Danger!

Men at Work!

Shale mines were dangerous places to work and there were a variety of ways that a worker could get injured. Many miners suffered injuries to fingers, wrists and hands by having them crushed between hutches or pit props. Back, leg, and neck injuries were also everyday occurrences caused by slips or trips due to the sometimes damp and often dark conditions they were working in.

Unfortunately fatal accidents were far too frequent and could have been prevented as it was often the same incidents happening over and over again. Our exhibition provides a closer look at some of the objects that were linked to many of these recorded accidents and also the safety measures that were in place within the mines to try and prevent small and large scale incidents.

This photograph shows ex-miner Robert Harper (1873-1929) in the middle row, 2nd from left. He was a mining manager at Duddingston 1 & 2 pits where he was injured in an explosion in 1914. He escaped with his life but lost an eye, along with his hearing, and was left badly scarred.

Museum Collection: LVSAV2014.046
Injury Benefits for Accidents at Work

7. Fatal Cases of the deceased entitled to death allowance, or more fully in lieu.
8. Non-fatal Cases of benefit: Injure, not both payable when

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Shake roofs were dangerous to those and workers up to a certain height who got trapped, which meant they were trapped between boards rather than being caught or held. Back in the days before this, it was not uncommon for workers to be caught in these circumstances. Our exhibition is one of these historic accidents and also the safety measures that were put in place and large-scale innovations.
Danger! Men at Work!

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