

The Bog village

A busy village

Today The Bog seems peaceful and rural but it has a hidden industrial past. For nearly 200 years it was a busy mining community with steam-driven pumps and winding gear surrounded by huge spoil heaps.

Lead mining started here in the 1730s and the settlement grew as miners moved to work in the rapidly expanding mine. In 1793 there were around 100 miners employed at The Bog. By the mid 1800s The Bog had become a thriving, bustling village with rows of cottages, mine buildings and offices, a pub and a school.



The Bog as it may have looked around 1880.

Based on an original drawing by Malcolm Newton.

"The Bog was a ramshackle place, sheds and tin roofs and mine workings, the miners' welfare and the school"
John Francis, Never on a Sunday.

Nights out at The Bog

You are standing in the remains of one of The Bog's important buildings - the Miners' Institute or Welfare. It was well known for its Saturday night dances, when people walked from miles around to enjoy a welcome break from their hard labours. The

walls around you were probably originally part of the mine Engine House, which was converted into the Miners' Institute.

"We had lovely dances at The Bog"
Millie Gough, Never on a Sunday.



Learning at The Bog

The Bog village school was another important community building. At one time there were 106 pupils, aged between 5 and 14. Although the school closed in 1968, the building remains a place for learning. It is now The Bog Visitor Centre with displays and information. Even better, you can enjoy learning with homemade cake and tea!

What's in a name?

Centuries ago The Bog was literally just that - a bog. It dried out with the cutting of the Boat Level, an underground tunnel dug to drain the mine workings.



This project has been developed with help from The Bog Visitor Centre Volunteers, The Bog Liaison Group, Shropshire Mines Trust, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, South Shropshire District Council, Natural England, Shropshire Geological Society, Scenesetters, Ben Osborne and James Lawson. Maps based on Ordnance Survey mapping. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire County Council License No. 100019801.2008