



THE STORY MINE
Unearthing and Sharing Stories from Markham Colliery

MARKHAM VALE HERITAGE GROUP NEWSLETTER - *Spring 2021*

Hi,

We hope everyone has been keeping safe and well over the last difficult year [hard to believe but our last working group meeting took place on 4 March 2020].

We wanted to get in touch to say hello and to keep you updated about developments with the Walking Together mining memorial project. Like many people we have been putting information and updates online through the project facebook page and website, but we're very aware that this doesn't reach everyone, and also that 'digital' fatigue is a very common feeling these days. So we thought that you might also appreciate this newsletter in the post (or some may also receive by email).

We hope you enjoy reading and we look forward to hearing from you and hopefully being able to meet again later in the year. Please let us know if you enjoy or find this newsletter useful so we can decide if it's something we should be doing more regularly.

With best wishes,

Kate & Fran (Beam) and Peter & Trudi (Markham Vale)

Progress on Walking Together

In summer 2020 we were delighted to be able to install and launch a further group on 15 figures to add to the trail. As we couldn't get together as we usually would we recorded a short film to mark the occasion. The group was supported with funding from Viridor Credits and commemorated nine men who died in the 1938 disaster: Harry Hudson; John William Watson Commons; William Edward Whelpton; George Cyril Foulds Buckley; Benjamin Wallace; George Henry Jackson; Joe Hardy; Clarence Hill & Charles Bown. Also commemorated were six men who died in the 1973 disaster: Michael Kilroy; George Clarence Briggs; Clifford Brooks; George Eyre; Fred Reddish & Joseph William Brocklehurst.



In December 2020 we launched another short film to mark the latest phase of the Walking Together mining memorial. This group commemorated eleven miners who were killed in the 1973 and 1938 disasters, bringing us to a total of 88 figures installed as we continue towards our target of commemorating all 106 miners who tragically lost their lives in these major disasters.

The men commemorated from 1973 were: Henry 'Harry' Chapman; Frank Stone; Jan Kaminiski; Lucjan Julian Plewinski; Wilfred Rodgers; Charles Turner; Alfred White. And from 1938: George Whitley; Fred Monk; Clarence Palmer and Frank Jones.

Sponsors of figures in this latest phase include Markham Vale businesses, Great Bear, Reckitt Benckiser & Henkel; HBD, community donations and Derbyshire Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund.

We were delighted that Netherthorpe School and student Leah Battley (Yr 8) were able to participate in the short film by reading and recording 'The Markham Disaster' by Arthur Fox.

Call out Derbyshire Times

Sandra Struggles has been working hard with other members of the Markham Vale Heritage Group to try and find relatives and friends of the remaining 18 men who are yet to be commemorated. A call out in the Derbyshire Times at the end of last year gathered a few new contacts and substantial interest in the project.

Fundraising Roundup

Understandably with so many pressures on communities and individuals over the last year fundraising has been largely diverted to address urgent needs that have come out of the pandemic, which has made the funding environment for our project even more challenging. We are however very pleased to report that we do have a couple of recent positive pieces of fundraising news to share with you.

Aviva Crowdfunder success

At the start of 2021 the project was accepted onto the Aviva Community Fund Crowdfunder to generate donations to specifically commemorate Arthur Roper, aged 61, whose grandson is still living, he was only 6 when his grandfather died. This was a great opportunity as public donations were topped up by Aviva employees through the company scheme! Our target was £2,100 to install one new commemorative figure as part of the trail and we raised £1500 + gift aid for the project. A great achievement!

Duke of Devonshire success!

We're delighted to let you know that the Duke of Devonshire Charitable Trust has awarded the project another grant to the value of £4,500. We're in the process of liaising with Stephen Broadbent to agree how many figures this will fund and we hope to combine this grant with donations through the Aviva Community Fund to install the next group of Walking Together figures later in the year.

Markham Vale - site news

You might already receive the Markham Vale e-newsletter, recent mentions are Chesters second fish and chip restaurant is coming to Markham Vale and we are about to complete on two large buildings on the North part of the site. We have two new tenants at the Environment Centre too, Ben Wood Electrical and Ossie's Fresh Ginger.

