built it may have been of the Enys family and is likely to have been. But I have no information about this. Perhaps someone does?

However it was hardly ever used by the Church, according to the former Reverend of Wendron Rev Harvey Pentreith who I knew well. He explained this to me himself, that this was because Wendron already had a medieval church to maintain and use and the parish was not big enough or rich enough to maintain two churches.

Therefore I did take it upon myself as something I could do for the village I had made my home to ensure by using my skills as a then professional Youth and community worker, to apply for grants to enable with other moneys raised by events and such that St Christophers could be converted into a Village Hall for the use of the community.

Having had the plans drawn up, I supervised the building, and met the planning officers while it was going on etc to ensure that it was done. This was quite an extensive undertaking which had to be done and as I was only working part time due to the birth of my baby, while others on the committee did not have the time, I gave my time to do this.

The idea was it could replace as a community venue the men's institute and the other hut used as a community hall and as a far more suitable building.

However again as some did not like this church being used as such, even though it had never been properly used as a church, so I received many complaints from local people about this too.

Sadly even though it obviously hurt those who had grown up in this village to see their Institute go, I know I did the right thing as the current village hall is a substantial building and the Institute 'huts' could never stand the test of any more time and the village could not have afforded to buy the other hut from the owner to build on and the site of the Men's institute that was still bequeaved to the village for community use and owned by the Enys's was too small.

The second 'tin hut' as it was known in the village, once also owned by the Enys Family was used as the village community hall, and sold to Eric Richards or his father and used for storage.

This hut stayed up for a further 6+ years or so as a storage shed and rented and used by a well known family the Brays ( Eric Bray) well known also for being Mormons in religion which was very unusual in a place like Porkellis, that used to live in the village, to store wood. The land then sold by Mr Eric Richards as a building plot and is now a house.

The Enys family still own the plot the Men's Institute stood on and is now known as The Porkellis or Enys Village Garden. This is the small garden with a notice board for the village and parish council, a bench and now has lovely wrought iron gates, at the bottom of my lane where the Enys Institute used to be.

It was felt that this had always been for the village for locals to use so as chair of the association I had the happy task of personally negotiating the rent of this small piece of land from the Enys family in indefinitely. This was done though Mr William Ward who although then retired still represented the Enys Estate and land, to be used as a village garden, for a literally a peppercorn rent!!!

I soon after withdrew from being on the Association's committee for family and other reasons, but remain a trustee.

They ( the Enys family) also still, on paper, also I believe own some parcels of land around the village but that have been grazed for so long, that while those grazing it do not legally own it, to all intents and purpose they do as they have used it so long. Including the area we call the 'Puffet', used by the Richards family but in fact still owned by a branch of the Enys family now called the Phillips who now live in the US. This came to light who owned this land when the council was trying to cap or make safe some of the mine workings on the 'Puffet' and stop the mines from flooding the village.

However, newcomers to the village please beware of walking on the 'Puffet' ( its real name is apparently Boswin Downs ) and especially with dogs. There are still chasms up there not far from the footpath of open mine workings, of the old Boswin mine that have fallen in that are in places over 200+ ft deep and over 20ft long, they are not just shafts, but there are at least 3 open shafts still remaining. They were not able to get the necessary money and permissions to cap them.

Therefore they are not capped and most only have a small fence and thick brambles to protect animals and people falling in. Indeed I still have an open air shaft on my land that I have protected with large fences as when I had the other two on my land capped, it was not possible to do this one due to its inaccessibility.

I have not heard of any people falling into them, not even the many kids that when I moved to this village used to play up there and make dens. But that generation of children knew where the holes were. Many who live in the village know, children and otherwise, do not know they are even there.

I have known of cows, horses and since I have lived here many dogs fall into them. Usually unaware dog walkers who did not know of their existence who let their dogs of a lead and they chased rabbits and fell into the shafts. Most have been rescued by the fire brigade but last time they did it they said

it was getting to dangerous to do it again. Only 2 years ago i saw on Facebook two dogs had gone missing while up there. I messaged the owners to say they would be in the shafts but at first was not believed as they did not know such open shafts could still be there.

Sadly they were in the mine workings. One dog thankfully was rescued alive after 10 days, the other was killed.

There is another item of interest about Boswin mine as it was the first electrified mine in the county. It generated its own electricity at a time few places had electric. It was well known at a time when at night there was no other lights to be seen in the area, as a landmark as at night lights on the summit were to be seen blazing out and the lane up to my house and beyond was used by the miners to get to work, day and night.

It is also of note as up to the 30s – I have spoken to those that remember it running over their heads - Boswin mine had a small gage tramway, driven by gravity –one cart whet down full and pulled an empty cart up - for carts containing tin, that ran from the mine, over my house and down to lower Porkellis Moor, to an area we locals know as 'The Sands' This was actually where the rough ore from the mine was stamped and the sand is the remains of this stamping process. The few remaining pillars that carried this can be seen at the edge of the National Trust land at Lower Porkellis.

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Back to my home itself

The documents I have also have strange provisos, passed on through other documents, to this one, that I do not have I guess because the owner was a reverend and had plans to build his own church? And they were also left in these documents because at the time Enys's still owned the land the Institute was built on and I think the land St Christophers was build upon, so this allowed for this and further extension.

The provisos say:

Any power of sale on any of the land mentioned in the documents under the Settled land Acts 1883 to 1890, not exceeding 2 acres for any one of the following purposes, should (could) include and authorise for nominal consideration, namely:

A site for a Church, Chapel and any yard.

Parsonage, Parsonage House School, or Garden or Playground

Burial Ground (whether in connection with the Church of England or not)

(Perhaps this means I can be buried here on this land? I must investigate this as having lived here nearly 30 years and probably before my death it will be nearing 40 years + that is what I would like to happen when I am gone. This is my home and the only home despite not moving here until 30 I have ever truly called home and ever will.)

And even more strangely:

Any railway, canal, road ( public or private) dock, drains, watercourse, reservoir, Town Hall, Market House or any public building connected to any of the above buildings and works and for any charitable purpose to benefit people residing in the area

Some of the Enys family and others named in these documents I have are:

The Rev Charles Reginald Saltren Enys, John Davis Enys, Mary Ann Enys, Reverend Enys Henry Rogers, Earnest Rogers, Honourable Henry Walter Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes Trefusis, JD Enys, CRS Enys, John Lionel Rogers, R H Jenkins, Joseph Henry Roberts, Edith Mary Roberts, John Percival Rogers, Derek Henry Philip Roberts, Derek Harvey Philip Roberts, John Richards, Catherine Roberts, Barbara Alyson Gregory. Mr E J King ( who bought the land over Porkellis Bridge, known locally as King John )

Some may know these people, I knew some and some of the families are still in the village.

I have tried to write the history of my house and the land it used to encompass as I understand it, from the documents and information I have but am aware I may have got some of it wrong and that others may know far more.

I am always happy to hear about the history of the village.

Please feel free to correct me if I have anything wrong.

Veritee Reed Hall. Last edit December 2013