



## Teachers' Answer Sheet

### Interests and hobbies in the colliery village

**TASK:** To explore the interests and hobbies of people living in a 1913 colliery village.

Miners and their families developed their own interests and amusements. Games such as quoits, football and cricket were popular and people often played musical instruments. Many people were busy with crafts such quilting and rug making.

#### 1. Number 2 Francis Street

People were skilled in needlework and rugmaking crafts. Look into the parlour. Can you see three things that are handmade?

Note the quilt on the bed, rugs on the floor, cross stitch of a religious text and the table cloths, runner and cushion.

On a winter's night, friends would gather in the parlour to chat and sing. Can you see a musical instrument in the room for someone to play?

A harmonium can be seen in the corner of the room, along with sheets of music. In the days before radio and T.V., singing and music were popular entertainment on Saturday and Sunday evenings.







## 2. The gardens

Many miners grew their own fruit, vegetables and flowers. Can you see anything growing in the gardens?

The time of the year will have a big impact on what you can see in the gardens. A wide selection of vegetables are grown, such as peas, leeks, potatoes and tomatoes. There is also some soft fruit such as raspberries, and a variety of flowers. Many miners entered their produce into competitions at local leek shows.

Some miners kept birds as a hobby. Look in the gardens to see if the pigeons, doves and canaries are at home. What colour are the canaries?

The canaries are predominantly yellow, although some have brown/black markings. Canaries were taken into the mines to warn miners of suffocating gases. If the canaries ailed, the miners knew to get out of the area.







### 3. Number 4 Francis Street

Look into the kitchen at Number 4.  
Describe what is being made here.

Rug making is shown in Number 4 and sometimes knitting and sewing can be seen. Rugs were made from old clothes cut into clips or long strips of cloth that were threaded onto sackcloth. Clippy (or proggy) mats were made from short clips of cloth and hooky mats from long strips. Mats were used as a cheap alternative to carpet and when new were first used on the bed to keep people warm.



### 4. What is your favourite hobby or interest?

Did people living in a colliery village in 1913 enjoy this hobby? If you lived in 1913, which hobby would you like to have a go at and why?

This is an opportunity to discuss how hobbies and interests have changed over time. Some hobbies, such as football and cricket are still as popular as ever.

Others, such as rug making, are still practised today but to a much lesser extent.

Many of the hobbies of children today were impossible in 1913, such as playing computer games.

Rather than listening to music, people would have taken part, sitting around singing and playing musical instruments to make their own entertainment.