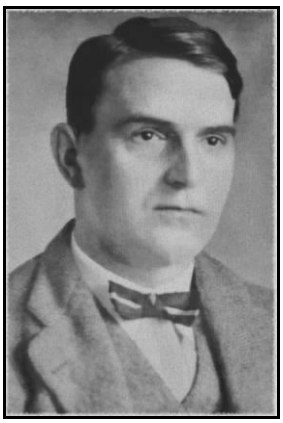
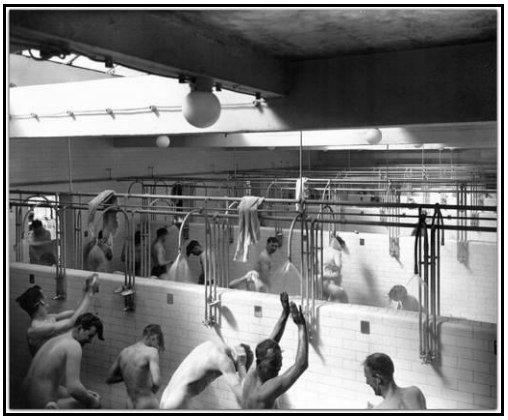
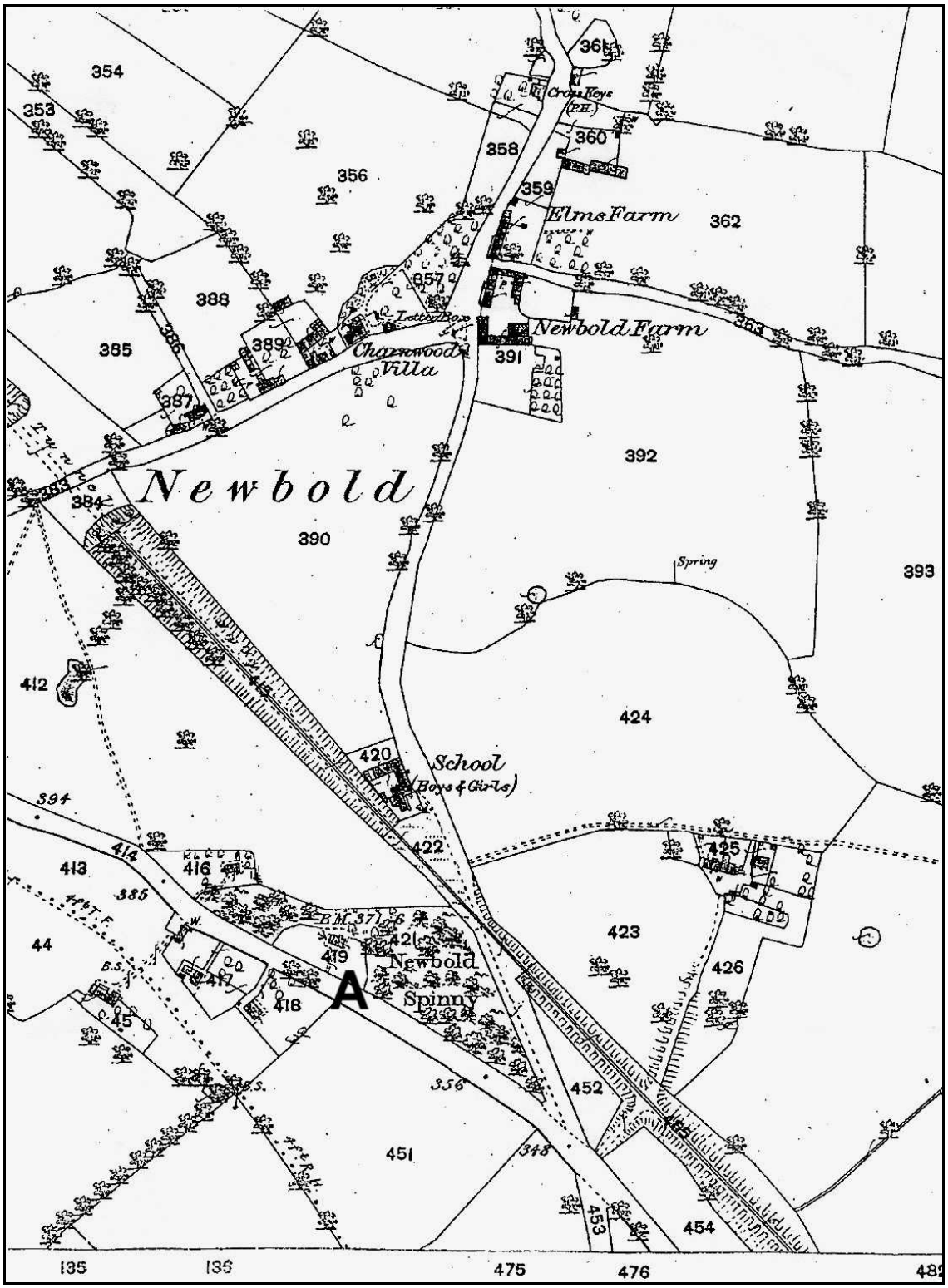
A HISTORY OF COAL MINING AND BRICK & SANITARY PIPE MAKING IN THE VICINITY OF NEWBOLD, A VILLAGE IN NW LEICESTERSHIRE

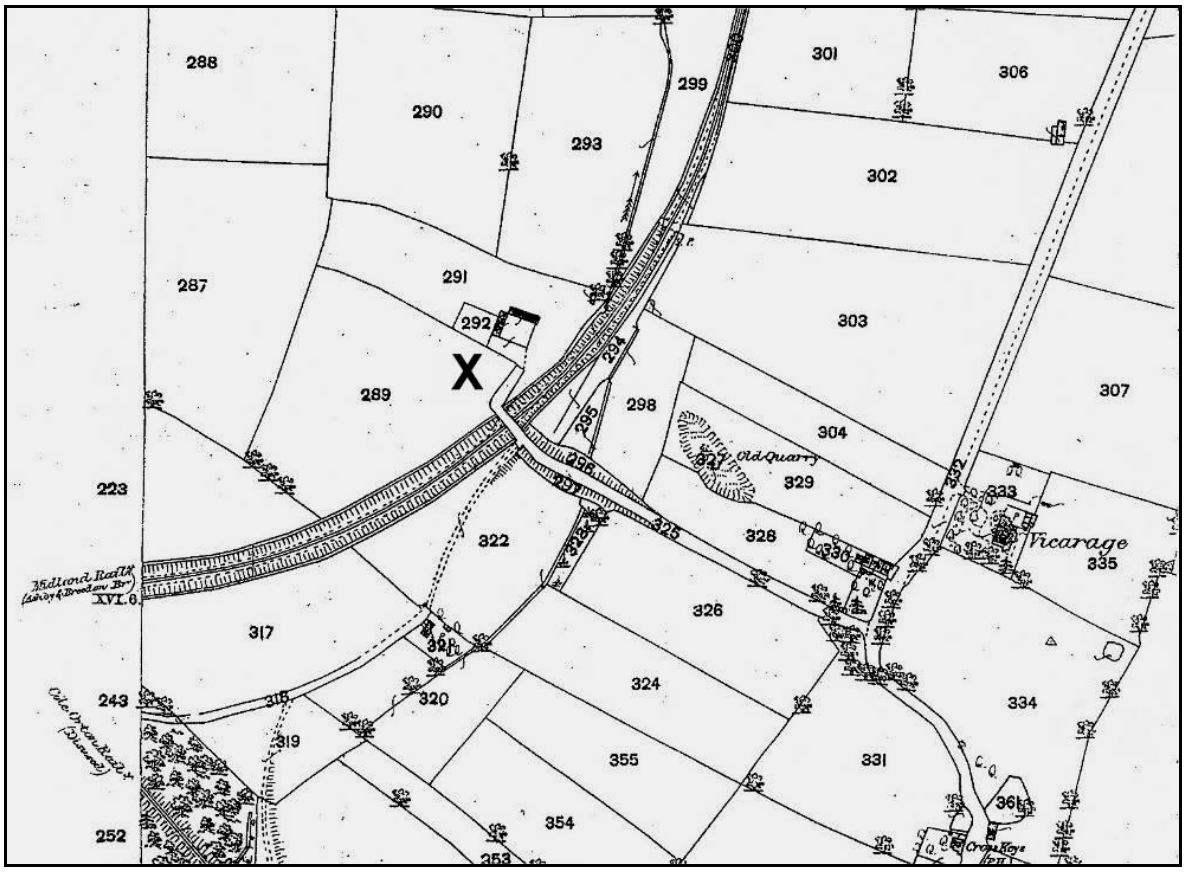




By Samuel T Stewart – Feb 2020
Updated - Feb 2024 /Sept 2024



Extract from 1885 (1881 surveyed) O/S map.
Newbold was little more than a hamlet at that time. Opposite Newbold Spinney marked A is where New Lount Colliery was sunk. The northerly continuation of this map from the "Cross Keys" onward is shown on the next page



Note the lack of residential accommodation beyond the Vicarage

CONTENTS

PT 1	OLD LOUNT COLLIERY	P5
PT 2	NEW LOUNT COLLIERY	P6
PT 3	NEW LOUNT COLLIERY SPORTS GROUND	P39
PT 4	SHOPS IN NEWBOLD WHICH SERVICED THE MINERS NEEDS AT NEW LOUNT COLLIERY	P42
PT 5	COAL MINING ADJACENT TO WHAT BECAME THE "NEWBOLD PIPEWORKS"	P46
PT 6	NEWBOLD COLLIERY / CYLINDER PIT	P53
PT 7	OIL DISTILLATION FROM COAL AT NEWBOLD	P56
PT 8	THE 1926 MINER'S STRIKE	P63
PT 9	INTERESTING STATISTICS	P65

PART 1

OLD LOUNT COLLIERY 1920 - 1924

Little seems to be known locally about this colliery which was sunk in 1920, and closed in 1924. It was recorded as being sunk the year following the closure of the "Staunton / Newbold Glory / Worthington Colliery" referred to later. The author believes that this was the pilot mine for "New Lount Colliery, particularly as it eventually had the same owners – "Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd". When it was first sunk, W J Hardy was given as the owner, and it changed hands to the "Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd" in 1922 of which Hardy was a director. J. Banborough, who was the manager of this colliery was transferred to New Lount as under manager, and he worked there from 1924 to 1933. The coal originally mined was "Middle Lount Seam" and there were three mine mouths. It was apparently abandoned when old mine workings were met.

There is a record of a shaft being sunk in Newbold Spinney which was 30 metres deep and 2.7 metres diameter. In 1963, a 40 feet plus diameter hole opened up and was filled in. On the map in Part 6, the approximate location of this shaft is marked **C** in Newbold Spinney**.** The author believes this was "Old Lount Colliery". An air shaft is shown at **B** on the same map, but it is not known which pit this was associated with.

Apparently, the old locals referred to the field behind Newbold School as cylinder field, and it could have been associated with some form of cylinder engine used in association with the air shaft. Alternatively, the air shaft could have been connected with Cylinder Pit workings described Part 6.

There follows a list of the number of workers (information taken from the healeyhero website):-

1921 109 Underground 36 Surface

1922 123 Underground 38 Surface

1923 123 Underground 38 Surface

1924 Suspended / Abandoned

Management

Manager 1920/1921 John W Lyon (670)

Under Manager 1920/1921 E Pilkington (8209 2nd). No under manager appointed after this date

Manager 1921/1924 J Banborough (3530). Subsequently transferred to New Lount as under manager

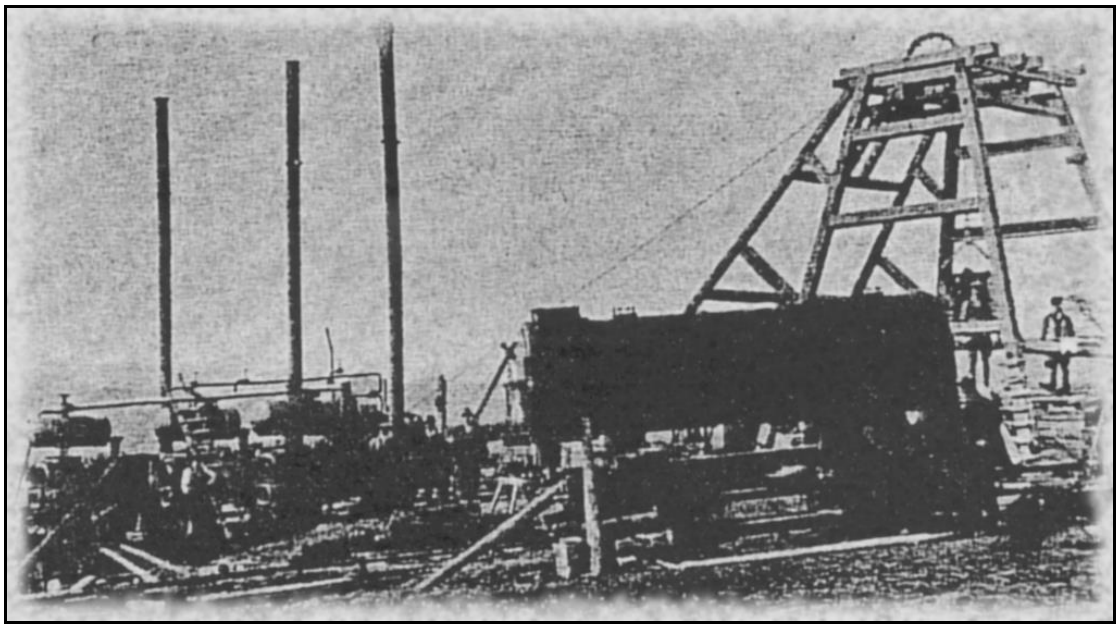
Surveyor D M Morley

PART 2

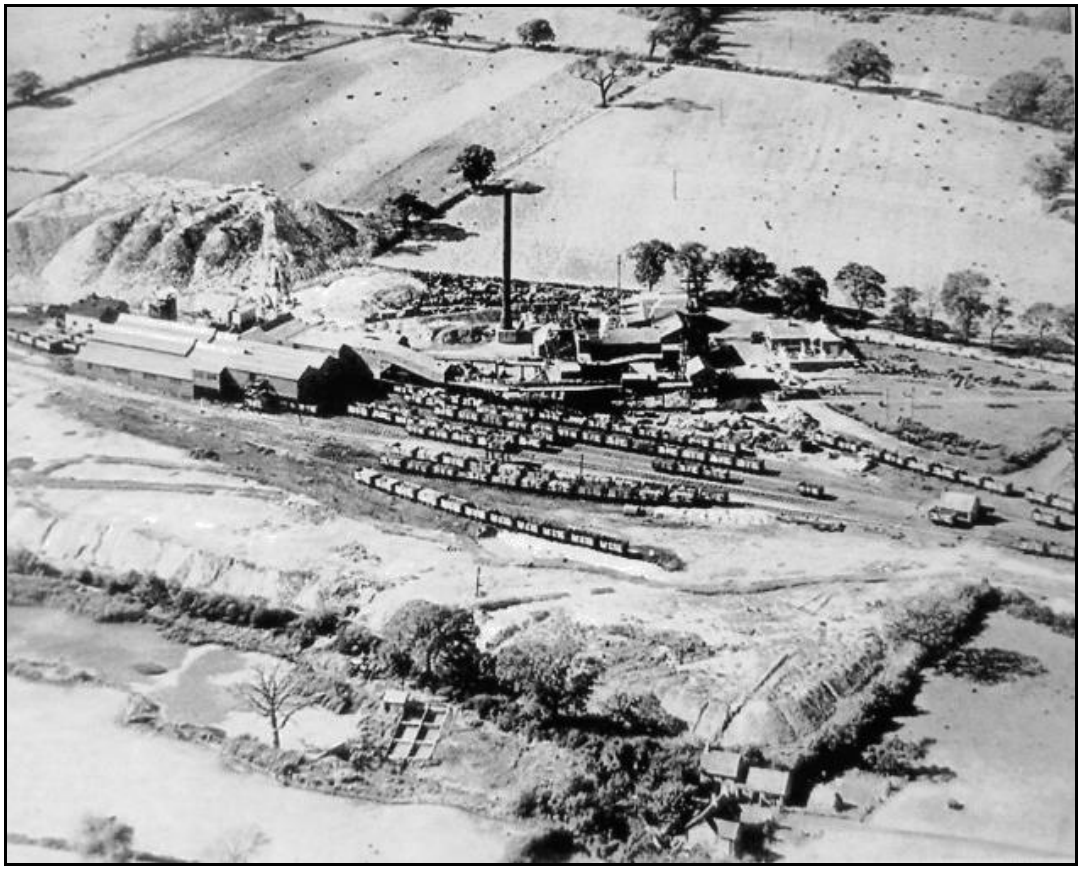
NEW LOUNT COLLIERY 1924 – 1968

Lady Renee Beaumont turning the first sod on land at Newbold for the "New Lount Colliery".

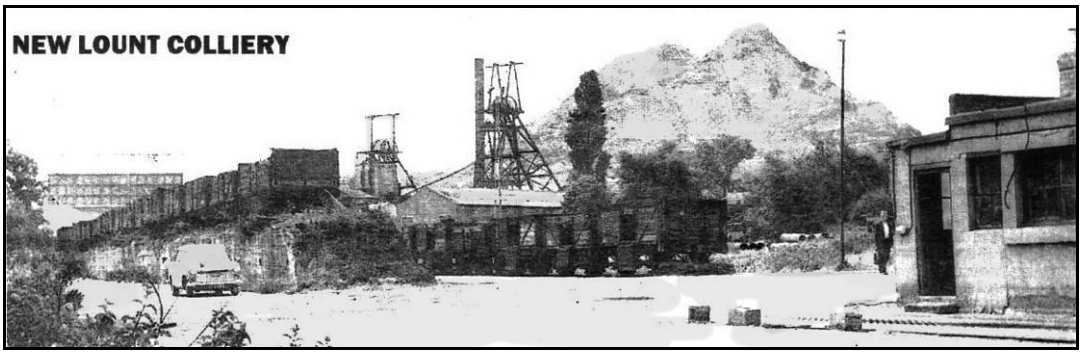
Sir George Beaumont holding the silver spade whilst an old lady reads the inscription recording the event.



The sinking of New Lount colliery in progress in 1924



Photograph probably taken c.1930, based on the size of the Spoil Heap



Photograph taken from pit yard showing head stocks, coal wagons and pit banks (spoil heaps). In the distance is the conveyor system which took the coal from all the seams to the screens. Photograph early 1960's. The weighbridge is at front right with the land sale despatch office adjacent.

Pit Head Baths Check pre 1947

Pay Check

New Lount was the last traditional deep mine colliery in the local area, although it was the shallowest pit in the Leicestershire Coalfield. The owners were "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd".

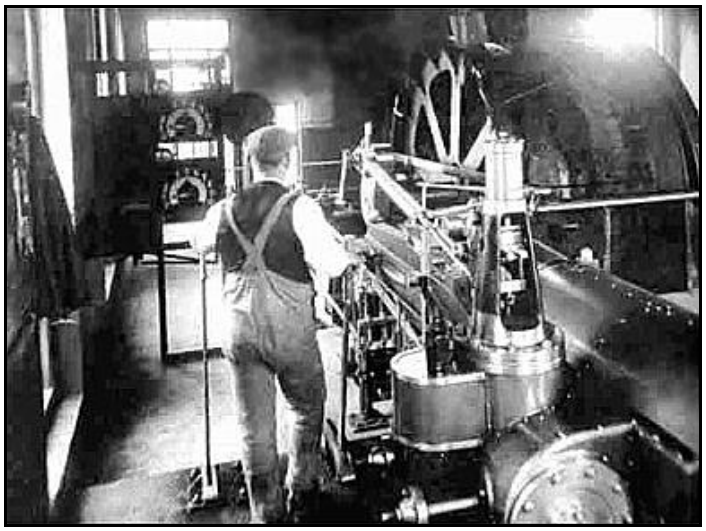
The site of the colliery was in the extreme north of the Leicestershire Coalfield, and initially comprised of some 775 acres in lease from Sir George Arthur Hamilton Beaumont, and 62½ acres of freehold owned by the company. This was extended by a further 695 acres leased from Earl Ferrers in 1929, and additional areas of Sir George Beaumont's land in 1930 to the north and west, which consisted of 288 acres.

The main boundaries at this time were on the North and East - the "Thringstone Fault", and on the North and North West - "Outcrops". On the South, the arbitrary line between New Lount and Coleorton, approximately from Outwoods Farm to Springwood formed the boundary.

