

MEARNS, ROTCOMBE and WOODY HEIGHGROVE COLLIERIES

It is not easy to separate the activities of these pits as they were gradually amalgamated after the coal seams were worked out. Shafts were then reused and underground workings joined.

Mearns was the only “deep” pit that was wholly in High Littleton. With a maximum shaft depth of 279 ft. and diameter of 4 ft. 6 in., “deep” may seem rather an overstatement, compared with the pits that opened up in the early 19th century. During its lifetime of some 30 years Mearns was pretty insignificant in terms of output and profitability. It would probably have passed from memory in the same way as Rotcombe Coalworks had it not been for William SMITH, “father of English Geology”, whose discoveries gave Mearns a place in history.

In 1783 the closes of land called Mearns were part of the Manor of High Littleton. The lordship of the manor at that time belonged jointly to two spinster sisters Elizabeth and Mary JONES of Stowey, who inherited it from their father William JONES (died 1748), together with his rights to coal under the land.

On 1 May 1783 Mary and Elizabeth (died 1 Sep 1783) JONES entered into three leases with eight individuals, who were granted permission to “sink, search and make levels” etc. on part of the JONES land in High Littleton in return for freeshare. These individuals became the proprietors of Mearns Coalworks. Articles of partnership, signed on 2 May 1783, set out the proprietors’ respective shares as follows:

Jacob MOGG 7/32, John CRANG 7/32, William SAVAGE 4/32, Alexander ADAMS 4/32, Robert LANGFORD 3/32, Henry FISHER 2/32, Christian HILL 3/32 and William SHORT 2/32.

Mearns pit was doubtless opened soon after this.

Coal was being mined at Rotcombe before the Mearns pit opened.

Memorandum of Demise dated 24 June 1755 from George HODGES to Alexander ADAMS, John BUSH & Robert COOPER of coals in Rodcomb, Coalpitt Close, Home Hills, Limekiln, Lyes, One close adjoining & an Orchard Garden & Backside adjoining to Limekiln Close & a Parrock adjoining to said orchard in High Littleton; for the term of 21 years from the above date, under a thirteenth freeshare..
[SRO DD/MGG/3].

31 Dec 1784 Lease from John HOOPER Esq. & Martha Hodges MOGG, Richard MOGG, George MOGG & Thomas MOGG to Jacob MOGG Esq. of Coalsunder their land in High Littleton for 100 years. (List of Documents – SRO DD/MGG/3).

Jacob MOGG, possibly with partners, appears to have operated as Rotcombe Coal Co. for several years before subletting the Rotcombe land and mining rights early in the nineteenth century to Mearns Coalworks in return for freeshare.

Mary JONES died on 13 Sep 1791, leaving the Manor of High Littleton and coalworkings to her second cousin, once removed, Lady Elizabeth JONES of Ramsbury Manor. After taking possession, Lady JONES hired a young surveyor, William SMITH, to survey all the lands she had inherited in Stowey and High Littleton. SMITH surveyed the Stowey estate and in 1792 surveyed the High Littleton estate including Mearns colliery. SMITH reported that Mearns had an average output of about 20 tons per day, with a workforce of 16 men and 5 or 6 boys. Lady JONES had other coal interests beside Mearns and SMITH, rather cheekily, wrote to Lady JONES asking if he could become a shareholder in, and general manager of, one of her newer mines. His request appears to have been rejected.

SMITH went down all the shafts of Mearns Colliery, descending by means of slippery ladders, ropes or the chain of the dredger. SMITH had studied fossils as a hobby and as he went deeper and deeper into the pit he noticed the succession of the layers of rock and their angle of dip and the fossils trapped within the layers.

Smith left many notes and diaries, which have been preserved to this day. He wrote “*The stratification of the stones struck me as something very uncommon*” and later “*till I learned the technical terms of the strata and made a subterranean journey or two, I could not conceive a clear idea of what seemed so familiar to the colliers. But, when these difficulties were surmounted and an intelligent bailiff accompanied me, I was much pleased with my peregrinations below, and soon learned enough of the order of strata to describe on a plan the manner of working the coal in the lands I was then surveying.*”

What SMITH saw on his survey was recorded on a piece of paper entitled “*Original Sketch and Observations of My First Subterranean Survey of Mearns Colliery in the Parish of High Littleton.*” He reported on the method of moving the coal from the face to the surface, including a description of the gus and crook: “... drawn along here to the bottom of the first [gugg] by a man down on his hands and feet, bare, with a cord round his waist, to which is fastened a chain that comes between his legs and hooks to the forepart of the cart.”

