

Book launch and display tell colliery's story

A PROJECT that has brought together the memories of former miners in Yate and Coalpit Heath will be launched with the opening of an exhibition and publication of a new book.

Frog Lane Colliery was the last deep pit in the Bristol coalfield, closing down 60 years ago.

Members of the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and the Yate and District Heritage Centre have spent the past year on the oral history project *Frog Lane 1949-2009*,

speaking to miners and their families about the work they did.

It has led to the production of a 104-page book on the colliery and the mining community, which will go on sale on Saturday.

It contains many previously unpublished photographs and contributions from the miners recalling what it was like to work in the colliery.

Flash photographs were normally banned at collieries because of the risk of explosion but the Frog Lane

mine was gas free, so miners and pit ponies could be pictured at the coal face. Steve Grudgings, chairman of the research group, said those who were involved in the scheme had been invited to a reception in the Miners' Institute in Coalpit Heath to thank them for their contributions ahead of the opening of the exhibition on Saturday night in the hall.

It will also be open on Sunday lunchtime and evening before transferring to Yate Heritage Centre on May 14 until July 4.