

Talk Outline

Reconstructing a Mining Community by Denise Bates

The talk, *Reconstructing a Mining Community*, is based on more than a decade's personal experience of investigating the fifty four miners' houses, known as Jarratt's Buildings at Worsborough Dale near Barnsley, where three generations of my ancestors lived. The houses had a strong community identity and became a well-known feature of the town. They were initially built to house workers at a local colliery in the 1850s and demolished as part of a wider slum clearance in the 1950s.

The principles, practicalities and pitfalls covered in the talk can be used to study other communities. They are illustrated with reference to Jarratt's buildings.

Components of the talk

- What is the value of recovering the history of small communities
- Selecting a suitable community to investigate
- The sources available to a researcher
- Linking the study to wider social, economic and political history
- Making contact with others who may have relevant information
- Recording and disseminating the research

This talk is suitable for groups with an interest in family history, local history, nineteenth and twentieth century social history and the history of coal mining.

My credentials

- History Graduate (MA)
- Author of *Pit Lasses* (2012), updated version (2023)
- Author of *Breach of Promise to Marry* (2014)
- Author of *Historical Research Using British Newspapers* (2016)
- Contributor to television, radio and magazines