

TOPIC : MODEL HOUSING FOR PRESTOUNGRANGE
MINERS IN THE 1890S & 1950S

TEACHERS PAGES – IMAGE



Summerlee Street, Prestonpans, c1912

The History of Coal Industry Housing :

Nineteenth Century coal mines were often in rural areas and to guarantee a supply of labour coal owners had to build miners houses. This was not always beneficial for coal owners; housing was expensive because new drainage, sanitation, water supplies or access roads were required. Houses were only needed for the duration of the pit, so were poorly made and maintained. Coal owners took some benefit from building houses, because of their close proximity to the pit houses were convenient for work encouraging good attendance and barring miners from obtaining alternative employment. As landlords, coal owners guaranteed secure rental payments by deducting rent directly from miner's salary and could force employees out of housing the day they finished work.

** Coal owner control was extended outwith the workplace.*

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The History of Coal Industry Housing (cont'd)

Typical early miners' houses were stone built with thatched or turf roofs, lack of running water meant toilets were dry-closets and human waste was added to *ash-pits* or *middens*, kept separate from houses. The coal owner would hire a *scavenger*, who would clear refuse using a cart. Later houses like those at the Cuthill were normally constructed in long parallel rows of connected houses, with no backdoor, those in the middle had a long walk to use the one washhouse for each row. Oral tradition has it that the name 'The Cuttle' derives from the fact that sinking minerals below ground caused the local burn to change course, cutting the hill in two.

In the 1840s, as attitudes changed towards housing conditions, concern grew over the quality of working class housing which was thought to be at the root of the serious social problems of the day. It was at this time that the term 'model' first emerged. Philanthropists had established lodging-houses with regulations to secure the comfort and conduct of their *inmates*. Coal owners similarly emphasised orderly conduct but placed the company's profits over the comfort of the tenants.

Before the 1870s, Prestongrange mining was so small scale that miner's houses were scattered over the estate. In 1874, Sir George Grant Suttie leased the mining operations to the Prestongrange Coal and Iron Company Ltd (reducing noble coalmasters control of mining enterprise, a nationwide trend) who planned to spend £15,000 over 3 years building 200 houses beside the pit shaft at Morrison's Haven harbour. However, Sir George favoured an open field site to the south of Cuthill, a small community of stone-built houses, inhabited by pottery and salt workers. Despite the end of the boom years of coal and iron in the mid-1870s, sixty houses were built, with another 117 houses built in the following year, all in five blocks of two storeys each. Blandly named Front Street and Middle Street, they reflect the unimaginative approach to the construction of mining communities. Brick was used (cheaper and more commonly used by the English construction company) and roofs were slated (they lasted longer than thatch). With no internal running water or sanitation, each house had a brick built, slated outbuilding containing an *ash closet* and *coalhouse*. Alternate doors in the rows led either straight into the ground floor or up a wooden staircase to the floor above. Each house had only 2 rooms; vacant rooms were let out to lodgers, either imposed by the (coal owner) landlord or by the family to increase income.

Large-scale housing developments reflected a new scale of production and commercialism in the coal industry; indeed, increased profits inspired Sir George to build the Cuthill School. A fine red sandstone building with high windows (allowing light to get in but restricting the children's view) and a room for public worship on Sundays, and for reading on other days. The Cuthill School was situated close to the sea opposite Front Street, in bad weather waves broke over the back wall into the playground. Sir George died in 1878, leaving an eighty-year-old absentee, landlord and weakening the family's connection with the Cuthill community. The connection would have eroded anyway as growing commercialism in the work place encouraged professionalism in welfare.

**Philanthropy gave way to politics.*

The Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Coal Company Limited took over Prestongrange in 1895, building 44 miners houses at Morrison's Haven. Consisting of two double-storey blocks, the first floor houses were reached by an exterior stone staircase with coal cellars underneath. Every eight houses shared external washhouses, water closets and ashpits. By 1900 the first 29 houses on Summerlee Street, at Cuthill, were completed. When the street was complete, there were five blocks of 32 houses each, increasing the Cuthill community to 160 households, most of who used water wells by the staircases. The last 32 houses built on Summerlee Street were completed during the first World War and were of a higher standard, containing baths, water closets and sinks (locally these houses became known as Bath Street). These were considered 'model' houses, reflecting the bad state of miners' houses elsewhere, particularly in the West of Scotland where many pits were reaching the end of their lives. In Prestonpans however, the population rose between 1871 and 1911 from 2,069 to 4,722 reflecting the expansion of the pit but also the high average size of miner's families (miners/crofters averaged over seven children per family, while professionals averaged 4).

