

South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Objectives of the Group :

- to promote awareness, appreciation and conservation of the mining heritage of South Gloucestershire;
- to create and maintain an inventory of surface and underground mining heritage;
- to actively participate in, facilitate and promote physical surveying and documentation of the extant mining heritage;
- to create and maintain a catalogue and library of information to assist research into all facets of mining history and development;
- to provide publications and a newsletter;
- to undertake general mining history educational initiatives;
- to initiate, support and/or participate with others in the development of examples of mining heritage as tourist amenities;
- to promote a "Code of Practice" in relation to visiting and accessing sites above and below ground;
- to provide representation on mining heritage to relevant statutory authorities.

**To find out more about our
activities go to our website:
www.sgmrg.co.uk**

Where were the mines in South Gloucestershire?

Coal mining

Over a large area of the district –from the south of the district in the Kingswood area and parts of Bristol, to Cromhall in the north –
Including:

Cromhall/Rangeworthy/Yate/Coalpit Heath/
Westerleigh/Pucklechurch/ Siston/Downend/
Mangotsfield/ Hanham/ Kingswood

Iron mining

Frampton Cotterell/Rangeworthy/Iron Acton

Lead and Silver mining

Alveston/Itchington/Almondsbury

Celestine

Open Cast in the Yate/Wickwar area

Stone

Quarries and Mines throughout the area.

Contact details:

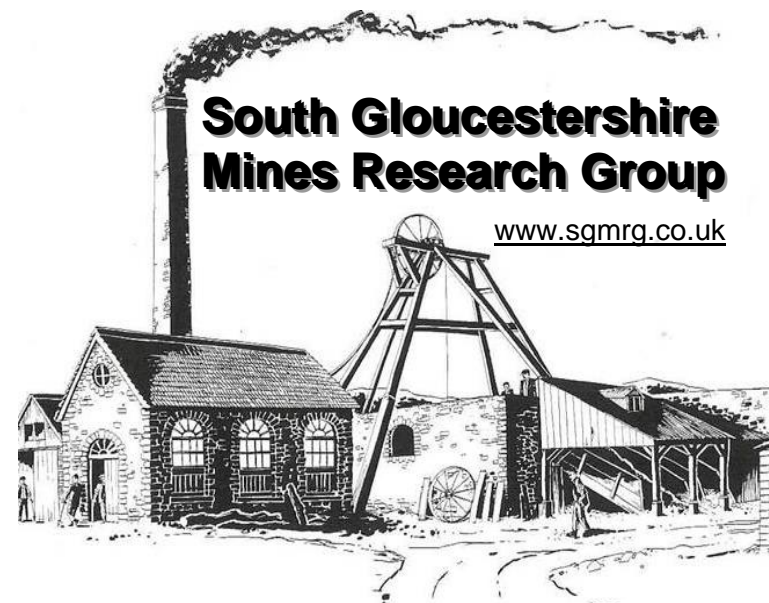
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A group concerned with local mining heritage

South Gloucestershire has a rich and varied mining history, the date of the earliest mining in the area is now lost in antiquity but coal was worked in this area up until 1963, other forms of open cast mining continued later still. South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group (SGMRG) was set up by local people to understand, record and where appropriate preserve the remains, of what was once an extensive industry, for the present community and future generations.

SGMRG is a voluntary organisation that relies on grants and donations from local people. Our membership is made up of archaeologists, surveyors, historians, engineers, cavers and those simply interested in finding more about what lies under their feet.

We have regular meetings, walks and talks including the opportunity to get involved in exploration and restoration work. If you would like to join SGMRG, please complete the attached form.

We are always interested to hear about new finds, old buildings or artefacts from the mining era. Do you have relatives who were involved in mining? If you have any information to share with us, please let us know.

WHAT DOES SGMRG DO?

There is a full programme of events planned each year including walks talks & visits as well as fieldwork, archival research and recording.

There is something for all ages, abilities and interests

Walks, Talks and Visits

Members give talks to local groups on mining in the area – and arrange lectures with outside speakers. Visits also take place to relevant sites locally and further afield. These include walking and car tours of local areas, providing an opportunity to share recent discoveries and experience the wealth of local remains that still exist.



Fieldwork

The group have a number of active projects including archaeological investigation, recording of physical remains and preservation works to surviving structures.

How can you help?

If you share our interest, and would like to become more involved in our many events and activities – or simply want to make sure you know what's coming up - please join our group.

Membership Application

As a member you can get involved in as much – or as little – as you want, taking part in archaeological digs, identifying and cataloguing artefacts, archive research, talks, walks, writing articles for the newsletter, organising exhibitions and open days.

Simply fill out the form below and post it to the SGMRG Treasurer, Steve Hillyard, 24 The Bluebells, Bradley Stoke, BRISTOL, BS32 8BE

Please include a cheque or postal order for the membership fee, currently £17.50 per person for the year, made payable to “SGMRG”. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, free entry to group events walks, talks and visits.

Please print these details clearly

Name.....

Address.....

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Telephone.....

E-mail.....

We will add you to our members email distribution list

My main interests are in:

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Research

The Group gathers original materials from a wide range of sources. Archival research of record offices is revealing a wealth of information about the area. Some of it scattered across the country and putting the jigsaw puzzle together is an ongoing but rewarding task.



Recording

In addition to the measured surveys of the fieldwork projects a programme of general recording has been instigated to ensure details and information is not lost. This includes establishing a photographic archive (both new record photographs and details of old photographs). SGMRG runs an Oral history project recording the memories of those with knowledge of the industry either through their own experience or family members, and an index of artefacts that were used in or relate to the mining industry in this area.

Publications

A Newsletter is published quarterly. As well as activity reports of what the members have been doing since the last update this includes articles on mining practice in this area and beyond, book reviews, details of mining memorabilia, and news of new discoveries. The group produces other occasional papers.