

Hesleden

Once these hallowed fields were alive with natures row
Where the little farmer's boy did run the rabbit field and plough
The hazel trees did bloom and oh the crystal stream
And how sweet life did peaceful flow In Hazel Dean

From Castle Eden Colliery
Where no man saw the sun
To the banks and rows where the hazel grows
In Hesleden

And then the sinkers came to cut and sink the mine
And soon the miners with their picks for work they stand in line
The black coal for to hew, down in the dark and heat
For if no coal is brought to bank
There'll be no bread to eat

Its run to the cage as the pit whistle blows and so the last shift ends
The day of a miner is all done, it's goodbye to old friends
The danger of pit life's passed at last I'm scrubbed and clean
All Durham mines and miners too have not seen times so lean

What does the future hold what will tomorrow bring
We'll use the wisdom of the old and in one voice we'll sing
And though the mines have closed our village does live on
How green the grass does sweetly grow in Hesleden

Words & Music Richard Grainger