



South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Here is the calling notice for our AGM - on Weds 15th March at the Miners' - and this year it's a special one.



It is our 21st birthday - so there will be cake!

And Roger Gosling is standing down as Chair - so we will be celebrating all he has done for SGMRG. Roger was one of our founding members, and has worked tirelessly to promote SGMRG and our mining Heritage. He's not leaving us, just taking a well earned break from being Chair / Treasurer / Book Sales and all the other things he has done for the past 20 years.



Our talk will be a light hearted look at the first 21 years. Please bring your photos, memories and items to share.

Looking Back at 21

It's a special time to look back at everything we have achieved in the last 21years, and to look forward.

Twenty one years ago, people simply did not recognise the amazing and important mining heritage in South Glos. Indeed people were heard to say ' the best thing that happened is when the pit closed' . Most people did not have a clue about our mining past. Now, we have a network of landowners who cherish the mining heritage on their land, Councils who understand its importance and countless residents who now see it as part of why their community is what it is, people who will fight to protect it.

In that time, there have been walks, talks, regular amazing newsletters, artefacts, photos and records saved, important articles written, conferences hosted, open days and of course the vital rescue archaeology. An amazing set of achievements from a relatively small voluntary sector group.

So, lets thank everyone who has been involved - from our founders to our newest members.

Our Future

But what comes next? As we move into adulthood, is the structure we've had so far the right one? In that time, other organisations have changed, the world has changed. More groups dedicated to specific sites have grown up, BIAS has become actively involved in rescue work at Brandy Bottom and Webbs Heath for example.

So that opens the questions

- What are our goals for the next 21 years?
- What do we contribute as a separate organisation?
- Should we continue as an independent organisation with all the admin of a separate group - or should we join forces with others and be a specialist wing of a group like BIAS?

Your Committee has been thinking about these questions, and we want to have that conversation with you at the AGM.

Ultimately, unless someone comes forward to Chair SGMRG at the AGM, and more volunteers join the committee, then the decision will be taken for us, we will have to find another organisation willing to take on the work.

The NEXT 21 YEARS ARE IN YOUR HANDS