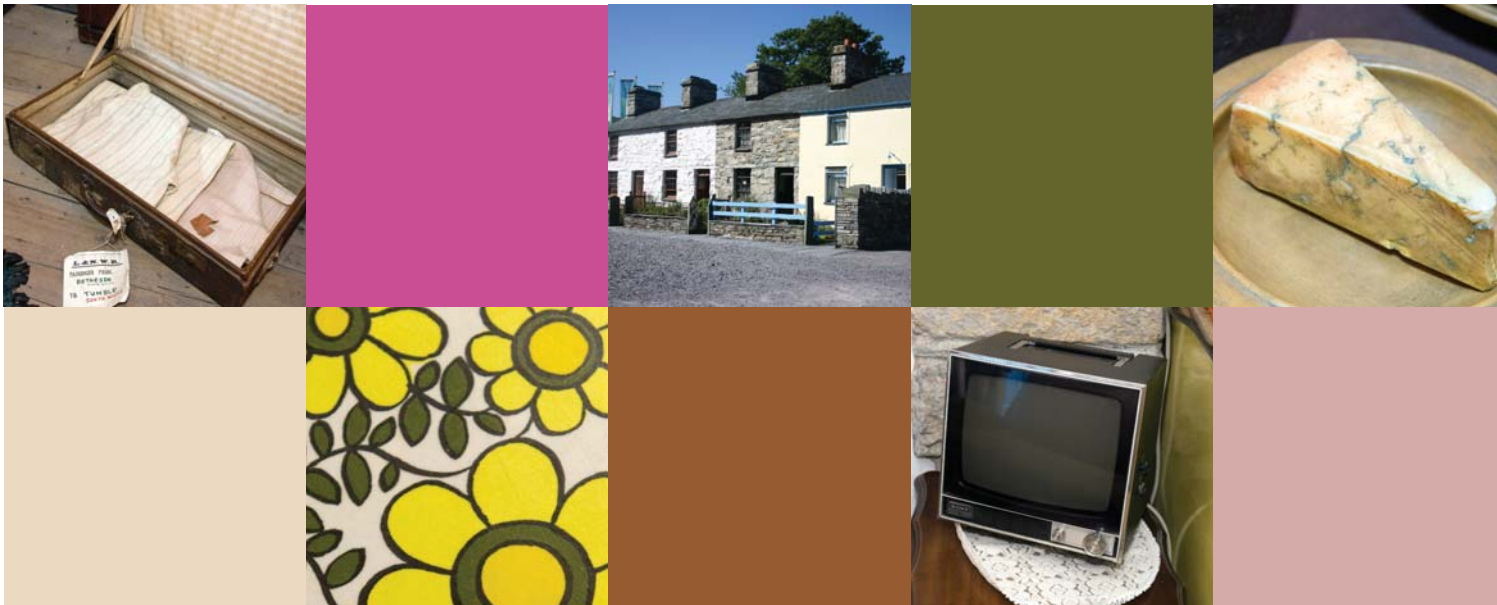




FRON HAUL BOOKLET



Discover more about the quarrymen's houses

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Welcome to the Fron Haul booklet!

Use this booklet to discover more about these interesting houses. Start by looking closely at the houses from the outside, then go to the 1861 house to begin your journey through time.

Here is a brief history of numbers 1-4 Fron Haul...

Did you know that this is not the real home of these quarrymen's houses? They were originally built at Tanygrisiau near Blaenau Ffestiniog. By 1997, the houses were in such poor condition that they were about to be demolished. But as they had been built especially for quarrymen and their families, we decided to move them stone by stone here to the National Slate Museum, to show how quarrymen lived in days gone by.

What a job that was! Every stone, slate, window, door - absolutely everything - had to be numbered before being moved and rebuilt like an enormous jigsaw here at Llanberis.

As you enter each house, remember that you are stepping back in time, into a different era and a different place. Complete the table to compare the houses and include some information about your own house.



Compare the Fron Haul houses with your house.

	Your house?	1861 house	1901 house	1969 house
Where?				Llanberis
How many windows?				
How many bedrooms?				
Bathroom?				
How many floors?				
Indoor toilet?		x		
Garden?				✓

Draw a picture of your house.



Did you notice that there are 5 chimneys and only 4 fireplaces? Why is that? To make the row look nicer by being symmetrical!



Look at the slates sticking out of the chimneys – these keep rain water off the chimney stones. It rains a lot in Blaenau Ffestiniog so they say!

1861 House – FOOD

What food can you see in this house?

