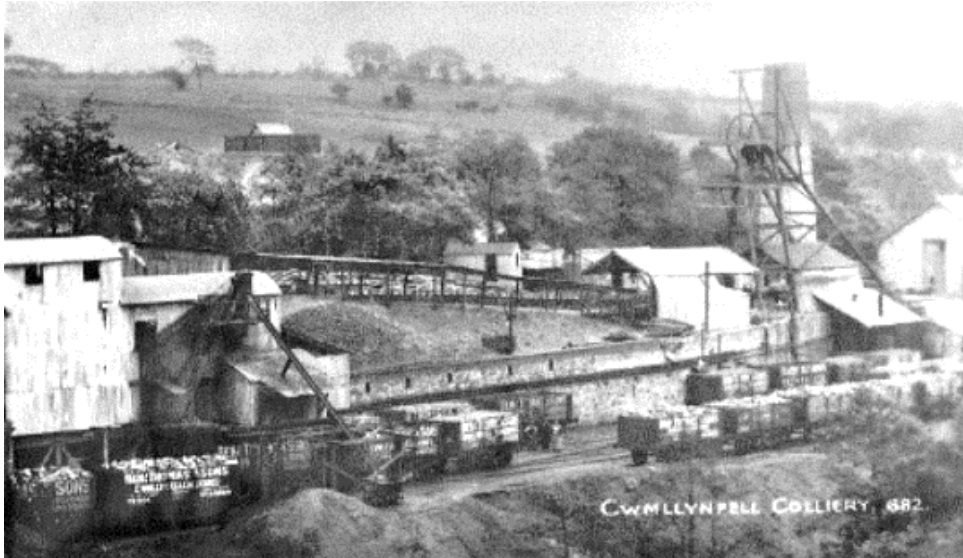




*'The Clink Pit'.  
Cwmllynfell Colliery.  
[1820 - 1959].*

Cwmllynfell Coal Mining Historical Society.



[By kind permission of Mr. A. Griffiths].

**Welcome to  
'The Clink Pit's  
Newsletter'.  
May 2022.**

Presented by:

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Welcome to 'The Clink Pit's Newsletter'.

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Introduction – Ian Norton.

**Ian Norton**

Hi Everybody - Phil Turner from Ystradowen has set up the Cwmllynfell Coal Mining Historical Society.

Its purpose is to rekindle the history of Cwmllynfell Colliery - 'The Clink Pit'. Any comments, historical photos or accounts of the mine would be welcome.

This site is dedicated to the memory of the miners who worked and died in Cwmllynfell Colliery - known locally as the Clink Pit. 1820-1959.

The Cwmllynfell Coal Mining Historical Society relies entirely on donations to cover its running costs and to develop the memorial garden.

Please support them if you can - every little helps!

You can see his website at [www.theclinkpit.co.uk](http://www.theclinkpit.co.uk).

Please find the attached newsletter, at the moment it is only very basic, but Phil is going to add Members features, photographs, advertising, etc.

If you have any suggestions, please let him know?

The more content Phil can add, will improve the circulation, and make it a more interesting reading.

**Ian Norton.**



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How it all began.

The Clink Miners Community Memorial Garden, you could say evolved by a mistake. One of our neighbours, the late Mr. Brian Allen who used to use the communal seat at the top end of 'Y Goedlan', Woodland Road, Ystradowen and whilst he was there, he would cut back the brambles, weeds etc.

After the passing of Mr. Allen a few of the residents wanted to clear up the unused land around this communal seat.

During the process of removing weeds & brambles etc. my grandson, Joe Turner found a large lump of coal, and he suggested we use this for a miners memorial garden.

The Society are working on setting up a Community Project – 'Building a Miners Memorial Garden', at 'Y Goedlan' & Woodland Road. Ystradowen, this is to remember all the miners who were killed in the mine and for the many other 'brave souls' who also died through related illness due to them working in the 'Clink' Cwmllynfell Colliery,

"It's a project that should matter to every one of our community's as the legacy and memories of those miners who worked/died in the Collieries within the communities of Cefn-Bryn-Brain, Cwmllynfell, Rhosaman & Ystradowen, should be recognised & remembered.

