

Poynton Collieries Exhibition

Poynton used to be a thriving mining community. The museum is built on the site of the old Anson Colliery. The pit was named to commemorate the marriage of the Vernon and Anson families. The pit was named to commemorate the marriage of the Vernon and Anson families and the land was bought from Lord Vernon by Les Cawley (one of the museum founders) in 1947. He cleared the spoil tip from a great deal of the land to make room for his lumber business and in 1986 the first foundations were built for the museum. One large piece of the spoil tip remains today at the far end of the museum car park. This is the only visual reminder to the days of yesteryear when collieries flourished around Poynton.

At one point Poynton collieries produced 244,516 tons of coal or about 1/3 of all coal produced in Cheshire with over 400 men working underground. There were over 60 mine shafts dotted around Poynton. After being the main industry for 150 years the last Poynton pits were closed in 1935.

The Exhibition includes pictures, maps, artefacts and a unique collection of pastels painted by the late David Collier. Many of the artefacts were discovered hidden in the spoil by Les Cawley while he was clearing the land. These have been lovingly restored by Roy Dudley, one of the museum's Trustees and a small band of volunteers.

The Colliery Exhibition is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 – 17:00 from May (part of the Museums and Galleries Month) until 22 July. There is no additional charge for the Exhibition, normal museum entry fees apply.

