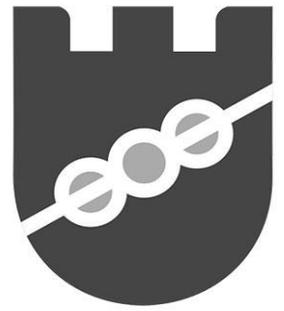


SIR THOMAS BOUGHEY BULLETIN



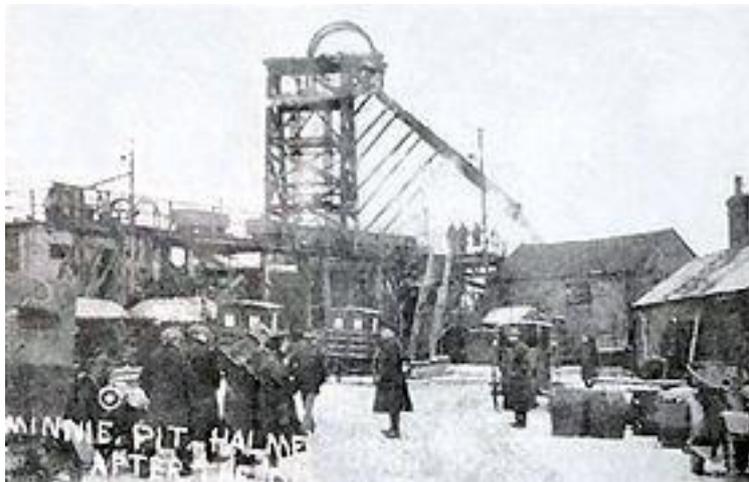
15TH JANUARY 2018

SPECIAL EDITION

MINNIE PIT DISASTER 12TH JANUARY 1918

We at Sir Thomas Boughey Academy were honoured and proud to be involved in commemorating the lives lost in this tragic event.

The 12th January 2018 marked 100 years since 156 men and boys, the youngest aged only 14, lost their lives in what is North Staffordshire's biggest mining disaster.



On Thursday a group of pupils, along with Miss Burns and Miss Carter, went along to the Minnie Pit memorial site and met Brian Billings. The pupils then helped to litter pick and clear the site in preparation for the memorial walk. Many thanks to the following pupils; Ben Wall banks, Edward Ash, Joshua Burke, Jamie Ash, Callum Munro, Leon Rondell, Alfie Birkin, Ethan Smith, Callum Parry and Connor Jones.



A number of our art students have designed and created banners for the memorial walk, which were then carried by our Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.



Sir Thomas Boughey Academy helped to assemble the 156 lanterns that KMF produced. These were handed out and carried on the memorial walk by members of the public and 500 commemorative key rings with a small miners lamp attached were given to people taking part in the walk.



On Saturday Mrs Hingley, along with other members of staff, were happy to be part of the community and open the school and car park before the memorial walk and afterwards for refreshments. Mrs Hingley said about the day, "It was a real community event. Sue Moffatt achieved her aim of bringing the community together to remember all of the families who were affected by this disaster."

Pupils have said that it was a humbling experience, it was lovely to be a part of. They really enjoyed the community spirit and they noticed people catching up who hadn't seen each other for a long time. Everyone involved felt very proud and enjoyed the day.

Thank you to all our pupils, parents and staff for the time and support given to this event - it truly is appreciated not only by us but by the community.

Finally here is the poem that was written by Wilfred Owen in response to the Minnie Pit Disaster.

Miners

There was a whispering in my hearth,
A sigh of the coal,
Grown wistful of a former earth
It might recall.
I listened for a tale of leaves
And smothered ferns,
Fronde-forests, and the low sly lives
Before the fauns.
My fire might show steam-phantoms simmer
From Time's old cauldron,
Before the birds made nests in summer,
Or men had children.
But the coals were murmuring of their mine,
And moans down there
Of boys that slept wry sleep, and men
Writhing for air.
And I saw white bones in the cinder-shard,
Bones without number.
Many the muscled bodies charred,
And few remember.
I thought of all that worked dark pits
Of war, and died
Digging the rock where Death reposes
Peace lies indeed.
Comforted years will sit soft-chaired,
In rooms of amber;
The years will stretch their hands, well-cheered
By our life's ember;
The centuries will burn rich loads
With which we groaned,
Whose warmth shall lull their dreaming lids,
While songs are crooned;
But they will not dream of us poor lads,
Left in the ground.