



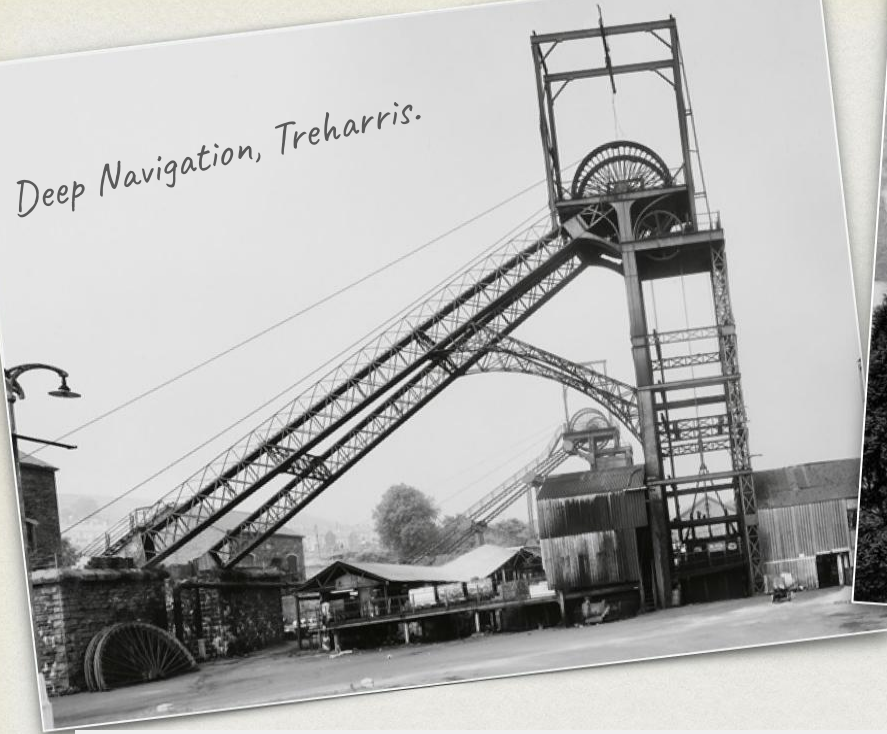
A Tale of Two Mines

by Jess Beynon 2216954

DISCOVER



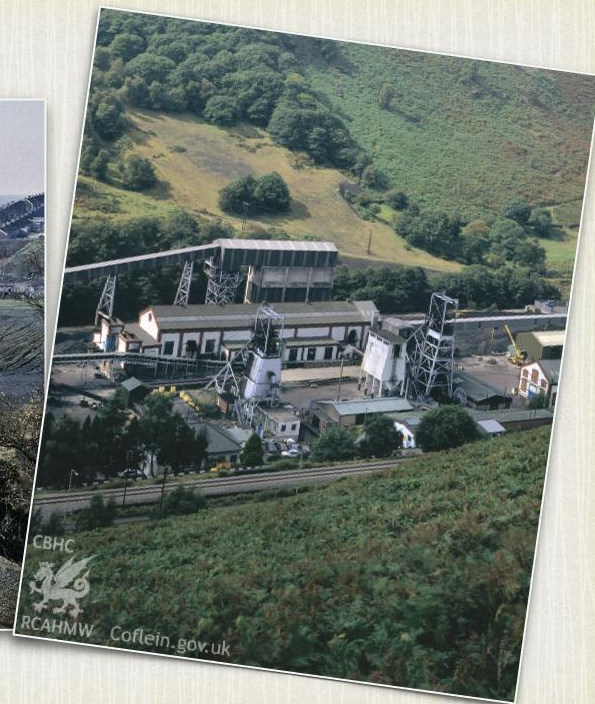
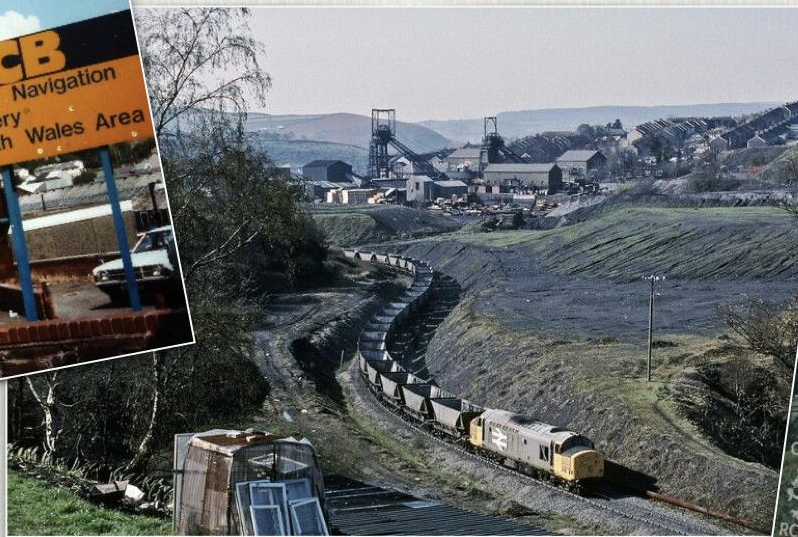
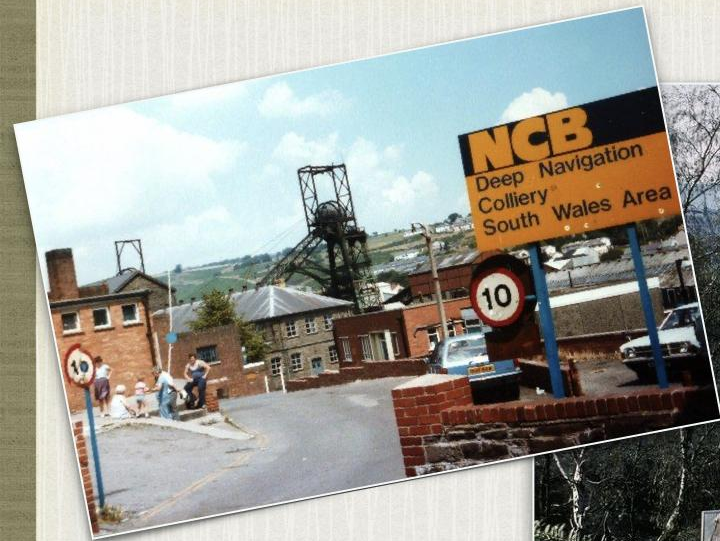
Deep Navigation, Treharris.



