

Vandals target beacon memorial to miners



A STEEL and brass memorial to five miners who lost their lives winning coal for their country in Forest mines has been vandalised.

The sculpture situated on the Pad Tod Beacon was a millennium project featuring a crouching miner carrying a topograph.

It was dedicated to Henry Edwards, James Roberts, George Parsons, John Roberts and Leslie Jones and was also a tribute to their families.

Rev Nick Bromfield dedicated the memorial in May of this year but just four months later the stainless steel topograph on the top of the statue as well as the brass commemorative plaque have been stolen.

Ruardean Hill Residents Association chairman Maurice Bent said: "It has been desecrated.

"I'm hurt that there are people about that would do such a thing to a memorial for men who lost their lives winning coal for the country.

"I would like to ask for any scrap metal firms to keep an eye out for it and to alert the police if they see anything suspicious."

The theft is thought to have occurred at some point on Tuesday night.

Mr Bent said it was one of a number of metal thefts that have taken place in the Ruardean Hill area recently.

As the statue is a public memorial it is not insured and it is estimated that it will cost around £300 to repair.

The Residents Association says it would like to thank Mr Brian Bennett who has offered to pay for repair.

•Distraught...Residents Association chairman Maurice Bent at the vandalised memorial.