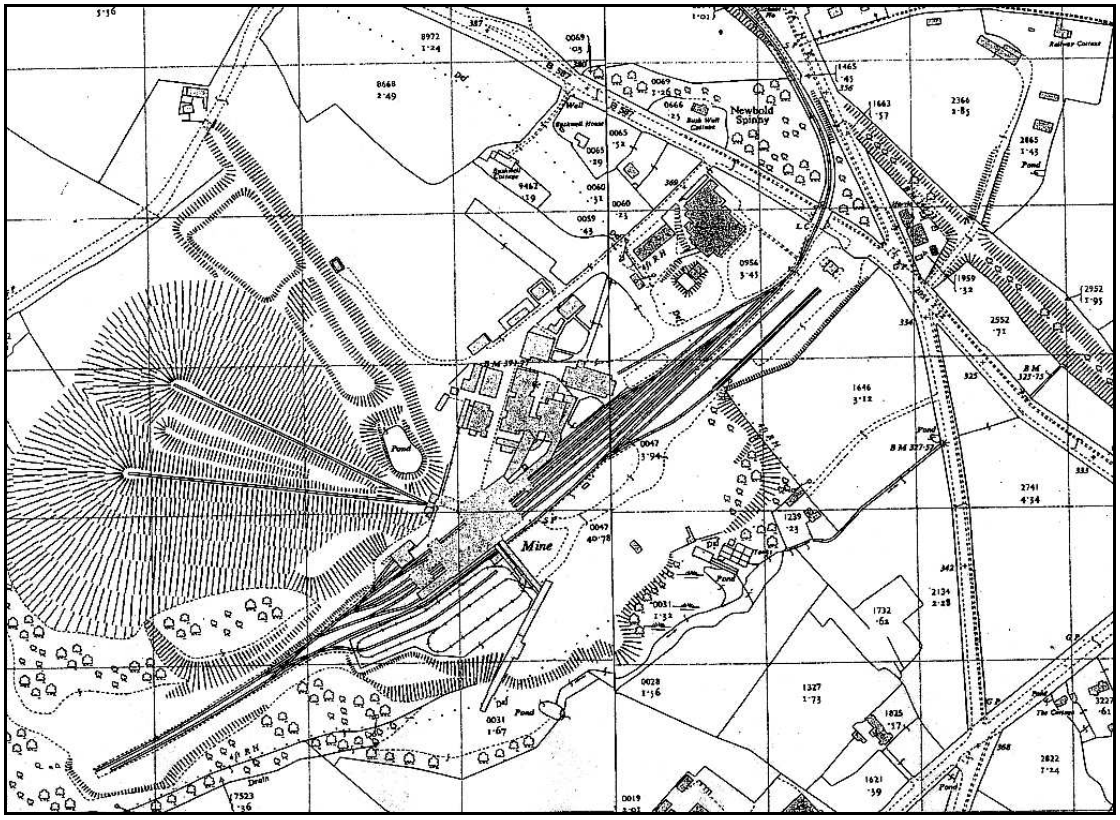
According to a brief official history given by the company, the sinking of the first shaft, No.1 (the downcast), was begun in March 1924. The second shaft, No.2 (the upcast), later called the "Jackie Pit", which was the normal Leicestershire description for the upcast, was started in May 1924. The completion date of both shafts was end of September 1924. Unfortunately, the Coalville times issued on Sept 26th and Dec 26th 1924 gave different dates, however, it is assumed that the companies official version was the correct one.

Both shafts were 15 feet internal diameter and brick lined, and initially sunk to a depth of 225 feet, as far as the "Upper Roaster Coal Seam". **The official announcement of the start of coal turning at the pit was March 21st 1925**. The winding engines for both were supplied by John Wood of Wigan. The following photograph taken in 1957 shows one of the winding engines.

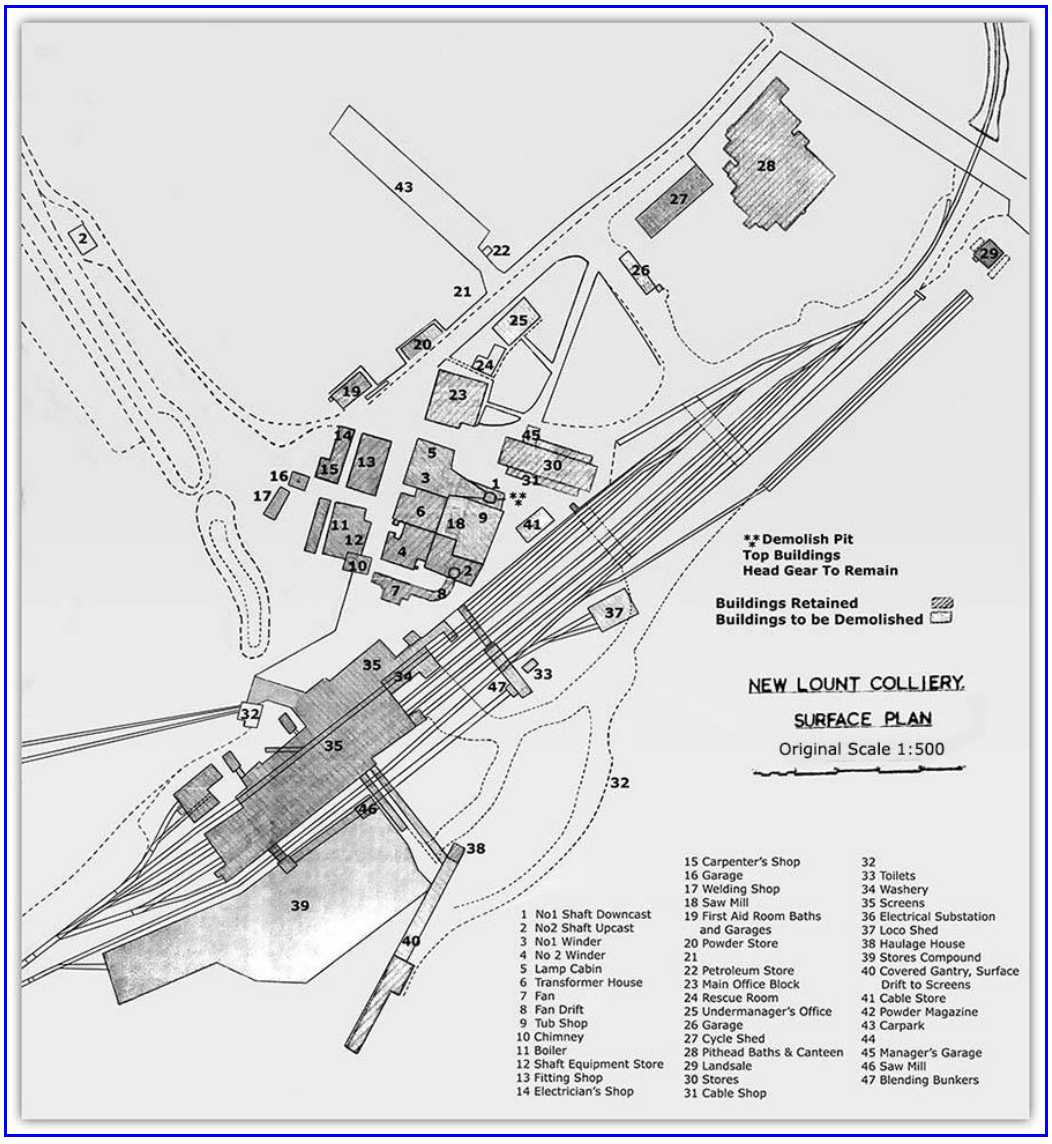
It should be remembered that shortly after New Lount Colliery opened, the 1926 miners strike took place and this is featured later



Employee statistics follow later, but in 1926 there were 598 men (underground and surface) employed at New Lount, and by 1935 the number had reached 1035, by which time the annual output had reached 356,219 tons, the second largest output in the Leicestershire Coalfield.



Section of 1928 O/S map showing the New Lount site layout



Layout of the site - date unknown

The names of the various seams of coal mined at New Lount were –
Upper Roaster
Lower roaster
Roaster
Nether Lount 5ft 3in (1.60m)
Yard Bat 4in (0.1m) coal 2ft 8in (0.81m)
Middle Lount Coal 1ft 0in (0.30m), dirt 1in (0.02m), coal 4ft 0in (1.22m)
The last three seams were abandoned on 23/7/1968.
There is also a record of a high main seam being started in 1957- 6ft 6in (2.0m)

Like all the numerous older pits in this area, there was a large quantity of high quality stoneware clay to be had, for which there was a considerable demand in the manufacture of salt glazed sanitary pipes, which had been made locally for many years. Two local companies, "Lount Pipe Works" followed by "Newbold Pipe Works", used the clay from New Lount. Newbold Pipeworks was also owned by "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company", and the bulk of the clay

went there by lorry. By May 1929, the latest dry cleaning plant and screen had been erected, and the two shafts were capable of raising 2,000 tons per day. Annual output was now 256,341 tons of coal and 31,851 tons of stoneware clay. By 1933, the clay output had dropped to 6,000 tons and clay production from New Lount Colliery ceased. **At this point, it is worth mentioning that in 1930, the output of Leicestershire pits was 2.02 Million tons, against 45.9 Million tons for Yorkshire.**

New Lount Colliery became known locally as “Clash”, and apparently this came from the fact that it was a very busy and productive colliery with many different projects undertaken, resulting in clashing of these taking place on a regular basis. Unlike “Coleorton No.3. Colliery (Bug and Wink)”, there were no ponies used underground at New Lount, as mechanised haulage systems had been introduced by this time.

“Pillar and Stall” working was reportedly carried out at New Lount till c.1933, and prior to mechanised drilling of boring holes for explosives (electrical, hydraulic, compressed air leg), all holes had to be drilled by hand as is shown in the following photograph, thought to be taken c.1930.

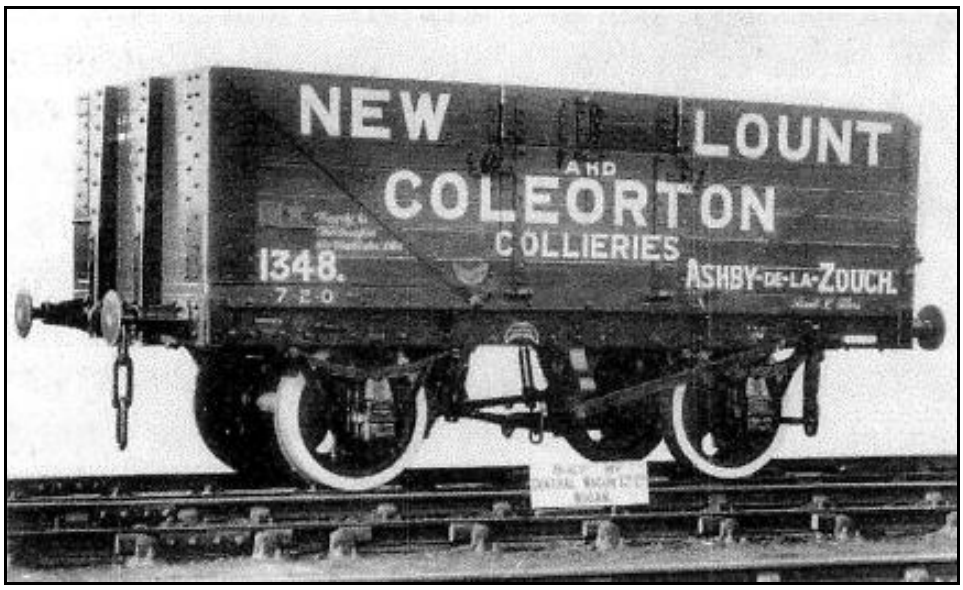
“Mighty” Jim (Jack) Wardle with his son Willie, “manually” drilling holes in the coal face for explosives

Underground at New Iount Colliery

Miners handing in their Chits recording their days output - 1943

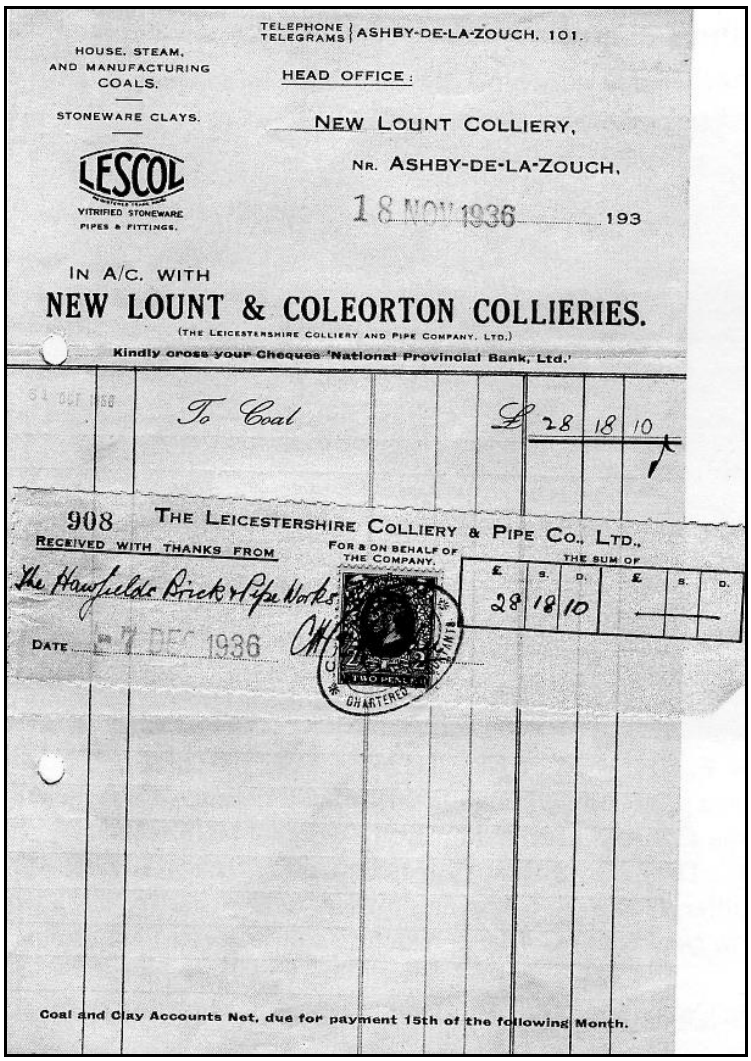
Various locos were used to haul coal to the LMSR line South West of Worthington Station, and for half its length it followed the route of the old “Coleorton Railway”. **This can be seen clearly on the following 1962 O/S map.**

The first 0-4-0 saddle tank engine, originally named Lount, but later changed to George Stephenson, was purchased from Hawthorn Leslie of Newcastle on Tyne in 1924 followed in 1929 by the second 0-4-0 saddle tank engine from the same company, which was named Lady Beaumont. Another loco was acquired second hand from Exhall Colliery in Warwickshire around 1938 and named Jane. All locomotives carried a green livery. All three locos were scrapped on site in the early 1960’s. Two 4-wheeled diesel hydraulic locos also worked at the colliery, these being acquired in 1963 and 1964.



A New Lount private owner wagon delivered by the “Central wagon Company” of Wigan in 1939

Locos at New Lount - George Stevenson on the left and Thomas Hill Diesel No.1. on the right, with the colliery in the background



TELEPHONE / TELEGRAMS | ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH. 101.

HOUSE, STEAM, AND MANUFACTURING COALS.

STONEWARE CLAYS.

LESCOL VITRIFIED STONEWARE PIPES & FITTINGS.

HEAD OFFICE:

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY,

NR. ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH,

18 NOV 1936 193

IN A/C. WITH

NEW LOUNT & COLEORTON COLLIERIES.

(THE LEICESTERSHIRE COLLIERY AND PIPE COMPANY, LTD.)

Kindly cross your Cheques 'National Provincial Bank, Ltd.'

To Coal £ 28 18 10

908 THE LEICESTERSHIRE COLLIERY & PIPE CO., LTD.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS FROM The Hawfields Brick & Pipe Works

FOR & ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY.

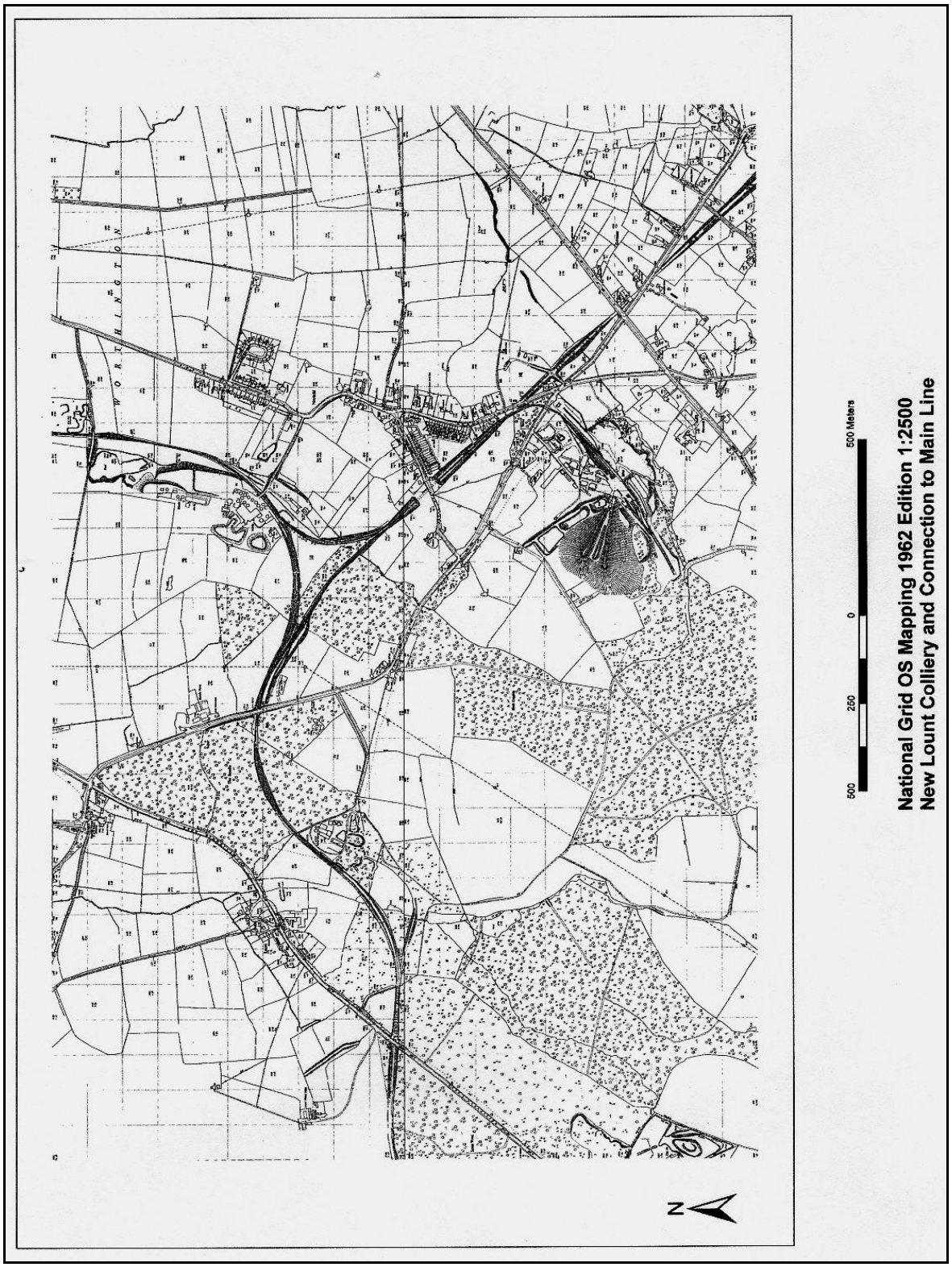
THE SUM OF £ 28 18 10

DATE 7 DEC 1936

TWO PENCE

Coal and Clay Accounts Net, due for payment 15th of the following Month.

It is rather interesting that the above bill and receipt has "New Lount and Coleorton Collieries" as the account name. As Coleorton Colliery had closed in 1933, they presumably still hadn't ordered new paperwork.



National Grid OS Mapping 1962 Edition 1:2500
New Lount Colliery and Connection to Main Line

The above photographs show the remains of the weighbridges adjacent to the old Coleorton Railway tunnel which passed under Ashby Road, Newbold. The train pulling the loaded wagons, passed by the weighbridge into the tunnel, and then reversed over the weighbridge in order to record the weight of each individual wagon. A photograph of the tunnel at Newbold, is included in the section on the history of Coleorton Railway.

There are also remains in the form of a few bricks, for the “signal box” which controlled the railway line junction from New Lount Colliery.

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY BATHS

New Lount was the first colliery in the Leicestershire Coalfield to have pit head baths, and these were opened on July 12th 1930 by Frank Hodges, who at this time was not shown as being on the board of Directors at New Lount. However he was recorded in the press as officially being appointed Managing Director and Chairman in 1933.

The following are interesting miner's recollections, partly referring to New Lount baths, which appears in "The Leicestershire Miners", Volume 2 by Colin Griffin :-

If the accident record was disappointing between the wars, so was the record on an essential element in the improvement of the miners' health and well being: the provision of the pit head baths. In 1937 there were only two collieries with pit head baths in Leicestershire despite the widespread belief that "the pit head baths is an extremely sound investment from every point of view". Frank Smith recalled that "Before there were baths…. I used to get so wet and stinking wet we used to walk over the fields to where I lived to avoid coming through the streets, because you looked so filthy and stank". Moreover, if the miner was "freezing cold" when he arrived home in wet clothes and simply stood in front of the fire "to thaw out" then "your trousers would stand up like they were made of concrete". Washing facilities at home varied enormously "If you'd got a bath at home you were lucky….otherwise they used to take their clothes off and just stood there round the fire drying, filthy clothes and everything else and only a bit of sink to wash in….they hadn't got anywhere to wash properly….they'd perhaps got no facilities for hot water or they just boiled the kettle on the fire and that sort of thing. There were scores of places like that there were". Eric Saunders lived in a house without facilities for boiling water: "You'd have to go round the back and wash in a tub, a great big tub of cold water. I've washed in snow when there's been ten foot of snow, my brother used to bath me in it. The Summers family boiled water in a big iron pot and since there were seven miners in the household washing arrangements had to be adjusted accordingly, "me Dad, for he'd have anything to eat and drink, would take his shirt off and wash right down as far as he could….I'd have me meal without washing….it used to be 9 or 10 o'clock at night before you'd wash you….I'd eat then go footballing, go out dog-training and all such as that".

In some households, the lack of privacy was as much of a problem as the lack of easily available water. "You know you could not have a proper wash unless you locked yourself away….I don't know how some of them managed, they must have been real embarrassed, in front of the children and everything else, you know, must have been naked….Must have been, had got to do it".