We are planning, within our layout, mining structures, including flower beds, Community seating, raised wooden flower beds, stone rockery features, a handmade coal dram, wood carved miner named [Arthur Scargill], etc.



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*The Forgotten community.*

Following the demise of the coal industry, employment opportunities moved away from the mining communities to out of town retail parks.

The forgotten mineworkers of Cwmllynfell Colliery who once toiled underground found themselves jobless after mining ended. And there are also tragic tales lurking behind the fond memories, of scores of men who died in accidents and disasters.

The impact on the community was devastating. Whole families were suddenly without a regular wage and shopkeepers and other businesses soon began to feel the effect of mass unemployment and then the population decline set in as people began to leave the district to seek work elsewhere.

When it became increasingly clear that there was little or no hope of the Colliery ever opening again, the heads of families began to move, the women, with their children, left to join their husbands and older sons in places where they had found regular work.

It must be remembered that for every man killed many more were injured, some lightly and others maimed for life, and it is believed that there are no records available to verify this. Unfortunately, when the colliery closed, most records were also lost.

The problem with men who died of dust related diseases as mentioned often survived for years afterwards but suffered poor health in the meantime and were not fit enough to live a normal life.

If men were killed on the premises, then there was no doubt, but some men suffered heart attacks and there were anomalies centred round this as men died in hospital shortly after admission. Others suffered dreadful injuries and died in hospital days or weeks afterwards.

Not surprisingly, asthma, silicosis, and other pulmonary problems are the most common health hazards. Due to the abrupt changes of temperature between the hot tunnels of the mine and the chilly winds, miners frequently suffer from colds.



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In those days poor health and working conditions, the miners literally work themselves to death. Very few survive more than twenty years of underground labour: their life expectancy was not above forty.

“We cannot even imagine the sorrow and devastation that was present, and the impact that disasters had on the communities”.

“We must never forget the suffering, the human tragedy, the destruction, the altering of lives and to honour the memory of the miners who lost their lives while working to make a better life for their families.

Many of the men who died left behind wives, children and in some families having grandchildren.

“Future generations owe it to those miners who are no longer with us, to pass on their stories for them.”



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The 'Clink Pit' forum.

**Brief overview.**

We have created our 'Clink Pit' forum because we share a common purpose and objective to protect and enhance our mining heritage and to make it an area that was once vibrant, socially inclusive, and generally the place to live, work and play, that it could have possibly been at the time.

There is no reason why no more than one member from a household, business or councillor of the forum cannot be. Our forum members represent the diverse interests and backgrounds of the community and are people who have volunteered to get involved. Therefore, our ward councillor, residents, business owners and regular visitors can be involved.

**We'd like to tell their story**

The Clink Pit provided employment to many local people for about 140 years.

There are residents who have lived locally for a long time, whose ancestors lived locally too, and we'd like to tell their story.

**If you'd like to be involved and tell their story: please email me.**



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Members Snippets.

Member #1 - Jocelyn Mitchell.

Jocelyn Mitchell

Hello Joycelyn, you know I'm involved in the 'Clink' Miners Memorial Garden, and I also write a newsletter about the colliery, could I have your permission to include your snippet in my next Clink Newsletter. Thank you.

Jocelyn Mitchell

You're very welcome to use it Phil

Jocelyn Mitchell

Thank you for accepting me. I have lovely memories of when my dad worked in the Clink (dad said it was called the Clink because it was like a prison). My favourite memory is waiting for dad on the top of the hill near the cemetery. That day he had taken an extra sandwich to work which he gave to me. Imagine... I had a sandwich which had been deep underground! I felt so special. But then my dad always did lovely things like that.

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