

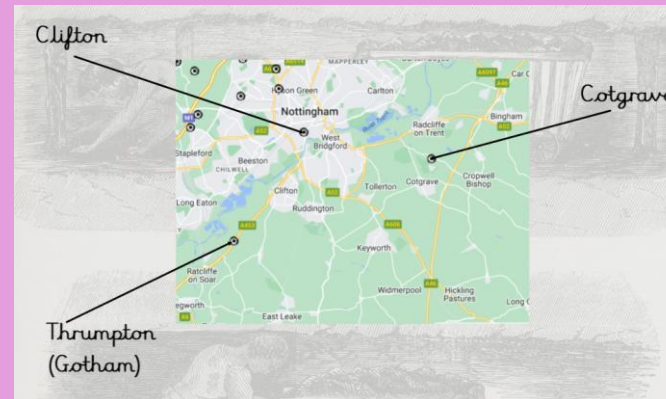
Down the Mine: Why was coal mining important to our local area?

5th century BCE The Romans are the first people to dig up and use coal!	1816 The Davy Safety Lamp is used in mines for the first time!	1842 The mines and collieries act is passed preventing women and children from working in mines.	1911 Miners start using canaries in the mines to alert them to poisonous gas.	1943 The Bevin Boys help Britain's war effort!	1984-1985 Miners begin to strike in protest of mine closures and wage cuts	2015 The last deep coal mine in Britain closes.
--	---	---	--	---	---	--

Vocabulary	Definition
Colliery	A coal mine, its buildings and machines.
Strike	When workers refuse to work in protest.
Davy Lamp	A safety lamp designed to reduce explosions in mines.
Hewer	A mine worker who mines the coal from the seam with a pick-axe. Usually an adult man.
Thruster	A mine worker (often an older child) who pushed a cart with their hands and often their forehead.
Hurrier	A mine worker (often an older child) who pulled a cart along tunnels, attached by a chain around their waist.
Getter	A mine worker who worked with the hewer to collect the coal into the carts.
Trapper	Usually a small child, opened and closed the doors for carts to pass through and keep the mine ventilated.
Carbon Monoxide	Sometimes called 'white damp', an invisible gas that does not smell. This gas is very poisonous. Canaries helped detect it.
Carbon Dioxide	Sometimes called 'black damp', this replaced the oxygen in the air and caused miners to suffocate.
Methane	Sometimes called 'fire damp', this gas caused explosions!

Where were some of the mines local to Keyworth?

The nearest collieries to are Clifton, Cotgrave and Thrumpton (Gotham).

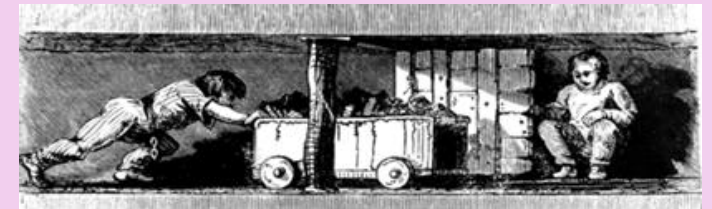


How did the second world war impact the mining industry?

- During world war 2, Britain needed more coal to make things like weapons and machinery.
- To help with this, there was a "no-choice lottery" where very week for 20 months, numbers were drawn from a hat.
- If the number drawn matched the last digit of a man's National Service number, he was sent to the mines.
- 48,000 men were sent to work down in the mines instead of going to fight on the front line.
- They had no choice.
- These men were called the Bevin Boys after the man who had the idea - Ernest Bevin.

What was life for children working in the mines?

During the industrial revolution, Britain needed a lot more coal for machines and factories! Miners worked in cramped spaces, often in complete darkness! Whole families worked in mines, even young children! There were lots of accidents in mines and over 1000 miners were killed every year. In 1842, women and children under 10 were stopped from working in mines.



When did coal mining in the UK come to an end? How did this change occur?

After the war, the government realised we didn't need as much coal.

- Coal was cheaper in other countries.
- Mining was bad for the environment and dangerous!

They started to close some mines and miners started to lose their jobs or have their wages cut! Miners were very cross about this and went on strike. Eventually, the strikes ended, and the government started to close all the mines. The last deep coal mine closed in 2015.