

Newsletter May 2011

Work has been progressing at a steady pace through the past six months. Foundation excavation to the rear of the cottages took longer than expected due to the nature of the ground and the surprisingly high water table, plus further negotiations with the council planners to satisfy the Listed Building regulations.

The back wall of the extension has now been completed and we are moving towards the side walls and roof. However, with no way of knowing it before starting, we have also found the old cottages to be standing on no foundation whatsoever, so underpinning will be required before the finished floor of the extension can be put in.

Another issue that came to light was the inappropriate pointing work carried out by Restormel Borough Council at the time of re-roofing in 2007/8. Experts in stonework (and Cornwall Council's Conservation Officer) have said we need to remove the cement-based mortar and replace it with a lime mortar mix. This applies to most of the outside walls and some on the inside. We are currently trying to reach agreement with the council over ways to lessen the financial burden on ourselves.

Work should soon be starting on the retail area to the right-hand end of the cottages. We are still hopeful of being open to the public by next Spring.