Taff Merthyr, Bedlinog.



During the second phase of the Industrial Revolution, Wales' primary industry was coal. A remarkable quantity of coal was extracted from Wales and distributed globally. Trains, ships, and industries were all powered by coal. The coal that South Wales produced helped to make the country and the globe take notice of it.



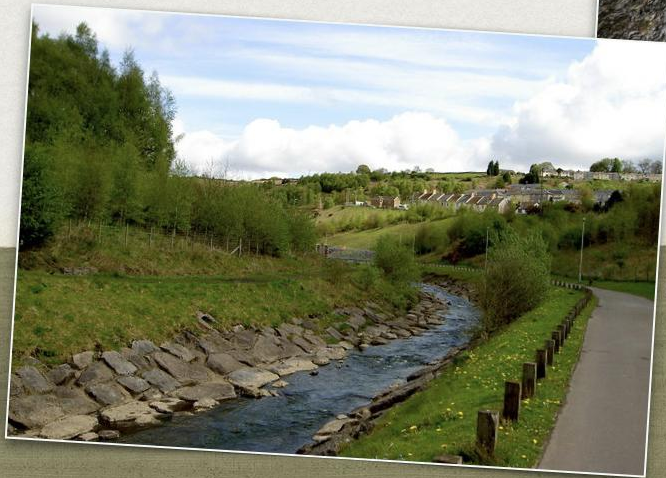
By 1913 half of people working in Wales worked in the coal mines. People moved from the Welsh countryside, England and Ireland to the industrial areas of Wales because there was plenty of work to be had in the coal mines, and towns and villages grew around the mines. The work wasn't easy. The workers spent the majority of their day underground in close dark spaces. Hundreds of people died each year in the coal mines as a result of accidents and underground explosions.



The government laid forth plans to close 20 coal mines on March 6, 1984, which resulted in the layoff of 20,000 miners. On March 12, 1984, Arthur Scargill declared a countrywide strike. The year-long strike was the impetus behind Wales's permanent transformation in its political, economic, and social landscape. Poverty was rife in the neighbourhoods, with little money to buy necessities like food and clothing. On the picket line, the women were joined by their husbands, brothers, dads and sons.

Despite the fight from the miners Deep Navigation closed in 1991 and Taff Merthyr closed in 1992.

A revitalization programme to change the region was started in 2006 with funds from the lottery and Europe. It is currently a stunning natural region teeming with wildlife, pond life, and avian species. Trees and flowers come in a multitude of varieties. The area has completely changed from its former state.



