

Hello Heritage...

Denis Baker 1930 - 2021 was a researcher, leader, mentor and cornerstone of local history in the Coalville area for over 50 years.



Denis with the Newcomen boiler on its return to the Califat Spinney, Swannington in 2012.

Leicestershire Industrial History Society

Denis was involved with the excavation of a rare haystack boiler on the site of Califat Colliery in Swannington. The excavation led him, with his friend and work colleague Dick Thompson, to set up the Leicestershire Industrial History Society in 1969. Over the years Denis was an active founder member of the Society both on excavations, conferences and society business holding the title of Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman and latterly President of the Society.

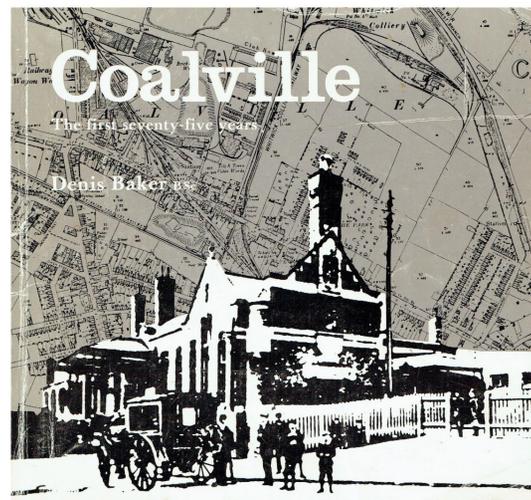


Denis (left) supporting an Exhibition by Whitwick Historical Group in 2013

Whitwick Historical Group

Denis was a long-term friend and supporter of Whitwick Historical Group and a regular visitor to the Old Station.

During the Group's formative period, he made a huge contribution to our resources and his association with WHG continued to bring benefits. His extraordinary store of local knowledge which was often linked to a wider context was invaluable. A talented artist, Denis' sketch of a very young miner was used on the cover of the WHG publication "Banded Together".



"Coalville - The first seventy five years" - One of several historical books written by Denis Baker.

Coalville Heritage Society

Denis was a founder member of the Coalville 150 group that celebrated the 150th anniversary of the town. The group merged with others to form Coalville Heritage Society. Denis was a leading member and active in research and giving talks and tours of Coalville's history. His contribution to local history was acknowledged in 2007 when he was selected as a Community Hero and entertained by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street in recognition of his work.



Swannington Incline tour 2012 - Denis coordinated the Leicester and Swannington railway's 180th anniversary

Swannington Heritage Trust

In 1982 Denis Baker led the Swannington Festival Group that organised a week long festival to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. It was so successful Swannington Heritage Trust was formed in 1984. For over 30 years as Secretary, Chairman and founder Committee Member Denis led the Trust in the restoration of Hough Mill, plus Gorse Field, Califat Spinney, Swannington Incline and Snibston No 3 coal mine and railway sites.

Heritage on your doorstep...

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www.nwleics.gov.uk/helloheritage | www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/helloheritage