

**The words in the Pooley  
Glossary were collected  
over coffees, lunches and  
socials, in and around  
Pooley Country Park as  
part of an art project led by  
Place Prospectors in 2012.**

Place Prospectors realised there were particular words that local people use to describe Pooley, some historical, some specialist and some colloquial but all unique to Pooley. The words can be seen on the outside of the visitor centre building.

**Thank you to all those who contributed  
their words.**

# THE POOLEY GLOSSARY



### **Bow-Haul**

Referring to the manual movement of the Butty through the locks.

### **Butty**

Small barge towed by another boat – used to transport goods on the canal.

### **Castles & Roses**

Decorative painting designs unique to canal boats.

### **Dredging**

Removal of debris from the canal bottom.

### **Lees & Atkins**

Boat builders at Polesworth, well known for their distinctive Castles & Roses brushwork.

### **Pooley Wharf**

The brick loading dock constructed for the loading of coal onto canal boats.

### **Silt**

The debris that accumulates on the canal bottom.

### **Staked Up**

Moored canal boats.

### **Swans Neck**

The shape of the tiller arm on a traditional working narrow boat.

### **The Bottom Road**

Historic term for the route from Birmingham to Braunston via the Coventry Canal.

### **The Cut**

The man made channel dug to construct the canal.

### **The Loop**

Travelling from Polesworth to the Pooley Wharf and back.

### **The Pooley Pound**

Area for loading canal boats adjacent to the colliery site.

### **The Pudding**

Watertight lining of clay that lines the channel for the canal.

### **The Sinkings**

Areas of land along the canal effected by mining activity.

### **The Warwickshire Ring**

Pooley on the Coventry Canal is part of this circular route of the Grand Union, Birmingham & Fazeley and Oxford Canals.

### **Tow Path**

The path that runs alongside the canal.

### **Water Pump**

The pump that removed water from the canal to power the steam engines at the Colliery.

### **Windlass**

Hand tool used for opening lock gates.

### **Bank**

The space at the surface of the mine shaft.

### **Beltman**

The miner who mended and maintained the moving belts in the mine.

### **Bench**

The seam of coal worked at Pooley 188 metres below ground.

### **Bogeys**

A flat bottom trolley with four bars in the corners used to transport supplies in the mine.

### **Cage**

The basket like structure that transported men, coal and materials up and down the shaft.

### **Canary**

A bird taken underground – the death of which indicated contaminated air and danger to the miners.

### **Cleat**

The way the coal is formed and breaks. Working with the cleat of the coal meant more productive mining.

### **Deputy**

Member of the colliery management.

### **Dirt Knob**

The pile of surplus dirt that was tipped on to the colliery site. Also called spoil.

### **Double**

The seam of coal worked at Pooley 174 metres below ground.

### **Drift**

A tunnel between two coal seams.

### **Face**

The part of the coal seam that 'faces' the miners as they extract the coal.

### **Faults**

A break or dislocation of the layers of rock that can cause a break in the coal seam.

### **Handholing**

Extracting the coal with hand tools after the mechanical cutter and shot firer had been used.

### **Hew**

To break away the coal at the coal face with a peck.

### **High Main**

The seam of coal worked at Pooley 109 metres below ground.

### **Loose All**

When the pit buzzer rang, all were loose and free to leave work.

### **Manager**

In charge of the colliery.

### **Measure**

The name given to the layers of rocks formed during the carboniferous period that contain the seams of coal.

### **Monkey**

The device used to couple the tubs.

### **Onsetters**

The miner who loaded empty tubs onto the cage at the bank or full tubs into the cage in the shaft.

### **Oscar**

A pit shovel.

### **Osses**

The pit ponies used underground.

### **Peck**

The hand held pick tool used at the coal face.

### **Pit Bonk**

Waste from the mining process that was left across the colliery site.

### **Pit Props**

Wooden posts used to support the ceilings of tunnels and roadways underground- later props were metal and hydraulic.

### **Seams**

Layers of coal, usually horizontal, that are separated by other rocks within a coalfield.

### **Seven Feet**

The seam of coal worked at Pooley 134 metres below ground.

### **Shot firer**

Miner who set the explosives; part of the Colliery management.

### **Slickensides**

Where two layers of coal met.

### **Snap**

Food taken below ground.

### **Splicer**

Miner who joined wire ropes together.

### **Sprags**

Wooden supports put into the bottom of the coal face after the cutter had extracted a strip of coal.

### **Stallman**

Sub contractor in charge of a stint who paid out money to miners in his charge.

### **Steam**

Pooley Colliery was powered by steam.

### **Stint**

The area of the face given to a miner to extract coal from.

### **Strippers**

The miners who extracted coal at the coalface.

### **The Loader**

Where coal was loaded from the face to start its journey to the bank.

### **The Lynchies**

The pit cottages for working miners owned by the colliery.

### **The Mine**

A place for the extraction of minerals from the ground. Pooley Colliery was a deep mine.

### **The New Look**

Nickname for a particular coal face at Pooley Hall Colliery – named after the extravagant post war fashion style.

### **The Weight**

The roof above the working men at the coal face.

### **Thirled**

Boring or piercing through solids to make a tunnel or road.

### **Tipler**

The machinery that tipped the tubs onto the screens which then separated the coal into different sizes.

### **Trapper**

A miner who opened and closed the doors to aid ventilation down the mine.

### **Tubs**

The wheeled wooden carts for moving coal.

### **Weighbridge men**

They weighed the coal brought up from underground in order to work out the wages to be paid and the lorries to be loaded. The colliery knew how much coal left the site and could charge for it.

### **Winder**

The miner who operated the winding of the cage.

### **Worm**

The equipment used to move the drill to the boreholes that took the explosives.

### **Yardstick**

A stick a yard in length used as a measure in the mine.

### **Acidic**

The water that runs into the 'polluted' pool has a low pH because of the spoil from the mine, making the water acidic.

### **Bladderwort**

Rare insectivorous aquatic plant.

### **Colonisation**

Animals or plants that naturally establish themselves on disturbed land.

### **Community**

A group of various plants and animals living in the same environment

### **Compact**

Pooley is a small site that is bounded by the canal, railway and roads.

### **Corridors**

A habitat connecting wildlife separated by human activities.

### **Cyclical**

Ecology that changes overtime with species replacing each other slowly.

### **Dingy Skipper**

Small butterfly with brown and grey wing patterns.

### **Diverse**

A wide range of habitat types.

### **Fly Agaric**

Poisonous fungi - distinctive red and white colour. Not to be eaten.

### **Glades**

Small woodland clearings that encourage new species to establish.

### **Hawking**

Named after the Hawker Dragonfly's flying behaviour as it moves from place to place.

### **Invasive**

A non native or dominant species in a particular environment.

### **Mosaic**

A pattern of habitats, repeated across the park.

### **Pioneer**

A species that grows or lives in a place that previously has had little wildlife, for example, past industrial sites.

### **Protected**

Pooley Country Park includes a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) which is protected.

### **Purifying**

Cleaning of water or soil by plants and animals.

### **Reed Mace**

A pond border plant – known as the Bull Rush.

### **Regeneration**

Re-establishing the natural environment after industrial use.

### **Spoil**

The debris leftover from mining at Pooley, often placed in a heap or a mound.

### **SSSI**

A site of special scientific interest (SSSI) because of habitat and species on the site.

### **Succession**

Continued development as vegetation changes the quality of the environment.

### **Yaffles**

A name for Green Woodpeckers – found on the mound.

### **Young**

Pooley Country Park is young in ecological terms as it establishes itself in the post industrial landscape. It will mature over the centuries.