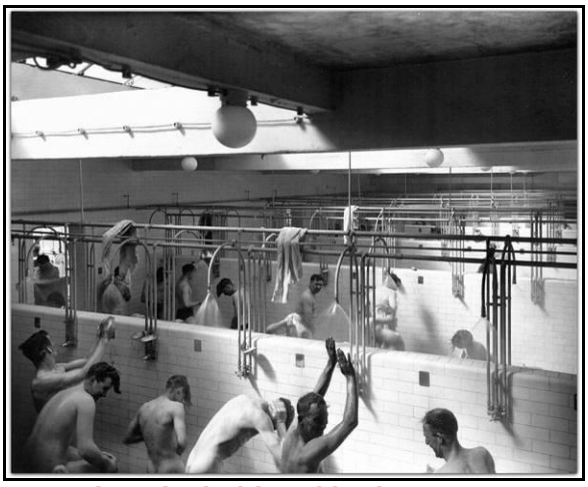
Miner bathing at home

It is little wonder under these circumstances that most miners' believed that "baths was the finest thing ever brought out for miners' and that the opening of pithead baths was an occasion for a public celebration. ***Frank Hodges boasted at the opening of the first pithead baths in***

Leicestershire, New Lount, that "they accommodated 1,008 men each of whom is provided with two lockers, one for his home clothes and one for his pit clothes. I have seen them described in one of our daily papers as "baths de luxe". Well, is there no reason why miners should not have a little luxury as well as other members of the community? There are 72 cubicles, with separate sections for the clean and dirty clothes, for the unwashed miner and the washed miner. The plans would have enabled a canteen to be added but the Welfare Committee cannot pay this out of the Bath Fund. Time was when pithead baths were regarded as an impossible dream. It is not so long ago since their introduction into this country was opposed by the men for many reasons. Many popular superstitions were behind this opposition. The first was that nobody could wash the miners back like the "missus" or that too frequent washing of the back resulted in muscular weakness, that no-one could dry clothes like the good wife and perhaps lurking behind these superstitions was the thought that the miners would be called upon to pay the cost of installation and upkeep. I believe the demand for cleanliness and hygiene among the miners of this country is now practically universal….

There is no reason why a workman should not leave the colliery spick and span in absolutely clean dried clothing, with resulting improvement in his health, and I believe an improvement in his "morale and social standing".

Thomas Gowdridge, the miners' leader "felt sure that the baths would be appreciated by the miners and also by their wives and mothers", while George Brooks, one of Lount trustees, urged that "in using the baths they would be kind and courteous to one another. Don't use bad language and if you see a brother in distress, assist him. The miner in the past has been looked upon as someone who produces coal. After today….the whole world will say: these men are not only miners but gentlemen".



A typical pithead baths scene

Pit head baths tokens became available after the 1920's (see photograph). The baths were free for the miners, although they had to pay for the use of the colliery's soap and towels (2d or 3d per week) unless they provided their own. **In 1938, an extension to the pithead baths and a new canteen was opened.**

THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE PROBLEMS WITH VOLUNTARY ABSENTEEISM

The national realisation of an impending coal crisis in the spring of 1941 raised the spectra, as in the First World War, of the miner prospering from the requirements of "total war" and not giving of his utmost to win the tonnage of coal that his country required for survival and victory. The L.M.A. (Leicestershire Miners Association) of which T.Gowdridge was the secretary, stoutly defended its members, but the debate on the extent and cause rumbled on in the press. It commenced with a letter at the beginning of March, which suggested that absenteeism is as bad now as at any time in Leicestershire mining history, and was the product of hundreds of young single men saying that they were not going to work regularly to pay income tax.

Legal proceedings brought by New Lount management in the autumn of 1941 revealed that there was some evidence to support this claim, and in 1942, a persistent New Lount offender received 6 weeks hard labour.

Various correspondents put forward other reasons for absenteeism such as - "the introduction of machinery had intensified the speed and pace which the hewer had to keep up, and unless he was 100 per cent fit, he had to stay away to recoup his energies". **Frank Hodges, who was Managing Director and Chairman of New Lount Colliery**, would not accept any of the points or excuses made. He said "that there were simply too many men on the colliery books who were "work shy", with the result that 34,167 shifts had been lost in Leicestershire on account of avoidable absenteeism for 13 weeks ending Feb 22nd 1941, and output was an estimated 200,000 tons less than it should have been". **Gowdridge then attacked Frank Hodges** for this gross misrepresentation, observing that 83 per cent of these shifts lost were due to unavoidable or justifiable absenteeism. In his view, only 33,037 had been lost, and he reminded the public that the vast majority of Leicestershire miners responded magnificently to the call for increased production by returning a 22 per cent increase in output the previous year, and he appealed to the few who willfully or habitually absented themselves from work to pull their weight in these critical times.

Following a propaganda war during the summer of 1941, **Frank Hodges** claimed that the effort had reduced absenteeism by 50 per cent, and it reflected credit on those workmen who had been influenced by it, and whose consciences had been awakened by having the hard facts brought home to them. Gowdridge, was not, however, prepared to congratulate him on what he considered was **Hodges** earlier statistical slight of hand and told him…."This is a problem that must be tackled in a practical and progressive manner, for miners are human beings, not automatons, and as such can only work within the limits of their physique. No, Mr. Hodges, your theories are without substance. Everyone connected with the mining industry would welcome a satisfactory solution to the absenteeism problem, but this cannot be achieved by shouting Improvement! Improvement! Improvement! when there is no improvement. Remember that the nation is at war **Mr. Hodges**, and that in the problem of speeding up output, there is no place except for those who can promote ideas that will lead to ultimate success".

New Lount had the reputation of having an ill-disciplined work force compared to "settled" collieries like Whitwick, and race meetings at Doncaster and Nottingham in September pushed the absenteeism rate up to 8 per cent once more which was sufficient to close down production on a whole coal face.

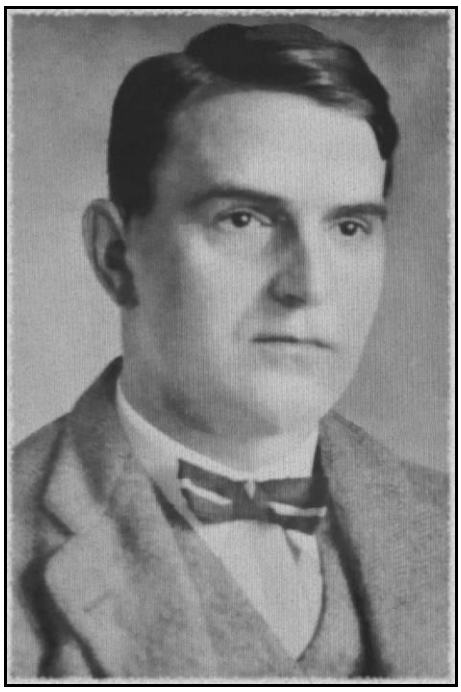
The continued Hodges-Gowdridge confrontation, gave public expression to a continued difference of opinion on absenteeism between the L.C.O.A. (Leicestershire Coal Owners Association) and the L.M.A.

FRANK HODGES

Frank Hodges was a considerable benefactor to the village of Newbold, where he provided houses for managers and miners, and also installed street lighting.

He was also seen as somewhat of a “poacher turned gamekeeper” being a former secretary of the MFGB (elected 1919) who fought for the miners interests and negotiated their terms and conditions with the government of the day. However, in his own collieries he is recorded as developing a sound reputation as an employer, and was judged to have “marked vision and business capacity” in his colliery concerns.

On Jan 1st 1947 (at which time Frank Hodges J.P. of “Rotherwood House, Ashby-De-La-Zouch was chairman and M.D.) New Lount Colliery was nationalised and became part of the N.C.B. East Midlands Division, Area No.8.



By the time Frank Hodges died from 'heart trouble', at the age of sixty in June 1947, he was living at Rotherwood House, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicestershire. He had been ill for two years, and seriously ill for about eight weeks. He passed away at a convalescent home in Ruthin, Denbighshire, on the morning of Tuesday 3rd June 1947, leaving his widow, daughter and a granddaughter.

1887 - Born in Woolaston, Gloucester.

1947 June 3rd Died

1901 - Commenced work at Powell Tillery Pits, Abertillery, Wales, after leaving school at age 14.

1903 - Became a Methodist at 16 and began preaching.

1909 – 1910 Through his trade union links, he secured a Scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford.

After a time in Paris, he returned to work as a hewer in the mines. This was hard work and he wanted something more intellectual. He successfully applied to be a trade union agent. He now felt he could change people's lives for the better, and started reforming the organisation.

1912 - Appointed Miners' Agent, Garw Valley South Wales Miners' federation

1919 - Appointed Secretary, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, He negotiated terms and conditions for miners, with the government and Lloyd George.

1923 - He won a seat as the Labour candidate for Lichfield under Ramsay MacDonald in the first Labour Government, and held the post of First Lord of the Admiralty. He lost his seat in the 1924 general election, so was only in Parliament for a short time.

1924 - Resigned as Secretary, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, on appointment as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. During this time he played golf with the Duke of York before he became George VI.

1925 - Appointed Secretary of the International Miners' Federation. Had performed this role in an honorary capacity since 1920. Resigned in 1927.

1926 – Vice Chairman, National Fuel and Power Committee.

1927 - Appointed member of the Central Electricity Board.

1933 - Appointed Chairman and MD of The Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co. Ltd and M.D of New Lount Colliery which was in their ownership.

1933 - Joined the board of L & N Coal Distillation Company Ltd (owned by The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd), and became M.D. of Rockwood Colliery.

1936 - Purchased a 300 Acre dairy farm in Leicestershire and the tenancy of another farm nearby. He became noted for his modern methods of farming, and was active in the National Farmers' Union.

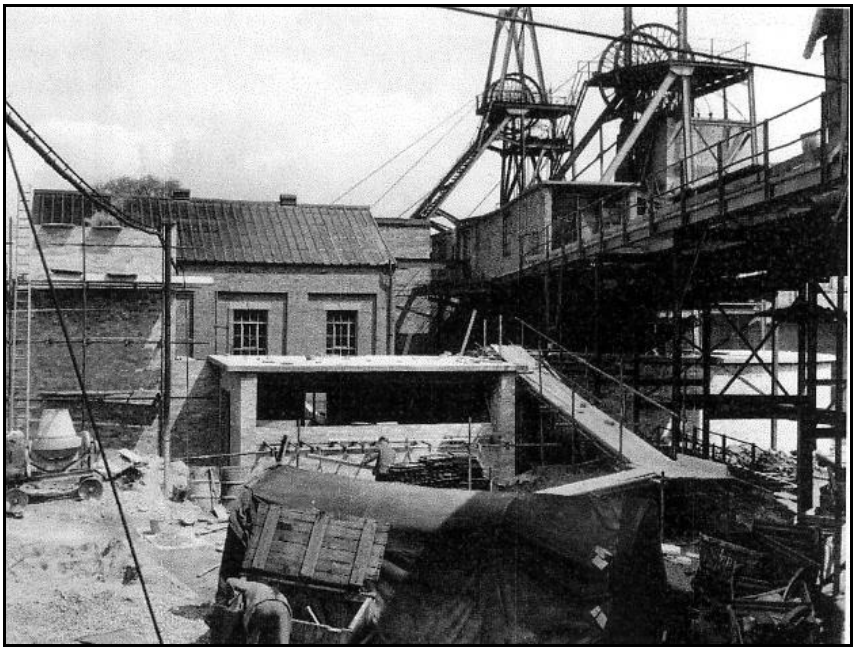
1947 – Left a substantial fortune of £132,959.

Frank Hodges was a director of many other companies – The Securities Management Trust Ltd (a subsidiary of the Bank of England), National Combustion Engines, International Combustion Ltd, William Beardmore and Co. Ltd, Granville Shipbuilders, Co-Operative Printers, the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company, The Lancashire Cotton Corporation, **The Newbold Brick Company Ltd**, and Motherwell Brick Company Ltd.

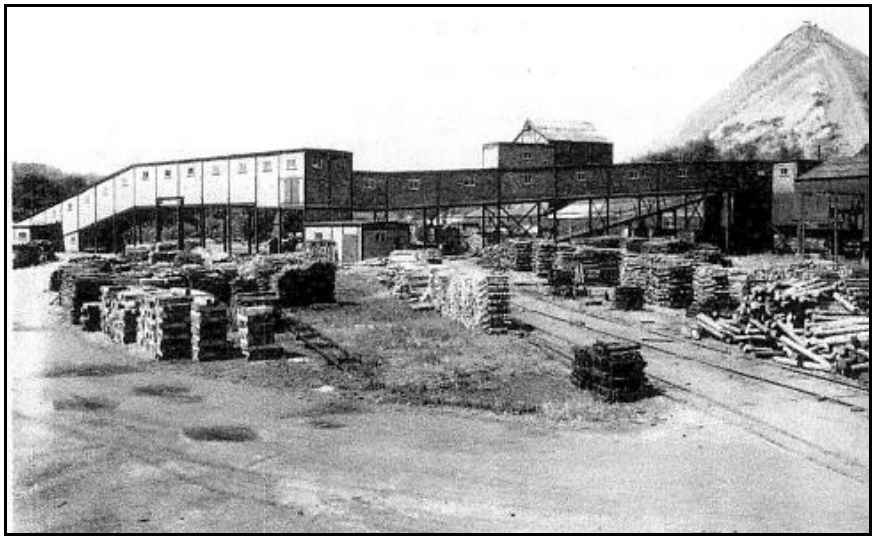
Little is known about Frank Hodges later life, but he had a remarkable career, and his death was the occasion for substantial obituaries in several national papers and journals

It is recommended that anyone interested in knowing more about this remarkable gentleman should read "The odyssey of Frank Hodges" by Chris Williams.

In the first year following nationalisation, New Lount Colliery employed a total of 1,118 men (underground and surface) and turned 480,000 tons of coal. In 1953, a drift was driven from the site of the old Coleorton No.3. Colliery (Bug and Wink), which was about one mile South of New Lount. This had a gradient of 1 in 4, and provided a new ventilation circuit and an alternative emergency exit for New Lount. It was also used by the colliers who lived in the Coleorton locality to access New Lount on foot. By the mid 1950's most of the faces at New Lount were mechanised, and by 1960, although the manpower had decreased, output was still over 400,000 tons per year.



New headstocks and fan housing were built in 1958 and are shown in the photograph under construction



The above photograph taken c.1957 shows the structure which housed the conveyor belt taking the coal from all the seams to the screens which had opened a couple of years earlier

THE MIDGET MINER

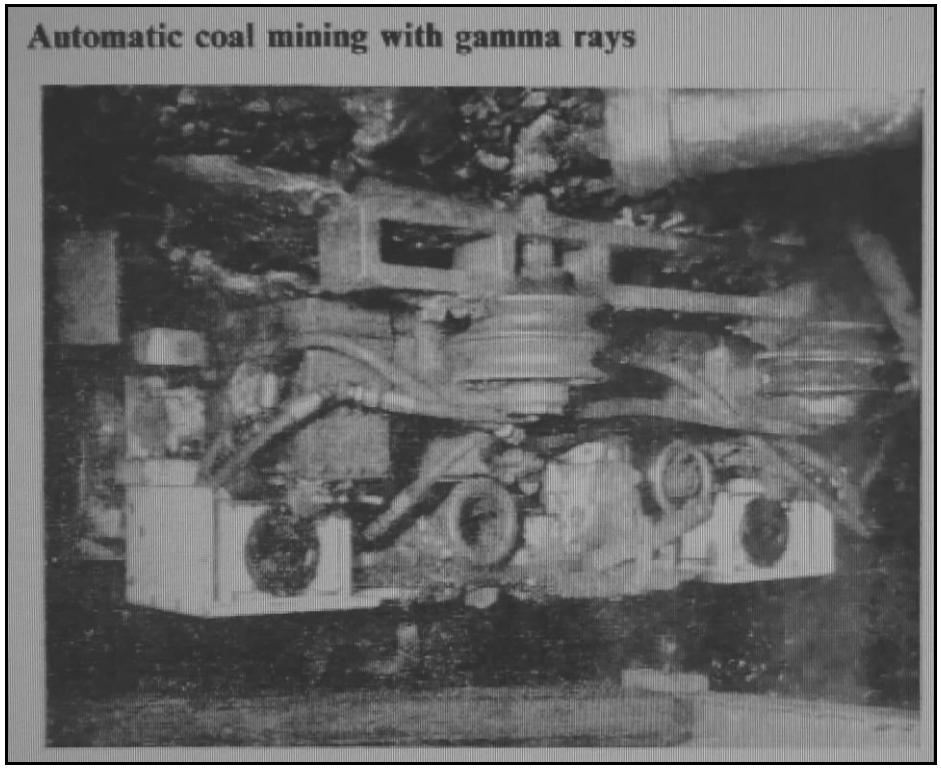
Synopsis of an article in the New Scientist (No 216) 5 Jan 1962

Mechanisation of coal mining doubled in the three years or so from the end of the 1950's and by 1962 was accounting for 40 per cent of the tonnage won from British coalfields every year. The next logical step was to develop remotely controlled cutting machines which did not need the supervision of a human operator.

The Mining Research Establishment at Isleworth, Middlesex, had made considerable advance in this direction by producing an apparatus which sensed the thickness of coal being left on the floor of the coal face as the cutting machine advanced. The principle on which the device is based, is the difference in the back-scattering of gamma radiation from coal and rock. The gamma rays are emitted by a small radioactive source contained in the sensing device. The total back-scatter from both media, measured by a Geiger counter, can be related to the thickness of the coal, which can be measured with an accuracy of +/- ½ inch up to a maximum thickness of 4 inches. Greater thicknesses are indicated simply as being in excess of 4 inches.

A machine called a "Midget Miner" which was installed at New Lount Colliery, was fitted with the device (possibly the first installation of its kind in the world). The machine was capable of cutting 2ft 3in of coal from a 2ft 7in thick seam. The device on this machine was not used as a remote control system and the signals from the Geiger counters were displayed on dials graduated directly in inches of coal, for the benefit of the operator. These dials can be seen in the following photograph at the bottom on either side.

The author believes that the Midget Miner was the development machine for the "Collins Miner" coal-cutting machine which follows.



Rear view of the "Midget miner" coal-cutting machine fitted with the new coal-sensing device.

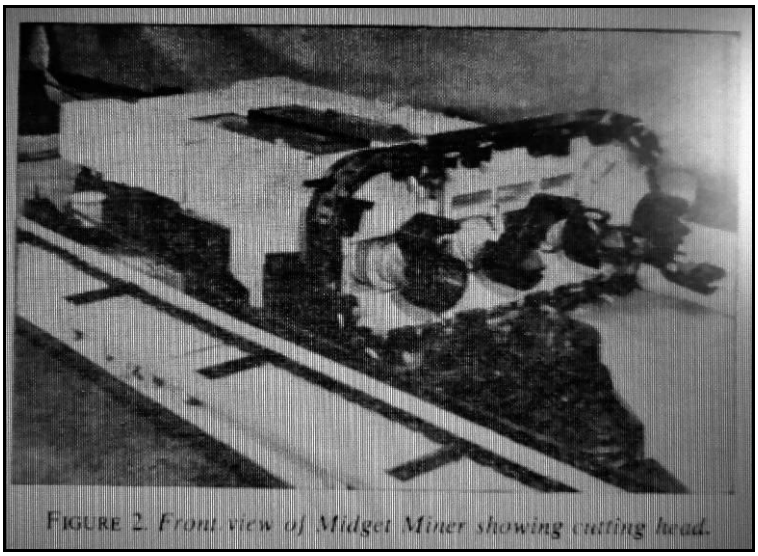


FIGURE 2. *Front view of Midget Miner showing cutting head.*

The "Midget Miner" operated by cutting its way head-on through the seam of coal, making a cut 4ft in depth and 2ft in diameter. The overall length of the machine was 13 feet.

The following statement appeared in the New Scientist (No. 219) 15 June 1961 – *New Lount Colliery has been the scene of the first successful vertical control of a machine in a coal seam underground by use of instruments, although a recent Russian paper, indicates that experiments in the Soviet Union have reached a similar state of advancement.*

The following is taken from "The Leicestershire Miners" book by Colin Griffin :-

As thicker coal seams became exhausted, there was a need to develop machines which were efficient in thin coal seams and New Lount was selected as the test bed for the so called Midget Miner, an adaption of a Russian machine. Since the coal at Lount was of high quality but thin, there was a need to produce a reasonably high proportion of graded and larger coal. Experiments during 1962/3, although they used the most advanced technology available, including the ***nucleonic coal sensing method*** *of keeping the cutter following the contour of the coal seam, were not very successful since experience at Lount indicated that the economics of installation depended to a large extent on obtaining an adequate length of drivage, in a reasonable time. Geological problems (including severe convergence) appeared to be responsible for about half of the failure to reach these economic drivage lengths. The knowledge gained,* ***though it could not save Lount from eventual closure****, was sufficiently encouraging to result in installation of the technology in other collieries in which geological problems were less severe.*

THE COLLINS MINER

The following appeared in the "New Scientist 29th March 1962":-

The first ***production model*** *of a new mining machine which is raising the NCB's hopes of producing coal from "Thin Seams" at an attractive price is undergoing its first trials at the "Swadlincote, Derbyshire Surface test Site". If the trials are successful, and the NCB is optimistic that they will be, the machine will then be installed underground at New Lount Colliery, where a site has already been prepared in the mine there.*

Synopsis from an article in the New Scientist (No 377) 6 Feb 1964

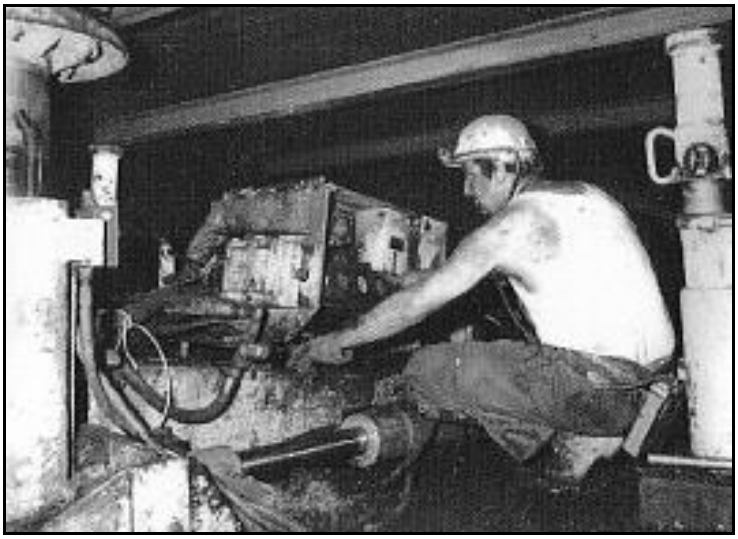
The machine was taken underground at New Lount and worked away in a seam 2ft 7in thick. The machine cut a slot into the seam about 6 or 7ft wide and the coal was carried back from the cutting head on a conveyor belt. The cutting head was forced into the seam by push rods as it machined the coal out, and the general idea was to cut a "stall" to a maximum length of 100 yards, move the train on and cut the next, and so on. At the end of the roadway, the train is

turned round and the miner cuts stalls down the other side. In spite of some unforeseen circumstances at New Lount – for example, the machine ran into rock only 40 ft along on its very first stall and ruined the cutters, the results were most encouraging for the NCB.

