



Tapestry front and back pages by Dorothy Bowman, Limestone Estate, Fourstones.

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THE FOUR STONES OF FOURSTONES



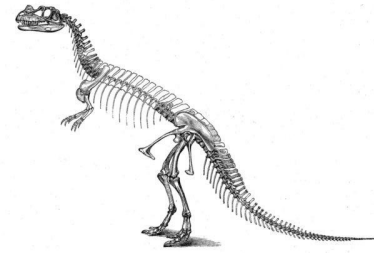
St Aidan's Youth Club

FREESTONE

The quarries worked at Frankham, producing limestone and freestone, provided employment for many local inhabitants. The freestone was of first rate quality and became the most celebrated product of the parish. A large portion of Princes Street, Edinburgh is built of this stone including the Waverley Hotel and the North British railway station. It was sent at far away as Hawaii to build St Andrews Cathedral in Honolulu!



Dinosaurs died out



65 million years ago

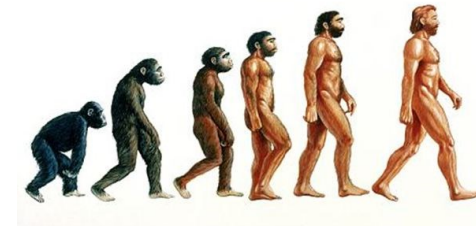
Newcastle United
won the cup



60 years ago

THE FACTS

2 million years ago



First humans walked upright

Dinosaurs first appeared



230 million years ago

COAL TIMELINE

300 million years ago



Coal was formed

140 million years ago



First mammals appeared

GANISTER

This stone was also mined at Frankham and is hard, fine-grained quartzose sandstone, used in the manufacture of silica brick typically used to line furnaces. There was a small area which was specifically mined for this stone and we think it was put on a waggon wag leading to the railway line and then sent to factories all around the North East.

This photo shows the newest piece of 'cutting edge' machine in 1877. It was so advanced that engineers from Newcastle Mining Institute came to visit Fourstones to see it in action! The photo is taken on the Limeworks Estate.



Wordsearch

G	G	D	Y	K	R	Q	R	P	S
L	I	S	S	O	F	U	O	W	A
S	I	P	S	J	S	A	J	E	N
E	R	M	I	N	E	R	B	G	D
N	W	R	E	C	A	R	S	V	S
O	A	V	E	S	K	Y	D	L	T
T	G	S	K	T	T	R	A	V	O
S	O	H	T	B	S	O	I	R	N
E	N	O	T	V	C	I	N	Z	E
E	W	V	F	E	Q	W	N	E	X
R	A	E	R	L	I	M	I	A	F
F	Y	L	A	E	H	O	J	P	G

A Stone Carved legacy

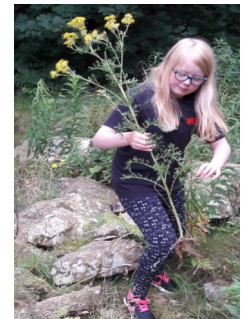


Children from the village have been working with local stone carver Gilbert Ward to design a stone carving which represents the industrial heritage of Fourstones. Here you can see Katie Scott and Sharika Webb using a chisel and mallet to prepare the face of the freestone stone in one of the old lime kilns. Dennis Bowman kindly donated the piece and offered to site it on his land in village.



We visited Harehope Quarry educational centre to learn about geology particularly sandstone and limestone and shale. We even found fossils such as crinoids which were a marine shell life. Lucy Glover holding fossil (left)

We carried out some nature conservation work at Frankham Quarry as we found so much wildlife there. We did a litter pick and also pulled out some of the Ragwort as it spreads really fast and it can be dangerous if horses eat it. See Demi Snowdon (right)





A Collier postcard of 1927 showing the heavily industrial landscape above Frankham. The spoil heaps (Blue Heaps) tower above Frankham Cottages, Frankham Farm is centre and Butt Bank lower houses.



The children surveyed the old quarry for wildlife and found a spectacular variety of wild flowers. Here there is Bell Heather, Agrimony, Eye Bright and Devils Bit Scabious. We also saw Common Spotted Orchids amongst others. They thrive on the spoil heaps which don't have enough nutrients to support the competition grasses and shrubs meaning this beautiful flora gets a chance to grow.

SHOVEL

MINER

PICK

DRILL

GANISTER

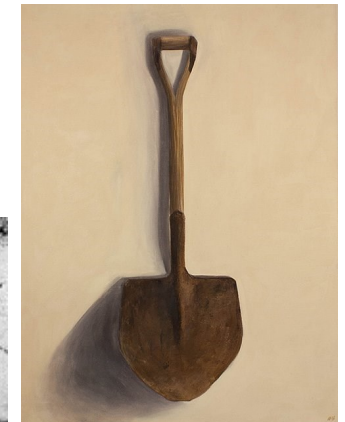
QUARRY

FREESTONE

COAL

SANDSTONE

WAGONWAY



COAL

Fourstones colliery opened 1805 and closed in 1926. Coal was for used for the household (heating, cooking, hot water) and also to generate steam (boilers, locomotives, power stations). Coal got tubbed out on wagonways. Before the railway came, the coal would have been sold locally, bagged up on horse and cart. Fireclay was also mined and used for the production of bricks; a brickwork's was located next to the colliery. The bricks made from the fireclay have that distinctive yellow colouring as seen in the colliery row terraces.



FOURSTONES COLLIERY UNDERGROUND WORKERS

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LIMESTONE

The first record of the limeworks quarry is in 1805. The lime was burnt in the kilns to make fertiliser for agricultural purposes. The lime was quarried on the old tip. The lime-kilns are situated at Fourstones station some distance away from the quarries but a waggon-way was used to transport the stone. It came down the field near Frankham bank on cables and later through a tunnel under the road. Coal from the nearby colliery was used to heat the kilns. The shunting station on the site made it easy for the trains to load the lime and take it away to Newcastle and other rail lines. The lime quarry closed in 1955.



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