

Saddle up

Life As A Miner

The coal miners life was a hard one. They worked long hours for low wages. The potential dangers were always there for them and their families. This created close comradeship and tight knit mining communities.

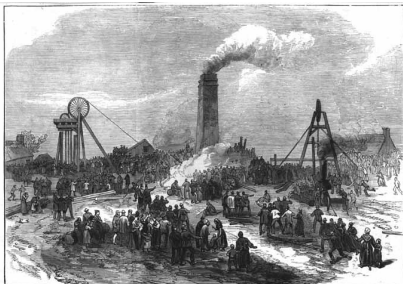
Coal Strikes

The heavy use of coal during the war led to the depletion of many seams, so that when the war ended, Britain exported less coal. In 1926, mine owners announced their intention to further reduce miner's pay, and lengthen their working day. Leading the miner's to strike.

Disaster

At about 9am on November 14th 1872, a man named Cash struck an old headway causing a large volume of water to seal the mine shaft and trap the miners working there.

Eleven men escaped. Ten escaped via the cage and one man was pumped out of the shaft via the water. Unfortunately, twenty-two men were not so lucky and lost their lives, although efforts were made to rescue them.



The Pelsall Hall Colliery, the scene of the flooding.

Brownhills Commemorates Mining Heritage



The statue is called "Jigger" after Jack "Jigger" Taylor, who was killed in a mining disaster in 1951. He was from a multi-generational mining family, and was working in the pit at Walsall Wood when the roof suddenly collapsed. His nickname was submitted to a competition to christen the sculpture, by Taylor's own great-grandson.

North Walsall Primary Academy History

North Walsall Junior and Infants' Schools, Derby Street, originated as a council school with senior mixed, junior mixed, and infants' departments, opened in 1904 on a site bounded by Derby, Kent, Essex, and Hereford Streets. The senior department was recognized as a higher elementary school in 1906, becoming a senior school for boys in 1929 and a secondary modern school for boys in the reorganization after 1944. It was closed in 1965.

It was reopened later on as Charles Cuddy Walker Academy, before later becoming North Walsall Primary Academy.

Sister Dora

Born: 16th January 1832

Died: 24th December 1878



Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison was born in Hauxwell, Yorkshire, the eleventh of twelve children of Rev Mark James Pattison and his wife Jane. She did not have a very good childhood and, as a woman, was also not well-educated.

In the autumn of 1864, she joined the 'Christ Church sisterhood' and started training as a nurse. As a novice sister, in 1866, she was sent to Walsall Cottage Hospital to work as a relief nurse. The rest of her life was spent living in Walsall, where she devoted herself to nursing and developed a special bond of friendship with railway works who often suffered accidents.

In 1877, Sister Dora died and the whole town of Walsall turned out to see her off to Queen Street Cemetery, at her funeral.

Timeline of Walsall Town

1004 AD	Date of first mention of Walsall
1554 AD	Grammar school founded by Queen Mary.
1727 AD	First workhouse erected.
1794 AD	Walsall Troop of Queen's Own Royal Yeomanry formed.
1844 AD	St. Peter's Church erected.
1863 AD	Cottage Hospital founded.
1868 AD	Smallpox epidemic.
1871 AD	School Board formed. Arboretum constructed.
1878 AD	Death of Sister Dora (December 24th)
1887 AD	Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Foundation stone laid of Science and Art buildings, Bradford place, June 20th.
1888 AD	Walsall Football Club was founded.
1912 AD	Great Coal Strike
1916 AD	Zeppelin raid. Walsall bombed
1923 AD	H.R.H Prince of Wales visited.

Walsall Throughout Time

Walsall was granted to hold weekly marks in 1220 and by the fourteenth century it was a flourishing urban community with the right to appoint its own majors and burgesses.

Walsall's role as a place where goods could be bought and sold stretches back 700 years and the town's role as a place where things can be manufactured goes back nearly as far.

Iron and coal industries

Iron ore and coal were being dug as early as 1300 and the town's metal works date back to at least the fourteenth century. By the time of the Tudors, the town was specialising in the manufacture of bits and other horse goods, for which it was later to become celebrated for.

Spectacular expansion and rebuilding

Of the medieval and early modern Walsall few physical traces now remain. For this we largely have to thank the spectacular expansion and rebuilding of the town after 1800. During this time the population grew to nearly 90,000.

Leather and metal trade

From 1847 Walsall had its own station, and the arrival of the railway heralded massive growth in the town's leather and metal trades, which developed international trading links throughout the British Empire and beyond. By the end of Queen Victoria's reign, Walsall could claim to be 'the town of a hundred trades' and the greatest centre of saddlery and harness manufacture in Europe.

Glossary

Burgesses	A Member of Parliament for a borough, corporate town, or university.
Cage	The cage is the iron framework in which men and coal tubs are wound up and down the shaft.
Community	A group of people living in the same place.
Disaster	A sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.
Epidemic	A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.
Expansion	The action of becoming larger or more extensive.
Industry	Economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories.
Population	All the inhabitants of a particular place.
Shaft	A long, narrow, typically vertical hole that gives access to a mine.
Skip hoist	An inclined ramp used to transport skip cars carrying iron ore, coke, or limestone, inside a blast furnace.
Strike	A refusal to work organized by a body of employees as a form of protest.