Daher Aerospace has taken 55,000 sq. ft. at Markham Vale, from where it will contribute logistic services for Cairo's monorail project and create 23 new jobs. Daher is an aircraft manufacturer and an industry and service equipment supplier working across aircraft manufacturing, aerospace equipment, and systems, logistics and supply chain

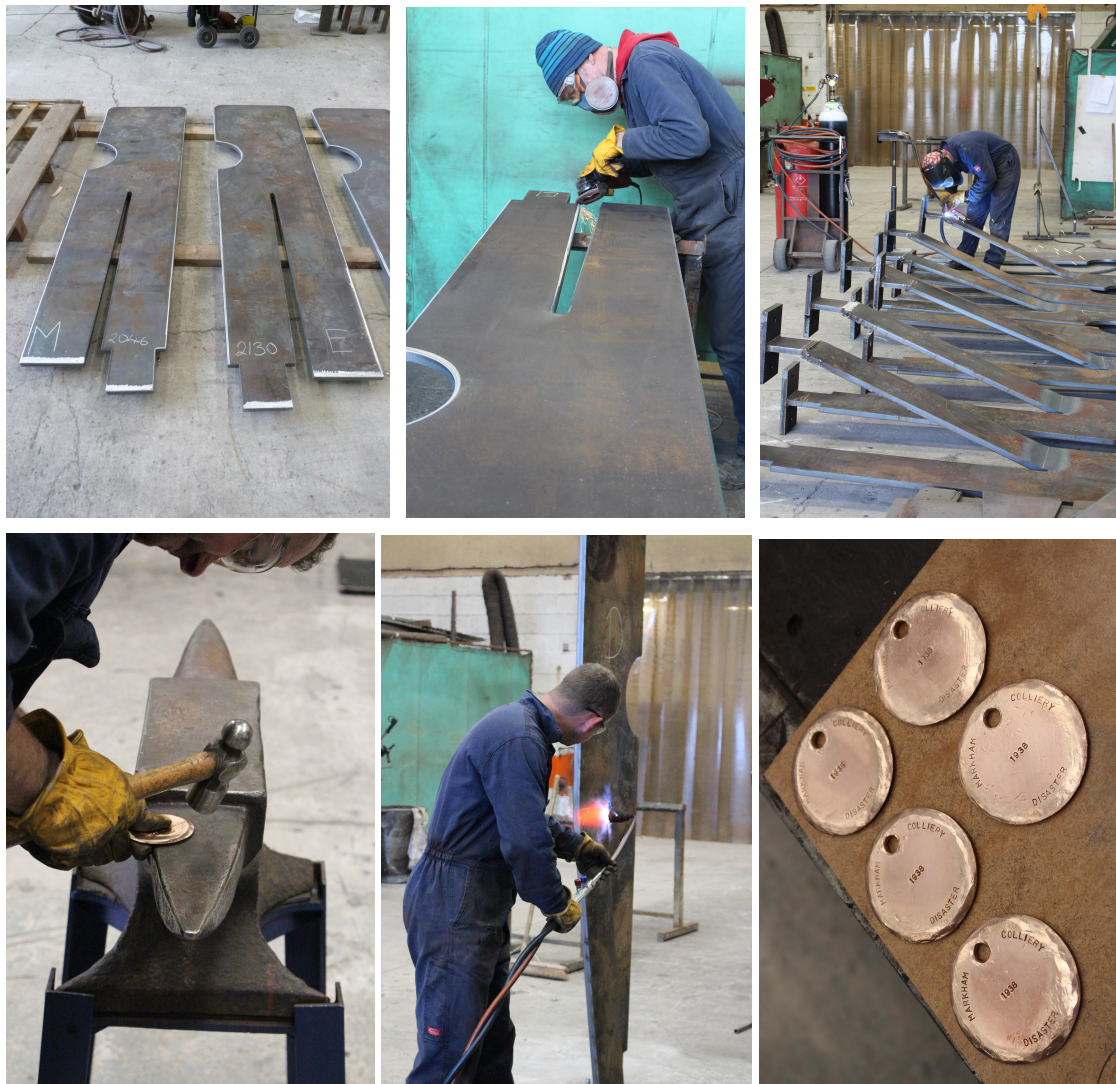
services. The business has moved into MV55, an industrial warehouse on Enterprise Way at Markham Vale, where it will provide logistic services for Alstom in Derby, which is building new monorail lines in Cairo.

Markham Vale are sponsoring the upcoming Celebrate Chesterfield online event which looks at all the regeneration projects in the area, plenty to celebrate at MV!