Can you think of any other types of food the quarrymen and their families would have eaten?

Who would have prepared the food here?

Who usually prepares the food in your house?

Do you think the food here is healthy and nutritious? Why?

What type of food do you eat?

Draw a picture of your favourite food on the plate.



Can you guess why the museum has to use plastic food in each house?



Although you might think that this house looks quite poor, there is enough food on the table and the man of the house gets plenty of work as a quarryman. Remember, there weren't as many things to fill up a house in 1861 as there are today.

How and where would someone cook food in this house?

This house really needs a fire – so much depends on having a good fire. It must have a fire for heating, warm water and hot food!



A cuppa please!

Making a cuppa in your house is probably quite an easy task.

About how many minutes does it take?

What about making a cuppa in this house?



Put a tick or a cross in the boxes to show what happens in each house.



	1861 House	Your House
Plug the kettle into the socket	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fetch water from the well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make a fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get water from the tap	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put tea in the teapot or cup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wait for the water to boil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switch on the kettle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pour the boiling water onto the tea and let it stand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Remember that they used tea leaves, not tea bags, back then.

1901 House – STRIKE

1901 was a very difficult time in Bethesda.

Most of the men employed at the Penrhyn Quarry – 2,800 of them – went on strike, unhappy with the way they were being treated by the quarry owner, Lord Penrhyn.

Workers are not paid any wages when they are on strike. Remember that their wives would not have received a wage either – apart from sewing or washing the clothes of families who had more money than them.



Can you see any food in this house?

The loaf on the table would have had to feed an entire family for several days, up to a week, when things were at their worst. How long would this loaf last in your house?



Put your hand on the floor – are the slates warm? There is underfloor heating here to protect the house and everything in it from dampness. A modern solution to an age-old problem!



The strike lasted for three years, and up until very recently it was the longest strike in the history of Britain.

In your opinion, what is a **traitor**?

By 1901, the strike had been going on for several months and families in Bethesda were finding it harder every day to make ends meet. Gradually some of the men returned to work, breaking the strike. Those quarrymen still at home felt that these men had betrayed them. They arranged for everyone still on strike to display a sign in the window of their house showing clearly which side they were on.



(there is no traitor in this house)



The wives and children of the quarrymen still on strike would gather together on the Pont Tŵr bridge, near the entrance to the quarry, to shame the men who were breaking the strike by going to work. They would shout at them, make a loud noise by hitting saucepans with spoons, or blow into conch shells, such as the one on the windowsill to make a horrible hooting sound.

Go upstairs. Can you see a suitcase on the bedroom floor?



Who do you think is leaving?

Where are they going?

Why?

Ask one of the museum staff to find out more!

1969 House – A DIFFERENT WORLD

What is the first thing you notice in the 1969 house?



There are so many changes here!

There are more soft furnishings – carpet, sofa, curtains...

There are more appliances to make life easier – electric fire, water-heater, stove

There are more things to do in the evening – listen to the radio, play records, watch television...

Many of these depend on – ELECTRICITY.

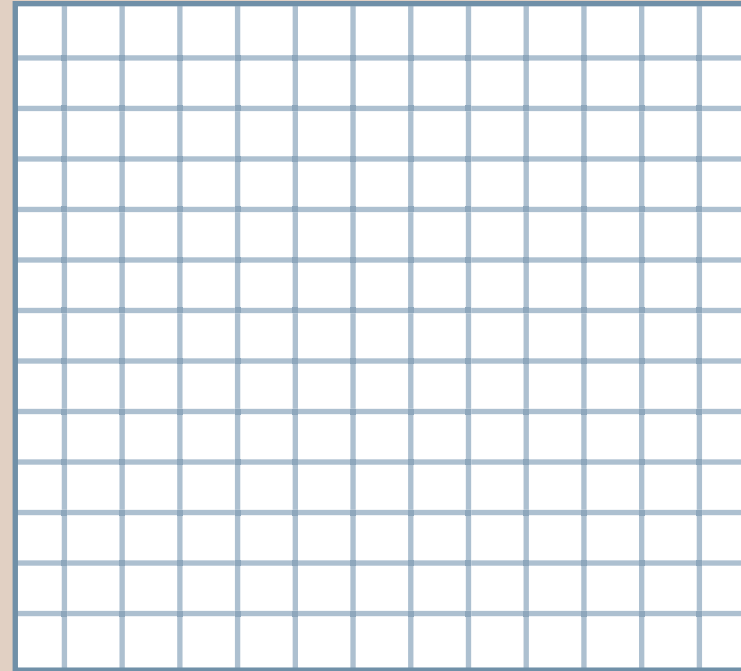


Have a go at the wordsearch!

