

Hello Heritage...

Coalville Heritage Society - The Red House and Snibston No.2 Mine



The Red House is the oldest building in Coalville, built around the 1740/50s, 90 years before the creation of the town. Originally a gentleman's farm house in the three storey Georgian style. It was probably called the 'Red House' as it was common to call principal brick houses 'red houses'.

Standing on the cross-roads of lanes from Hugglescote, Whitwick, Leicester and Ashby it was a prime location for becoming an inn. During the mid-19th century as the town grew so did the building with a two storey extension and development into an hotel.



At some point the Red House was extended further with a rear extension to accommodate a large meeting room and more hotel rooms. In 1799 the landlord was shot by a horse thief. A man was duly arrested and executed, unfortunately some years later it was found that he was innocent. During the mid 19th century it was nicknamed 'The Cradle and Coffin' there was a story that the landlord's wife had been unfaithful and had a baby by another man, on discovering this the landlord murdered them both and buried them in the rear yard.



"The most profitable enterprise I ever undertook" was how George Stephenson described his Snibston mines. Snibston No. 2 was the second of two coalmines sunk by Stephenson in the 1830s. He came to Coalville to build the Leicester to Swannington railway and bought the Snibston estate. Snibston No.1 was sunk in 1831/32 but closed in the 1850/60s. No. 2 went on to become a 'super pit' in the 20th century. Originally only two shafts, a third was sunk in 1914/15. The mine ceased in 1983 and later became Snibston Discovery Park/Museum and ultimately as it is today, Snibston Colliery Park.

Heritage on your doorstep...

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