Through the keyhole

Local Authority Involvement: There were approximately 140,000 Scottish colliery owned houses in 1890, representing the cheapest housing and most inferior nationwide. In 1911, the Local Government Board (headed by John McVail) commissioned a set of reports on the effects of living conditions on miners. Reflecting the changing attitude towards the disgraceful living conditions, housing was divided into two categories; those built before 1897 Building Byelaws i.e. Front & Middle Streets, and, those built after i.e. Summerlee Street. New buildings had to be approved by the County Council (on health grounds) whose power was very limited and

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although the majority of new houses included many up-to-date facilities, they were hastily and cheaply built, requiring a high level of maintenance. Again, to improve public health, McVail proposed that Local Authorities take over the administration of housing estates including the manual removal of sewage. However, this improvement was expensive and Scotland took time to adjust to the concept.

Women: McVail praised miners wives who were, after 1842, prohibited from working underground. Standards of living were expected to improve, however, unemployed women married earlier allowing more time to produce children. 'Domestication' of miner's wives enhanced the idea of 'model' housing; both men and women carried out socially approved roles in nurturing the 'comfort and orderly conduct' of the household. Arguably, women's domestic work was just as hard as that underground; because of the staggered nature of shift work, the large family would come in and out of the home at various times of the day (adults and children), all requiring washing, feeding and laundry. Filthy conditions in the workplace meant miners' homes had to be kept very clean to avoid potential contamination from the pit, social criticism and accusations of moral deficiency.

'Homes Fit for Heroes'

At the end of World War I, Lloyd George became leader of a coalition government and promised 'Homes fit for Heroes'. Miners' input took the form of The Miners Federation of Great Britain's proposals of 1919 which covered wages, conditions of employment and demands for state ownership of the mines (jointly administered by miners and the state), or *Nationalisation*. The Government refused, miners backed strike action. Lloyd George responded by proposing a Royal Commission to investigate wages, conditions, future organisation and housing; the Miners' Federation was to appoint/approve half the commission members. Government recognised miners' needs but carrying out their own investigation kept them in control of the situation. The Coal Industry Commission (Chairman, Mr. Justice Shankey), publicised the squalid, unhealthy and overcrowded housing conditions for Scottish miners and also recommended Nationalisation, this was again rejected by Lloyd George. As a concession, the Miners' Welfare fund was introduced. By levying one penny on each ton of coal produced money accumulated to fund the 'well being, recreation and conditions of living' of miners. Housing was excluded resulting in the failure of the 'Homes fit for Heroes' campaign; in Scotland 2,000 houses were built by 1920 (48,000 in England).

As an alternative, the government promised half a million 'concept' homes, based on the Garden City Movement. Garden City layouts aimed at eight houses per acre, including gardens to avoid long straight rows of houses and disease (especially tuberculosis). Prestongrange Houses were in long straight rows, indeed, Summerlee built 44 miners houses on a one-acre site at Morrison's Haven. However, the Prestonpans mining community did benefit from the Garden City Movement; 1924-25, Edinburgh Collieries Ltd (owners of Prestonlinks Colliery) commissioned a housing scheme along Garden City lines based on one-storey, 3 roomed dwellings with bathrooms and gardens.

The Tudor Walters Report of 1918 was compiled by a committee of housing experts and resulted in the 1919 Housing Act whereby Local Authorities supplied miners' housing. The second highest number of Local Authority houses in any one area was in Preston and Prestonpans with 437 houses built. Between 1919-1939, East Lothian County Council (ELCC) began building 5,500 homes and reconditioning many more. By 1924, East Lothian had 1,012 miners' houses, 370 were in Prestonpans parish; 44 at Morrison's Haven of 'good order', 128 at Cuthill 'good' but with 'insufficient sunlight or ventilation'. Front and Middle Streets houses had received water closets, sinks, running water and daily refuse removal. From 1923, Portobello Power Station supplied electric power (by the Lothians Electric Power Board) and, from 1938, the East Lothian Water Board supplied 90% of water. Sewage was directed into the sea, but the number of outflows was reduced. The Local Authority built three secondary schools in the Interwar period (191-1938), when they took over direct control of Education; Prestonpan Lodge High School was one of them.