On its best day, the miner's output was 25 tons per man shift, and over one week it averaged 16 tons per man shift.

The NCB were confident that that the machine could be scaled down to operate in only 18 inch thick seams, and as there were large reserves of coal in Britain with thin seams, the potential for the machine was attractive.

The more important snags that came up during the New Lount trials were concerned with steering the miner in a vertical direction. One of them was overcome simply enough by moving steering jacks from the back of the machine to the front to cut down steering movement. How much the machine moved up and down to follow the coal seam, was shown by the **radioactive** source underneath it, as with the "Midget Miner"

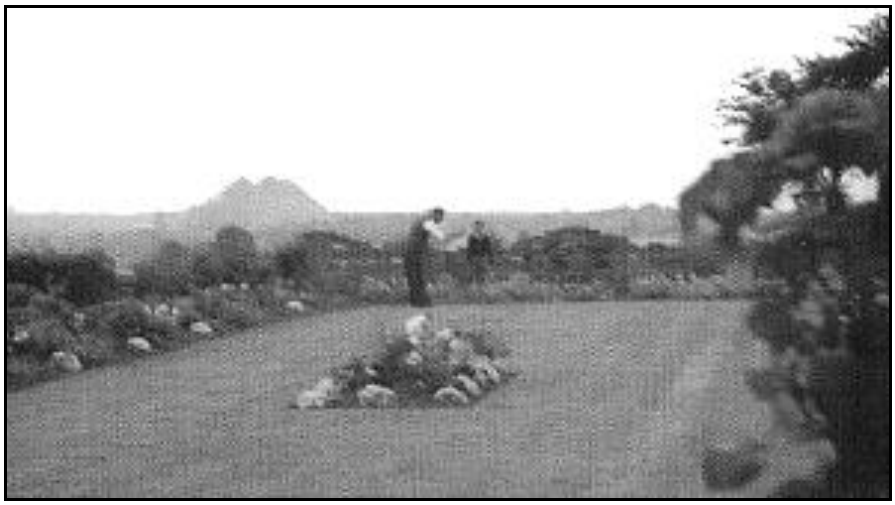


Arthur Conkay operating the "Collins Miner in 1965 in a 4ft 6in seam

Underground at New Lount from L to R – M.Richards, A. Conkay, T. Ralph, A. Sykes, P. Matchett. – Photograph taken 1965

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY SPOIL HEAPS

Photograph taken from Stoney-Lane, Coleorton in 1947 which shows New Lount Colliery Spoil Heaps on the horizon.



A similar photograph, but taken in 1962 from a garden on the Top Road, Griffydam

The colliery Spoil Heaps, a local landmark, on which villagers spent many hours illegally coal picking, were levelled and planted with trees by Leicestershire County Council c.1975. People recall, that during World War Two there was concern that they would alert German aircraft because there was always a large fire-glow from them due to the residue of coal combusting. The tips were known locally at one time, for obvious reasons, as “Sabrina Pass” after the 1950’s well-endowed English glamour model……a typical coal miners sense of humour.

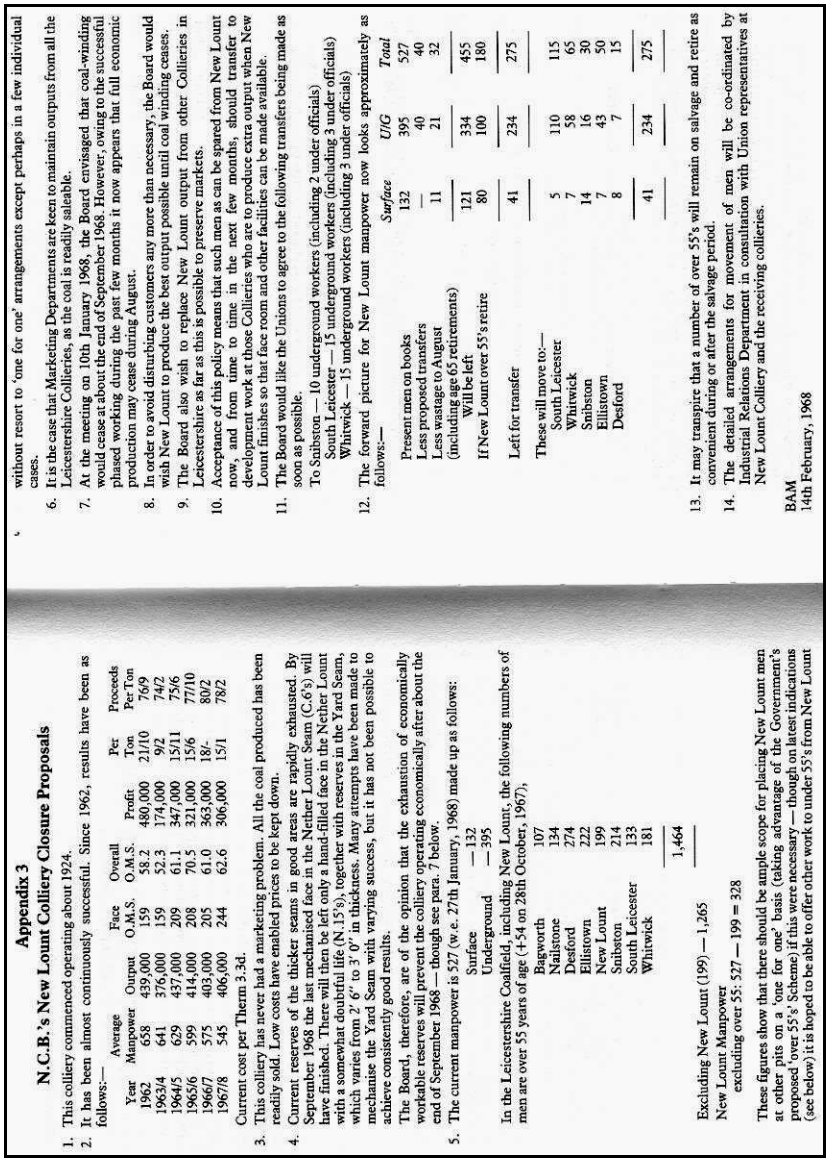
See the later recollections of Des Jackson when he was working on the New Lount pit banks

THE IMPENDING CLOSURE OF NEW LOUNT COLLIERY

By 1963, most of the collieries output was being transported by road, and five special loading points had been installed under the screens to deal with this. In 1967 the output was 406,000 tons with a workforce now down to 590, of which only 443 men worked underground. The colliery had been profitable for its entire life, and in that year made £306,000 profit.

In 1968, the N.C.B. prepared a report on the future of New Lount, a copy of which follows this paragraph. The “good news section of the report” noted that the colliery had been continuously successful for most of its life; the “bad news” stated that the current reserves of the thicker seams were being rapidly exhausted and so the fate of the colliery was sealed. New Lount officially closed July 26th 1968. Men under 55 were transferred to other collieries and men over 55 had two options…….they could retire or transfer to another colliery if an over 55 man would retire there in their place. In 1968 there were 399 u/ground and 138 surface workers.

The following is the N.C.B.’s New Lount closure proposals, and is taken from Colin Griffin’s book entitled “The Leicestershire Miners” Volume 3.



Appendix 3

N.C.B.'s New Lount Colliery Closure Proposals

1. This colliery commenced operating about 1924.
2. It has been almost continuously successful. Since 1962, results have been as follows:—

Year	Average Manpower	Output	Face O.M.S.	Overall O.M.S.	Profit	Per Ton	Proceeds Per Ton
1962	658	439,000	159	58.2	480,000	21/10	76/9
1963/4	641	376,000	159	52.3	174,000	9/2	74/2
1964/5	629	437,000	209	61.1	347,000	15/11	75/6
1965/6	599	414,000	208	70.5	321,000	15/6	77/10
1966/7	575	403,000	205	61.0	363,000	18/-	80/2
1967/8	545	406,000	244	62.6	306,000	15/1	78/2

Current cost per Therm 3.3d.

3. This colliery has never had a marketing problem. All the coal produced has been readily sold. Low costs have enabled prices to be kept down.
4. Current reserves of the thicker seams in good areas are rapidly exhausted. By September 1968 the last mechanised face in the Nether Lount Seam (C.6's) will have finished. There will then be left only a hand-filled face in the Nether Lount with a somewhat doubtful life (N.15's), together with reserves in the Yard Seam, which varies from 2' 6" to 3' 0" in thickness. Many attempts have been made to mechanise the Yard Seam with varying success, but it has not been possible to achieve consistently good results.

   The Board, therefore, are of the opinion that the exhaustion of economically workable reserves will prevent the colliery operating economically after about the end of September 1968 — though see para. 7 below.
5. The current manpower is 527 (w.e. 27th January, 1968) made up as follows:

Surface	— 132
Underground	— 395

   In the Leicestershire Coalfield, including New Lount, the following numbers of men are over 55 years of age (+54 on 28th October, 1967),

Bagworth	107
Nailstone	134
Desford	274
Ellistown	222
New Lount	199
Snibston	214
South Leicester	133
Whitwick	181
	1,464
Excluding New Lount (199) —	1,265
New Lount Manpower excluding over 55: 527 — 199 =	328

   These figures show that there should be ample scope for placing New Lount men at other pits on a 'one for one' basis (taking advantage of the Government's proposed 'over 55's' Scheme) if this were necessary — though on latest indications (see below) it is hoped to be able to offer other work to under 55's from New Lount without resort to 'one for one' arrangements except perhaps in a few individual cases.
6. It is the case that Marketing Departments are keen to maintain outputs from all the Leicestershire Collieries, as the coal is readily saleable.
7. At the meeting on 10th January 1968, the Board envisaged that coal-winding would cease at about the end of September 1968. However, owing to the successful phased working during the past few months it now appears that full economic production may cease during August.
8. In order to avoid disturbing customers any more than necessary, the Board would wish New Lount to produce the best output possible until coal winding ceases.
9. The Board also wish to replace New Lount output from other Collieries in Leicestershire as far as this is possible to preserve markets.
10. Acceptance of this policy means that such men as can be spared from New Lount now, and from time to time in the next few months, should transfer to development work at those Collieries who are to produce extra output when New Lount finishes so that face room and other facilities can be made available.
11. The Board would like the Unions to agree to the following transfers being made as soon as possible.

    To Snibston — 10 underground workers (including 2 under officials)
    South Leicester — 15 underground workers (including 3 under officials)
    Whitwick — 15 underground workers (including 3 under officials)
12. The forward picture for New Lount manpower now looks approximately as follows:—

	Surface	*U/G*	*Total*
Present men on books	132	395	527
Less proposed transfers	—	40	40
Less wastage to August (including age 65 retirements)	11	21	32
Will be left	121	334	455
If New Lount over 55's retire	80	100	180
Left for transfer	41	234	275
These will move to:—			
South Leicester	5	110	115
Whitwick	7	58	65
Snibston	14	16	30
Ellistown	7	43	50
Desford	8	7	15
	41	234	275

13. It may transpire that a number of over 55's will remain on salvage and retire as convenient during or after the salvage period.
14. The detailed arrangements for movement of men will be co-ordinated by Industrial Relations Department in consultation with Union representatives at New Lount Colliery and the receiving collieries.

BAM
14th February, 1968

EMPLOYEE STATISTICS FOR NEW LOUNT COLLIERY

- **1924**: 96 u/g, 77 s/f
- **1925**: 368 u/g, 113 s/f
- **1926:** 466 u/g, 132 s/f
- **1927**: 622 u/g, 164 s/f
- **1928**: 786 u/g, 194 s/f
- **1929**: 877 u/g, 234 s/f
- **1930**: 731 u/g, 215 s/f
- **1931**: 807 u/g, 227 s/f
- **1932**: 960 u/g, 232 s/f
- **1933**: 822 u/g, 190 s/f
- **1934**: 871 u/g, 172 s/f
- **1935**: 851 u/g, 184 s/f
- **1936**: 868 u/g, 179 s/f
- **1937**: 833 u/g, 192 s/f
- **1938**: 805 u/g, 211 s/f
- **1939**: 845 u/g, 266 s/f
- **1941**: 781 u/g, 253 s/f
- **1942**: 815 u/g, 247 s/f
- **1945**: 852 u/g, 251 s/f
- **NCB Leicestershire Area 1947** 858 u/g, 279 s/f
- **1948**: 850 u/g, 250 s/f
- **NCB No7 Area 1950** 864 u/g, 208 s/f
- **1951**: 770 192 s/f
- **1955**: 777 u/g, 170 s/f
- **1956**: 753 u/g, 167 s/f
- **1957**: 703 u/g, 159 s/f
- **1958**: 690 u/g, 158 s/f
- **1961**: 569 u/g, 135 s/f
- **1962**: 546 u/g, 123 s/f
- **1963**: 532 u/g, 126 s/f
- **1964**: 514 u/g, 118 s/f
- **1965**: 483 u/g, 158 s/f
- **1966**: 443 u/g, 147 s/f
- **South Midlands Area**: **1967**: 443 u/g, 147 s/f
- **1968**: 399 u/g, 138 s/f.

Agents:

- W Taylor (3338) 1928-1933
- J Johnston (873) 1933-1936
- T Gray (2758) 1936-1937
- LD James (2806) 1937-1939
- WH Napier 1939-1946.

Group Managers:

- John J Torrance (2803) Area Manager 1947
- Jabez Emmerson **JP** (1212) 1948-1957
- Jack EM Chapman (1734) 1957-1965
- Arthur Summers (4896) 1965-1967.

Managers:

- W Taylor (3338) 1924-1933
- J Johnston (873) 1933-1936
- T Gray (2758) 1936-1937
- LD James (2806) 1937-1939 and Agent
- CWL Dudgeon (1823) 1940-1945
- Peter L Richardson (3242) 1945-1966 (promoted to Group Manager)
- Ken Bradford (5553) 1966-1967
- Jim A Tait (5758) 1968.

Under-managers:

- J Bamborough (3530) transferred from Manager of **Old Lount** 1924-1933
- MA Greenhall (8172 2nd) 1925-1936
- FG Cutts (1487) 1929-1930
- R Learmouth (1432 / 2nd) 1930-1933
- CWL Dudgeon (1823) 1936-1940 (promoted to Manager)
- WH Jones (4006 / 2nd and 3632 / 1st) 1941-1943
- J Steele (2759 / 2nd) -1947
- H Burnett (3971 / 2nd) 1947-1955
- C Shaw (2835 / 2nd) 1956-1958
- F Gregory (5757 / 2nd) 1948 - 1960
- Len Collier (7222) 1959-1961
- Ken Bradford (5553) 1958-1962
- D Nev Rady (7297) 1962-1966
- Tommy D Richardson (8265) 1966-1967
- Terry F Gregory (7955) 1968 (to Manager **Tilmanstone**, returned as Area Safety Engineer).

RECOLLECTIONS FROM MINERS WORKING AT NEW LOUNT COLLIERY IN TIMES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WARS. THESE WERE PERSONAL INTERVIEWS BY COLIN GRIFFIN AND TAKEN FROM THE 2ND VOLUME OF HIS BOOK ENTITLED 'THE LEICESTERSHIRE MINERS 1914-1945'

The following are experiences recollected by Des Jackson who was working at New Lount Colliery at the time around the start of the Second World War :-

The introduction of coal cutters in coal mines created a class of "fitters" or mechanics required to service the machinery. These men were in short supply as the rearmament boom progressed and were recruited on quite a different basis from the traditional informal progression from pit bottom to coal face. Des Jackson an apprenticed plumber, applied in 1939 to New Lount and was "set on immediately as a trainee fitter". His experience was not untypical: - "*Now, the first day I went to the pit I went down the pit with the underground foreman and carried his tool bag and we went to this cutter and I was frightened to death because we went through all these old roads and this was the first time I'd ever been down the pit. And I gave him a hand – we went to repair an old A.B. cutter with a 5 feet 6 inch jib on…And the next day there was a job to do on the haulage- there were still haulages then, there were no horses down New Lount – and he sent me to repair a haulage the second day. I was there on my own. "There you are, me lad", he says, "you'll learn how to do it – somebody'll show you whats what". This was "on the job" training with a vengeance in which lads were not gently eased into the "mysteries of the mine" but on day two had to find their way from pit bottom to a task miles underground bent double with a bag a tools on your back along miles and miles of road only just tall enough for the tubs to go through".* The old traditions had been broken down and not yet been replaced by the organised training methods that came subsequently and to be regarded as essential.

Des Jackson recalls working on the spoil heap at Lount, "a couple of hundred feet high. I had to put a light on it during the war for the aircraft (English) *though you could see the heap glowing for miles around." The spoil was taken up to the top of the heap by a bogey (hopper) travelling on rails to a 60 square foot steel plate at the top from which the spoil was tipped "down the mountain as it were". The tray had to be frequently advanced over the heap by means of a winch and the rail extended to fill the gap between the new position of the plate and the existing railway. Winching the tray forward was a back breaking job "everybody out of the fitting shop used to get on this winch because they used to have four each side and once round was enough and another eight, including the gaffers, would take over". Inserting additional rails was even worse because "the tip was all on fire at the top…we were allowed a new pair of boots for this job because by the time you had finished this job your nails would be out of your boots…it was red hot and the leather would be burnt away from the nails". Dust was added to the heat "we had to ware goggles because the wind used to whip the stuff up into your eyes and it still got under your goggles, we all used to have bad eyes. And the smell used to be absolutely terrible. It was sulphur you know. And you'd take it home with you, inside your body, and when you broke wind, which you had to do, that smell would be there". Working conditions on the heap deteriorated still further when war broke out because flames had to be damped down to conform with the blackout regulations. Water and boiler flue dust were used to try and quell the flames but the heap continued "to boil like soup" whilst the men were nearly asphyxiated with steam and dust.*

Such was the lot of some of the fitters at Lount, who worked periodically on the heap, but that of the "spoil heap man" was even worse. He had to travel up with the loaded bogey in order to empty it off the plate at the top and return with it empty. "He never used to stop up there because he could not stick it". On one trip he did not return, he slipped whilst emptying the bogey and fell to his death.

The number of fatal accidents in or about the mines was bad enough, though it was small in comparison with the number of non-fatal accidents. In the pre-war years, when only imperfect statistics were recorded, there were five times as many serious non-fatal accidents as fatal ones

reported to the Mines Inspectorate. When detailed statistics began to be collected in the inter-war period, the real extent of non-fatal injury was revealed for the first time and its dimensions were staggering to anyone not acquainted with colliery work. In 1924-25, an average of 5.5 miners were killed whilst 1,643 received an injury which disabled them for more than three days. In 1937-38 the same statistics were 8 and 1,369 respectively. The actual causes of injury closely followed those of fatal accidents with falls the greatest culprit and injury on underground haulage some way behind. Shaft accidents were very few as were those caused by explosions. Probably only a minority of miners left the pits completely unscarred and most had witness accidents and had their fair share of near misses.

Des Jackson recalled the time when he was repairing a coal cutter in the Jackie seam at Lount which was a naked light area of the mine "when there was an explosion at the main gate lip and six men got burnt…three of them very severely through having these naked lights". On another occasion "we had a break-in of water which was a very serious affair, in fact I nearly got drowned that particular time. I had to run for my life and only just got out in time, the water was up to me chest".

Eric Saunders had the following recollections. Eric spent weeks working in a "waterfall" at Whitwick:-

"wet through, water running down my back and coming out of the side of your shoes, it were coming out that thick,…it was clean water but smelled awful…that's what brought the pneumonia on"

The worst mine for wet working conditions was New Lount…*"We used to have pockets of water at Lount, it was a terribly wet place. The trammers wore clogs as standard equipment and it was common for men to be working in a foot of water…kneeling in it to shovel. And we had to put a pump on the face itself so we kept it down to that level. It was not very good working conditions but it was either that or nothing in those days. The result of working in wet conditions for long periods were predictable, you got rheumatism and all these ailments due to wet conditions, and skin complaints, a kind of dermatitis – eczema we used to call it – through wet conditions. You had creaky knees, skin rubbed off your hands and blisters…Men you always saw wet, men you saw coming out of the pit with the dirty grey sludge on them, absolutely sopping wet through, you know they've succumbed to these chest complaints subsequently".*

Further Des Jackson recollections:-

He believed *"that the biggest enemy of any miner was dust…the dust problem was terrific then and unfortunately a lot of old miners have died through dust…pneumoconiosis, but when it come to a bit of compensation, you've either had pneumonia or something like that you know, a chest condition".* Dust was created when roadways were blasted, coal undercut or overcut in the "dirt", or work was proceeding through faults. Ventilation currents should have been strong enough to dilute the dust significantly to reduce the health hazard. Miners recollect working on coal faces where the current was stong enough to perform this role but it was not universally the case. Eric Saunders remembers, for example, whilst working at Snibston *"there was a fault in the three foot seam and by god it was a fault an' all. Now, you see the colour of your paper, that's how our bodies were, white with dust. It fell on us and, there used to be two inches of stuff on your stomach, limestone and it was red hot…you used to get more money for limestone than you did for coal but when you get that on your chest it burns you…I could not face it in the end, I said, "if you cut my throat there'd be no blood". It were that dry and your eyeballs full of filth and your eyelashes were white". Mine management appreciated that "the use of coal cutters and conveyors results in an increase in the amount of fine coal dust produced", but they certainly did not always give "that increased attention to stone dusting that is needed" until, as at New Lount, an explosion compelled them to do so. Rather there was a tendency to continue the traditional practices in which "there was always an area of the mine where the air was not pouring through the face very well, bad ventilation…so that when a shot was fired, it was John Hall's powder then, it caused so much smoke it was like a thick blanket of fog. It took quite a while to clear away and*

you had to work in that…You had to get coal in all that smoke and dust, you swallowed tons of it, conditions were terrible then.