SMITH was later employed by John RENNIE, a noted canal builder, to survey the route of the proposed Somerset Coal Canal between Limpley Stoke and Paulton. This gave him further opportunities to observe the order of the earth’s strata as excavations were carried out over the route.

SMITH was by no means the first person to observe the earth’s strata and different types of coal seams. The miners themselves were well aware of the order of strata found in coal pits and back in 1719 John STRACHEY of Stowey submitted a paper to the Royal Society, describing the strata found in Somerset Coal mines. SMITH’s study of fossils, his knowledge of their relative ages and in which rocks they were to be found, made him realise that the various layers of rock had been laid down in progression at different times and therefore should always appear in the same order. By testing his theory around Britain, he was able to produce in 1815 the first stratographic map of Britain, which has since been proved to be remarkably accurate. Amongst other things this showed where coal lay nearest to the surface.

SMITH’s survey of High Littleton, which was published in 1793, not only described Lady JONES’ estate in detail, but also covered, in less detail, the land of the other property owners and their tenants. As can be seen the Mearns Company also rented land and coalworkings at Rotcombe from Jacob MOGG.

1793 Survey of High Littleton

Owner – Lady JONES – Tenant - Mearns Company

Map Tenant & Premises

<u>No.</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Quantity</u> <u>a r p</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>p. acre (s.)</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>£ s d</u>
58	Mearns Coalbarton etc.	2 2 37	60	8. 3. 10½
<i>(On this are 4 cottages & gardens, wheelhouses etc. stables and other buildings belonging to the Company)</i>				
59	Little Mearns adjoining <i>(Workheaps want leveling)</i>	Meadow/Pasture 1 3 39	30	2.19. 9¾
60	Great Mearns	do. 7 0 14	35	12. 8. 0¾
38	Quar Ground	do. 2 0 23	28	3. 0. 0¼
	<u>Total</u>	<u>13 3 33</u>		<u>26. 1. 9¼</u>
				<i>(adds to £26.11. 9¼)</i>

Owner – Jacob MOGG Esq. – Tenant Mearns Company

39	The Field	Meadow/Pasture 5 0 13		
69b	Rotcombe	do. 4 0 0		
		<u>9 0 13</u>		

Lady JONES granted a new lease to the partners of the Mearns Coalworks to run for 31 years from 25th March 1793.

In 1795 the parish mounted an emergency operation to relieve the poor, because of escalating corn prices. Voluntary subscriptions were sought from would-be benefactors. Vestry minutes of 24 Aug 1795 record that the two coal companies, namely Rotcombe Co. and Mearns Co. each subscribed £1. 1. 0.

Lady JONES died in 1800 leaving her estates in Stowey and High Littleton to her nephew William Jones BURDETT.

The following documents have not been examined but may relate partly to Rotcombe and partly to Mearns Coalworks:

24 Jun 1800 Lease from Martha Hodges MOGG, George MOGG & Thomas MOGG, Charles MOGG, Robert MOGG, Henry Hodges MOGG & Dorothy MOGG to Jacob MOGG Esq. of Coals at High Littleton for 60 years. (List of Documents – SRO DD/MGG/3).

20 Feb 1802 Assignment of Leases of Coal Works at High Littleton from William Jones BURDETT Esq. to George MOGG, Joseph HILL & Thomas MILES. (List of Documents – SRO DD/MGG/3).

24 Mar 1802 Assignment from Jacob MOGG to George MOGG of Coal Works at High Littleton. (List of Documents – SRO DD/MGG/3).

In his "History of Somerset", published in 1791, Rev. John COLLINSON referred to the "large coal-work in High Littleton belonging to Mr MOGG, in which great quantities of fine coals are raised and sold at the pit's mouth for three pence a bushel." COLLINSON may have been referring to Rotcombe Coalworks.

