The Closure of Baggeridge Colliery

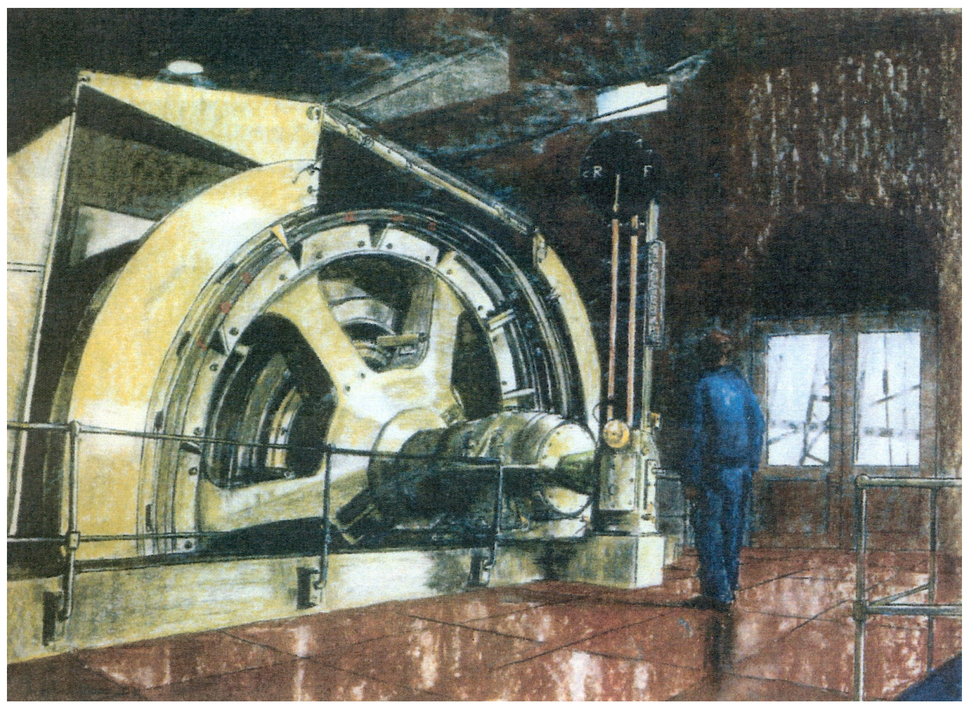
by Austin Moseley

Baggeridge Colliery was in a location which is overlooked directly from the rear of my house in Sedgley. I well remember in 1968 when the pit finally closed.

I had previously visited the pithead one Sunday morning with a friend and some of the men at the site were happy to talk to us visitors. We were not able to go down the mine but I had already had that experience some years earlier when a small group of us were taken down the pit at Hickleton Main Colliery at Cannock, experiencing the free drop of the pit cage for part of the descent.

One of our group had an uncle who was Safety Officer at the colliery and he escorted our group of lads. We got as far as one of the coalfaces.
I remember afterwards that I didn't think I would like to be a coalminer.

Shortly before the closure of Baggeridge, I had permission from the pit manager to do some photography and sketching and my impression of the scene in the winding house is in this painting (see opposite).



'Colliery Winding Gear' (1968), Austin Moseley. Pastel on paper.