EXPLORE



There are a lot of sights to see in Taff Bargoed Park, including trees, flowers, birds, and wildlife. But, one can simply stroll around the serene setting and take in the sounds of the birds singing, the bees buzzing, and the river trickling.

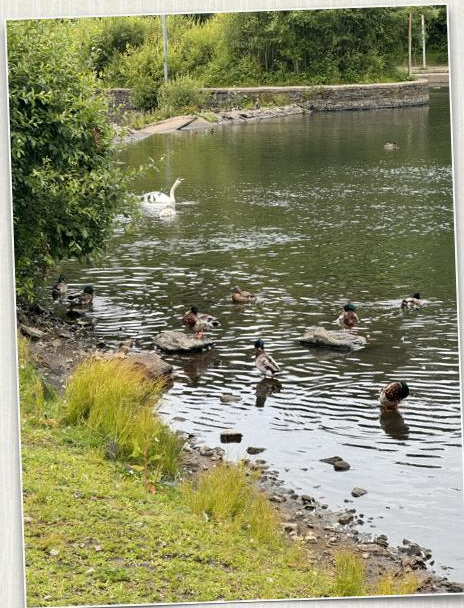


During my strolls through the park, I saw how the wild flowers had grown in beauty and quantity over the years that I had been there. There are blooms on show, including buttercups, foxgloves, cowslip, daffodils, and spring crocuses.

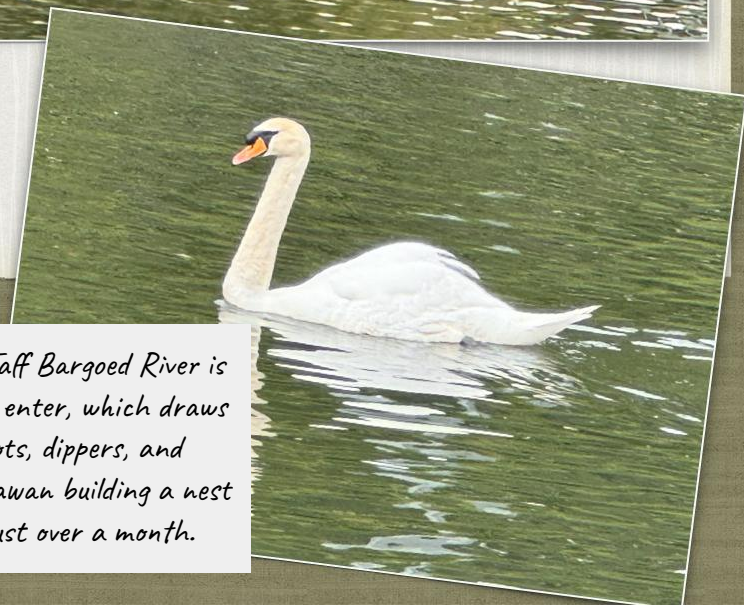


Following my interest in this place i discovered how flowers offer hollow stems for insects to hibernate in, nectar for insects like butterflies and bees, leaves for caterpillars and beetles to hide in and consume, night fragrance that draws moths, which draws bats, and seeds that give birds with food throughout the winter.





The park has the largest reed bed system in Europe. The Taff Bargoed River is filtered by the system to remove any pollutants that might enter, which draws a variety of species including mallard ducks, herons, coots, dippers, and kingfishers. I was lucky enough on this walk to observe a sawan building a nest in the middle of the lake, hopefully see some cygnats in just over a month.



Blackbirds, House Martins, Song Thrushes, and Starlings are the most common birds to be found. However i have been lucky enough to spot more vibrant birds, including Blue Tits, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, and Robins. I have used the signage around the park to help me identify the birds I see. I was a complete novice to begin with but people are so friendly who walk around the area they help too.



One for sorrow, two for joy;
Three for a girl, four for a boy;
Five for silver, six for gold;
Seven for a secret, never to be told;
Eight for a wish, nine for a kiss;
Ten for a bird that's best to miss



Signage for nature reserves can be used to locate attractions or important sites, such wetlands, forests, or walkways. I found that having these plotted out on signs made it easier for me to see what I might see and where I might go without risk.

They also investigate the local wildlife. I think a lot of people are ignorant of the extent of it. These signs provide information about various wildlife species, including plants, animals, flowers, and trees. They describe the kind of animals and plants I notice, along with their salient features and behaviours. They come in very handy when I want to educate my young ones by taking them for walks.



