



Release date: Monday 10th February 2025

‘In the Veins’ - a new short film that resonates through time.

“Some people have blood running through their veins, I think we’ve got coal dust!”

~ Miner’s daughter

Monday 3rd March 2025 marks the 40th years since the end of the 1984/5 Miners’ Strike. Four decades on from one of the longest industrial disputes of the 20th century, it’s an important time to reflect on the rich history of mining in the UK, how it has affected the people, places, and identity of those that were involved.

The Yorkshire and North East Film Archive and Teesside University have come together to produce ‘In the Veins’, a short film that resonates through time, using over a century of archive footage to shine a light onto the face of the mining heritage of Yorkshire and the North East of England.

For centuries, men toiled in the bowels of the earth to build a nation, creating prosperity and improved standards of living, before experiencing the gut-wrenching end to livelihoods, a cost to people and their communities that is still having an impact across the generations.

A story of hardship and hope, division and defiance, perseverance and pride; the film is not a history lesson, it’s an emotional journey that digs deep into the heart of a community built on coal.

With support from Teesside University’s AHRC Impact Acceleration Account, and Film Hub North, the powerful 24-minute film has already been screened across the North of England and is set for an online release and special screenings in early March to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Miners’ Strike.

Graham Relton, Co-Director at the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive and producer of the film said:

“From villages, towns and communities that grew from the industry, the bonds and friendships fostered, to the formation of activist groups such as ‘Women Against Pit Closures,’ ‘In the Veins’ celebrates the success, commiserates the demise and is a timely reminder about the need for a ‘just transition’ from fossil fuels to cleaner energy.

Over the last six months we’ve screened the film with wide variety of partners, including in ex-mining communities and with wrap around activities, including in Darlington, Hartlepool, Washington, Stockton, Leeds and Stanley. We had over 650 people watch ‘In the Veins’ at the Grand Cinema at the Beamish





Museum and the York Golden Rail Band, accompanied the film by performing iconic music from the beloved film *Brassed Off*.”

‘In the Veins’ will be available to view on the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive YouTube channel on Monday 3rd of March: <https://www.youtube.com/@YorkshireFilmArchive>

Or see the short film on the big screen paired with the 1985 Yorkshire Television documentary ‘The Longest Year’, a retrospective on the yearlong strike first aired on the 3rd of March 1985, as the Miners’ Strike came to an end.

Join these special anniversary screenings. Book now:

Sunday 2nd March - National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield, 2pm:

<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/in-the-veins/>

Monday 3rd March - Showroom Cinema, Sheffield, 6:30pm:

<https://www.showroomworkstation.org.uk/intheveins>

Ben Lamb, Senior Lecturer in Media and Television Historian at Teesside University and Exec Producer of the film said:

“We are indebted to the Community Curator group who were instrumental in shaping the film. They lived, worked and breathed mining communities, at the coalface and in the community, their input has added a real authenticity that has helped the film to really connect with audiences, demonstrating real impact with viewers in venues across Yorkshire and the North East.

We’ve seen the whole gamut of emotional responses, and we hope online audiences will be equally empowered and even enraged by the stories portrayed within the ‘In the Veins’ short film carefully crafted by film maker Andy Burns.”

Commissioned by Teesside University with support from the AHRC Impact Acceleration Account fund and produced by the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive, this short film is a catalyst for conversation, an opportunity to learn from the past to help shape the future.

‘In the Veins’ screenings are supported by Film Hub North with National Lottery funding on behalf of BFI Film Audience Network.





Notes to Editors:

Trailer and image use

The 'In the Veins' trailer and still images are available via the hightail link below:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/ODbh6Papya>

Please credit the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive when using the attached stills.

For more information, further images, footage for web or broadcast, please contact Graham Relton on 01904 876550 or via email g.relton@yorks.ac.uk

Further screenings

Doncaster: Saturday 22nd of February - Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, every 30 minutes in the St Leger room from 10:30am until 3pm.

