

## How the quarry worked

### Jobs in the quarry

Each person working in the quarry had their own skill or trade.

Can you match the job descriptions to the names?

Navvies	Choosing the best stone to turn into different products and assessing the best way to lift the stone
Rock-getters	Clearing the peat and unwanted, poor quality rock (overburden) from the quarry stone
Banker mason	Extracting large blocks of rock from the quarry face and splitting them
Quarry bottom man	Using chisels to shape the rocks and dressing and finishing the stones

Why were the navvies often nicknamed 'brownbacks'?

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Who got paid the most money?

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Who used plugs and feathers and why?

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Over time, different methods were used to move the huge blocks of stone around in the quarry. Put the different methods in the correct order (oldest first):

Wooden cranes known as 'shear legs'

Steam-driven derrick cranes

Wooden rollers and crow bars



# Journey through the Valley of Stone

... a living history

Once the stone had been cut into blocks and moved around the quarry, stone or banker masons cut and finished the stone so that it could be used for things like walls, roofs and paving stones. We had a picture gallery with some of the different jobs in the quarry, and their titles, but someone sneaked in and mixed them all up. Can you help us and put all the right titles back with their pictures? (the titles are listed on the next page)?





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## **Slate striker**

Splits and shapes roof slates.

## **Top delver**

Roughly straightens the edges with a lump hammer, known as scappling.

## **Rock-getter**

Makes holes for splitting stone from the quarry face.

## **Wallstone dresser**

Uses a sharp square ended hammer, to shape stone for dry stone walls.

## **Nicking and Topping**

A way of cutting stone, by chiselling a nick down the middle, raising one end and breaking by dropping on a cobble.

## **Stone or Banker Mason**

Uses chisels and hammers to split, cut and shape stone.

## **Working Conditions**

### **Quick Facts**

The men generally worked in teams and would build small stone shelters on the hillside. There were many accidents in the quarrying industry as well as difficult working conditions. Working at heights of over 1000 foot above sea level meant that quarrymen were exposed to all sorts of bad weather. Work often had to stop when it was icy in winter, as the rock was too difficult to get out and shape. As men were paid by how many yards of stone they produced, they would not be paid during these periods. For example, in 1907 soup kitchens at the Liberal and Beaconsfield clubs (Newchurch Road, Bacup) were set up to distribute soup and hot dinners to the out of work quarrymen and their families. The men had been unable to work for six weeks because of the frost.



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## My life as a rock-getter

“My life is ‘ard work, but at least I’m outside all day – I don’t fancy working in t’ cotton spinning mills even though I would earn a bit more. It’s so noisy and dusty from the machines and you’re lucky to see t’light of day in winter! Me and mi mates ‘ave to split the stone from the quarry face by drilling lines of ‘oles and ‘ammering plugs [tapered steel wedges] and feathers [steel sleeves] in to force the stone blocks apart. It took a lot longer in t’ old days when my old granddad ‘ad to use dry wooden wedges, then wait for ‘em to get bigger by wetting ‘em, to force the stone apart.

Sometimes I wish I were in t’mill though, when rain’s slashing down and t’winds ‘owling round and t’snow stops work. Any ways up its not for weaklings this life, we ‘ave to swing ‘eavy ‘ammers all day long, and we only get a reet short break to sup some tea and eat! We dursn’t stop for long to chat ‘cos we’re paid by t’yard ‘o’ stone. Don’t need overseers in this job! But we do ‘ave a laugh on t’way ‘ome, walking back down t’ tramway and mebbe ‘aving a quick pint on t’way.

Worst part of it is when summat goes wrong and there’s an accident. I’ve seen some ‘orrible injuries, once when a cable snapped on t’tram trucks and it got out of control with all the weight of that stone, or when t’rock falls when you’re not expecting it. Some of ‘em ‘ave never came back to work again, gawd knows ‘ow t’family manages then!”

Now imagine you are a worker in the quarry, decide what your specialised job is, describe what you do and how you feel during your working day and choose one of the following:

- Either write about a day when you saw an accident, and what might happen to the family who were dependent on the money the injured person earned...
- Or write how you felt during a harsh winter when work stopped for four weeks.

My life in the quarry as a .....

What was a common disease that people got when working in a dusty environment?

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What type of accidents do you think would have happened in the quarry?

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Conditions at work have now changed a lot to make things safer for the workers. What is in place now to protect all workers from accidents?

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### £ Quarry Wages

Who earned the most money in 1910?

The Navvies

The Rock-getters

The Stone Masons

#### Quick Facts

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, the pound was divided into twenty shillings or 240 pennies. It remained like this until decimalisation on 15th February 1971, when the pound was divided up as it is today (1 pound = 100 pence). Before 1971 money was divided into:

Pounds (£ or l) Shillings (s. or /-) and pennies (d.)

1 pound = 20 shillings = 240 pennies

1 shilling = 12 pennies

This became known as 'old money'. In 'old money' 12 pennies (12d) were equal to a shilling and 20 shillings were equal to a pound. In 1910, a reasonably paid man might expect to earn 30 shillings a week (£1 and 10s) and the average wage was about 20s (£1) a week.



