

SGMRG has a quantity of the booklet reviewed below, originally for sale at £3. Available from SGMRG Treasurer for £2 plus 30p p&p. Send a cheque payable to SGMRG to Roger Gosling, 51 Greenhill Road, Alveston, BRISTOL, BS35 3NA

"The Bristol Coal Industry" by Keith Ramsey

Paperback: 32 pages. 21 cm x 14 cm.

Publisher: Bristol Branch of the Historical Association (2003)

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This booklet is written by an SGMRG member who at the time was studying for his Ph.D. It gives a very comprehensive summary of coal mining around the Bristol area. The history before 1854 is covered in one section and the next goes on to describe how the industry built up in the late 19th century. Then reasons for the gradual decline of the industry are also examined.

In the Appendix 1, the history of the major colliery owners is outlined:

Ashton Vale Iron Company

Bedminster Coal Company

Bedminster, Easton, Kingswood and

Parkfield Collieries Ltd

Handel Cossham

East Bristol Collieries Ltd

Leonard Boulton & Co

Smyth Family - Coalpit Heath Co Ltd

A second appendix outlines the history of the Trade Unions involved in the Bristol coal industry. The booklet also has a good list of references - including several of which I was not aware.

The cover illustration is of South Liberty Pit by Anton Bantock

The booklet provides an excellent insight into mining in our area at an exceedingly low cost to SGMRG members. I doubt if you would find a new copy cheaper anywhere; Amazon don't have any and one bookseller advertises it at £4 !!

Review by Roger Gosling