Barnard Castle: Saturday 1st March – part of the Cine North Community Cinema Showcase - Free to attend but limited spaces available, please book your ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-cinema-showcase-in-the-veins-film-with-cine-north-tickets-1223698859229?msocid=3806f22f4330699d0429e085424a68e6>

Further quotes from the community curatorial group who supported the making of the film:

"The film shows the importance of coal, how it kept us all warm, how it kept the wheels of industry turning and how communities came together as each pit was sunk. It shows the price of coal, the deaths and illnesses caused by mining the black gold. It shows the strength and tenacity of miners and their families who over the years fought for a fair wage, better working conditions and in 1984 fought the state hoping to keep jobs and community. It tells our story, and it tells it well!"

Heather Wood (active in the 'Women Against Pit Closures' movement)

"A wonderful piece of social history, based on the backbone of our country: The coal miners. For the definition of a 'Community' watch this thought-provoking short film."

Michael John Traynor (son of miner)





"The film accurately portrays the importance of coal to the world through to its demise. A whirlwind of emotions, viewers are exposed to true sense of community during good times and bad. There is a sense of community, defiance and mining culture throughout. Witnessing the scenes from the Durham Miners' Gala, as thousands march through the narrow-cobbled streets of Durham is, metaphorically speaking, a mining culture coursing through the Veins of the City built on coal."

Stephen Guy (former miner and Chairman of the Durham Miners' Association)

About Teesside University and the AHRC Impact Accelerator Fund

Teesside University's Arts and Humanities Research Council Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) has supported a wide variety of projects which connect research and researchers with the communities they serve.

About the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive

As a registered charity, our work is to collect, preserve, and make these extraordinary collections accessible for everyone. With over 75,000 items of original film, video tape, and born-digital material, the task of preserving, cataloguing, and digitising these collections is immense – but so are the rewards. People are fascinated to see their own communities, the lives of their grandparents and great-grandparents, the fashions, transport, the momentous events of the decades, through to the fascinating insight into the everyday lives of people throughout the past century.

The Archive operates from two bases, both with specialist vaults facilities and expertise to ensure the highest standards of care for our collections. The Yorkshire Film Archive is based in York, the North East Film Archive is based in Middlesbrough.

The Archive collections are largely non-fiction material, held largely on film and various videotape formats, though contemporary material is increasingly acquired on a range of digital formats. Collections range from regional television news and programmes, through to advertising collections, the output of local cine clubs, community and amateur filmmakers, and astonishing home movie collections revealing a rich social history of everyday life over each decade of the 20th century.

'In the Veins' is the fifth short film produced by the Yorkshire and North East Film Archive, the others are:





Born a Rebel (2018)

Stories of rebellion. Stories of bravery. Stories of women who aren't waiting for permission to take what they want. From women's suffrage and women in political life, to women in the home and women at war, the film addresses how women and girls have been represented on film.

Commissioned by Cinema for All as part of Vote 100 - celebrating the centenary of women's suffrage.

Lost Connections (2021)

The film invites reflections on loss, loneliness, isolation, and expressions of desire, optimism, hope, and renewal, referencing universal issues of mental health and well-being, feelings of uncertainty and disconnection but also our need to reconnect with people and community.

Commissioned by Film Hub North on behalf of the BFI Film Audience Network.

Cost of Living (2022)

As we live through the deepest cost of living crisis for over fifty years, this film expresses the fury and anger of generations whose essential needs for safe housing, secure work and full bellies go unfulfilled. Despite their difficulties, people come together as communities to help those in need and raise a fist of defiance.

Commissioned by York St John University's Cinema and Social Justice Project.

Nature Matters (2023)

Protecting the environment is one of the major issues of our time, provoking debate and action across all generations. This film reveals the shifting concerns over the decades about issues which impact on our natural world, alongside recent footage of quests for more sustainable lifestyles.

Commissioned by York St John University and the Yorkshire and North East Film Archives' National Lottery Heritage Fund project, Nature Matters.

Find out more about these films: https://www.yfanefa.com/social_cinema

