

# How grey was our valley...

About 200 years ago the view across the lane and over the fields to the woodlands may have looked very different to that which you see today - the area was an industrial site.

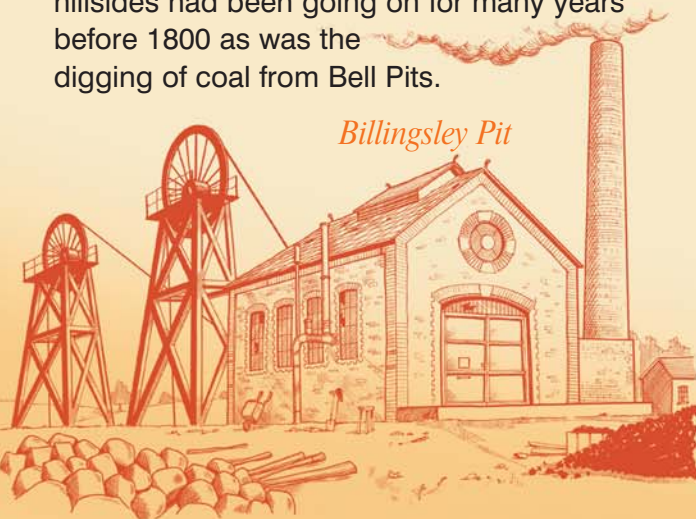
The drop hammers, blast furnace and mining activities created bedlam!

Noises echoed through the valleys and the night sky would have seemed on fire as it reflected light from the flames of the furnace.

Hundreds of people - including families - lived in hovels and worked on the site. The large bread oven in Rays Farm House may have been used to provide bread for these workers.

Drift mining - horizontal tunnels into the hillsides had been going on for many years before 1800 as was the digging of coal from Bell Pits.

*Billingsley Pit*



# A walk through history...

An easy 2 mile walk which will take about 2 hours

On your next visit to Rays Farm why not bring your walking boots, collect a map from the farm and set off for a walk through history.

On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays you could start by using the Countryside Explorer Bus - please ask for a time table. This will reduce the amount of uphill road walking, otherwise turn left out of the farm gate and walk uphill to the outskirts of Chorley Village, where you turn right into the woods. From there on you will be walking through woodlands, along the edges of fields and by fast flowing streams. You will need to look carefully to see the fascinating industrial remains shown on the map.

Do not stray off the path to explore these remains - especially the coal workings and miners cottages.



*A Bell Pit*

If you are interested in local industrial history please refer to R. Evans and D. Poyner's book, 'The Wyre Forest Coalfield', at your library.

## Rays Farm Country Matters

Billingsley, Bridgnorth, WV16 6PF.

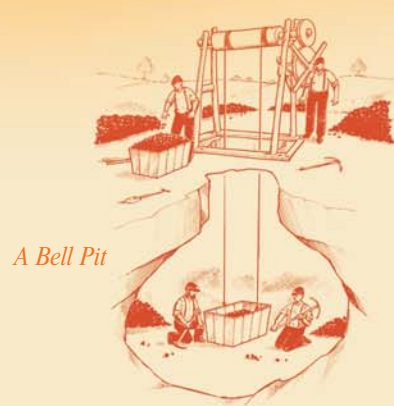
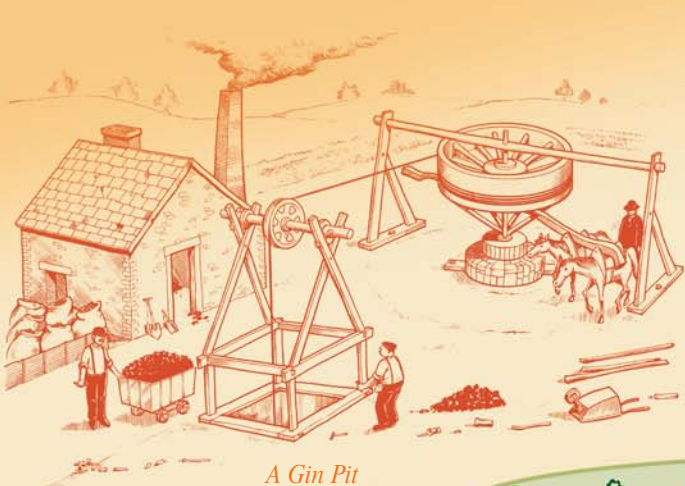
Telephone: 01299 841255.

Fax: 01299 841455.

Website: [www.raysfarm.com](http://www.raysfarm.com)

# Rays Farm A walk through history...





The Cape of Good Hope Public House



You are here