

Mining Display in St Peter's Church

On display in the church for all to see is a model of an iron ore mine pithead.



My uncle, Tom Quirk, of Ulverston Road, Lindal, in the latter years of his working life and during his retirement from Glaxo, spent many hours meticulously constructing this unique model in pitch pine and stainless steel of a typical Roanhead headgear. This was done from his personal memories of working in the Kennedy mines, noting details which are not recorded elsewhere and making this an invaluable historical record.

Such things as the method of signalling, the detail of cages and the detail of shaft timberwork.

This was built in his loft and was visited by many notables in the field of mining history in the area who always said that it should be displayed in a museum for everyone to see.

After my uncle's day, it was dismantled and rebuilt in Barrow's Dock Museum in the hope that it would be placed on display there but the Museum lost it after it had been there a couple of years – it is 9 feet long and 6 feet high! After much searching, it subsequently turned up in a store at BAE from where it was brought to the church.

There are two underground levels where work remains to be done but what is on display is of great interest to anyone who has mining connections or has an interest in the industry. Much of our mining heritage has been lost and is continuing to be lost by the council and some landowners. It is important that as much as possible is preserved and made available for display to future generations so that they may identify with their past and appreciate the contribution which mining made to this area.

The church is open on Wednesdays from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm when the exhibit can be seen, or at other times, by arrangement with me or the churchwardens.

Dick Quirk

Churchwardens - Jennifer Pardoe – 463228 Josie Quirk – 463558