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Imagine in your job you got paid 8d (pennies) an hour. How much would you earn if you worked for 9 hours a day?  $9 \text{ hours} \times 8 \text{ pennies} = \dots \text{ d}$  in one day.

If you worked 5 days per week then you would earn  $\dots \text{ d}$  (use your answer from above to work this out).

Now you need to know how much this is in shillings and pence, and to do this, people must have been very good at their twelve times tables! Divide your answer for your weekly wage by 12 to work out how many shillings you are getting each week  $\dots \text{ d} \div 12 = \dots$

### Quick Facts

At the time women often earned considerably less - In 1910 a female chainmaker for example earned only 5 shillings a week for 50 hours work. They went on strike for several weeks and were still only granted 11 shillings per week by the Chain Trade Board.

**Look at the lists on the next page of prices and what an average family would spend in a week in 1910.**

Imagine that you have get 20s, or 240d a week. After you have paid your weekly rent (3s 6d or 42d), you will have  $240 - 42 \text{ d} = \dots \text{ d}$  left. What will you spend the rest of your money on:

Item	Cost in shillings and pence	Cost in pence (1 shilling = 12 d)
Rent	3s 6d	42 d
Total cost		





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Did you have enough money for everything you wanted?

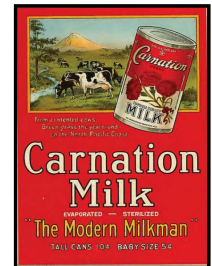
Yes

No

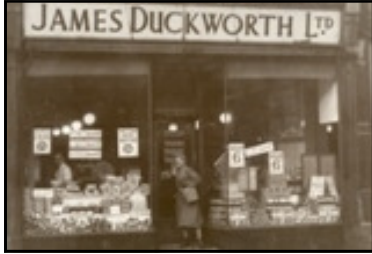
Next week you find your son has a hole in his boots and you have to buy him a new pair. How do you feel?

## Some typical prices in 1910

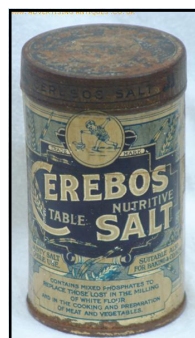
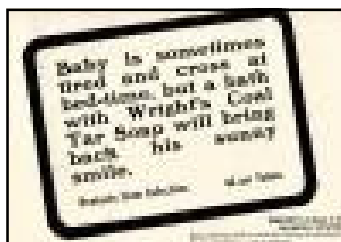
Item (The pound in this column is a pound in weight or lb, not money!)	Cost in shillings and pence	Cost in pence (d)
Rent	Between 3s 6d and 5s per week	Between 42 and 60d per week
Loaf of bread	2½d	2½d
1 pound butter	1s 2d	14d
1 pound sugar	3d	3d
1 pound tea	1s 6d	18d
20 pounds of potatoes	10d	10d
1 pound cheese	6d	6d
1 pound bacon	9d	9d
1 pound onions	1½d	1½d
Dozen eggs	1s	12d
1 pound biscuits	8d	8d
1 pound lard	7d	7d
1 pound jam	5½d	5½d
1 pound apples	3d	3d
12 pints milk	3d	3d
1 pound meat	10d	10d
Wrights Coal Tar soap	4d per tablet	4d
Child's boots	2s 11d	35d
Letter post	1d	1d
Swan Vestas matches	1d	1d



A standard working-class family budget of 22s 6d per week in 1904, printed in the Cooperative Wholesale Society People's Year Book, 1922.



	What they spent in shillings and pence	What this was in pennies
Bread and Flour	3s 7d	43d
Meat	4s 5½d	53½d
Fish	0s 11¼d	11¼d
Eggs	1s 0d	12d
Bacon	0s 11½d	11½d
Fresh milk	1s 3¼d	15¼d
Cheese	0s 6½d	6½d
Butter	2s 1½d	25½d
Potatoes	0s 11d	11d
Vegetables and Fruit	0s 11d	11d
Currants and raisins	0s 2¼d	2¼d
Rice, tapioca, oatmeal	0s 6d	6d
Tea	0s 1½d	1½d
Coffee and cocoa	0s 3¼d	3¼d
sugar	0s 11d	11d
Jam, marmalade, treacle	0s 6½d	6½d
Pickles and condiments	0s 3¼d	3¼d
Other items	2s 10¼d	34¼d
<b>Total</b>	<b>22s 6d</b>	<b>270d</b>







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Today we are concerned with healthy eating and eating a balanced diet. Name some healthy food we have now that may not have been available in 1910:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Think of 5 other things in the home that we spend money on today that were not available, or that we would not have been able to afford if our family was earning an average weekly wage in 1910:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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In 1910, all of a quarryman's weekly wages would have been spent on food and rent, and just under a quarter of this would be spent on bread and flour. If other things were needed like new clothes, then people wouldn't have enough to eat.

If a loaf cost 2½d, and the average family spent about 1½s, or 18d on bread, then they were eating at least 7 loaves per week. Most families eat less bread now than in 1910 – can you think of what else we eat instead?

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Name some other big differences between then and now, thinking of the type of food we eat, and the how much of our money we spend on food?