In 1802 the 1793 survey of High Littleton was updated, a survey was made of Hallatrow and a new basis of assessing rates at 1d. per acre recommended. The details regarding Mearns were as follows:

<i>Owner – William Jones BURDETT – Leased for years to Mearns Coal Company</i>	<u>Rate</u> (s. d.)
58 to 38 as above for Lady JONES	<u>13 3 33</u> 1. 2

<i>Owner Jacob MOGG Esq. – Mearns Company Tenants</i>	
39 to 69b as above	9 0 13
67 Rotcombe Common	<u>3 14</u>
	<u>9 3 27</u> 9 ³ / ₄

For the next few years rates were assessed thus:

Rates from 1802/3-1814/5

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Mearns Coal Works	Wm. Jones BURDETT	14	1. 2
Mearns Coal Works	George MOGG Esq.	9 ³ / ₄	9 ³ / ₄

William Jones BURDETT commissioned a survey and valuation of his High Littleton estate in 1804. The Mearns details, which of course did not include the MOGG land, were as follows:

Owner - William Jones BURDETT – Tenant Mearns Coal Co.

<u>Map Tenants & Premises</u>		<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Value</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>a r p</u>	<u>p. acre (s.)</u>	<u>£ s d</u>
58	Mearns Coal Barton etc.	2 2 37	42)	24.16. 0
59	Little Mearns Adjoining	1 3 39)	
60	Great Mearns	7 0 14)	
38	Quarr Ground	<u>2 0 23</u>	16	<u>1.14. 0</u>
		<u>13 3 33</u>		<u>26.10. 0</u>
	<i>Deduct for Church, Poor, Land Tax, Rates etc.</i>			<u>4.10. 0</u>
				<u>22. 0. 0</u>

The pits in north Somerset were producing increasing amounts of coal but there was no economical way, except road, of transporting it in large quantities to markets in Bath and Wiltshire. Canal building became very popular in the late eighteenth century and, after the Monmouthshire Canal was cut, local colliery owners were concerned that there would be competition from cheap Welsh coal in their traditional markets. There was eager support for cutting a canal, which would link the Somerset Coalfield to Bath and thence join up with further canal systems running eastwards to Wiltshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Somerset Coal Canal Act was passed in 1794 but, it was not until 1805, after many problems, that the canal was fully open for barge traffic from Paulton Basin to Limpley Stoke. At Limpley Stoke the Somerset Coal Canal joined the Kennet and Avon Canal, which in turn joined the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal. Tramways from the High Littleton, Timsbury and Paulton pits ran to the wharf at Paulton Basin, where the barges were loaded. At one time five tramways linked at least fifteen collieries to the canal at Paulton Basin.

The deposited plans for the Somersetshire Coal Canal 1793, clearly show the Coalworks operating at that time. These include Rotcombe Coalwork, Mearnes Coalwork and pits on the borders of High Littleton parish, notably Heighgrove Upper, Heighgrove Lower, Heyswood New, Amesbury and Allens Paddock. Some time after the canal was opened Jeremiah CRUSE (who surveyed Hallatrow in 1802 and William SMITH's one time partner) was commissioned to produce a large scale plan of the Coal Canal and the tramways linking it to the various pits. One tramway ran north-east towards Grove, New Grove, Tynning and Heyswood in Timsbury parish. Another ran north-west to Mearns and Allens Pit. The map is somewhat unclear as to what happened beyond Mearns and many of the lines may indicate proposed tramways that were never built. Rotcombe appears to have disappeared by then.

Mearns appears to have had four shafts. Apart from the winding shaft there was a shaft about 25 yards to the east, another 75 yards to the south and one at Rotcombe just over ¼ mile to the south west, near the road. It is assumed that the latter was on the MOGG land, formerly part of the Rotcombe Coal Company.

In 1806 Jacob MOGG died and his coal mining interests and estates in High Littleton and elsewhere were left in trust for his six children. In 1807 Joseph HILL acquired more shares in the Mearns Coalworks.

A letter of 1809 touches on the amount of the freeshare on Mearns:

Letter addressed to Richard LANGFORD Esq'r, Hallatrow Note on reverse – [Paulton 18th Nov'r 1809. J. HILL Esq. re Freeshare etc. of Clandown.]

