

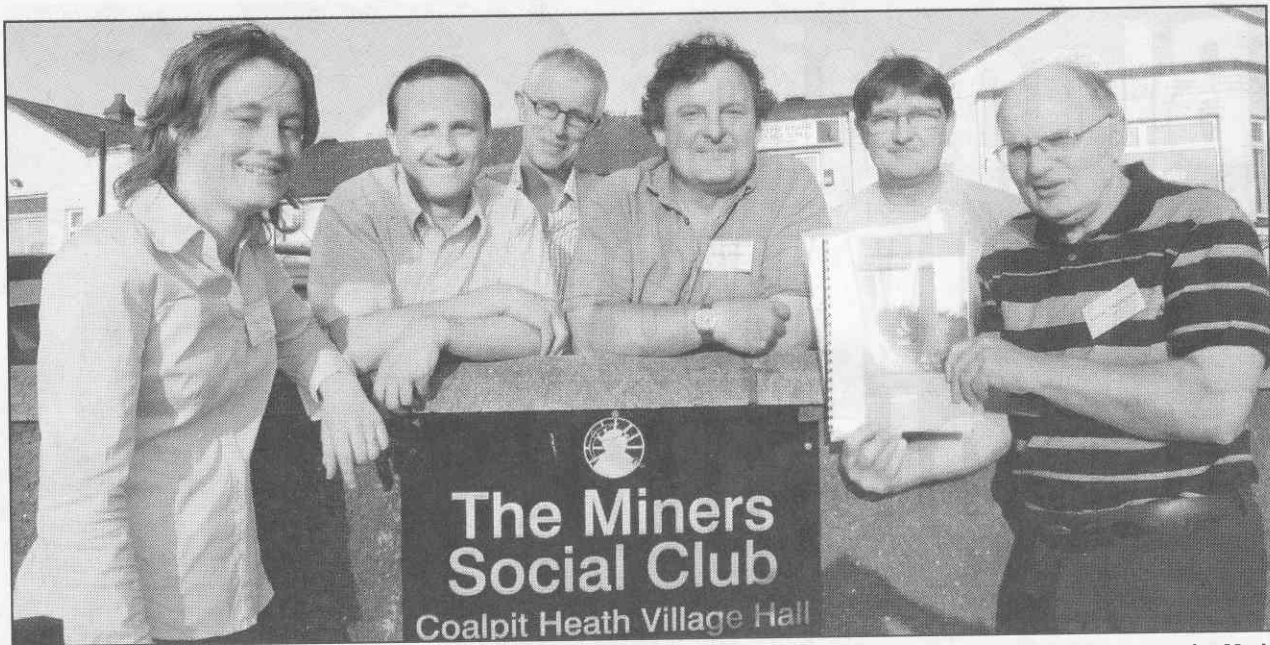
Mining experts meet up

MINING experts from around the country have dug deep for a conference in Coalpit Heath.

Hosted by South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and other local organisations, the National Association of Mining Heritage Organisations (NAMHO) gathered at the Miners' Institute for a weekend of talks and trips.

The event was opened by Thornbury and Yate MP Steve Webb, who talked of his schoolboy experience of mining and industrial heritage, and TV archaeologist Mark Horton gave a speech on the industrial revolution in Bristol.

The scene was set for the conference when just days



CLLR Claire Young, Steve Webb MP, Steve Grudgings, South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group chairman, archeologist Mark Horton, Kevin Baker and local historian Trevor Thompson at the launch of the national mining conference

before it was due to begin an old shaft opened up in Badminton Road, just yards from the institute.

Steve Grudgings, chairman of South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group, said: "We still don't know the exact

cause of the subsidence – the Coal Authority is investigating. We have our ideas, but these need to be tested.

"It was certainly an exciting talking point to see the road subside close to where the delegates were parking."