Ideas about 'model' housing came from three fronts in the Interwar years. Firstly, British miners staged an early 1924 miner's housing campaign, which specifically mentioned Prestonpans district in parliamentary talks on housing conditions. Because conditions in mining districts were so similar, other districts were expected to address and resolve the problems raised in relation to housing in East Lothian. Secondly, coal owners argued that Local Authorities address the housing problem; it was not their business to supply houses for employees and cost prohibited them from building better houses, which were necessary, if the Government was to avoid the growing mood of dissatisfaction and revolution. Finally, and on a more local level, improvements to Cuthill housing may have been as a result of 'healthy rivalry' between Edinburgh Colliery Co. ('Links' men) and Summerlee ('Grange' men), as housing was an incentive when competing for labour.

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Ultimately, the housing question was resolved by national events. Recession followed the General Strike of 1926, which aggravated financial and social problems in mining communities. The strike lasted six months (a soup kitchen was opened at Cuthill School) and miners either left the coalfields or migrated. Scotland had suffered disproportionate losses in the First World War. Together, these factors effected the number of insured workers in the coal industry nationally; between 1923-37 the number fell by 27% (Scotland 37%). Lack of miners in the run up to the Second World War meant housing became a minor issue.

Nationalisation = Model Housing

The Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946 delivered Nationalisation and the National Coal Board (NCB). Unlike coal owners, the NCB did not consider housing an asset and were unwilling to pay excessive compensation, or open market value. The 'Newbiggin Formula' resolved matters where coal owners who disagreed with NCB housing valuations could appeal to a tribunal composed of representatives from both sides. At Prestongrange, the Grant-Suttie's were due compensation for land at Morrison's Haven and Cuthill and claimed £260 in 1947. However, the tribunal accepted the NCB's claim of £240 in 1949, ending the Grant-Suttie connection with the mining community.

The Morrison's Haven valuation, finalised in 1951, gives an insight into housing conditions at the time. Houses had no hot water or hand basins and the roofs required constant attention, all were demolished within ten years. Front Street suffered a similar fate because of outside water closets, feltless roofs and bug-infestation. Middle Street had already been demolished and only four blocks remained of Summerlee Street. The 128 houses had no hot water, obsolete coal boilers, unstable roofs and plasterwork and were also condemned to demolition within 10 years.

Before settling the last compensation claims in 1954, the NCB voiced their reluctance to take responsibility for miners' houses, preferring to hand them over to the Local Authority. In 1951, East Lothian County Council (ELCC) acquired 144 substandard houses previously belonging to the NCB (103 of these were in Prestonpans). ELCC formulated a housing policy; incorporating mining employment prospects and a slum clearance plan. The location of miners' housing mattered less at this point because buses were available to transport miners, but the Garden City movement was utilised in new scheme layouts. The 1950s new mining town plans included aims to (a) house local miners who would now work outwith Prestonpans (for instance, in the new Rothes pit, nr Thornton) (b) house incoming miners (and their families) from the declining coalfields of Lanarkshire and Central Fife, and, (c) provide education, welfare and recreation for all miners.

A Sense of Community

From the 1950s, the new 'model' houses, in their new urban settings, were very different from the hard, demanding life of the old mining communities. However, memories of the old days are full of enthusiasm and amusement, hardship is shrugged off. Miners' fondly remember the childhood 'Kittle' games, skipping, marbles and 'joukin' the waves' in the playground. Recreation for adults included cinema visits, to Cadona's in Prestonpans (known locally as the scratcher), the Annual Grange Miners Gala Day with procession to Cuthill Park and a picnic on the grass including tea, cakes, ice-cream and sweets followed by sports and winners' prizes

In the interwar years, dancing in the evening was very popular, young people would reel, waltz and square dance before moving on to Antonelli's Chip Shop for large bags of fish and chips. At the weekend, football was a major pastime. In the absence of real footballs, tennis balls or rags bound with string were used and a local miners' league formed with teams like 'Summerlee Thistle', the 'Bing Boys'

In the search for 'model' housing, planners ultimately broke up the community spirit of the 'Kittle'. It had grown out of work-based physical effort and the domestic lack of privacy. Everyone knew everyone else, and their business, down to how much they earned to when their neighbours needed help or when someone was up to no good. There was no such thing as a closed door in the 'Kittle'.

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MODEL HOUSING FOR MINERS

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Through the Keyhole

Miners **houses** were especially built for them on the site of the mine, so they lived very close to their work place. Two roomed houses meant lack of privacy where even vacant rooms were let out to lodgers to increase household income. From 1842, miners wives were prohibited from working underground (this was called *Domestication*). Living standards were expected to improve but, with no employment, women only married earlier so had more time to produce children. The average mining family had over seven children.