Dear Sir,

I suppose you saw Mr JAMES last Night touching the Letter intended to be sent to London.

Please to recollect both parts of the Manor of Paulton are leased at a tenth – Except Radford, which was leased at an 8th – when it was abandoned similar to C.D. When new leases were granted at a 10th and great part of the Coal there is now working at a 15th.

All Mearns is at a 10th. Great part (I believe) of Mr PALMER's is leased at a 10th – 12th & I think at a still lower free Share. Dunkerton was leased at an 8th but the Lord, upon Application, granted a New Lease at a 10th; the consequence was a spirited perseverance and Success to the Lord of the Soil.

Excuse my sending you the above Particulars, but, as I thought they might be of use to you in framing yr. Letter, I have taken the Liberty of stating them [to you – deleted]; perhaps you may recollect o'r Instances similar.

I remain sincerely your's, (signed) Joseph HILL.

Paulton, Nov'r 18th 1809.

P.S. What did you do at Chewton yesterday?

No records exist of those who worked at Mearns but it is interesting to note that in a Settlement Examination of 15 Oct 1799 Samuel TRAVIS “*Saith that he hath worked for Mearns Coal Company about 12 years past*”. Samuel was the father of William TRAVIS, who was killed there in 1815.

The Rates assessments for 1815/6 showed that Mearns had leased more land from BURDETT, which had previously been leased to George MILES:

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<i>Mearns Coal Co. late Geo. MILES</i>	<i>Wm. Jones BURDETT Esq.</i>	<i>12½</i>	<i>1. 0½</i>
<i>Mearns Coal Works</i>	<i>Wm. Jones BURDETT</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1. 2</i>
<i>Mearns Coal Works</i>	<i>George MOGG Esq.</i>	<i>9¾</i>	<i>9¾</i>

High Littleton Vestry considered that Mearns Coalworks ought to pay more Poor Rate than was payable on the 1d. per acre basis, so despatched Thomas FLOWER, the Assistant Overseer, to negotiate with the Mearns partners. Mearns was going through a very bad time but nevertheless FLOWER was given a sympathetic hearing. The minutes provide interesting details on Means.

At a Meeting held by the Appointment of George MOGG Esq'r and Joseph HILL Esq'r, Chief Proprietors of Mearns Coal Works at their Counting House at Mearns in the Parish of High Littleton in the County of Somerset, with Thomas FLOWER, Acting Overseer of the said Parish of High Littleton, on Wednesday the 24th day of April One thousand Eight Hundred and sixteen;

After Explaining the Difficulty of their present Works and the probability of the Lower (or John WILKINS') Pit's being quite exhausted and not likely to be Worked at farthest longer than Six Months from the present time, as well as the Upper (or Daniel PICKFORD's) Pit's continuing longer than Lady Day 1817, Unless the Proprietors should Succeed in sinking further down, so as to be able to Work the lower part of such Work, which they are dubious of, on account of the Water;

It was then proposed by Mr Joseph HILL that they would present the Parish of High Littleton with Twenty Pounds Pr. Year, out of the Work called the Upper (or Daniel PICKFORD's Pit) with a View to ease the Parish of High Littleton, owing to the late and present high state of the Poor's Rates etc.

But it was then Suggested by Mr George MOGG that, notwithstanding the state of the Lower (or John WILKINS' Pit), that they would give Ten Pounds Pr. Annum for the lower and Twenty Pounds Pr. Annum for the Upper Pit, making together Thirty Pounds Pr. Annum, to be paid to the Overseers of the Parish of

High Littleton by Quarterly payments, viz't Seven Pounds Ten Shillings, to be paid on, or im[m]ediately after, the 24th day of June next, and so to pay the like sum of Seven Pounds Ten Shillings every Quarter after, by way of Gift to the Parish of High Littleton, which was agreed to by Mr Joseph HILL.

It was further proposed by the before Mentioned George MOGG and Joseph HILL Esq's that, should they Succeed with their new sinking at the Upper (or Daniel PICKFORD's Pit) or should they succeed in Bending a New Work they have begun, then, in that case, they will Augment the Sum, in proportion as the Work's shall be found to Answer etc.

