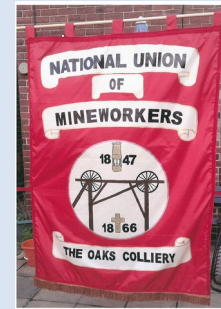
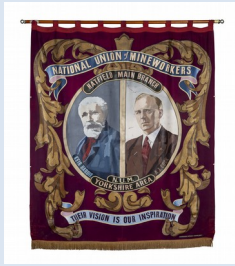


The Oaks Colliery Disaster 1866



The Miners Union and their Banners

A key organisation that helped to support the victims of the disaster was the Miners Union. The South Yorkshire Miners Association. It had only formed in 1858 and the Oaks had 275 members two days before the disaster.

The union fought for the rights of the miners. They tried to make the pit a safer place to work, increase the miners wages get some justice for the miners and supported miners who were injured in the pits.

Miners held meetings and demonstrations to get all their members together and discuss their problems. At these meetings each pit had its own banner to show where the miners came from. The banners were all different and brightly coloured. Some designs included, miners leaders, scenes from the pit, biblical scenes and slogans.

- Write a letter to the mine manager explaining why you have joined the union.
- Design a banner using the banner templates. It could be a banner for the Oaks Colliery after the disaster? What would you have put on the banner? Think of a good slogan to put on your banner?