

A memorable adventure to the bottom of the pits

YOUR feature about Frog Lane Pit at Coalpit Heath awakened many memories for my wife and myself.

Sixty years ago, a group of young people from Hillfields Youth Club went to visit the mine which was closing down.

We all piled into the rickety looking lift and dropped to the pit bottom.

— From here we took what seemed like a long journey through tunnels, but not without apprehensive looks at places where the roof looked loose.

I wonder what Health and Safety would make of that today.

Eventually we came to the coal face where we were given small picks and lay on our sides hacking out pieces of coal from a narrow seam.

I wonder if anyone from the club still has theirs — ours disappeared years ago.

To us youngsters it was an enjoyable adventure, but it made us respect the brave men who spent their working lives in such conditions.

**Bert and Mary Arnold,
Downend.**



Health and Safety nightmare: Coal miners at Frog Lane Pit in Kingswood