

Hetton Town Council



Community marks colliery disaster 70th anniversary

Hetton Town Council Members, local church ministers and residents today joined together to mark the 70th anniversary of the Eppleton Colliery explosion which killed nine workers on 6 July 1951.

At a scaled down event due to coronavirus restrictions held at Eppleton Pit Wheel Memorial in Hetton Lyons Country Park, a commemorative service was held to pay tribute to those lost.

The service culminated in a wreath laying by Lily Robson and Frankie Charlton - Year 5 pupils at Eppleton Academy Primary School.

Hetton Town Mayor, Cllr Dave Geddis said "These events are held every 10 years to remember the tragedy and the mining heritage of the area. Thanks go to Hilary Avent, Dawn Brown, Shaun Newton and Gill Twedde from the Hetton Fellowship of Churches for co-ordinating the service and delivering the addresses and to Eppleton Academy Primary pupils for giving a reading and wreath laying."

Paige Huntingdon, Teacher at Eppleton Academy Primary commented "It's always lovely to be invited to take part in community events, especially something as meaningful as the Eppleton mining disaster commemoration. It's very important for our children to have opportunities to learn about local history"

Published: 6 July 21