<https://www.chesterfield.co.uk/celebrate/>

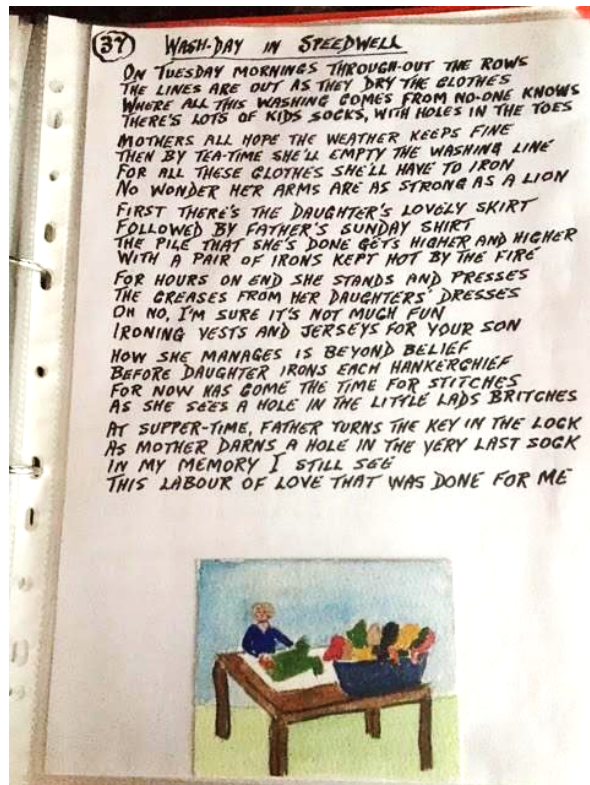
Behind the scenes...

Fabricators CB Arts, based in Ulverston, Cumbria are the specialist manufacturers who make the Walking Together figures on behalf of artist Stephen Broadbent. CB Arts kindly shared this selection of 'behind the scenes' photos of the figures being fabricated in their workshop.



Arthur Fox Poems

As mentioned at previous working group meetings Sandra Struggles holds an extensive illustrated poetry collection from local miner and poet Arthur Fox which has been gifted by his family. The collection covers many aspects of mining life in the Markham area and below are two poems that Sandra has kindly shared with us.



Washday in Speedwell

On Tuesday mornings throughout the rows
The lines are out as they dry the clothes
Where all this washing comes from no-one knows
There's lots of kids socks, with holes in the toes

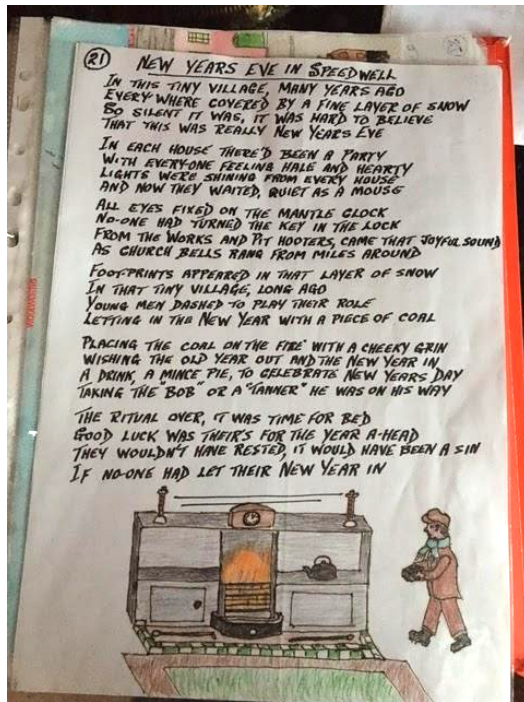
Mothers all hope the weather keeps fine
Then by teatime she'll empty the washing line
For all these clothes she'll have to iron
No wonder her arms are as strong as a lion

First there's the daughter's lovely skirt
Followed by the Father's Sunday shirt
The pile that she's done gets higher and higher
With a pair of irons kept hot by the fire

For hours on end she stands and presses
The creases from her daughter's dresses
Oh no, I'm sure it's not much fun
Ironing vests and jerseys for your son

How she manages is beyond belief
Before daughter irons each handkerchief
For now has come the time for stitches
As she sees a hole in the little lads britches

At suppertime, Father turns the key in the lock
As Mother darns a hole in the very last sock
In my memory I still see
This labour of love that was done for me.



New Years Eve in Speedwell

In this tiny village many years ago
 Everywhere covered by a fine layer of snow
 So silent it was, it was hard to believe
 That this was really New Years Eve

In each house there'd been a party
 With everyone feeling hale and hearty
 Lights were shining from every house
 And now they waited, quiet as a mouse

All eyes fixed on the mantle clock
 No-one had turned the key in the lock
 From the Works and pit hooters, came that joyful sounds
 As church bells rang from miles around

Footprints appeared in that layer of snow
 In that tiny village, long ago
 Young men dashed to play their role
 Letting in the new year piece of coal

Placing the coal on the fire with a cheeky grin
 Wishing the old year out and the new year in
 A drink, a mince pie, to celebrate New Years Day
 Taking the 'bob' or a 'tanner' he was on his way

The ritual over, it was time for bed
 Good luck was their's for the year ahead
 They wouldn't have rested, it would have been a sin
 If no-one had let their nNew Year in

Goodbye...

Thanks for reading this newsletter and we look forward to being in touch again over the coming months as we continue to fundraise and make plans for installing further figures at Markham and working towards completing the trail. We'd love to hear from you and hope we can see you again very soon.

Email contact@beam.uk.net or call Trudi at MVEC on 01246 826000.