The Taff Bargoed Trust has been collaborating closely with the neighbourhood schools for the past few years. Along with guided walks to seek for birds and learn about the many trees and flowers in the park, it offers workshops to the local community on the wildlife and pondlife. These have proven to be really informative for me. They have also set up a small usable outdoor classroom with the assistance of the schoolchildren.

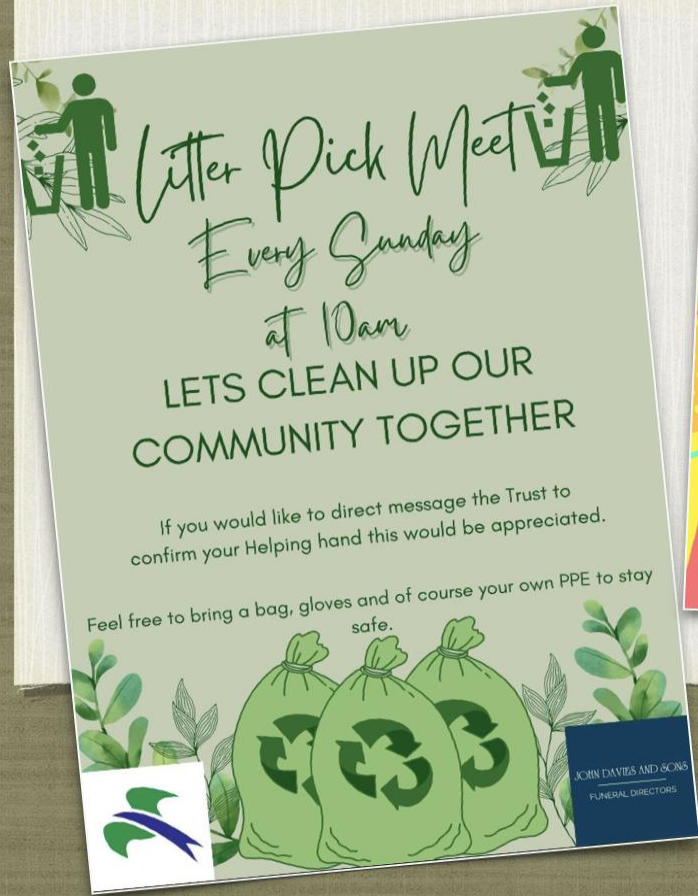
CONSERVE



And Share.



The quantity of litter at the location was one thing I did observe. If groups had been gathering, you could always see where individuals had been seated. Not every time was the litter visible or on display. It was often hard to find, buried between the flowers and shrubs. Littering can result in animals becoming entangled or trapped in plastic packaging. Litter such as plastic bags suffocates wildlife. Animals may cut themselves on sharp items that people discard.



I concluded it would be a good idea to pick up rubbish with the community. We addressed emails to our local council, requesting litter picking equipment, with the assistance of the class children. To invite others to join us, we made posters and posted on our Facebook and Twitter sites. Moreover, we needed authorization to take the children off school premises I had my doubts about this idea's likelihood of success.



The success overwhelmed me. Almost all parents brought children along, and non-community members also participated. On the first litter pick, we gathered more than eight sacks of rubbish. Today we pick a different area of the park to clean up every half term. We now have more classes in our group.



The children also have been working on recycling. The council have now put bins into the park to encourage the park users to recycle. We have added recycling bins to our wish list so all of the children in the school can recycle in class.



Another thing that really affected me was the absence of nature on our school grounds. If there is no nature, how can children discover it? There was one area of greenery that was solely used as a football pitch at our school. The remainder consists of concrete flooring, aged brick walls, and unpainted fences. I genuinely believed that our school needed to take action. Through numerous fundraising efforts and a small grant, we were able to raise enough cash to purchase some sizable pots and planters to be placed throughout the school.





It is well known that children may learn a great deal about the natural world through flowers, including pollination, plant biology, and ecosystems. For children, planting was an enjoyable activity with advantages that went well beyond the garden! In addition to encouraging links with the environment and one another, it also supported the development of life skills and environmental awareness.

Over the past two weeks, the nursery students have been caring for caterpillars that they will release into the flower beds.



We purchased a bee house since our children wanted to add one. To complement our flowers, another one was fashioned by a very astute father.



The younger children are now "Green Growers" They have examined growing from the ground up, starting with seeds to create their designated space. They are cultivating strawberries, peas, and pumpkins. In the classroom, they have also planted sunflowers and grown cress. Families are encouraged to assist in the growth process by receiving the sunflowers that were sent home. They are measuring the growth and sending in photos every week.

The End.