i'm here today to meet with Stuart

Warburton

of Snibston heritage trust who's going

to tell us a little bit more about

collier

you’re stood on this incredibly important

historic mine

uh it's now a scheduled engine monument

and we're actually still on number one

pit top

of Snibston number two collier these are

the shafts that George Stevenson sank

between 1833 and 1834

we've got two shafts one was called

rider which is

this one and that was for the shaft that

the men went down in

and then the second shaft which is one

over there and that was small kit

and that was a furnace shaft in the

1830s it was common to put a fire at the

bottom of a mine shaft to create a

ventilation

so effectively that shaft is an inverted

chimney so that

air would come down this shaft circulate

around the mine

and then come up through that shaft

Stevenson always said that Snibston was

the most profitable enterprise he ever

undertook

and that means both of them Snibston

number one and Snibston number two he

brought a lot of the miners to sink this

pit down from the northeast because they

had the expertise and the knowledge of

sinking through difficult geology at

which Snibston was

then engineering were built in the 1860s

and then by 1914-1915 a third shaft was sunk on the side

to increase

the co-production for the war effort pit

became a super pit in the 1960s and

1970s turning a million ton of

call a year and by 1986

it had really come to the end of his

life with Whitwick collier and

closed as a coal mine and was bought by

Leicester county council

for the Snibston discovery park project

thank you Stuart last year i came to

some open days here which were brilliant

do you have plans for any more

hopefully yes we are in the process of

creating the Snibston heritage trust

which will be an organisation to work

with the county council

to enable the public to come back onto

the historic colliery site we hope to

have the lamp room area over to the

public

maybe eventually the pit tops but a lot

of work needs to be done

and also special events, open days

maybe even bring the miners gala back to

Coalville who knows

so we've got a lot of plans in the

coming years but obviously

it all takes planning money and support

from volunteers

in 1898 35 men descended the shaft

number five

of Whitwick colliery for the last time

in the early hours of 19th of April a

gob fire broke out underground

trapping the 42 men working on the night

shift

35 of them lost their lives that night

and this photograph

shows families watching the arrival of a

horse-drawn hearse

coming to take away the bodies the

youngest victim

was john gee just 13 years old a boy who

drove the pit pony

twelve of the bodies remain underground

two miles away

in Hugglescote where they died this

garden

and a plaque in Christ church stand as a

reminder

of their sacrifice