

MWGG Trip - NOVEMBER 14th Tuesday – 10.30 at National Mining Museum

November 2017 event was to the National Mining Museum at **Caphouse Colliery** near Wakefield

Following meeting at reception and being given a safety talk and briefing 11 Members were led by Mike Smith the Mine Manager down the two long legs of following the steeply inclined drift access following the rail track through dimly lit and sometimes wet sections to the base of the shaft 140m below ground level. On the way Mike pointed out the bands of Flockton Coal, ironstone, and shales. Some fossils of calamites were found and displayed en route.

At the base – now abandoned - workings we found a museum which showed working conditions and methods a hundred years ago and following that through different galleries how mining techniques have improved over time finally ending with sophisticated mechanical extraction which required very little manual handling of the coal. We were brought to the surface again using the mine shaft lift,

We had lunch in the Museum Café and had time to visit the Museum. It is a disappointment that there is very little geology information or explanations of coal formation to inform the public.

After lunch Tony Felski led us to the surface exposure of coal (Flockton Thick) at the back of the fanhouse by the Hope shaft where the old tramway tunnel goes under the road.

On the opposite side of the tramway track – at the mini train platform - was a mudstone with ironstone band (Tankersley Ironstone).In both areas we found mussel beds.