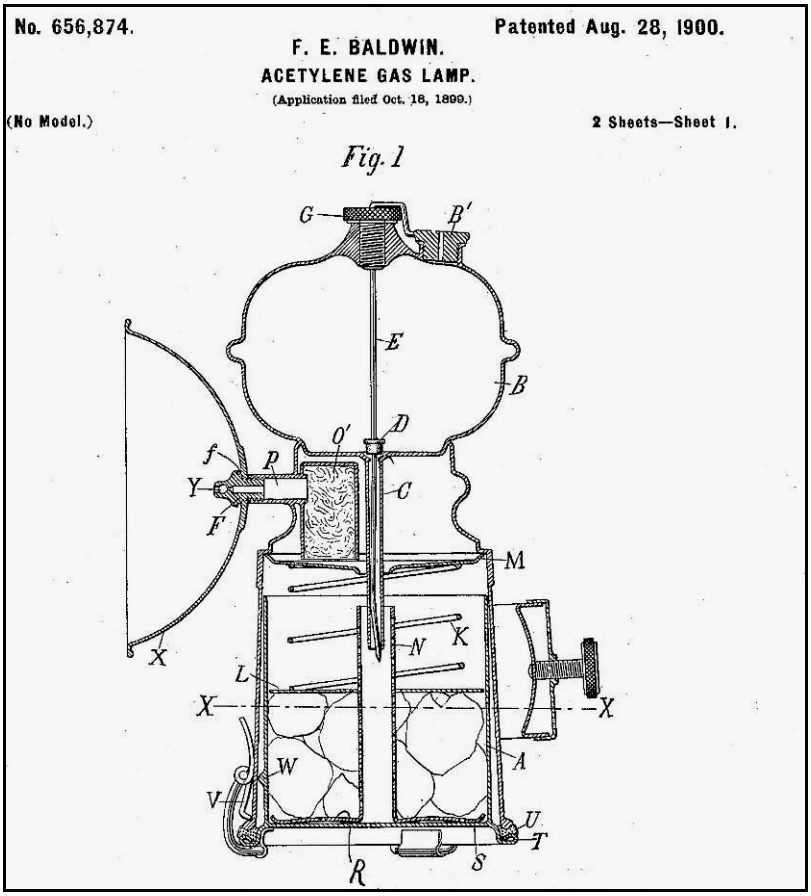
The following are recollections by Alf Groocock :-

Alf Groocock remembers "one night a deputy came and asked me to go through the airway with him… Now we went through this small airway an' it was no more that eighteen inches and we got to one part where if a piece of stone fell out of the roof as big as your hand and dropped on your back you could get your hand behind you to lift it off, see…confined in this close area you know and I was frightened. And I was frightened to the extent that I came home one night and went to bed as usual and in the night saw the biggest stone coming out of the roof at me and I shot back you know like to miss it and fell on the bedroom floor". The following day he chucked working underground for several weeks because his nerve had temporarily broken.

Underground lighting remained primitive away from the pit bottom and in naked light areas were unpredictable and the cause of the occasional minor explosion. At New Lount and other pits for instance "they used to wear shookies (see following photographs). *That was a cloth cap with a peek on and a piece of plate fastened to it a carbide lamp with a little flint and a wheel incorporated. They used to get the carbide and put it in the lamp and carry a can of water to put in which made the acetylene gas which was then lit to give them a flame. But you found many a bloke who'd got no matches and no flint for his lamp and they'd be in the dark and they went along by keeping hold of the rails". Safety lamps gave a feeble light at best which tended to deteriorate as the shift wore on because the glass became increasingly discoloured (smoked up). "If you could see a yard that was about as much as you could see…You worked with your touch you might say mostly".* **The carbide / acetylene lamp flame was approximately 6 times brighter than a safety lamp**

Newcomers to the pit could also find the conditions in which they had to perform their "natural functions" off-putting. "When it's snap time, you know, I mean if your in an office or anything like that you go out for a meal or something…when you're down the pit you just take the top off your snap tin and you can't wash your hands and you've probably just been to relieve yourself or something like that…It's disgusting, I know, but what would you do about it…there's no toilets down there. Eating, drinking, urinating and defecating continued as they always had "to go on side by side" though at New Lount "we did have some toilets on the Main road which I put in myself…But there was still nothing in the districts…though there could be if they wanted to put them in".

Typical miner's hard and soft variety of "Shookie hat and lamp"

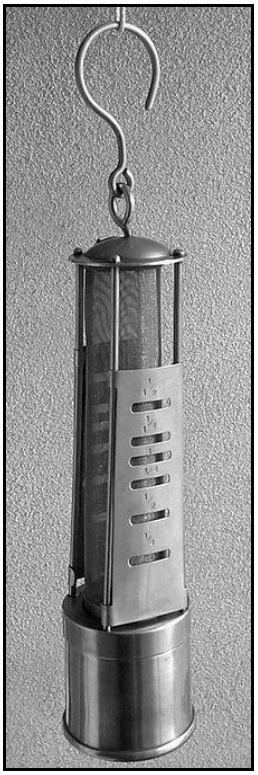


Section through a typical Shookie Lamp where controlled droplets of water onto carbide pellets produced acetylene gas which went to the burner and provided a flame 6 times brighter than a candle flame or safety lamp for example.

The original **Davy lamp** was a safety lamp for use in flammable atmospheres, consisting of a wick lamp with the flame enclosed inside a mesh screen. It was invented in 1815 by Sir Humphry Davy. It originally burned a heavy vegetable oil. It was created for use in coal mines, to reduce

the danger of explosions due to the presence of methane and other flammable gases, called *firedamp* or *minedamp*. Sir Humphry Davy had discovered that a flame enclosed inside a mesh of a certain fineness cannot ignite firedamp. The screen acts as a flame arrestor; air (and any firedamp present) can pass through the mesh freely enough to support combustion, but the holes are too fine to allow a flame to propagate through them and ignite any firedamp outside the mesh. If flammable gas mixtures were present, the flame of the Davy lamp burned higher with a blue tinge. Lamps were equipped with a metal gauge to measure the height of the flame. Miners could place the safety lamp close to the ground to detect gases, such as carbon dioxide, that are denser than air and so could collect in depressions in the mine; if the mine air was oxygen-poor (asphyxiant gas), the lamp flame would be extinguished (*black damp* or *chokedamp*). A methane-air flame is extinguished at about 17% oxygen content (which will still support life) so the lamp gave an early indication of an unhealthy atmosphere allowing the miners to get out before they died of asphyxiation. The expression “Davy Safety Lamps” tended to be applied to all lamps of the variety shown below on the right, of which there where numerous versions produced.

By 1922, hand held electric lamps were being issued, but electric cap lamps were not introduced till the 1940s. From around the 1930s, almost all flame safety lamps were replaced by electric lamps for lighting. However, safety lamps still continued to be use for detecting and measuring gas long after their use for lighting was obsolete.



On the left is an old type of Davy safety lamp with apertures for gauging flame height and on the right the more familiar version of safety lamp which became available later on in the evolution of these lamps. However, they were still referred to as Davy safety lamps.

Further recollections on New Lount by Frank Smith (He became the local Union Secretary):-

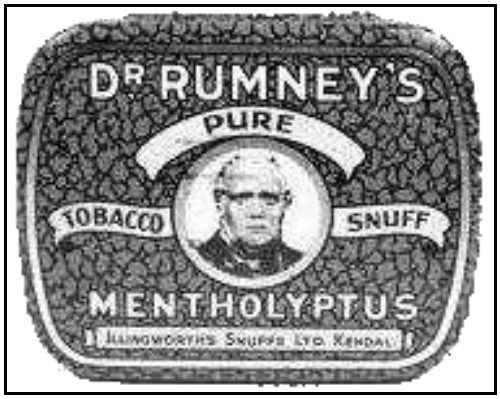
It is generally accepted that New Lount was in a class of its own when it came to safety standards because there was so much connivance between management and men in the breach of regulations. The New Lount "lot" were a breed apart or as Frank Smith explains *"New Lount was an isolated occasion, it was a new pit owned by a pipe company... Planning was at a minimum and you ran into pockets of water all over the place, you didn't know what you were going to meet even on the Main Roads…they used to call it clash, clash because of all the clash banging, everybody was clash banging, the coal came from anywhere you know…the men were good miners with adventurous spirits who'd left your solid Whitwick and Snibston pits and they'd gone down there because it was always 2s. 0d. a day more for the day worker, there was not enough local labour so they had to get men in from Whitwick and Coalville…And I've seen some conditions there…we were working in the Jacky seam which had an operational height of 1 foot 9 inches…the men used to blow their own coal though they were not supposed to…the deputy or shot-firer would stand at the lip end and give the men the dets (detonators), because they'd changed from fuse to detonator wire with batteries…and they'd put a couple of dets with a lifting power of 30cwt, crawl up the face and then take an ordinary bike battery and lie down on soft coal and then just a woof which would blow down all this twelve yards of coal". Moreover, "you could risk your neck because the rule of stripping was that you filled a yard of coal off and set a support. On occasion when the roof was good you used to go three yards without setting a support. Sometimes you'd get caught out and get a crack round the head, or back or ribs or whatever…it used to frighten you to death, when it took weight it used to bump, you see, and at 1 foot 9 inches it has not got to bump much and you're squashed…when the convergence came and we hadn't set enough props we'd scrabble off like rabbits on our hands and knees, snaking our way out if that's the right word for it…when the roof was not moving some often would be half-way up their ratches (six yards) before you knew where you were without any supports. Oh yes, rules and regulation were broke more at Lount than any other pit in my opinion. All the guys were hand in glove with the officials to increase productivity and get higher rates of pay…it hadn't the stability, the working traditions, like you got at Whitwick or Snibston or South Leicester and those places…the miners were all strangers, drawn from all over the place, individuals with the adventurous spirits who said "There's a shilling to be got at New Lount, let's go and get it". And, of course, the management was similar, they were, I don't know, bandit kind of people, they didn't bother too much about the Coal Owners' Association, their rules and regulations, they were there to make a profit and profit they made…it's a well known fact that in the two years up to nationalisation they made two and a half million pounds profit.*

Des Jackson confirmed Smith's opinion…*"things were a bit lax in those days…If they were a bit late in getting there or starting the deputy would probably fire the shots before he tested for gas and all the rest of it because they'd never had a lot of gas, if you understand me…the biggest majority of miners had to do it properly otherwise they got killed or injured but there was a certain amount of sloppiness as you know in those days because things were not so tight…You could cut more corners, if you understand, I mean, for instance, we had a break in of water which was a very serious affair, in fact I nearly got drowned that particular time. I had to run for my life…as a rule we used to contain the water but this particular time we did not contain it until it shut a whole area of the pit off. We had to contain it then. Well, we moved what they called the non-smoking board from where it was in the pit bottom right in bye where we were working. And we were down the pit at least three shifts, twenty four hours and never went out of the pit…he sent us baskets of food, beer and cigarettes down and they moved the board forward so we could have a cigarette while we were putting this big pump in…we'd got to do it to save the area…it was a very big coal producing area at that time…two or three big faces…the water was beating all the rest of the ordinary pumps, you see".*

This particular attitude to danger seems almost to have become a point of pride…*"Now the ingenuity of the New Lount miner was such as they could improvise on anything…when they used to have wooden supports up in the rear in the gob…instead of finding as you were supposed to do some cleats to pin at the top, they used to put their ringer at the bottom and*

shove some muck under it…not altogether too safe but ingenious". It is perhaps a little wonder that "it was said eventually that if you worked at New Lount successfully and did not get killed you could work any place on earth…and I can believe it", though Lount miners were not the only ones who boasted of their "versatility and "ingenuity". Moreover, the men continued to gang up with management against the Inspectorate on the question of outlawing the use of naked lights underground or as the Inspectorate put "*This resistance is based on the argument that whilst accidents from explosions might be prevented, a number of accidents from other causes, such as falls of roof and on haulage, would be increased".*

It should be remembered that candles and naked lights were banned from the coal face in 1922 and Ackroyd & Best hand held electric lamps were introduced in 1922. Instead of sucking or smoking a pipe, or a cigarette, the men now had to rely on chewing "Bacca" (a screw of pigtail twist tobacco), chewing wood, a piece of hawthorn hedge, small lumps of coal, and later chewing gum to help slake (quench) the dust or the craving. Of course, the usual "pinch of snuff" was refreshing, and generally cleared the throat and helped to get rid of the dust clogging the nose. It also became a gesture of goodwill to offer anyone passing a pinch of snuff – mainly to pass the time of day and form a system whereby next time they would offer you a pinch in return. Polo mints also became very popular later on.



From what we read in these various miners' recollections the rules were clearly not being observed at New Lount Colliery.

Such an attitude by the men was understandable, for as Harry Sheffield explained - *"They were murder as you might say, the safety lamp area because they weren't the good lamps they are now. They used to smoke up very often early on in the shift and you couldn't do anything about it. If you could see a yard that was about as much as you could see…It was much more dangerous, some of them would not do safety lamps work at all".*

Working with naked lights was seen as the lesser of two evils in a coalfield in which explosions were infrequent in spite of the Inspectorate's insistence that "the argument is in our opinion

unsound, and there is much evidence against it". The Inspectorate were particularly sensitive on the issue, and it is surely not a coincidence that their two prosecutions for breaches of mine regulations were both related to the issue of the danger of explosions. In August 1929, eleven Whitwick miners were fined a guinea each for the possession of cigarettes and matches underground.

In October 1936, owners and senior managers of New Lount were successfully prosecuted for not introducing safety lamps into a "fiery" area of the mine, and failing to record and report a minor explosion to the Inspectorate. Methane gas had been detected in an old drift, but men were not prevented from entering it wearing acetylene gas cap lamps. One man, William Ottey… "*stood up,and the flame came into contact with gas hanging from the roof and ignited the gas. Ottey was badly burned about the arms and face…when he returned to work three weeks later he was then told that he must travel about the road with his safety lamp".* The Inspectorate was not as required by law advised of the incident nor was it recorded in the colliery records. The prosecution was the result of an anonymous letter to the Inspectorate, who was not apparently unaware of the colliery's reputation, as the following exchange between the defence lawyer and inspector infers: -

"Apart from what we are investigating this morning, whenever you have visited this colliery, you have always found it well equipped? In the main yes.

It is a modern colliery? I should call it fairly modern.

The management consists of all fully qualified people? Quite.

Is it the most modern colliery in the Leicestershire Coalfield?

The Clerk – Are you asking for a testimonial? (laughter). When the question was repeated, Mr. Fenton said he would rather not answer".

PART 3

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY SPORTS GROUND

"New Lount Colliery Sports Ground" at Gelsmoor was in Worthington Parish, and situated on Gelsmoor Road opposite Aqueduct road. This is where the football club, cricket club and bowls club played their matches. It was also used for local entertainment such as the famous annual Ox roast.

NEW LOUNT COLLIERY FOOTBALL CLUB - 1935

The above is a photograph of New Lount Colliery Football Club Team – It is thought that this shows the team that were "Leicestershire League Champions" in 1934/35 - see following league tables

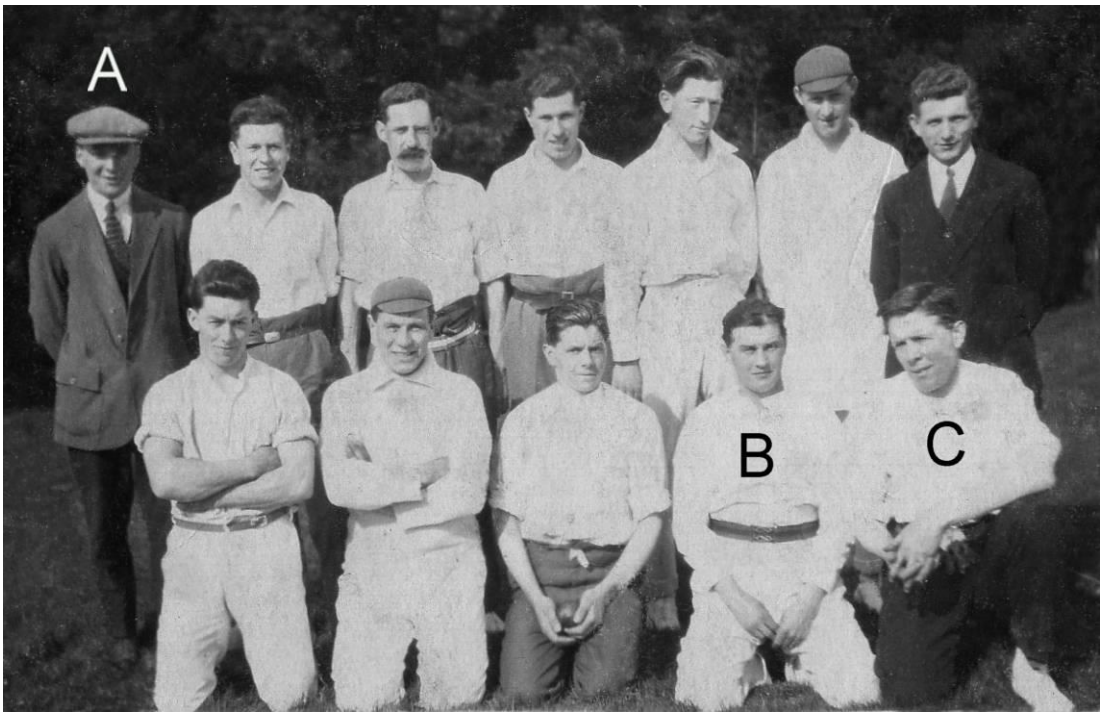
1st Row seated LH side
Mick Bradford
2nd Row Left to Right
First person Les Bradford,
Third person Matt Rowell
Top Row Left to Right
Third person Tom Richards, Sixth person John Wilton

New Lount Football Team were the newly - reformed Leicestershire League Champions in 1934 / 35 as shown in the table below. Information taken from Leicestershire Senior league website 1894-1950

		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	POS
1934-35	Leics League	22	15	3	4	84	37	33	1/12
1935-36	Leics League	29	11	2	16	83	99	24	10/16

There is also a reference to the team winning both the Coaville Cup and the League Title in the 1930-31 seasons.

NEW LOUNT CRICKET CLUB



New Lount Cricket Team c.1935.

Top Row
A - John Whyman, Umpire

Bottom Row
B - Samuel Stewart, **C** - Les Saddington

John Whyman acted as umpire for the cricket team, due to the leg injury he received in the First World War, at the age of twenty one.

Bowls, Cricket and Football continued at Lount for many years, and Bowls are still played there now.

THE ANNUAL OX ROASTING ON LOUNT SPORTS GROUND

The Ox was roasted over hot coals, whilst being rotated on a shaft in bearings at either end. To one end, was attached a cart-wheel, which was rotated in turns by the public. It is hoped that older readers will be able to identify the people in the photograph, as this has not been possible to date. The young boy on the right with the cap, is thought to be Herbert Hodges, and the older boy Ron Bancroft. The person with them wearing the cap is possibly Ron Hodges.

It was thought that the Ox was supplied by Kidger's Butchers of School Lane who feature in an earlier article. Mrs. Kidger is actually the lady basting the Ox. On her left is Violet Hodges who lived in Providence Chapel house, and the lady right at the back is Bertha Richards, who was the wife of Jim Richards the baker from School Lane.

It seems, that one of the highlights of the "Ox Roast", was the auctioning off of the first slice of beef. This went for £202 in 1939 which was a lot of money at that time, and the person who paid this must have been quite a wealthy benefactor. It is said that everyone received a free slice of beef in their cob also.

PART 4

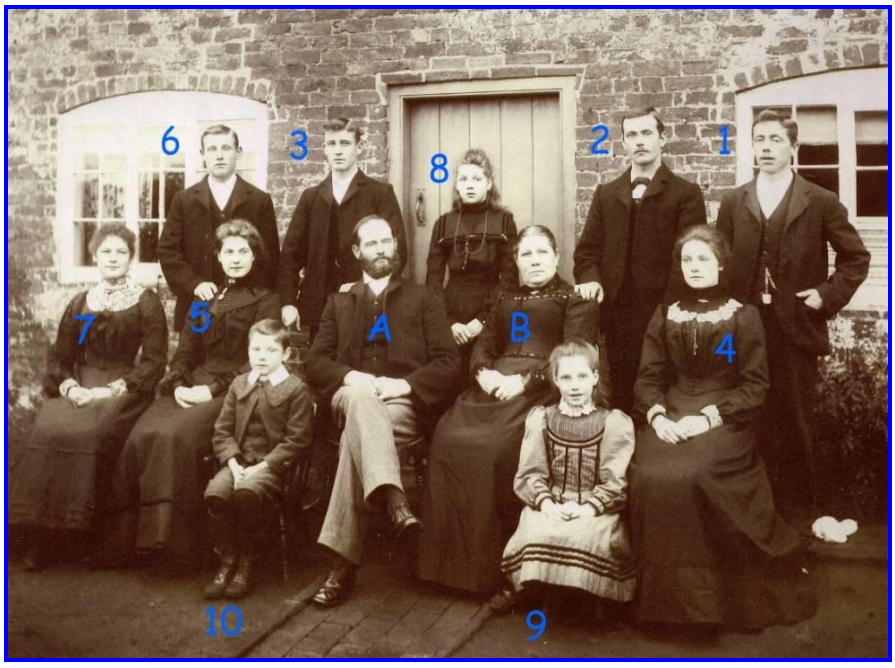
TWO SHOPS IN NEWBOLD WHICH BENIFITED FROM NEW LOUNT COLLIERY MINER'S TRADE

STEWARTS SHOP AT NEWBOLD

Continued over page

SHOP NUMBER ONE - OWNED BY WILLIAM AND LILL STEWART

William Stewart, (aka Bill & Snip) b. 1881 in Gelsmoor, married Liley (known as Lill) Richards from Coleorton in 1903. Bill, the uncle of the author of this publication and one of the 'The Stewart family of Lount' features in the following photograph (No.3)



		A Samuel Stewart Snr b.1854 m.1876 d.1932	B Sarah Ann Stewart b.1855 m.1876 d.1929	
6 John (Jack) Stewart b.1885 m. NM d.1928	3 William Stewart b.1881 m.1903 d.1960	8 Sarah Ann Stewart Jnr b.1889 m.1913 d.1964	2 Samuel Stewart Jnr b.1879 m.1898 d.1955	1 James Stewart b.1878 m.1900 d.1964
7 Hannah Stewart b.1886 m.1909 d.1968	5 Gertrude Stewart b.1884 m.1908 d. 1968	10 Frederick Robert Stewart b.1894 m.1917 d.1967	9 Clarrie Maria Stewart b.1891 m.1919 d.1991	4 Annie Elizabeth Stewart b.1883 m.1903 d.1982

THE STEWART FAMILY OF LOUNT IN 1921

Bill played cricket for Staunton Harold Cricket Club in his younger days, and features in the following photograph.

