

60th Anniversary of the Closure of Frog Lane Colliery, Coalpit Heath

I was very pleased to be among the guests at a luncheon held on 2nd May at The Miners' Institute, Coalpit Heath to mark this special anniversary. South Glos. Mines Research Group (SGMRG) have compiled a new book "Frog Lane Colliery, 60 Years On". It was also a chance to meet with everyone who had helped with the book and the preparation of the exhibition to be held at Yate Heritage Centre until 14th July.

After all contributors had signed a master copy of the book, we took our places at a beautifully-decorated table and were formally welcomed by Steve Webb MP. Following a delicious luncheon of local produce, Steve Grudgings, Chair of SGMRG gave a moving toast to the Miners,

some of whom were able to be at the Anniversary (see group photo).

I learned that the SGMRG formed only in 2003, but now has over 130 active members undertaking extensive research, recording and conservation of local mines. There are work programmes including oral history and this forms a fascinating glimpse into history, as told by the people who experienced it. There has been a lot of assistance from the team at Yate & District Heritage Centre led by David Hardill, with help from volunteers Sarah Morris and Kathryn Sherrington. Chipping Sodbury resident Jan Hazelby received a special thank you for having transcribed all the interview tapes which must have been mammoth task.

After the closure of Frog Lane some of the miners went to work at other coalfields. I met two gentleman who recalled catching a coach at 4.50am from Coalpit Heath to travel to North Somerset each day.

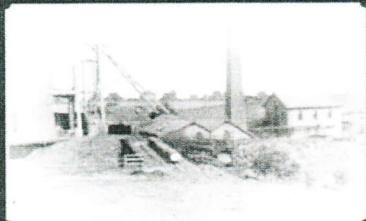
I thoroughly recommend visiting the exhibition and reading the book to learn about the hard work they undertook and the social history of this part of the country. I understand that Yate & District Heritage Centre will be working with Chipping Sodbury School this year to produce a DVD.

SGMRG research carries on and the Group would like to hear from local residents who can help with this important work.

- Angie

FROG LANE COLLIERY Sixty Years On

Commemorating the closure of Frog Lane Colliery
- the last deep pit in the Bristol Coalfield



Produced by
The South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and
The Yate and District Heritage Centre

with support from South Gloucestershire Council

Exhibition of Mining and Community History
Yate & District Heritage Centre (Church Road)

Now - 4 July. Open Tues, Weds, Thurs & Sat
10.30am - 4.30pm FREE ADMISSION

Tues 16 June Talk on "The Bristol Coalfield"

by David Hardwick, 7.30pm YHC.
Booking essential via YHC

Sat 4 July Outdoor Talk and Walk

Frog Lane, led by Trevor Thompson.
Start St Saviours Church, Coalpit Heath

at 9.45am(Lychgate)

Depart 10am prompt.

3 hours duration,

5 miles distance.

Wear stout shoes.



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It is sixty years since Frog Lane Colliery at Coalpit Heath in South Gloucestershire closed but memories of the colliery are still strong. This book takes a look at the history of the colliers. The volume is lavishly illustrated with photographs, many taken in 19906, together with maps and plans of both the surface and the underground workings of the Colliery.

Throughout the work are included reminiscences by men who worked at the colliery and by residents of Coalpit Heath and district who recall the impact of the colliery on life in the area. As such the book forms an extremely valuable piece of social history of interest to social historians and South Gloucestershire residents as well as industrial historians

This book has been published by Lightmoor Press in conjunction with the South Gloucestershire Mining Research Group (www.sgmrg.co.uk)

**To order send £12 + £2 p&p (cheques payable to SGMRG)
Treasurer, SGMRG, 51 Greenhill Road, Alveston, BS35 3NA
Books also on sale at YHC**

