







## The William 'Billy' Pit

This is the site of the 'Billy' Pit. This pit was the first to be sunk in South Moor. Work began on the shaft in 1839 and the first coal was brought to the surface on 25 July 1841. The sinkers had to mine down to a depth of 461 feet (140.5 metres) in order to reach the Hutton coal seam.

William Pit was also known as 'West Craphead Pit' and the 'New South Moor Colliery'. It is thought that the pit was eventually named 'William' after William Hedley, who was one of the partners in the original company that sunk the pit, Bell and Partners, Hedley was to dominate this partnership and eventually take over the running of the South Moor mines.

The sinking of the Louisa Pit to the north in 1864 made William Pit

redundant and on it was mothballed The William rennened in 1889 after

It is said that the nit was rechristened the William, this time in honour of William

refurhishment Hedley's son, William From then on, the pit was always known locally as Billy Pit.

Billy Pit had a vertical steam winder that lowered the miners' cage from the surface to the coal seam. The chuffing noise of this engine could be heard throughout the surrounding area for many years.

At the beginning of the First World War Rilly Pit was producing 164 534 tops (167:174 tonnes) of coal per year By 1918, this figure had fallen to 127,030 tons (129,068

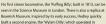
In October 1953 the South Moor Welfare Hall opened in the former colliery canteen at Rilly Pit, and working was transferred to Louisa Pit.





## William Hedley (1779-1843)

William Hedley was born on 13 July 1779 at Newburn, near Newcastle, Before the age of 22 he was appointed as a viewer at Walbottle Colliery, He continued to manage collieries in Northumberland and County Durham throughout his working career and his experience in the mining industry helped him to become a ground-breaking



Northumberland for almost 50 years. Thanks to the family partnership with William Bell, William Hedley's inventions and influence spread to the South Moor area. In 1862 Hedley's son moved 'Dilly' to Craphead colliery where it remained until 1879. 'Wylam Dilly' was restored in 1883 then presented to what is now the Royal Museum of Scotland.

Hedley died at Burnhopeside Hall, near Lanchester, on 9 January 1843, and was buried at Newburn. He had four sons, Oswald Dodd Hedley, Thomas Hedley, William Hedley, and George Hedley, who carried on the colliery business as Thomas Hedley



## South Moor Heritage Trail

South Moor and Quaking Houses were typical colliens villages that developed before and just after the First World War, around four collieries of William Hedley's South Moor Colliery Company



South Moor Heritage trail is a five mile circular walk around key eight heritage sites of South Moor and Quakina Houses that existed during or soon after the First World War. Each site is marked by an interpretation board detailing the significance and heritage of the site. Each interpretation board is linked via a OR code to a South Moor heritage website providing further information about the history of the site. Rights of way between the eight sites along the trail are marked by 'way markers' to keep you on



fallen soldier plaque

- can you find them in the colliery terraces?