Staunton Harold Cricket Club - 1901

J. Bradford **Samuel Stewart (b.1879)** T.Potter H.Woodward F.Chester J.Chester J.Waterfield W.Fairbrother (Umpire)

James Stewart (b.1878) H.Bulll (Capt.) Rev. Prichard G.Lowe C.Ball

J.Harrison **John (Jack) Stewart (b1885)**

William Stewart (b.1881) T.Waterfield J.Harrison W.Kenney

Bill (also known locally as snip) was a keen gardene,r and also a regular and enthusiastic imbiber at the “Cross Keys”, a convenient hostelry on route to the 'Newbold Pipeworks', where he worked as a labourer. Bill and Lill had three daughters – Ivy, Violet and Elizabeth, who was a teacher, and taught at Newbold School for many years.

Bill's wife Lill was actually born in Gresley, Derbys, but in 1891 the family were living in Rough Park, Coleorton. Her mother and father James, a collier (36) and Lettie (36) were born in Worthington and Staunton Harold respectively. Liley was aged 6 at the time and she had 5 sibling; Frederick (15) b. Gresley, William (12) b. Worthington, James (8) b.Gresley, Maria (3) b. Coleorton and Horace (11m) b. Coleorton.

The couple's first home was in one of the rented cottages “in the hollow” adjacent to the track of the old Coleorton Railway on the north side of the Rempstone Road. Their second home was a new bungalow they had built which is shown in the preceding photograph; this was situated on the corner at the junction with School Lane and

Melbourne Road. The right hand side of the bungalow was converted into a general village store which was run by Lill, which she continued to do after her husbands death in 1960.
The store catered for the local village but benefited mostly with the trade from the 'New Lount Colliery miners' who purchased such things as cigarettes, pipe bacca, Polo Mints and ice cream

The shop closed after the New Lount Colliery finished coal production in 1968. Lill used to make delicious ice cream in a barrel with a central container surrounded by ice. The author used to visit the family with his father and experienced the delights of the ice cream on many occasions.

SHOP NUMBER 2 - GERTIE STEWART'S COTTAGE SHOP

Gertrude (Gertie) Stewart was born June 5th 1884 in Lount, and died in 1968. She was the auntie of the author of this publication, and brother to Bill Stewart above. She features in the earlier 'Stewart Family of Lount' photograph (No.5). Gertie lived in a cottage on the opposite side of Melbourne Road to the later entrance to New Lount Colliery, in what was called “Newbold Spinney”.

She married Bill Menzies who was an electrician at New Lount Pit following the death of her first husband Jack Hogg, who broke his back in an accident at pit.

The cottage also served as a small shop after the colliery was opened, from which Gertie sold carbide (for the miners shookie lamps), chocolate, cobs, sandwiches etc to the miners.

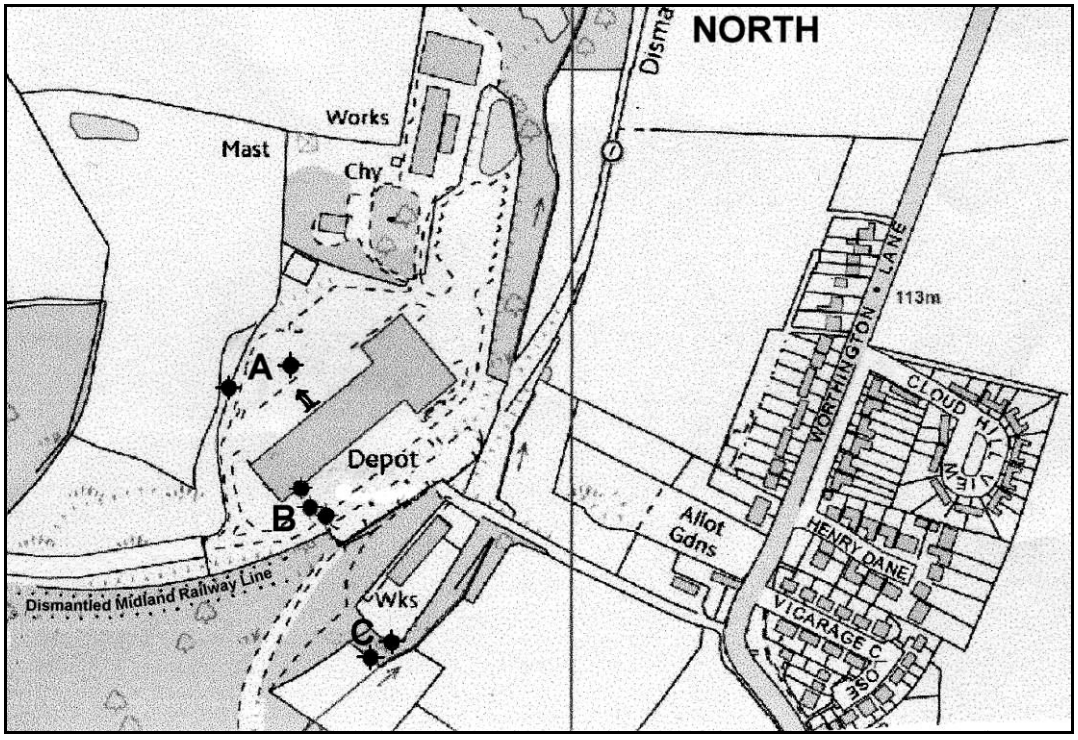
Gertie also stored and looked after the miners bicycles, for a charge of course. She apparently did quite well out of the shop, and there was a competitive element between her enterprise and brother Bill on the opposite side of School Lane.

Gertrude Stewart aged 16

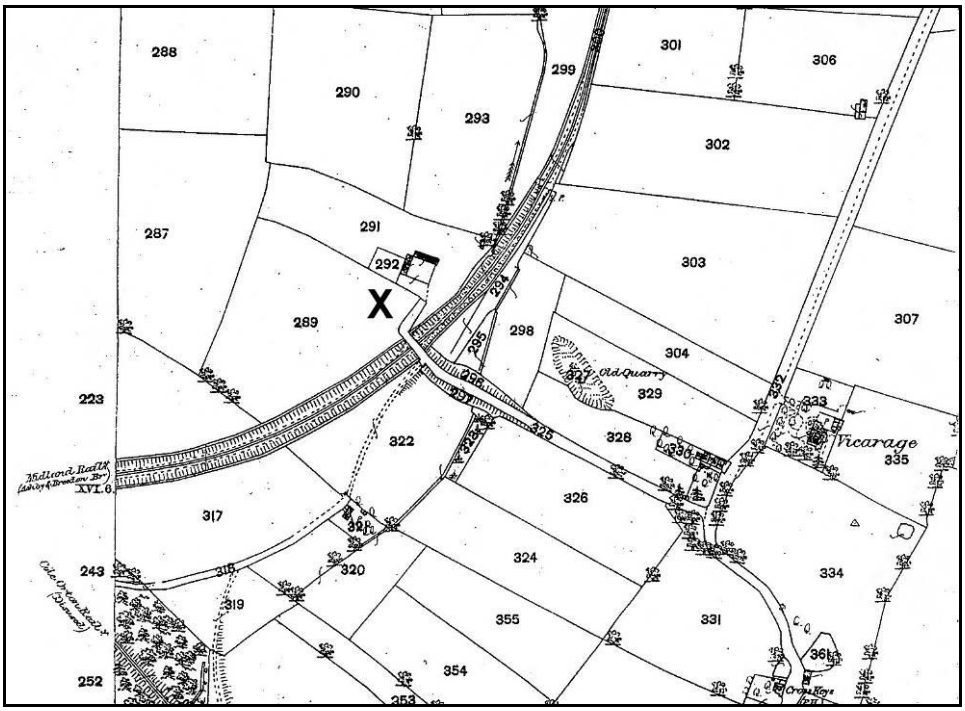
PART 5

COAL MINING ADJACENT TO WHAT BECAME THE "NEWBOLD PIPEWORKS"

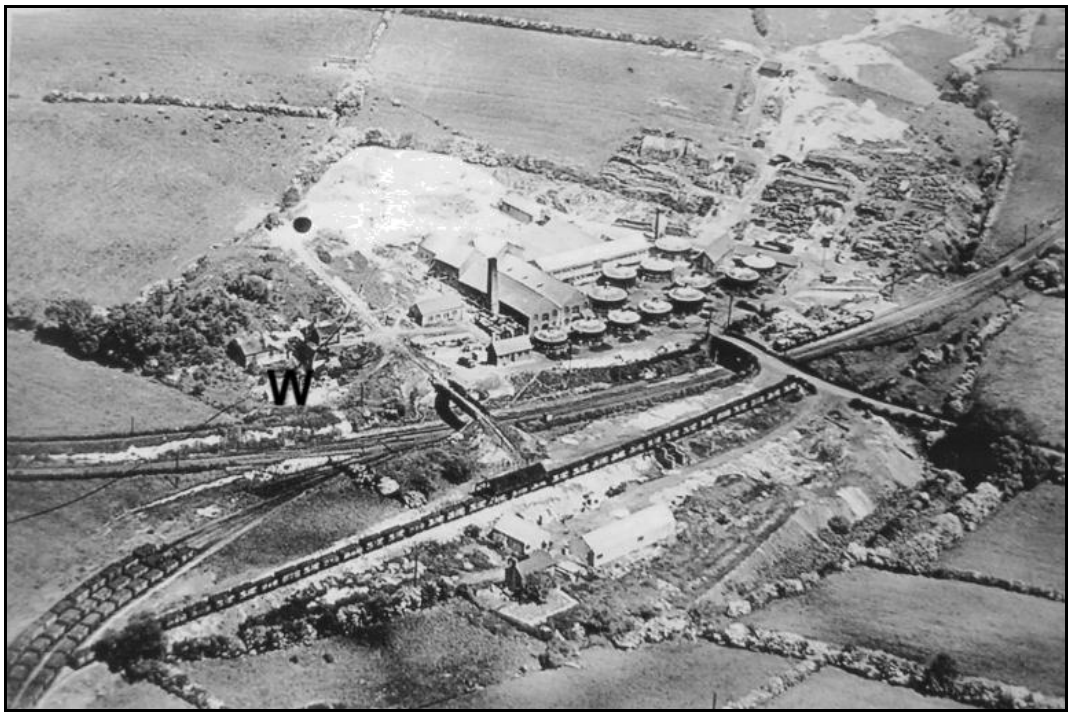
As some records have been located for these, the author has decided to include details of those Newbold Colliery's that were adjacent to the site of the subsequent 'Newbold Pipeworks' complex. It is considered that this area was an important part of Newbold's industrial history. The following maps have been included in order to help the reader gain a better understanding of the geography of the area in relation to both the past and present.



An extract of an up to date map showing the various coal mining shafts that were sunk on the old "Newbold Pipeworks" site, and which are referred to in the following text. The shafts are accurately located on the map, and in order to give an idea of scale, the distance from the first shaft at C to the site entrance road is 113.5 Metres.



An extract of the 1885 published (1881 surveyed) O/S map, which can be related to the preceding map. Note the old quarry, which presumably supplied clay and coal, for the ceramics activity which was first thought to have started on the site. The building shown at X may have been related to this.



An old aerial photograph of the Newbold Pipeworks site and Midland Railway line. This shows the old buildings related to the "Worthington Colliery" which is described later and are marked W on the photograph

STAUNTON COLLIERY 1885

The original name of this mine was “Staunton Colliery”, although it was known by other names such as “Worthington Clash” and the “Newbold Glory Mine”. Its location is marked **A** on the map on page 40. The mine was originally sunk and opened in 1885 by John Lakin. Two 9 feet diameter shafts were sunk, and the following extract from the healeyhero website provides details of the shafts, cages, coal seams and depth. There was also an adit from this colliery which is designated by the arrow on the map on page 40 and is thought to have discharged water into the stream to the south:-

2 shafts 9ft (2.74m) dia, 101 yards (92m) deep. **(Colin Owen states in his book that the shafts were originally sunk to the Middle Lount Coal at 263 feet, but later deepened to the Nether Lount at 307 feet).**

2 single deck cages, ***DC*** *pitch pine 33 ft (10m) high and* ***UC*** *15 ft (4.57m) with portable engine.*

Stinker coal 4ft (1.2m) at 17 yards (15m).

Main 6ft (1.8m) at 45 yards (41m).

Smoile 4ft 6in (1.37m) + 3ft (0.90m) clay at 52 yards (47m).

Upper Lount 2ft 6in (0.76m) at 67 yards (61m).

Middle Lount 5ft 6in (1.68m) 3ft (0.90m) good house coal + 3ft (0.90m) clay at 85 yards (78m).

Nether 6ft (1.8m) hard steam coal at 97 yards (89m).

Roaster seam 2ft 10in (0.86m) good house coal + 4ft 6in (1.37m) clay at 105 yards (96m).

Fireclay 4ft (1.2m) at 117 yards (107m).

Stanhope 3ft 3in (0.99m) good house coal + 3ft 6in (1.07m) clay at 125 yards (114m).

Presumably, the colliery was developed on this site due to its proximity to the Midland Railway line. However, there was thought to already be some industrial activity on this site at that time, most likely associated with brick making.

The site was highly unfavourable in several respects, lying close to the Thringstone Fault, and the outcrop of the Trias. All the strata dipped steeply, and in fact, were vertical on the eastern side of the workings. The difficulty of mining was greatly increased by the presence of numerous old hollows filled with water. It was conditions such as this that contributed to the following disaster only eighteen months after the colliery was opened.

On Oct 6th 1886, a fatal accident occurred at Staunton Harold Colliery because of a combination of “a complete lack of practical knowledge” and “a total disregard for all rules and regulations” by the management, when re-opening old workings, with the result that four persons – including John Lakin (aged 60) and his two sons William (aged 30) and George (aged 35), plus a pony driver named John Stewart (aged 14) who were all overcome by “choke-damp” and died. The ventilation system was deficient in every respect, and all the necessary precautions required, such as making adequate bore holes, were neglected. The Lakins are all buried, along with their mother and wife in the Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery, Griffydam. The following report is taken from the healeyhero website:-

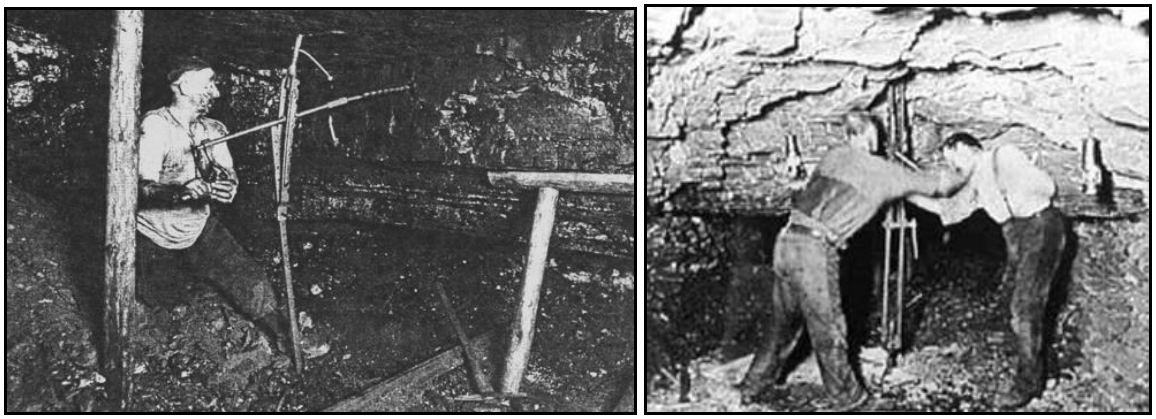
On 15 Oct (should say 6th) ***1886*** *a tragic accident occurred when a Mr Lakin with his son George, the Under-viewer, entered the mine and went into some blackdamp escaping from an old mine. William and a Mr Stewart* (pony driver) *entered the* ***Staunton*** *mine to search for them and all four were overcome by blackdamp or carbon dioxide gas and died.* ***Lakin’s widow continued to work the colliery with William Richards as Manager (previously Manager at Coleorton).***

It is thought that the colliery became known as the “Newbold Glory” mine for the following reason. When “The Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Miners’ Associations” was formed in 1887, “Colliery Lodges” were established around the district, which elected officials who were responsible for organising union activities at the colliery etc. **One lodge, “Newbold Glory”, was “discontinued as a lodge of the Association” in February 1890 for returning to work during a wages dispute, but was re-admitted in March 1892. It is assumed that this is how the pit was referred to as “Newbold Glory”.** The output of the colliery was small, as it generally employed no more than 30 men.

The 1896 list of mines in the Midland District shown previously, confirm that the colliery employed 26 surface and 8 underground workers at that time, and only household and manufacturing coal was being mined from the Middle Lount Seam. The manager at that time was James Richards. He was also recorded as being the under manager in 1897 with 25 underground miners working the Middle Lount Seam and 8 surface workers.

A colliery described as Staunton Colliery is shown on the 1903 O/S map alongside “Newbold Brick Co Ltd”. It is thought that the colliery closed c.1910. According to Colin Owen’s book, Lakins executors had, at the end of the nineteenth century, already sold Staunton Colliery to “The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co. Ltd” of “Sutton and Company”. They eventually constructed the large sanitary pipe company nearby, and presumably ran the brickworks on the site which eventually became known as “Newbold Brickworks”.

British Coal records show that outcropping / open casting was carried out extensively around the site of Staunton Colliery at one time.



Hand drilling holes for explosives (photographs taken from the healey hero website and thought to be of Staunton Colliery)

WORTHINGTON COLLIERY

Following the takeover, and subsequent closure of Staunton Colliery by "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co. Ltd", they still found it expedient to raise coal on the site. The author feels confident that the following information, combined with the records of the three shafts marked **B** on the map on page 40 which are listed as belonging to "Worthington Colliery", proves the existence and location of this new colliery. Further evidence is shown on the 1923 O/S map which actually depicts "Worthington Colliery". This colliery had an upcast shaft and a downcast shaft. It is thought that the third shaft shown on the earlier map was a "bull shaft", used to pump water into from the pit bottom which was then discharged out of this shaft, presumably into the stream to the south.

The buildings to the extreme left of the Pipeworks, and marked W on the preceding aerial photograph, are thought to be those of the old "Worthington Colliery"

Some of the following information was taken from the healeyhero website:-

The mine was sunk in 1911 and the main seam opened Jan 1912.

Shaft Depths 364 ft 5 in (111 m) and 238 ft 3 in to Nether Lount Coal 5 ft 3 in (1.6m) thick seam. The workings in this seam were very uncertain and it would appear that there are no known surveys of the workings to be able to plot same, therefore all works in that seam to be treated with suspicion.

Seams Worked and dates.

Smoile – April 1913 to 1916

Nether Lount – 1914 to 1916

Roaster - 1914 to 1916

Middle Lount – 1917 to 1919….. coal 4 ft 0 in (1.22m), bastard clay 1 ft 0 in (0.33m), fireclay 3 ft 0 in (0.91m)

Some coal leased from Sir George Beaumont and some freehold. Workings met old works.

Manpower

1913 – 56 underground / 13 surface

1914 – 42 u/g, 10s/f

1915 – 72 u/g, 22s/f

1916 – 115 u/g, 40 s/f

1917 – 122 u/g, 29 s/f

1918 – 131 u/g, 33 s/f

1919 – 175 u/g, 29 s/f

Managers

1912 – 1917 Robert Miller (301)

1917 – 1919 J. Robinson (3970)

Under manager

1917 – 1919 D. Ross (570 /2nd)

Surveyors

1919 – James Tonge, first surveyor, James Meakin (1794)

***Fatal Accidents** – None known*

Mining on the site was finally abandoned in 1919, putting 200 colliers out of work, but both shafts were kept open until the 1940's to maintain a check on water levels.

The buildings to the extreme left of the Pipeworks, and marked W on the preceding aerial photograph, are thought to be those of the old "Worthington Colliery"

LOUNT BRICKWORKS PIT?

We have no substantial evidence about this pit, except that two shafts were sunk in the locality marked **C** on the map on page 40, and are recorded as such in Coal mining records. The following appears on the healeyhero website, and the author believes that this is possibly referring to these shafts, although clearly the colliery could only have been working for a few months if this information is correct :-

Colliery's sunk or opened in 1901

Lount (*The Lount Brick and Sanitary Pipe Co Ltd) - Main, Smoile and Fireclay. Under manager W. Cooper 4/3.*

Colliery's closures in 1901

***Lount Brickworks Pit** (The Lount Brick and Sanitary Pipe Co Ltd.)*

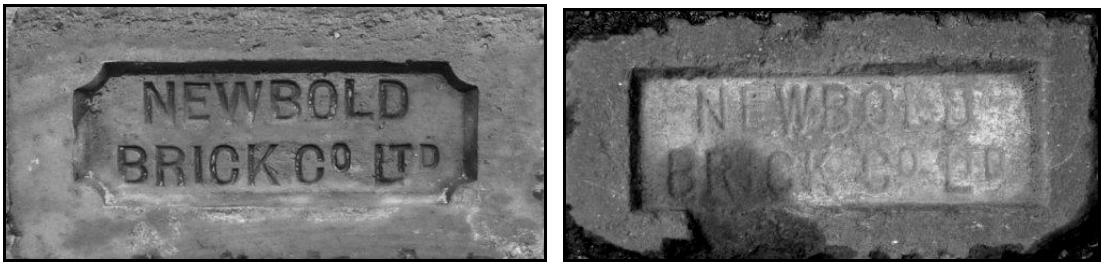
Main seam, mouth and 5 yards (4.5m) deep shaft - AJA Orchard Surveyor.