It was requested by Mr George MOGG and Mr Joseph HILL that the present, or future Sum given by them, should not be placed with, or added to, the Poor's Rate, but be looked on as a Gift Annual[l]y from them etc.; they have given Orders to their Clerks to pay to the Overseers as before mentioned, regularly every Quarter, the first payment to Commence on the 24th day of June next.

These, their Proposals, they hope will be Accepted by the Parish of High Littleton, as being more in Proportion than they Give to the Parish of Timsbury Aris(e)ing from the Great Tynning, it being in full Work, and Mearns very unproductive etc. and Concluded thus: they had every reason to conclude, as things are now Circumstanced, that the Parish of High Littleton will be greater Gainers at the Year's end than they themselves.

By 1817 the old Mearns pit was exhausted and the owners, encouraged by William Jones BURDETT, directed their efforts to seeking coal at a greater depth at the nearby Woody Heighgrove pit. Joseph HILL was unwilling to go along with the Woody Heighgrove venture, so sold his shares to Jacob MOGG in order to avoid the expense of this removal.

Extract of an Assignment dated 8 Nov 1817 from Joseph HILL Esq. of Paulton to Jacob MOGG Esq. of High Littleton of 2/8 shares in Mearns Coal Works.

Refers to divers leases and two indentures of assignment dated 20 Feb 1802 and 26 Sep 1807, whereby Joseph HILL now owns 2 shares in coal works etc. in and upon lands of William Jones BURDETT Esq. in High Littleton, for remainder of a term of 31 years expiring on 25 Mar 1824 & in lands called Great Mearns & Mearns Bottom, containing 15 acres for a like term, subject to payment of freeshare etc.

Whereas a considerable coalworks established under the name of Mearns Coalworks & old pits now exhausted, lessors & present owners want lessors to proceed to a greater depth to try for coal at a pit sunk in a close called Woodey Heighgrove, at great expense, said Joseph HILL doesn't want to continue in the partnership, so assigns his share to Jacob MOGG, who is also beneficially interested in the free share of coal leased by Slade BAKER Esq. & John HOOPER Esq. under land of George MOGG & others. (SRO DD/RM19)

Mining operations were duly transferred and the Mearns Coal Company leases were given up with the landlords' agreement. It is likely that a tramroad was laid from Mearns to Woody Heighgrove.

Rates Assessments indicate that in 1817/8 George MOGG's 9¾ acres was let to James BOULTER and 5 acres of BURDETT's land was let to Stephen HUTTON. In 1818/9 the remaining 21½ acres of BURDETT's land was let to Stephen HUTTON and Mearns Coal Company ceased to rent any land in High Littleton.

Extract of Indenture made 24 June 1819 between William Jones BURDETT Esq. of Stowey (1) & Stephen HUTTON, yeoman of High Littleton, Joseph HARRIS, shopkeeper of same, Thomas Collier DUDDEN, yeoman of Hallatrow & Joseph ROSSITER, brewer of Farmborough (2).

Whereby William Jones BURDETT leased to Stephen HUTTON, Joseph HARRIS, Thomas Collier DUDDEN & Joseph ROSSITER the coal found under the land of William Joseph DUDDEN in High Littleton on the North & North-east side of a Gully & stream of water, which runs from Kingwell to the road from High Littleton to Timsbury & also under a close called Coal Acre (2 acres 2 roods 1 perch)

Peas Close (6a. 1r. 18p.)

Bottom Well (6a. 1r. 19p.)

Great Conygarth (3a. 1r. 17p.)

The Mead (7a. 1r. 2p.)

All in High Littleton

For 31 years in consideration of one tenth part of the coal landed.

(Sgd) Stephen HUTTON, Joseph HARRIS, Tho's C. DUDDEN, Joseph ROSSITER.

[SRO DD/RM/19].

In 1820/1 12 acres of BURDETT's land, which was let to Stephen HUTTON (and previously to Mearns Coal Co.) was let to Woody Heighgrove Company. Rates assessments provide evidence of the changes. It is

interesting to note that, the agreement by the Mearns partners to pay an extra £10 p.a. to High Littleton parish, was continued by the Woody Heighgrove partners.