Attic Room

A child described his mother's working day showing how hard miners' wives worked in the home: *"She would be up at three in the morning to prepare a breakfast and a bait for my eldest brother ... who started at four o'clock ... before going through the same routine for ... my younger brother ... whose shift started at six. Meanwhile, father, who had started his night shift the previous evening at ten, would be coming out of the pit at six and going home for his breakfast and bath in front of the fire .. it would then be time for the three younger children to get ready for school .. she had to prepare a dinner for my eldest brother returning from the early shift, the children would come home ... for their mid-day meal before he had finished washing in front of the fire ... when the children went back to school mother had to prepare for the afternoon shift at 2 p.m. when me and my two other brothers went down the pit ... After 10 p.m. the three brothers who had gone to work at 2 p.m would be home and mother not only had to prepare their dinner but she also had to boil water in the pan and kettle on the fire for their baths .. it was always after midnight before mother got to bed ... and the alarm clock would be ringing at three o'clock for the start of the next day"*

Women worked very hard in the home because, without paid employment, it was the only place they could gain satisfaction or praise for their abilities.

Children went to **schools** provided by the coal owner. At Prestongrange, Cuthill School was a fine red sandstone building with high windows, allowing light to get in but restricting the children's view. A separate room was used for public worship on Sundays, and for reading on other days. The playground was so close to the sea wall, waves would crash into the playground in bad weather.



Cuthill School

Sense of Community

At Cuthill, Childhood games included skipping, marbles and 'joukin the waves' in the school playground.

Adults visited Cadona's cinema in Prestonpans (the Scratcher). Dancing in the evening was very popular before moving on to Antonelli's Chip Shop for large bags of fish and chips. Football was a favourite pastime. Tennis balls or rags bound with string were used if no footballs were available and A local miners' league featured teams like 'Summerlee Thistle' and the 'Bing Boys.

The whole family enjoyed The Annual Grange Miners Gala Day had a procession to Cuthill Park and a picnic on the grass included tea, cakes, ice-cream and sweets followed by sports and winners' prizes.

From the 1950s, new houses, in their urban settings were very different from the hard demanding life of the old mining communities; planners ultimately broke up the community spirit which had grown out of work-based physical effort and the domestic lack of privacy.

History of Coal Industry Housing

Nineteen century coalmines were located in rural areas and to guarantee a supply of labour, coal owners had to build miners houses.

Disadvantages for the Coalowner:

- Building large numbers of houses was expensive.
- Coalmines only opened for as long as it took to mine the coal so housing was only temporary.

Advantages for the Coalowner:-

- Houses were built close to the pit which meant good attendance, loyalty and long service of employees.
- Coalowners were employers and landlords so deducted rent directly from the miners' wage and could sack/evict for bad time-keeping or bad maintenance of the home.

In the **1790s**, houses were stone built with straw (thatched) roofs. With no running water, toilets were dry-closets and human waste was added to *Middens*. A *scavenger*, hired by the coalowner, would clear refuse weekly using an open cart.

In the **1840s**, single storey houses were laid out in long parallel rows of connected houses. With no backdoor, those in the middle had to walk to the one washhouse provided for each row.

In the **1870s**, houses had to storeys built in blocks of five. Alternate doors in the rows led straight into the ground floor house, or up a wooden staircase to the house above. Bricks were used because they were cheap and commonly used. Roofs were slated because this was more permanent than thatch. Still no running water but each house had a brick built outbuilding containing an *ash closet* and *coalhouse*.

In the **1890s**, houses were built in two double-storey block. The first floor houses were reached by an exterior stone staircase (with coal cellars underneath). Every eight houses shared an external washhouse, water closets and ashpits.

In the **1900s**, houses were built in blocks of 32 houses each, with water wells by the staircases, interior baths, water closets and sinks.



Preston Garden City, dated 1925. By the **1920s**, more planning went into housing and schemes emerged consisting of one-storey, 3 roomed dwellings with bathrooms and gardens. Older houses were upgraded to include water closets, sinks, running water and daily refuse removal. Portobello Power Station supplied electric power and East Lothian

Water Board supplied water and sewage facilities.

In the **1950s**, all miners houses at Prestongrange were demolished and replaced by new housing under the strict housing policy of the newly formed East Lothian County Council. These houses still stand today.

Prestonpans Housing

Front & Middle Streets

In 1874, Sir George Grant Suttie of Prestongrange leased his mining Operations to Prestongrange Coal & Iron Company Ltd who built 187 miners houses on an open field site to the south of Cuthill, a small community of stone-built pottery and salt workers' houses.