NEWBOLD BRICK CO LTD

"Newbold Brick Co Ltd", is shown on the 1903 O/S map alongside "Staunton Colliery. It is thought to have been owned by "The Lount brick and Sanitary Pipe company" prior to being taken over by "The Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Co. Ltd". Presumably, both clay and coal were being extracted for use in the making of the bricks and sanitary pipes and for firing the kilns, as these were both being manufactured on the site at some stage.

Presumably the "Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd" went on to develop the "Newbold Pipeworks" on the site also. The writer is of the opinion, that when the Worthington Colliery on the site closed in 1919, Old Lount Colliery 1920-1924 and New Lount Colliery 1924-1968 were sunk and opened. We know that the latter, by 1929, was delivering over 31,000 tons of Stoneware-Clay to Newbold Pipeworks. Details of these colliery's follow.

There is a record that the brickworks were still operating in 1939, but it is not known exactly when they finally closed. Presumably, the substantial brickworks and pipeworks industry developed on the site due to the local availability of raw material (clay and coal) and the advantage of its immediate proximity to the Midland Railway line.

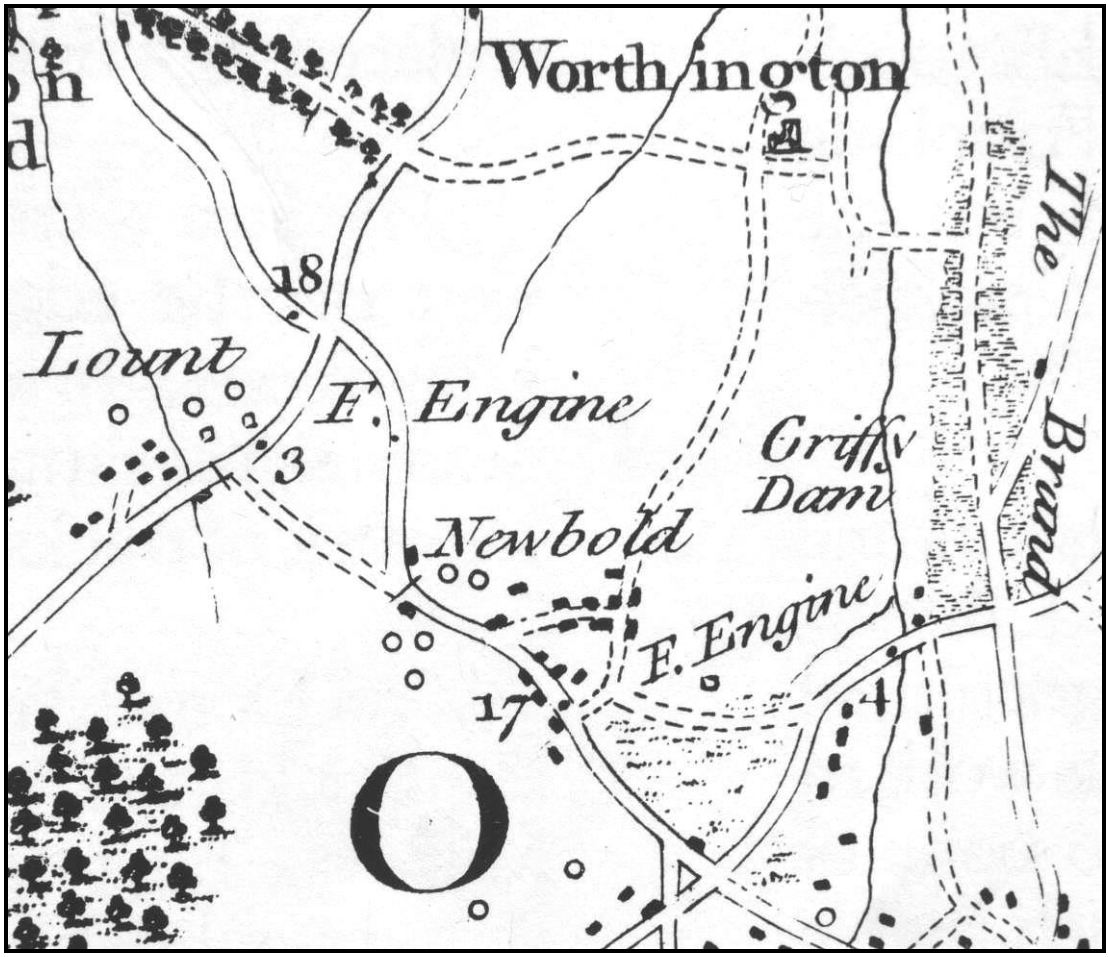


Examples of Newbold Bricks

Newbold Brick Co Ltd chimney

PART 6

NEWBOLD COLLIERY / CYLINDER PIT



The above is an enlarged extract from John Prior's 1777 Maps which most local historians will be familiar with. References are made to this later in the publication.

The purpose of this publication is to try and ascertain where Joseph Boultbee's "Newbold Colliery" was located in the late 1700s. Although much has been written about it, no one seems to have actually defined this, presumably because of the paucity of old records.

If we first refer to Prior's 1777 map above, he defines a number of what would have been Bell Pits around Newbold Gate. More importantly he defines an "F Engine" (fire engine). This was a pumping engine for pumping water out of deep shaft coal mines. These were also commonly known as "Newcomen Engines". We know that "Newbold Colliery" was being worked in the late 1700s so this adds credence that this could have been the location for the colliery. Colin Owen tells us that Joseph Boultbee's view of Newbold Colliery in 1781 as an almost exhausted concern certainly appears suspicious, particularly in view of its continued output and the fact that the Land Tax Commissioners rated it at £250 in 1790 the year of Joseph Boultbee's death His office of Steward to Lord

Beaumont passed to his Eldest son Joseph. It seems likely that this is the point when Newbold Colliery ceased to exist.

The author is of the view that Benjamin Walker lived at Newbold farm, and before 1827, sank shafts to another colliery nearby to the original Newbold Colliery which is born out by the following .....

Further evidence of the survival of the industry, is provided by a survey of the Beaumont estates by Edward Knight shortly after the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont 7th Baronet in 1827. This showed that Benjamin Walker's farm at Newbold was in a reasonable state apart from the condition of the fields and fencing around his colliery which suffered from the "unruly conduct of the people at the coal pits".

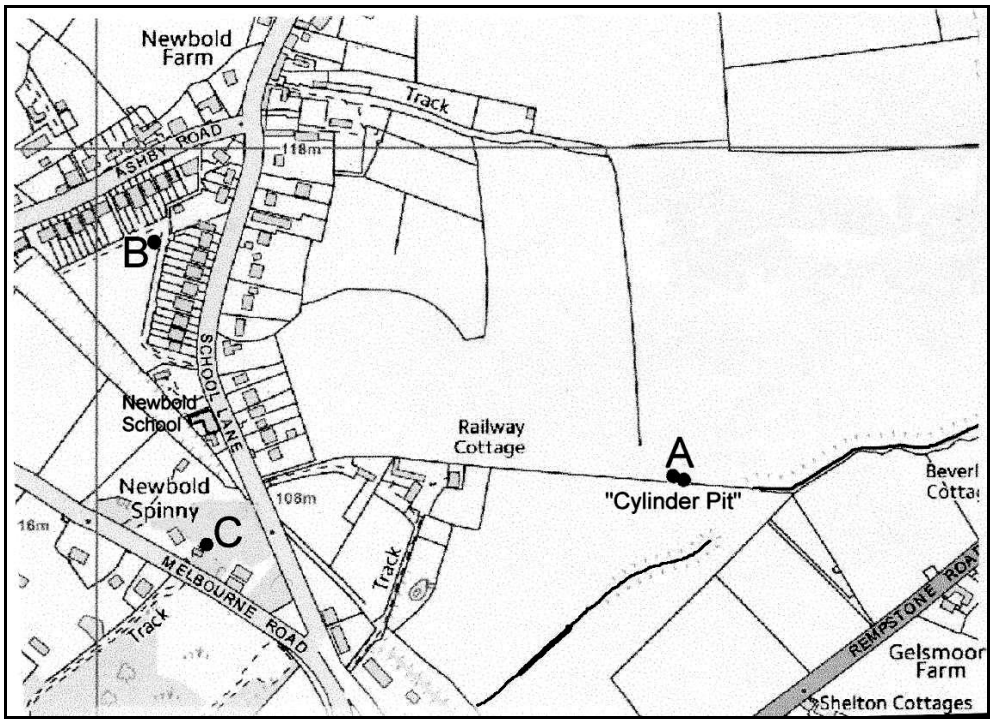
As the land on which the shafts were sunk was part of Newbold farm, this seems to confirm the author's view that Benjamin Walker lived there. See the following maps.

It is thought that this colliery was in fact referred to as "Cylinder Pit" which is the name which was appended to the following shaft information obtained from a reliable but confidential source. Two shafts were sunk which were 1.5 metres diameter and 70.5 metres deep. Because of the severe water problems in the low lying ground in that area, it is more likely that one of them was a pumping shaft with a pumping engine. They were approximately 10 metres apart and their location has been estimated and annotated by the writer at **A** on the following map. The writer has estimated that they were approx 360 metres from School Lane following the field boundary line and approx 207 metres in from the Rempstone Road in a direct line. **It would be useful to carry out a field walking exercise in that area to see if any evidence of shafts still exist.**

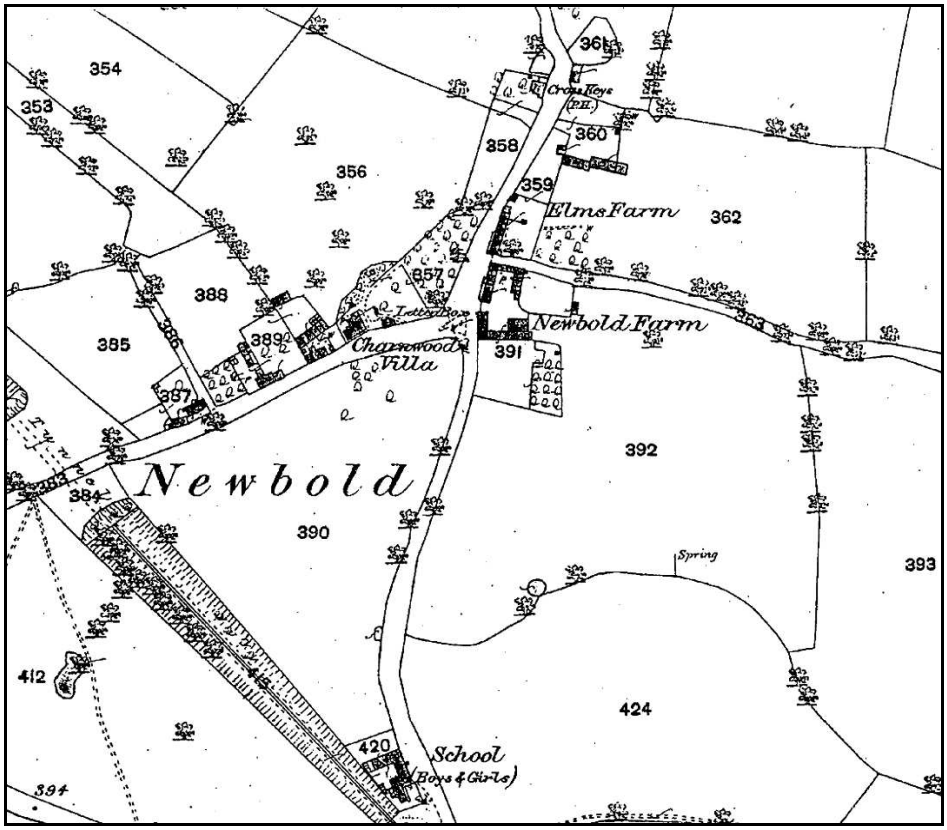
It is not known when this colliery was closed but abandonment records suggest that it was in the mid 1850s. The colliery was of course close to the Coleorton Railway which would have provided advantages for the transport of the coal. Benjamin Walker had developed various mining interests by this time, including the "Smoile" colliery near Lount but within Coleorton parish.

William White's Trade Directory and Gazetteer of 1846 and 1861 list Benjamin Walker (b.1785 in Coleorton) as a "coal master" and farmer, living at "White House Hall Farm", Coleorton. This is confirmed in the Coleorton 1841 /1851 censuses also. He had a large family with him (wife and 7 daughters), and had clearly relinquished Newbold Farm by this time. Six of his daughters were born in Worthington, and one in Coleorton. His wife was born in 1791 in Worthington.

In 1828, Lady Beaumont apparently described Benjamin Walker, rather dismissively, as a "butty collier", however, he was clearly a man of ability and ambition confirmed by his future involvement in local coal mining. On Oct 11th 1830, he took over the lease on Coleorton Colliery, commonly known as Smoile Colliery, and by July 1832 he had become described as a "coal master", and was arranging to lease 25 cottages in Coleorton, Worthington and Thringstone from Sir George Beaumont.

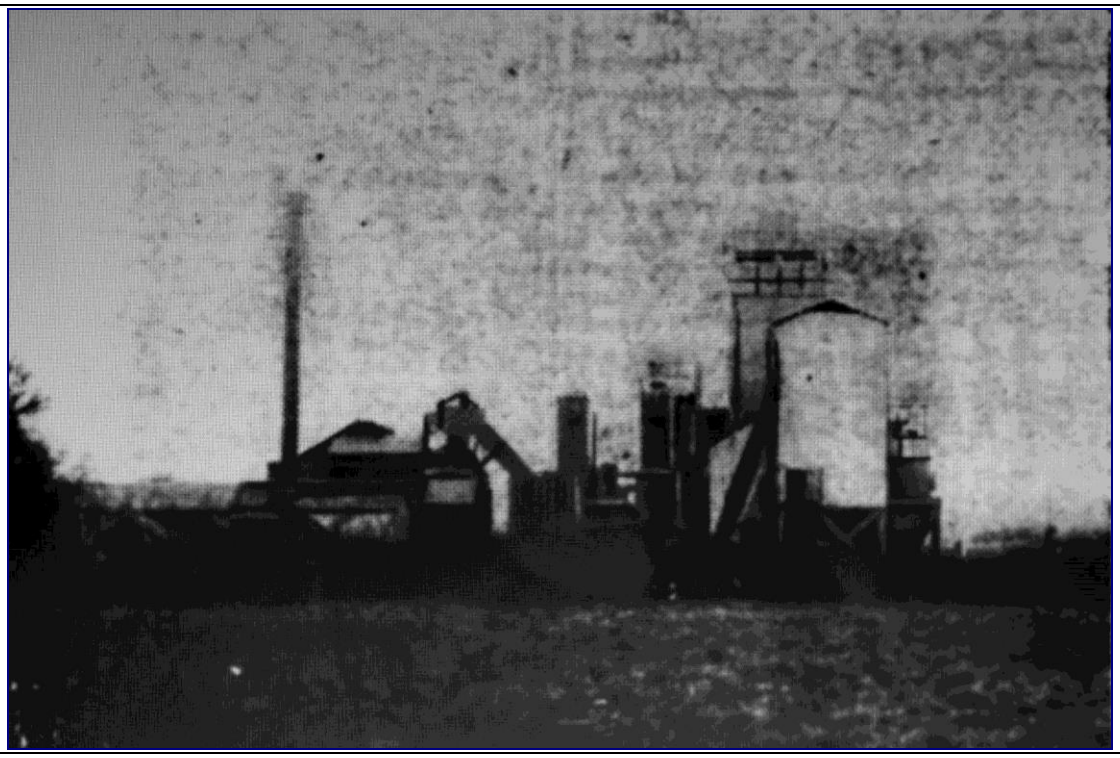


Map based on an O/S Map although it should be noted that the location shown for Newbold Farm is miss-leading (see the following 1885 issued O/S map for the correct location).



PART 7

OIL DISTILLATION FROM COAL AT NEWBOLD, LEICS



This photograph is of the "British Coal Distillation Ltd" plant at Newbold taken in 1934. See later text for details of its location.

PREFACE

The few records that are available of the Coal Distillation plants at Newbold are somewhat fragmented and this publication is an attempt to put the facts into an understandable chronological format.

It cannot be over estimated how important this development was in the industrial history of Newbold.

No doubt there are further records out there somewhere in Record Offices, but it would be an extremely time consuming task to research those and it is unlikely they would add much substance to what has been written here.

INTRODUCTION

Another hope for the future associated with the coal mining industry in the 1920's / 1930's was an idea to convert coal of a standard which ordinarily the coal mines were unable to sell to the market, into other products. Coal is a fossil fuel and mainly consists of carbon and small amounts of hydrogen, sulphur, oxygen and nitrogen. It was found that coal could be decomposed by heat in the absence of air and distilled to produce useful products such as coke, charcoal, oils, petrol and gases.

The above Leicestershire (L & N) Coal Distillation Ltd advertisement relates to the first pilot plant built adjacent to the New Lount Colliery pit head which was later superceded by the new production plant built adjacent Melbourne Rd, a photograph of which appears on the front cover.

SECTION 1

Because of concerns about shortages and cost of imported oil in the 1920's, considerable special investments were being made in "coal by-product plants" of various kinds.

For example, the "New Hucknall Company" invested considerable sums in a subsidiary company which erected a plant at Welbeck Colliery, for the production of petrol from coal. The plant started operations in 1927, when it was designed to produce oil from cannel coal for re-sale to tar distillers for blending with creosote oils. However, when the price of creosote fell from 9d. to 3d. per gallon , it was decided to try to produce petrol. After two years research, a workable system was developed and “Welbeck Engineering

Spirit" was put on the market at 1s. 2½d. per gallon. Some twenty six gallons of petrol were obtained from one ton of cannel coal. Petrol stations were opened at the four pits of The New Hucknall Group.

About the same time, a new enterprise for the direct distillation of oil from coal was promoted in Leicestershire. The original partners called their undertaking **"L and N Coal Distillation Ltd". They were owned by the "Leicestershire & Colliery pipe Company Ltd" who were the owners of "New Lount Colliery" which had opened in 1924. This resulted in a pilot plant being built adjacent to the New Lount Colliery pit head in 1927 / 8.**

The following was recorded in a Daily Consular and Trade report dated April 25th, 1927 No.17. Volume 2.....

Low Temperature Carbonization Development in England

(by Alfred Nutting of the consular general, London)

An attempt to prove the commercial soundness of the extraction of oil in large quantities from British coal, by the installation of full-size plants in various parts of Great Britain, is to be made by a company formed for this purpose and registered as L & N Coal Distillation (Ltd). Its chairman claims that the low-temperature process will obtain from a ton of coal, 20 gallons of oil, 6,000 cubic feet of town-grade gas, and 14 to 14 and a half hundred weights of smokeless fuel suitable for use in the domestic grate or industrial furness. It is further claimed that the coal is left in an even more satisfactory state for burning than before treatment.

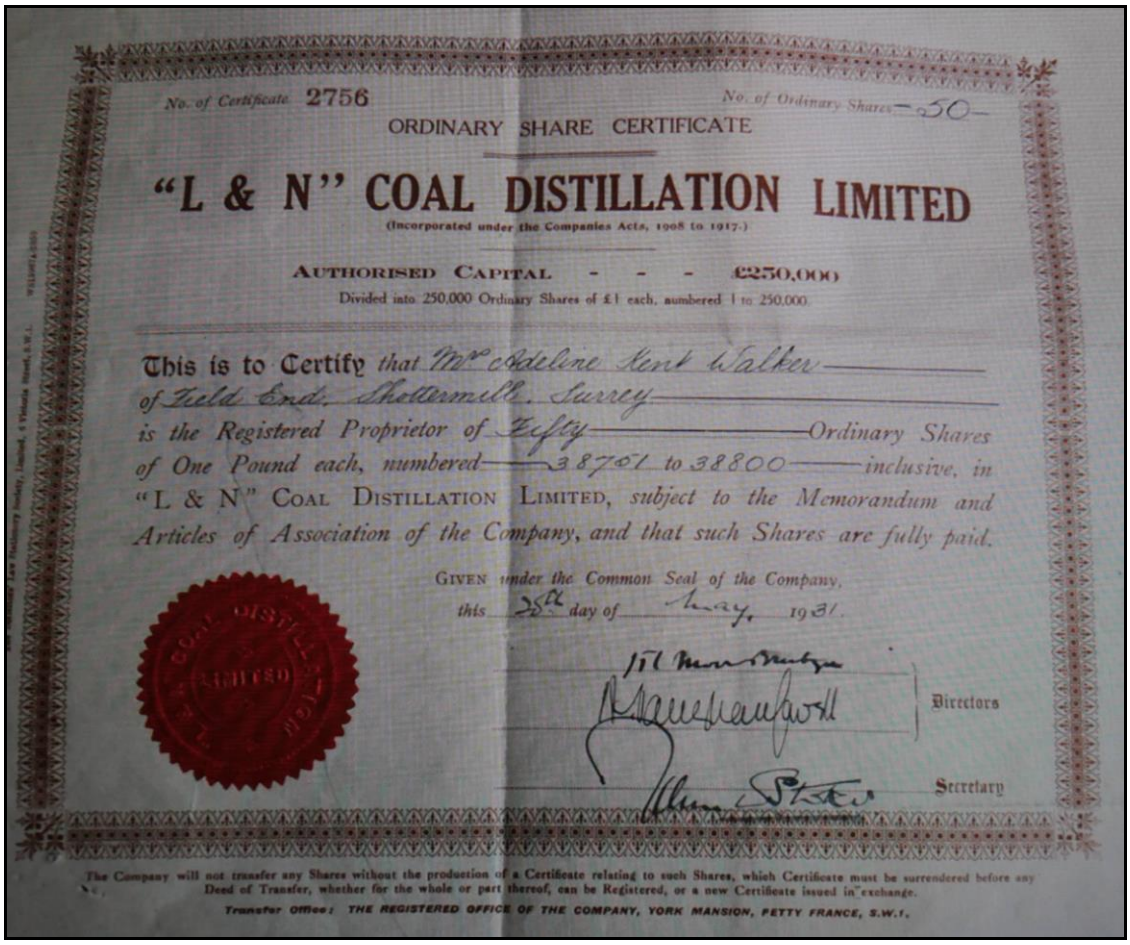
Commercial Advantages Claimed for New Process

The new company has taken over the British rights of all patents and processes owned by the "Sensible Heat Coal Distillation Co.," pioneers in the industry. The best known systems hitherto were the ordinary gas works and coke ovens, which employed high temperature processes. The L & N proposes to use what is called a low - temperature process, which has peculiar difficulties which is claimed to have extra commercial advantages. A report on laboratory experiments with a low-temperature process for bituminous coal in 1926 indicates that the coke produced forms a satisfactory fuel for most purposes.

