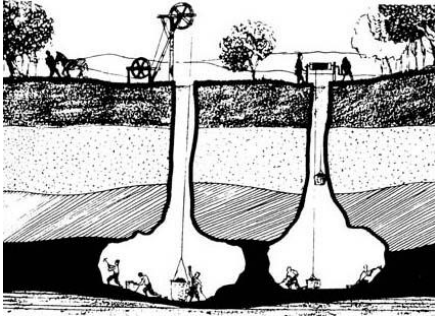


Teversal Heritage

Mining in Teversal



Teversal has a history of coalmining dating from the 16th century

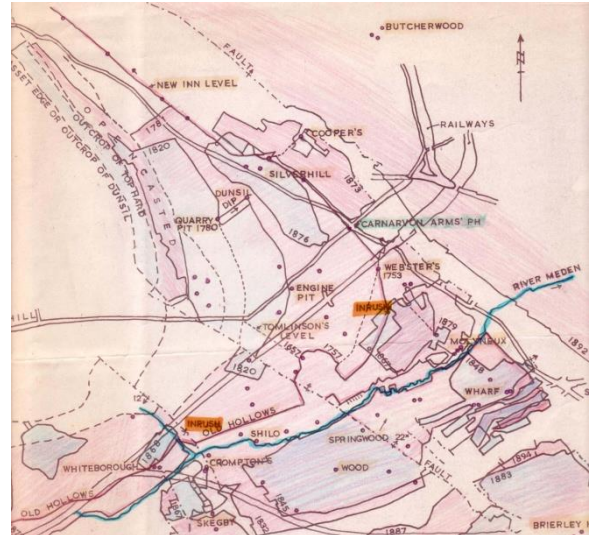
Bell Pits were among the earliest methods of mining to be found in Teversal, which allowed the miners to go below ground to mine the seams near the surface. This was done until the surrounding ground became undermined, making it too dangerous to work further. When one bell pit was abandoned another one would open nearby. Many of these pits were sunk around Silverhill farm, Wild Hill and towards the Meden valley.

The plan of pits in the Meden valley (right) shows the extent of mining in Teversal.

The Molyneux family had been involved with coal mining in the area since the 17th century.

Water was always a problem in the Teversal pits, consequently in 1703 the Molyneux family started cutting a 'sough', which is a drainage ditch cut just below the level of the coal seam, and the water flowed along it into the Great Lake at Hardwick. It wasn't completed until 1774 and is shown on the plan as the New Inn level.

The Molyneux colliery disaster happened on 2nd April 1869, just before midnight. Seven men were at work in the mine when there was a sudden inrush of water drowning 4 men, 5 horses and 7 asses. All the workings in both seams were flooded but 3 men escaped to the pit bottom where they cried out trying to attract attention. They were heard by a worker from a nearby pit and rescued. The pit was re-opened under new management and was finally abandoned in 1879, unable to compete with the new Silverhill and Teversal collieries.



A Newcomen atmospheric engine was used for pumping water from mine workings. This picture taken about 1860 is of the Nibland pit. This pit had a flat hemp winding rope with chain attachments which gave the pit its name (Nibland is short for Nibble and Clink) and mentioned in a local rhyme.

*Butcherwood for idleness,
Diminsdale for drink
Molynax for turning coal
And damn old Nibble and Clink*

Teversal colliery was sunk by John and George Crompton in 1867 and began production in 1869 and closed in July 1980 after working Top hard, Dunsil and First Waterloo seams.

Silverhill colliery was developed by the Stanton Iron Works Co. and taken over by the Staveley Coal and Iron Co. Production started in 1875 and the colliery closed in October 1992 after working Deep Hard, Piper, Low Main, Three Quarter, Yard and Blackshale seams; so bringing an end to coal mining in Teversal.

A sculpture at Silverhill Wood depicts a miner **testing for gas**. Early gas testing for methane, was done by a fireman who used to carry a candle on a long stick, covering himself with damp blankets. Canaries were also used in the mines as they succumbed to poisonous gases quickly, so alerting the miners to possible danger.



by Lynn Henstock - Teversal Heritage Group