

# Key Vocabulary

**ADIT** — A tunnel driven into the hillside. This is used to get to the slate, or to drain water from the quarry.

**BACK FILLING** — Waste rock which is left in a disused area of the quarry. Can also be left in to help support the roof.

**BAIT** — Quarryman's lunch or break.

**BANK** — Flat area outside level entrance.

**BARGAIN** — An agreement reached by a company of men to do a particular job for an agreed amount of money over a set time.

**BLONDIN** — A type of aerial ropeway.

**BOGIE** — A trolley used to move clogs on an incline.

**BOTHY** — Small house where the quarrymen would live.

**CHECK WEIGHMAN** — The person on The House whose job it was to ensure all the slates leaving were of good quality and the right weight.

**CLOG** — Quarryman's early footwear.

**CLOG** — Lump of slate weighing anything from one to five tons.

**CLOG RUNNER** — A person who pushes the clog bogies from the quarry.

**CLOSEHEAD** — Underground quarry.

**COMPANY** — A group of four or five quarrymen.

**CORBEL** — An arched roof made of flat stone without a keystone.

**COUNTRY ROCK** — The rock in which the slate is found.

**CROSSCUT** — A tunnel driven through the country rock to cut the slate at right angles.

**DAY** — Underground term meaning surface or outside.

**DOCKING** — A method of striking a clog to reduce it in size.

**DRESSER** — A person who shapes the slate to size.

**DRIFT** — Tunnel or level cut through the slate.

**EXTRACTION** - The removing of slate.

**FANCY** — Member of the gentry.

**FATHOM** — Six feet.

**GANT** — A small wooden platform for quarrymen to work on.

**GINNEL** — A small passage to get behind the slate to ease it out.

**GRIKE** — A small crack between the clog and the face.

**HAUSE** - The meeting point or work shed at the mine.

**INCLINE** — A tunnel driven at an angle usually between 33 and 45 degrees, or a tramway for lowering slate or clogs down a slope. This can be on the mine surface or underground.

**JUMPER** — Hand held steel drill.

**KYTEL** — A type of basic, heavy, cotton working jacket.

**LEVEL** — Horizontal tunnel giving access to the closehead or quarries.

**MUCKING OUT** — Clearing away rubbish after blasting.

**NOGG** — Large metal ring placed in the roof of the quarry to suspend lifting gear.

**OLD MEN** — Early miners.

**OPEN TOP** — A surface quarry.

**PILLAR** — A part of the slate left in to support the roof or walls.

**PRICKER** — A long copper needle used for creating a hole in the stemming so that a fuse can be inserted to blow a clog.

**QUARRY** - The open area on the top of the mine, where slate is taken from.

**QUOIN** — A large lump of slate used for cornerstones on buildings.

**RIDDS** — Waste material.

**RISE** — An internal shaft connecting two levels.

**RIVER** — A person who splits the slate into manageable sizes for the dresser.

**ROCKHAND** — A person who works underground at the quarry face removing slate.

**ROUNDHEAD** — The name given to slates with a round top.

**RUN-IN** — An underground area where the roof has fallen in.

**SETT** — An area of land mined by the company.

**SILL** — There are two sills, which forms a sandwich either side of the slate i.e. the top sill and the bottom sill.

**SLATE ANVIL** - Tool used to rest slates on, so the whittle can shape the slates.

**SLEDDING** — The method of transporting the finished slate.

**SOLE** — Floor of the level.

**SPLITTER** — A river who splits the slates.

**SQUARING UP** — Preparing the quarry face for extracting new slate.

**STEMMING** — The material used for containing the charge in the hole, usually clay or quarry dust.

**SUBSIST** — A loan given for wages due.

**TAMPING** — Putting the charge in the hole, usually done with a wooden stick or brass stemming rod to blow the clog.

**TOMMY TIN** — Small tin for carrying food.

**TULLY** — A quarryman's tool used for docking and splitting.

**TUNNELLER** — A man who drives tunnels into the rock for slate extraction, but does not work at the quarry face.

**WHITTLE** - A hand tool used to shape the slates.

**YORKERS** — String tied around trouser leg bottoms or knees to stop dirt going up.

