

**Text of an interview with Mr Ronnie Jenkin of Anvower Mill House conducted by the Helston Old Cornwall Society (undated)**

As Recorder for the Helston Old Cornwall Society I interviewed Mr Ronnie Jenkin of Anvower Mill House which in earlier documents was shown as Andower Mill house, he was born in this house and still lives there. – in Lowertown near Helston, Cornwall.

Anvower Mill next door to the house.

Mr Jenkin's father died when he was 18 months old and his mother ran the Mill. He remembers working in the Mill at the age of twelve years by candlelight.

Mr Jenkin was a Miller all his life until he gave it up 35 years ago because the water wheel needed repair and there wasn't the call as there used to be for the farmers to come to the Mill, the farmers had bought small milling machines themselves which worked on the Hammer Mill system and could be used on their farms. The Mill used to grind Barley Wheat and Maize.

In 1887 the Mill had a new floor and new roof which cost £29.10 shillings and Mr Jenkin has the receipt for this made out to his Great Grandfather William Sellwood.

All Mr Jenkins family had been Millers. His Great Uncle was a miller at Cury and his Great Grandfather a miller in Constantine (Old Mill). Anvower Mill itself is a three storey building, granite stone construction and the water power for the Mill is drawn off from the River Cober along a leat to an overshot water wheel at the Mill. The Mill machinery wheels are constructed of cast iron and some of the wheels had wooden teeth (cogs).

Apple wood was used for this purpose as it was particularly hard. In recent years the upper floor of the Mill has been renewed and the roof re-slatted.

The farmers brought the grain to the top storey as the Mill was built on a hillside and the milled flour was collected from the ground floor. The farmers were charged one shilling and threepence per bag. Before 1887 the Mill was used for tin stamping.

Mr Jenkin recalled the number of old mine shafts which are around Lowertown, mostly copper mining. At one time there was an old chimney stack which was demolished to make room for a bungalow to be built. He remembers seeing this one come down. At one time tin and sand were burnt in this Vac with a fire underneath until all impurities were gone, the fumes came up through the flues in the chimney. Because of this no trees would grow, but now, after many years trees are to be seen.

Mr Jenkin remembers going to and fro over the old viaduct which is still a great landmark but is no longer in use. At one time there was a shop in Lowertown. The Methodist Chapel is still in use, also the Sunday School, a separate building which is now used as a Play Group.

Lowertown is a delightful, very small village, so full of vegetation, plenty of trees, a meandering stream, a delightful restful "Get away from it all place"