How many things can you find which are powered by electricity?

1. Washing machine
2. Iron
3. Lamp
4. Water heater
5. Television
6. Hairdryer
7. Cooker
8. Radiogram
9. Light
10. Record player
11. Electric fire

E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	F	I	R	E	Q	F
A	P	R	E	C	O	R	D	P	L	A	Y	E	R
W	D	H	I	O	P	G	H	V	R	T	Y	X	Z
R	A	H	J	P	F	E	B	M	N	Q	T	G	V
H	R	S	H	K	C	O	O	K	E	R	E	E	L
A	A	B	H	V	R	T	U	B	X	C	L	I	P
I	D	V	N	I	R	I	K	B	M	N	E	R	E
R	I	Q	L	F	N	G	T	P	N	D	V	O	S
D	O	F	I	H	L	G	S	T	B	G	I	N	Y
R	G	F	G	X	R	T	M	Q	C	Z	S	H	K
Y	R	G	H	J	L	R	T	A	Y	S	I	V	B
E	A	F	T	H	T	K	L	M	C	N	O	X	D
R	M	B	G	L	A	M	P	H	V	H	N	Q	K
E	A	H	S	T	V	L	K	N	M	R	I	T	Y
W	G	J	K	K	N	B	V	E	T	F	T	N	P
D	W	A	T	E	R	H	E	A	T	E	R	G	E



Why not try to make a wordsearch of your own using the name of electrically powered objects in your house?



However comfortable this house seems, life is not a bed of roses here either – Dinorwig Quarry has just closed in August 1969 and the man of the house is unemployed. The woman of the house now goes out to work ...How might this have affected home life?

What other changes were there in the 60s?



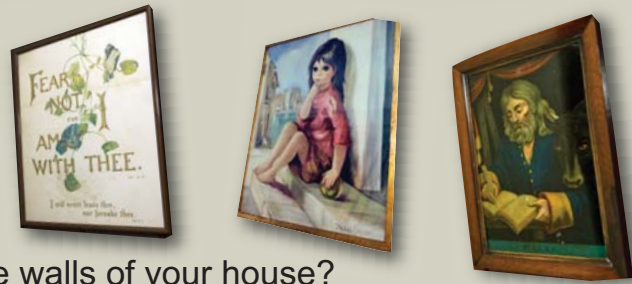
Looking for things to fill this house is a little easier for the Curator as so many people who remember 1969 are still alive today. The difficulty is having to refuse certain things that are offered, as the Museum sometimes has enough of them already.



In July 1969 Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon castle on a 'dais' (special platform) of Dinorwig slate. A month later, Dinorwig quarry closed leaving 350 men out of work!



ALL KINDS OF PICTURES



Do you have lots of pictures on the walls of your house?

What about your bedroom? Do you have a poster of someone famous on your wall?

Who? Why?

- because they are talented?
- because you admire them?
- because they are famous?
- because they are good-looking?

Draw a picture of any poster or picture from a wall of your house.

The Rev. Henry Rees was a very famous preacher. He travelled throughout Wales preaching to large audiences (he was a bit of a 'celeb'!)

The family who lived in this house clearly admired Henry Rees, or wanted to show how religious they were. Are there any other signs in the house that they are religious?

Are there any religious pictures in the 1969 house?



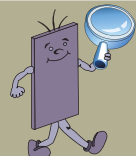
Go and have a good look around the houses.

Can you find these patterns? Which house is each one in?

Which room? What is the item?



Pattern	Which house?	Which room?	What is it?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			



How old do you think the person sleeping in the back bedroom of the 1969 house is? What makes you think that?



As we move on in time through the houses, they begin to contain more things, but less people! The 1871 Census shows that up to 7 people were living in one of Fron Haul's houses. By 1969, smaller families were far more common.

**This space is for you to keep notes about your visit
or draw pictures of what interested you today**

My name is :

**I visited the National Slate
Museum on:**

People who came with me:

What I enjoyed the most:

This booklet has been made possible thanks to funding from Watkin Jones



**The National Slate Museum has a programme of events throughout the year.
For more information visit the website: www.museumwales.ac.uk**

**National Slate Museum, Padarn Country Park, Llanberis, Gwynedd. LL55 4TY
☎ 01286 870630 | slate@museumwales.ac.uk | www.museumwales.ac.uk**