It was further recorded in "The British Chemical Trade Bulletin" Number 621 dated 1928 that "L & N Coal Distillation Ltd" were using 150 tons of coal slack a day with plans to increase this in the future to 750 tons per day.

It can be assumed from the above that the "L & N Coal Distillation Ltd" plant recorded to have been built next to the New Lount Colliery pit head started production in late 1927 or early 1928.

It can be seen by the share certificate below that this company had an authorised share capital of £250,000 through a share issue of 250,000 shares at £1 each. The share certificate is proof that this plant was still in operation in 1931, as shares were still being issued. A. R. Griffin tells us .....*Unfortunately, before their process was perfected, apparently the price of natural oil fell drastically so as to make coal distillation uneconomic, and the project languished for a time.*



No. of Certificate 2756 No. of Ordinary Shares 50

ORDINARY SHARE CERTIFICATE

"L & N" COAL DISTILLATION LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - £250,000

Divided into 250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, numbered 1 to 250,000.

This is to Certify that Mrs Adeline Kent Walker of Field End, Shottermill, Surrey is the Registered Proprietor of Fifty Ordinary Shares of One Pound each, numbered 38701 to 38800 inclusive, in "L & N" COAL DISTILLATION LIMITED, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and that such Shares are fully paid.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the Company, this 25th day of May, 1931.

Directors

Secretary

The Company will not transfer any Shares without the production of a Certificate relating to such Shares, which Certificate must be surrendered before any Deed of Transfer, whether for the whole or part thereof, can be Registered, or a new Certificate issued in exchange.

Transfer Office: THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY, YORK MANSION, PETTY FRANCE, S.W.1.

This share certificate dated 1931 is in the public domain and at the time of writing is offered for sale on the internet

SECTION 2

Following the results achieved at the pilot plant adjacent to New Lount colliery pit head in 1927/8, the L & N company now turned to concentrating on perfecting a smokeless fuel with oil as a by-product, and considerable sums of new capital were injected into the enterprise. The new company, was called **"The British Coal Distillation Ltd"**. The chairman of the company, Mr. R. D. Hardy was a director of the "Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd", the owners of New Lount Colliery which opened close by in 1924 on land owned by Sir George Beaumont. The majority of the coal for the plant was to be supplied from this Colliery.

The "British Coal Distillation Ltd" plant was situated on the right hand side of the Melbourne Road, before the railway bridge when heading north towards Lount cross-roads. It is not known when this plant shut down production.

Frank Hodges, who became the Managing Director of New Lount Colliery, also joined the board. As early as 1920, at a time when coal was indisputably "king", he had suggested that oil presented a serious threat to the mining industry's long-term future and that "it might hasten out the coal era in a shorter period than we are prepared to admit" (from "The odyssey of Frank Hodges" by Chris Williams").

The pilot plant, which is recorded as having a capacity of 100 tons of coal a day eventually proved successful and a joint subsidiary was then formed with B.A. Collieries Ltd under the title of Suncole (Nottingham) Ltd, and a large plant, called the "Suncole Plant", was erected at Cinderhill. This plant came on stream just before the outbreak of the war, but technical problems dogged it from the start and it never came fully into production. The plant was designed to consume 220,000 tons of coal a year, but it closed down in 1940. (from Mining in the East Midlands 1550-1947 by A. R. Griffin).

It is not known when the L & N plant closed down

SECTION 3

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION A

PROPOSED 'L & N COAL DISTILLATION' IN NEW ZEALAND

In a newspaper entitled "New Zealand Truth" (issue 1199) 22nd November 1928, page 2, the following extract appeared under the heading :-

A Valuable Proposition
L & N Coal Distillation
New Zealand Ltd.

In June of 1928, a complete L & N plant was erected at the pit head of New Lount Colliery, Leicestershire, which is owned by the Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Company Ltd". The plant was supplied by L & N Coal Distillation Ltd and was guaranteed to treat 100 tons of slack coal per day.

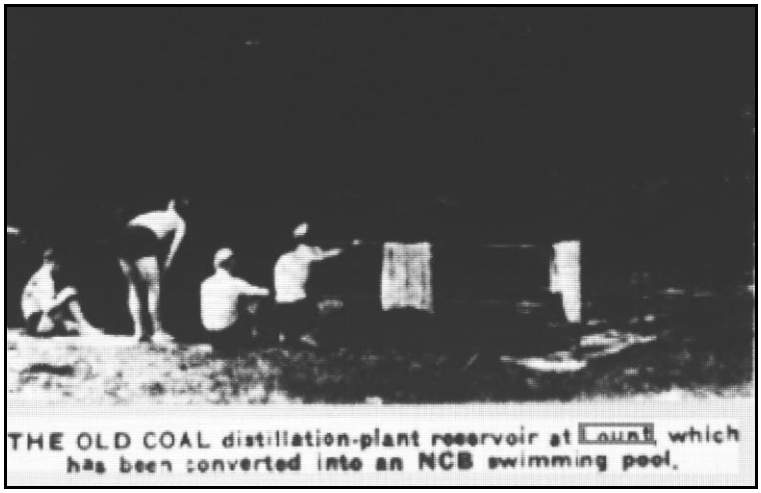
In operation, the plant actually treated 150 tons of slack per day, and on account of its successful results, the colliery company has been reorganized with a capital of £850,000 to put in additional plant with a capacity of 750 tons per day.

They are mighty hard headed people in Leicestershire, and if four months working of the new process produces this amount of enthusiasm, this critic's opinion is that New Zealand investors need not hesitate to follow the lead.

There is some conflict with the wording in this article with other evidence found, but it is worthy of recording.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION B

WHERE THE AUTHOR LEARNED TO SWIM AS A LAD OF NO MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF AGE c.1952



THE OLD COAL distillation-plant reservoir at Lount, which has been converted into an NCB swimming pool.

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Wednesday 07 June 1950

MINER'S SPA

THE OLD DISTILLATION PLANT at Lount, now little more than a rusting memory of an attempt to find a use for Leicestershire surplus coal by turning it into oil and by-products, has Just paid a small dividend to miners whose prospects of work it was once aimed to improve. A concrete reservoir on the site, where, in the old days oily liquors lay in an inky lagoon, has just been cleaned out, and turned into an NCB swimming-pool. Miners, all free at some part of the day because of the shift system, can bathe in cool refreshing waters that owe their sparkling properties to the fact that they are pumped, in a constant stream, from deep underground springs which would otherwise flood into New Lount pit nearby.

The author's memories were not of cool refreshing water with sparkling properties, but more like swimming in freezing pea green soup with frogs for company.

LUCKIEST

The miner's Spa is in a tree lined setting on the fringe of Lount Wood. It is longer than the average swimming pool, but no one would suspect that it was not originally designed for bathing. Luckiest miners are those at New Lount Colliery only half a mile away. During the heat wave, they have been filling their leisure time at the pool and taking full advantage of the facilities.

SUN-BATHING TOO

To complete the adaption, a dressing room has been built in the woods, and there is a green stretch of turf for sun-bathing. A pipe-line brings water through the woods to the pool. Not far away, shrubs and small trees are rapidly covering the skeletons of the old distillation apparatus.

Built in the days when the coal industry was seeking a use of its production surplus, at least part of the plant has thus survived long enough to present an amenity to tired workers during the mining boom.

PART 8

THE 1926 MINER'S STRIKE

British industry stopped on 4th May, 1926 when between 3 and 4 million workers obeyed their Trade Unions and stopped work when a General Strike was declared in sympathy with the miners who had come out on strike because of poor pay and working conditions. Mine owners wanted the colliers to work longer hours for less pay. The miners themselves wanted a national basic wage, seven hours work per day, and the pits to be re-nationalised as they had been during World War I. Due to the lack of coal, which was needed not only for domestic use, but for factories and all the other things such as railways etc., the country was in a perilous situation. Men, women and children had to resort to coal picking from pit banks, and anywhere else it could be found, together with wood from the countryside. Stick collecting became a major pastime, particularly for the children. Anything with wheels was used to transport the coal, such as prams, bicycles, trolleys etc. Eventually, the miners returned to work with some slight improvements in pay and conditions - concessionary loads of coal as part of their wages, perhaps being the most important. The miners' strike lasted for six to seven months, and the miners gradually returned to work on the basis of district wage settlements, and an increase in working hours.

It is recorded that around 400 miners were employed at the Coleorton No.3. ("Bug and Wink") colliery at the time, and in 1926 there were 598 men (underground and surface) employed at New Lount Colliery, showing how important coal mining was in terms of employment to the locality

William Stacey recalled that he remembered the time when a deputy at the "Bug and Wink", would account himself well off on a wage of 4s per day. The salaries and working conditions were extremely poor, and below is an example of the miners average earnings per shift, and annual salary, which is taken from "The Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Miners", Volume 1, by Colin Griffin:-

Average Per Shift	**Average Annual Salary**
1914- 6s 4d	£18 12s 1d
1918- 13s 0d	£199 18s 4d
1923- 9s 0d	£125 2s 0d
1928- 9s 10d	£111 2s 01d

The salary stayed pretty well the same until 1936, when it went up to an average of 11s 0d per shift.

The Coleorton Viscount Beaumont School log book records that a relief committee had been set up at the school, to provide food vouchers of varying values, dependant on the number of children in any one family. On the 19th of July 1926 therefore, free school meals were provided, despite the fact that the school had no facilities to supply these meals. This meant that 69 children had to march from the school at 12.15p.m., down to the old Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel built in 1839, where they had the facilities to provide the meals.

It was recalled by a senior resident of Stoney Lane, that during the 1926 miner's and general strike, due to coal being near the surface, hoards of miners came coal picking on the old railway embankment on both the Coleorton and Swannington sides of the 480 yard tunnel. All types of transport such as prams, trolleys, bikes, push chairs etc were used to take the coal away. It wasn't until a gentleman by the name of Bill Clarke, a charge man shifter at Whitwick Colliery, lost his life while getting a bag of coal one evening on the Swannington side, that the authorities put a stop to this practice.

1926 Strike - A group of local miners

(The above photograph was taken from "The Leicestershire Miners" Vol II by Colin Griffin and the names appended from the Swannington Heritage website)

1. George Wheatley 2. Jim Hough 3. G.Birkin 4. Hardy Curtler 5. Jim Birkin 6. ? 7. ?
8. Bill Hicken 9. Jack Armstrong 10. Cutch Curtis 11. ? 12. ? 13. "Tadsa Walker"
14. George Robinson 15. Reuben Whyman 16. Bert Stacey 17. Oliver Curtis
18. Albert Robinson 19. Percy Hicken ? 20. Bill Johnson 21. Albert Walker 22. Jack Smith
23. Jack (Mugger) Smith 24. ? 25. Bill Bird 26. Bill Collier 27. Fred Johnson 28. Jack Neal
29. ? Hicken 30. "Sixer" Collier 31. ? 32. Teddy Wright 33. "Sailor" 34. ? Armstrong

Photograph of coal picking during the 1926 miner's strike (location not known). This is probably how the coal picking on the Coleorton Railway embankment described above would have looked

PART 9

INTERESTING STATISTICS

The following statistics are taken from tables compiled by Arthur H. Stokes, H. M. Inspector for the Midland District in his Report for 1896

The initial letters attached to the word "Coal" in the column "Minerals Worked" indicate the kind of Coal produced, as **C** Coking Coal; **G** Gas Coal; **H** Household Coal; **M** Manufacturing Coal; **S** Steam Coal.

List of Mines worked under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, in the Leicestershire Coalfield, during the Year 1896

Name of Mine	Situation	Owner and Postal Address	Manager	Under-Manager	Workers		Minerals Worked	Remarks (Seam of Coal worked, &c.)
					U/G	Sur.		
Albion	Woodville	Albion Clay Co., Woodville	Robert Lawton	Charles Simpson	8	6	Fireclay	
Bagworth	Bagworth	Bagworth Coal Co., near Leicester	A.B. Emmerson	William Reed	212	69	Coal, M	Lower Main
Blackfordby	Woodville	Executors of Lord Donnington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch		Daniel Bacon	9	3	Coal M, Fireclay	Nether
Boothorpe	Woodville	Boothorpe Pipe Co.	John Ward		4	2	Fireclay	Fireclay
Coleorton	Ashby	Coleorton Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Jesse Armson	Richard Booth	212	48	Coal, M	Middle Lount, Roaster
Donington	Woodville	Donington Sanitary Pipe Co., Overseal						Fireclay
Donisthorpe, "No. 1"	Moira	Checkland, Son, and Williams, Donisthorpe, Moira	Henry Taylor	William Bestwick	256	50	Coal, M & H	Little, Four Feet, Moira Main
Donisthorpe, "No. 2"	Moira	Checkland, Son, and Williams, Donisthorpe, Moira	Henry Taylor	William Gascoyne	70	13	Coal, M & H	Stockings, Eureka
Ellistown, "No. 1"	Bagworth	Exors. of Joseph Joel Ellis, Ellistown, via Leicester	George Hall	Wm. Bettison	305	134	Coal, M	Lower Main
Ellistown, "No. 2"	Bagworth	Exors. of Joseph Joel Ellis, Ellistown, via Leicester	George Hall	Matthew Catron	173	25	Coal, M	Upper Main
Ibstock, "No. 1"	Ibstock	Ibstock Colliery Co., Leicester	John Hay	Thomas Petcher	267	99	Coal, M	Low Main
Ibstock, "No. 2"	Ibstock	Ibstock Coal Co., Leicester	John Hay	W. Price	376	43	Coal, M	Upper Main
Marquis	Moira	Moira Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch	T.A. Wilson	Henry Bradford			Coal, H & M	Moira Main
Measham Main	Measham	W. Tate, Measham, Atherstone	Wm. Tate	T. Jones	19	6	Coal, H	Main
Nailstone, "Nos 1 & 2"	Nailstone	Nailstone Colliery Co., near Leicester	Samuel Wheatley	Edward Smith, No. 1 Henry Ball, No. 2	265	73	Coal, H & M	Upper Main, Lower Main
Netherseal	Netherseal	Netherseal Colliery Co., near Burton-on-Trent	G.J. Binns	Joseph Percival	511	120	Coal, H & M	Main, Stockings, Eureka

Newfield, "Nos. 1, 2 & 3"	Woodville	John Knowles and Co., Woodville, Burton-on-Trent	Alfred Eley	W. Pickering	29	3	Fireclay	Fireclay
Oakthorpe	Ashby	Henry P. Skidmore and Co., Oakthorpe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	H.S. Smith	John Kirk	42	17	Coal, H	Main
Pool, "No. 4"	Ashby Wolds, Woodville	Edward Ensor and Co., Woodville, Burton-on-Trent	G.S. Bragge	T. Leech	6	2	Fireclay	
Pool, "No. 5"	Ashby Wolds, Woodville	Edward Ensor and Co., Woodville, Burton-on-Trent	G.S. Bragge	T. Leech	3	2	Fireclay	
Rawdon	Moira	Moira Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch	T.A. Wilson	Henry Bradford	279	85	Coal, H & M	Moira Main, Eureka
Reservoir	Moira	Moira Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch	P. Beaumont	W.F. Clamp	302	69	Coal, H, M & S	Moira Main, Little
Snibston, "No. 2"	Coalville	The South Leicestershire Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	W. Melling	Wm. Glover	341	108	Coal, M & H	Roaster
Snibston, "No. 3"	Coalville	The South Leicestershire Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	W. Melling	Samuel Bettison	96	40	Coal, M & H	Middle Lount
South Leicestershire, "Nos. 1 & 2"	Coalville	The South Leicestershire Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	W. Melling	Geo. Glover, No. 1 John Underwood, No. 2	449	153	Coal, M & H	Lower Main, Upper Main
Staunton Harold	Ashby	Staunton Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch		James Richards	26	8	Coal, M & H	Middle Lount
Swannington	Ashby	Swannington Colliery Co., Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mylles Hardwick		131	30	Coal, M	Middle Lount
Whitwick, "No. 2"	Coalville	Whitwick Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	T.Y. Hay	Samuel Smith			Coal, M	Roaster
Whitwick, "No. 5"	Coalville	Whitwick Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	T.Y. Hay	James Clamp	162	96	Coal, H	Main
Whitwick, "No. 6"	Coalville	Whitwick Colliery Co., Coalville, via Leicester	T.Y. Hay	Samuel Smith	511	92	Coal, M	Roaster
Woodville	Woodville	Woodville Sanitary Pipe Co., Burton-on-Trent	J.W. Moreton		6	4	Fireclay	
			Total		5070	1400		

The following statistics show the Leicestershire Coalfield pits operating in 1921, together with manpower (men and boys) for underground /surface

- **Bagworth Deep** 317 (67)
- **Bagworth Main** 267 (57) (New Bagworth Coal Co Ltd)
- **Blackfordby Boothorpe** (CW Outram and Co) 5 (2)
- **Clay Mine** 5 (1)
- **Coleorton** (Checkland and Co Ltd) 301 (78)
- **Desford No1** (Desford Coal Co Ltd) 493, **No2** 427 (213)
- **Donisthorpe No1** (Donisthorpe Colliery Co Ltd) 604 (99), **No2** 379 (73)
- **Ellistown No1** 495 (124), **No2** (Ellistown Collieries) 398 (97)
- **Ibstock No1** 418, **No2** 436, **No3** (Ibstock Collieries Ltd) 147 (/ 222
- **Lount** (W J Hardy) 109 / 36
- **Measham Main** (Measham Collieries Ltd) 323 / 76
- **Nailstone No1** 369, **No2** 393 / 183 (Nailstone Colliery Co)
- **Rawdon** (Moira Colliery Ltd) 1,002 / 364
- **Reservoir** (Moira Colliery Ltd) 434 / 106
- **Snibston No2 and Stephenson** (South Leicestershire Colliery Co Ltd) 728 / 191
- **South Leicestershire No1** 407, **No2** 379 / 253 (South Leicestershire Colliery Co Ltd)
- **Whitwick No2 and No6** (Whitwick Colliery Co Ltd) 533, **No5** 277 / 196, **No3** 501 / 67

- **Total 10,147 underground and 2,505 surface men and boys. This compares with 5070 / 1400 for the year 1896 shown previously.**

The following is the weekly budget of a typical agricultural labourer and coalminer in the South Derbyshire Coalfield in 1841. Similar figures can be assumed for Leicestershire.

Agricultural Labourer (income 12s.)

	s	d
Flour 2 ¼ stone	5	7 ½
Meat	1	0
Cheese ¼ lb		2
Butter ½lb		9
Rent	1	6
Coal	1	0
Milk, 7 quarts		7
Sugar ½lb		4
Soap ½ lb		3 ½
Beer		1 ½
Extras		7 ½
(has had his suit of clothes 12 years)		
Total	**12**	**0**

Miner (income18s)

	s	d
Flour 1 ½ stone	3	6
Oatmeal		1
Meat (5 ½ lb consumed Saturday to Tuesday)	2	8 ½
Bacon ¼ lb		2 ½
Cheese 1lb		7
Sugar ¾ lb		6
Rent	1	6
Potatoes		6
Beer 3 gallons		9
Coal (carriage only occasionally)		7 ½
Butter ½ lb		9
Milk 7 quarts		7
Peas		2
Tea, Salt, pepper, coffee, mustard	1	6
Extras (clothing etc.)	4	0 ½
Total	**18**	**0**

Both the above had a wife (not working) and three young children. The agricultural labourer rented an allotment for 2d. a week which provided all the household

vegetables, the miner cultivated a garden attached to the house which provided additional vegetables.

Table 1: Miners' Earnings in the Leicestershire Coalfield 1914-1943

	Average Earnings per shift s. d.	*Average Number of Shifts worked*	*Average Earnings* £ s. d.	*(G.B.)* £ s. d.
1914	6 4	259	81 12 1	
1918	13 0	294	199 18 4	
1923	9 0	278	125 2 0	
1928	9 10	226	111 2 1	
1929	9 5	237	111 11 10	
1930	9 10	233	114 10 6	
1931	9 8	234	113 2 0	
1932	9 8	224	108 4 6	
1933	9 10	217	106 14 0	
1938			150 2 6	144 19 0
1939			165 14 6	154 14 0
1940			218 8 0	178 15 0
1941			259 12 2	208 0 0
1942			304 4 0	242 1 8
1943			347 12 4	260 0 0

Source: *Sankey Commission 1919; Buckmaster Report 1923; Miners Dept., Statistical Digest of the Coalmining Industry from 1938, Cmd. 6538, 1944; LMA Records, Leicestershire Miners Earnings 1928-1933.*

The above information is taken from "The Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Miners" by Colin Griffin.

THE END