According to local tradition, the 'Cuttle', or Cuthill, gets its name from the fact that sinking minerals below ground caused the local burn to change course, cutting the hill in two.

The new Cuthill houses lacked such meaningful names; blandly named Front and Middle Street, they reflect the unimaginative approach to the construction of mining communities. The large number of houses reflects a new scale of production and commercialism in the coal industry. As profits grew, houses were later to receive W.Cs, sinks, running water and daily refuse collection.

However, concerns over human well being were soon put before profits and, by 1951, Middle Street was demolished, as was Front Street, because of outside WCs, feltless roofs and bug-infestation.

Summerlee Street

The Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Coal Company Limited took over at Prestongrange in 1895, building 44 houses on a one acre site at Morrison's Haven. The houses were still in good order by 1924 but were demolished by 1960, after being valued, collectively, at only £240.

1900, saw completion of the first 29 houses on Summerlee Street at Cuthill. When the street was completed, there were 160 households in the Cuthill community. The houses were later described as 'good' but with 'insufficient sunlight or ventilation'. By 1951, only four blocks remained of Summerlee Street, the 128 houses had no hot water, obsolete coal boilers, instable roofs and plasterwork and were demolished by 1960.



The Changing Definition of 'Model'

Comfort & Conduct

The 1840s saw a change in attitude towards workers housing as it was thought to be at the root of social problems of the day. The term 'model' emerged, associated with the lodging houses established by philanthropists who introduced regulations to secure the 'comfort and conduct' of their 'inmates'.

Sir George Grant-Suttie of Prestongrange was one example of a paternalistic landowner; he persuaded the Prestongrange Coal & Iron Co. Ltd to build housing on an open field site at Cuthill. As coalowners, the company emphasised conduct and profit over comfort, and had preferred housing miners beside the pit shaft at Morrison's Haven.

Homes Fit for Heroes

At the end of World War I (1914-1918), Lloyd George became leader of a coalition government and promised 'Homes fit for Heroes' by improving the squalid, unhealthy and overcrowded housing conditions for miners. The Miners' Welfare Fund was created to fund the improvements in 'well being, recreation and conditions of living' by levying one penny on each ton of coal produced. The fund did not cover housing however and the 'Homes fit for Heroes' campaign was a failure in Scotland with only 2,000 houses built by 1920 (England had 48,000).

Local Authority

In 1951 the East Lothian County Council (ELCC) began building 5,500 houses and three high schools. The ELCC housing policy incorporated manual removal of sewage, slum clearance and employment prospects.

Garden City Movement

Recommended building eight houses per acre (including gardens) to avoid straight rows and therefore disease and overcrowding. Between 1924-25 the Edinburgh Collieries Ltd commissioned a housing scheme in Prestonpans consisting of one storey, 3 bedroomed houses with bathrooms and gardens.

Nationalisation

Defined as state ownership of British mines, jointly administered by the miners and he state Nationalisation was seen as the most democratic way of running the coal industry. After WWI, both miners and MPs demanded Nationalisation which was finally delivered by the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946 when the National Coal Board was formed (NCB). The NCB only reluctantly took over miners housing, preferring that the Local Authorities did.

