

Re-dedication of the Restored Memorial to the “9 men of Madeley”

At 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 1st October a short service of rededication of the newly restored grave of the “Nine Madeley Miners” was held at the graveside - the 139th anniversary of the funeral. Ivor Brown and Kelvin Lake attended on behalf of the Club

The grave was restored as part of a Millennium project by the Madeley Living History project. The tomb, railings and surrounding stonework have been cleaned and repaired. The 9 cast iron tomb covers have been repainted white - this is thought to be the original colour and was discovered when the restorers started stripping back the old paint layers. The initials of each miner on their respective graves have also been picked-out in green as have the railings. An iron plaque mounted on a post has been erected beside the tomb, with a transcript of the tombstone inscription (which sadly has not been touched and is very hard to read).

The 9 miners, many of them boys fell to their deaths in September 1864, when riding “the doubles” and the chains became un-hooked.

The service was followed by tea and biscuits in St. Michael’s Church. Where an opportunity was taken to examine the memorial plaque to John Randall FGS.

Shelagh Lewis the organiser of the event plans to follow the restoration with a leaflet about the accident, plus a graveyard survey - Madeley Churchyard contains the tombs of a number of prominent figures involved in the local mining and iron industry.

Kelvin

Pictures, right: The Vicar of Madeley conducting the re-dedication service.

Top: Views of the newly restored gaves.

Pictures: Kelvin Lake - I.A.Recordings, 2003



Mining Memorial

The proposal for a memorial at Shropshire’s worst mine disaster site, Dark Lane, Telford, received support from Councillors present at the re-dedication of the restored memorial to the “9 men of Madeley” (not really 9 men as 6 of them were ‘boys’ aged 12 to 18!).

Elsewhere in the UK memorials in mining communities are getting large grants, recent ones include Woodside, Derbyshire £50,000 to re-erect winding wheel, Gomersal, Yorkshire £17,000 to produce a book of mining photos!

Ivor Brown

