Billo's famous arm gets a new life

•Over to you...Billo Nash's famed false arm is handed over by his great-grandson, Bob Smith , to Karen Constantinides at Whitecroft's Miners Arms where there is to be a display of mining memorabilia.

THE famed false arm of Billo Nash, the one-armed miner and musician who once worked at the former Flour Mill Colliery at Bream, has been rediscovered.

The arm is a much prized possession of Billo's great grandson, Bob Smith, of Coleford. It is now to go on display as part of a collection of mining memorabilia being established by Mario and Karen Constantinides at The Miners Arms, Whitecroft.

Billo Nash died in 1954 but he has recently featured in a number of old photographs and reports of mining activities at the Flour Mill colliery.

Mr Smith says the arm was given to him when he was just 10 years old by his grandfather, Reuben Nash, of Sling - Billo's son. It had previously been tucked away and virtually forgotten in Mr Nash's garden shed.

Mr Smith said: "I also rummaged the shed for the tools that Billo had made to fit on the arm. These were to enable him to carry on his sideline of making wooden dolls and other toys. Unfortunately I could only find the hammer and the original hook but at one time he apparently had a saw and also a set of chisels that would fit on the end of the arm.

"Billo was also very gifted musically so it's nice the arm has ended up in my possession as I am also a musician. Many people locally can remember him playing the harmonica and trumpet in his spare moments at the Flour Mill and also in the long-gone pub that used to be at the bottom of Bream's Mill Hill.