TimeLine

- 1150s – Charter granted to the Cistercian monks of Newbattle Abbey by Seyer de Quincey, Earl of Winchester. A coalworks and quarry were established between Whytrig Burn and the boundaries of Pinkie and Inveresk.
- 1306 – Act of parliament forbade the use of coal in London. It was unpopular for domestic use as smoke and fumes were considered dangerous, so it was used to heat large monastic and noble's houses in Scotland whilst being associated with trade and industry.
- 1300s – James V allowed construction of Acheson's Haven (now Morrison's Haven) and the Abbey was granted right to transport coal from workings beside the River Esk for shipment in small boats. Packhorses made the return journey with salt from the salt pans and goods traded for salt and coal shipped at the harbour.
- 1450s – Accessible supplies of coal decreased while demand for coal increased
- 1500s – Scottish coal output was <40,000 tons but still came from small scale workings, however, 6 tons of coal were needed to produce one ton of salt (salt was v. profitable)
- 1609 – Export of coal was forbidden
- 1606 – Law reduced colliers to a form of slavery (serfdom)
- 1700 – Output of coal c4 million tons annually
- 1705 – Thomas Newcomen patented the steam engine
- 1707 – Union of Parliaments of Scotland and England saw the decline of the Prestonpans Salt industry.
- 1722 – Tranent and Cockenzie waggonway was laid.
- 1741 – Evidence of the use of Horse Gins at Prestongrange.
- 1743 – Morrison's Haven harbour ceased trading.
- 1746 – Mining temporarily ceased at Prestongrange due to flooding
- 1780 – James Watt successfully modifies Newcomen's original design
- 1800 – Total coal output for Britain was 10 million tons
- 1812 – William Murdoch perfects a method for extracting gas from coal for lighting
- 1814 – Sir John Hope' Pinkie railway, running between Pinkiehill and Fisherrow constructed
- 1815 – Tranent & Cockenzie waggonway had wooden rails replaced with cast iron
- 1830 – George Grant Suttie leases land at Prestongrange to Matthias Dunn
- 1830 – No. 1 shaft sunk, opening the mine after more than 65 years
- 1831 – Edinburgh & Dalkeith Railway ('Innocent Railway') constructed
- 1838 – Waggon road used at Prestongrange from pit bottom to working. Bearers replaced by wheeled rails.
- 1838 – Matthias Dunn gives up the lease of Prestongrange
- 1840 – No. 1 shaft flooded
- 1850s - Turnpike System introduced in Scotland
- 1850 – The Prestongrange Company took over the Prestongrange Lease
- 1850 – Opening of the mineral railway junction linking Prestongrange Colliery with the main East Coast line
- 1870 – Total coal output for Scotland 15 million tons
- 1874 – Cornish Beam Engine installed at Prestongrange
- 1878 – Mining Institute of Scotland established
- 1893 – Prestongrange Company failed
- 1895 – The Summerlee Coal & Iron Company leased Prestongrange
- 1895 – First mechanical Washer for cleaning coal in Scotland, installed at Prestongrange
- 1900 – 439 employed at Prestongrange pit; 61 above ground & 378 below
- 1905 – Cornish Beam Engine had its pumping capacity improved
- 1910 – 873 employed at Prestongrange pit; 153 above ground & 720 below (including many Irish immigrants)
- 1910 – An electric turbine pump was installed to pump water from Prestongrange
- 1913 - Total coal output for Scotland 42 million tons
- 1915 - Total coal output for Scotland 35.25 million tons
- 1945 - Total coal output for Scotland less than 20 million tons
- 1946-7 – Nationalisation; the government took over the coal mines
- 1962 – Prestongrange pit closed

ACTIVITY 1



Imagine that you are a miner and, with your workmates, you form a football team for the Sunday Afternoon Prestongrange Football League.



- What is your teamname?
- _____
- Can you design a football strip?
(Remember to design a badge!)

ACTIVITY 2



Cuthill The name of this place is really a description of how the place looks. It also tells us about its early history.

- Can you think of three places, near your home, which are named after their description?
- _____
- _____
- _____

ACTIVITY 3



Look again at the child's description of his mother's working day.

"She would be up at three in the morning to prepare a breakfast and a bait for my eldest brother ... who started at four o'clock ... before going through the same routine for ... my younger brother ... whose shift started at six. Meanwhile, father, who had started his night shift the previous evening at ten, would be coming out of the pit at six and going home for his breakfast and bath in front of the fire ... it would then be time for the three younger children to get ready for school .. she had to prepare a dinner for my eldest brother returning from the early shift, the children would come home ... for their mid-day meal before he had finished washing in front of the fire ... when the children went back to school mother had to prepare for the afternoon shift at 2 p.m. when me and my two other brothers went down the pit ... After 10 p.m. the three brothers who had gone to work at 2 p.m would be home and mother not only had to prepare their dinner but she also had to boil water in the pan and kettle on the fire for their baths .. it was always after midnight before mother got to bed ... and the alarm clock would be ringing at three o'clock for the start of the next day"

Can you think of any facilities that you have in your home that she could borrow to make life easier?

PRINT THIS PAGE

TICK BOX ON COMPLETION OF EACH ACTIVITY

Activity 1

Activity 2

Activity 3

TOPIC : MODEL HOUSING AT PRESTONPANS

RELATED WEBSITES

Prestoungrange 2000 Project	= (www.prestoungrange.org)
Prestongrange Museum	= (www.eastlothian.gov.uk)
East Lothian Library Service	= (www.earl.org.uk/partners/eastlothian)
SCRAN	= (www.scran.ac.uk)
Sources for Scottish History	= (www.ocf.berkeley.edu/stonerjw/scot-hist)
Scottish History Magazine	= (www.clan.com/history/index)