Rates 1821/2

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Woody Heighgrove Co.	Wm. Jones BURDETT Esq.	12	1. 0

Rates 1822/3 – 1824/5

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Woody Heygrove Co.	Wm. Jones BURDETT Esq.	12	1. 0
Woody Heygrove Co. – Yearly			£10. 0. 0

In 1825 a new survey of High Littleton was undertaken, for the purpose of finding a more equitable basis of assessing Poor Rates. This provides a good picture of the Woody Heighgrove/Mearns operation.

1825 Survey of High Littleton

Owner - William Jones BURDETT Esq. – Heygrove Coal Co.

<u>Map No.</u>	<u>Tenants & Premises</u>	<u>Cultivation</u>	<u>Measure a r p</u>	<u>Annual Value (£ s d)</u>	<u>Suggested Rate £ s d</u>
32,pt.54	Heygrove Coal Work, Buildings & Barton & Garden, let with the tenement next mentioned		about 1 0 0	2. 0. 0	10
	Tenement occupied by Rob't PEARSON		1 0 0	2. 0. 0	10
pt.54,55	Part of Woody Heygrove & Windmill Ground	Pasture	7 1 24	10. 7. 2	4 3¼
pt.58	The Coal Barton called Mearns with the buildings belonging thereto & the Gardens rented with		3 3 17	6.14.11	2 9¾
pt.59 & pt.60	the Cottages next following				
	Tenement occupied by James TUCKER			1.15. 0	8¾
	do. do. Sam'l FORD			1.15. 0	8¾
	do. do. Rd. DYKE			1.15. 0	8¾
	do. (detached) do. Jos. TUCKER			2. 0. 0	10
	Another Tenement detached – Step'n SLADE			1.15. 0	8¾
	Another do. do. - void			<u>1.15. 0</u>	<u>8¾</u>
			<u>12 1 1</u>	<u>31.17. 1</u>	<u>13. 3¼</u>
	For the Coal Mine			<u>100. 0. 0</u>	<u>2. 1. 8</u>

Rates 1825/6

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Annual Value</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Heighgrove Coal Co.	Wm. Jones BURDETT Esq.	12 1 1	119. 2. 1	2. 9. 7½

At a High Littleton Vestry Meeting on 24 Feb 1832 it was stated that “as there was two and a half rates at 5d. in the pound due from the Heighgrove Coal Company to the parish and in consequence of the said Coal works not being in work for the last 2 months, it is agreed that they should be allowed one rate by paying the other one and a half rate.”

The pit closed a year or so later. In March 1834 High Littleton Overseers' Accounts record that the Mearns Company [Woody Heighgrove] was absolved from rates, “the works being drowned out and closed.”

Extract of Indenture of Lease made 14 Aug 1839 between William Jones BURDETT Esq. of Twickenham, Middx. (1) & Samborne Stucley PALMER Esq. of Timsbury (2).

Whereby William Jones BURDETT grants to Samborne Stucley PALMER a lease of all the coal mines, coal works, veins of coal etc. under William Jones BURDETT's land in High Littleton for 99 years from the day of the lease, for a consideration of one twelfth of the proceeds of all coal landed, excluding coal used in working any engine for the use of the work & allowance to the workmen as Bag Coal.

(Sgd) Samborne Stucley PALMER in the presence of John REES-MOGG, Cholwell.

In 1858 the question of reopening Woody Heighgrove was briefly considered and rejected:

..... After some dispute S.S.P. SAMBORN bought the plant and by 1856 the colliery [*Hayeswood*] was back at work. However, in May 1858 the owners questioned “*the propriety of keeping open the colliery under its existing unprofitable circumstances.*” Exploration “*in the deep of the Woody Haygrove and Haygrove Engine old workings*” was discounted and in or about 1862 the colliery was closed for good. [*The History of the Somerset Coalfield - C.G. Down & A.J. Warrington*].

In 1926, when miners were suffering badly as a result of the lock-out, Captain SCOBELL, who owned Kingwell Hall, gave permission for out of work miners to work coal in the gully between Rotcombe Lane and the entrance to the park at Kingwell. Several groups of miners availed themselves of the opportunity.