



# **Bugle**

# **2000**

# A MILLENNIUM REMEMBERED

Welcome to 'Bugle 2000', our special edition compiled from photographs lent to us by you, our readers. It has been put together to show life in Alport, Middleton and Youlgrave in celebration of the New Millennium.

## THREE VILLAGES STEEPED IN HISTORY

The area around Alport, Middleton, and Youlgrave has been in continuous occupation from early times. Bronze Age barrows and monuments such as Arbor Low to the north of Middleton, the Nine Ladies on Stanton Moor and many other minor sites bear testimony to this. There is evidence also that the Romans discovered lead in the area - Romano-British pottery was found at Smerrill in 1844.



A view of Middleton Square showing the Primitive Chapel and a peek of the agricultural building that stood in the square.



Raenstor Rock, Alport. The top portion you can see here had to be blasted away as it had become dangerous to users of the coach road.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

In 1086 the Saxon Lord of the Manor's name was Colle. His grandson, Robert, gave the estate to the Abbey of Leicester, in the reign of Henry II. It has been said that the name Youlgrave is a development of the village's name at that time, 'Giolgrave', meaning 'Yellow Grove'. Several of the larger farms around the villages still have the name Grange, indicating that they were once inhabited by monks, who farmed, dispensed hospitality to travellers, made herbal remedies and cared for the sick.

Over the last decade the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Rutland and Sir Humphrey Davey Thornhill were principle owners of the land surrounding the villages and were, until recent times, owners of many of the village buildings. The Duke of Rutland was the Lord of the Manor.

As farmers are finding it difficult financially, some are tapping into the tourist industry. Barns are converted to provide camping facilities and farmhouse bed and breakfast is offered. In fact, tourism must now form the major part of the local economy - a testimony to the unspoilt villages and wonderful countryside.



A view of the bridge 'Down Bradford' taken at the turn of the century before the current front row of cottages was built.



# CHURCHES & CHAPELS



**PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH (above)**

Completed in 1895 at a cost of £1,035 7s 6d, the Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School were built at Coldwell End. An earlier Primitive Chapel had been erected at Bank Side in 1822, following the establishment of the Primitive Methodist movement at the turn of the Eighteenth Century.

This chapel is also the home of Youlgrave Silver Band.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH (right)**

This magnificent building dates back to 1130-50. Extensive alterations and extensions were undertaken during the Fifteenth Century and again in 1869-70, the latter of which included the installation of a heating system, much to the delight of the congregation, I'm sure.

Notable features at All Saints include a Norman font, which had been found abandoned at the church at Elton. A new east window was installed in 1876, supplied by Messrs. Morris & Co (William Morris) and designed by the eminent Victorian artist, Burne Jones.

As in centuries gone by, village life continues to be strongly influenced and supported by the faith of its inhabitants. Magnificent buildings, charitable works and a flourishing social structure were born out of religion, as we see below. Our children were educated, our poor fed and our general well-being nurtured.

Our villages are no exception: indeed, Youlgrave's splendid Parish Church, standing proud and tall, and visible from miles around, physically dominates the village. Youlgrave and Middleton, however, are also host to a fine array of other religious buildings, namely the Methodist Chapel, the Wesleyan Chapel and the Independent Chapel in Youlgrave, whilst Middleton has its church, a Chapel of Ease.



**MIDDLETON CHURCH (below)**

Middleton Church has a service once a month. There used to be two other Chapels in the village also, namely, the Congregational, which is now a private house, and the Primitive Methodist, a wooden building that stood in the area where the telephone box now stands. This was removed in the early sixties.



**WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL (above)**

The Wesleyan Methodist Reformers built a chapel in 1857 on a plot of land donated by William Pole Thornhill of Stanton Hall. In 1860 a school room was added, and the building further extended in 1886. Indeed, it was the first chapel to be lit by electric light.

Later alterations in 1913 added a new classroom and kitchen, the enlargement of the chapel, the introduction of stained glass windows and other improvements.





## And life after Church . . .

The rich religious heritage of Youlgrave, Alport and Middleton is still very visible in those buildings which once served as places of worship but which have since passed into private hands. Here is just a brief history:



The Church of England Hand Bell Ringers (above) c 1950.



### THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, (above)

Little information still exists about this chapel, except that the Chapel was erected in 1807 and extended in 1907 when it was enlarged and a new frontage was built.

The Wesleyan Sunday School (photo on page 15) was built in 1887, but is now a private residence.

The Chapel itself became what it is today, a Country Pursuits Centre for a Kent school.



The Church of England Sunday School (above) 1950.

### CHURCH LIFE

Outside the chapel walls, the churches' influence flourished also with the education of village children alongside other societies and clubs for adults, including the Bell Ringers. Indeed, the bells of All Saints Church continue to ring out across the village of Youlgrave, thanks to the dedication of the bell ringers. And, as in centuries gone by, they welcomed in the New Year and a New Millennium this year.

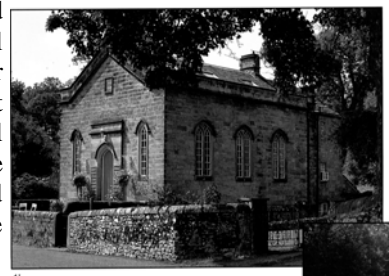
As the array of church and chapel schools show, education and religion have long existed side by side: indeed, the church regarded it as a duty to instruct the local children in moral life and basic education. This took the form of Sunday Schools and, as these pictures show, they were an integral part of village life for the local children.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL (above)

Thomas Bateman, landowner & archaeologist established his own independent chapels locally, one of which can be found at Coldwell End, Youlgrave, the other in Middleton (pictured below.)

In 1927 it became the domestic science centre for the village school (see photograph on page 14). However, with the onslaught of the Second World War, its role was to change again: between 1939-45 it was taken over by the Women's Voluntary Service.

It finally became the home of the Youlgrave British Legion in 1955 and was renamed the Knoll Club after the hill at Coldwell End, at the west end of the village.



The Primitive Methodist Chapel Sunday School (above) during the 1953 Coronation celebrations.



# WELLDRESSING

Almost the exclusive preserve of Derbyshire life, Welldressing has long since attracted tourists from all over the country, and abroad. This rewarding, but backbreaking tradition is, however, starting to be taken up further afield.

The origins of Welldressing are unclear, but it is widely believed they date back to pagan times, when sacrifices were made to the water gods. These sacrifices took the form of human or animal offerings which, over time, were exchanged for garlands of flowers. They were not only tokens of thanks for the supply of vital water that year, but would, it

was hoped, encourage the gods to ensure the water would continue to flow the next.

Welldressing as we know it today, however, has clear religious links to the established church, as can be seen in the biblical references in the designs found in Youlgrave's five Welldressings.

The process is as follows, with a little variation from well to well:

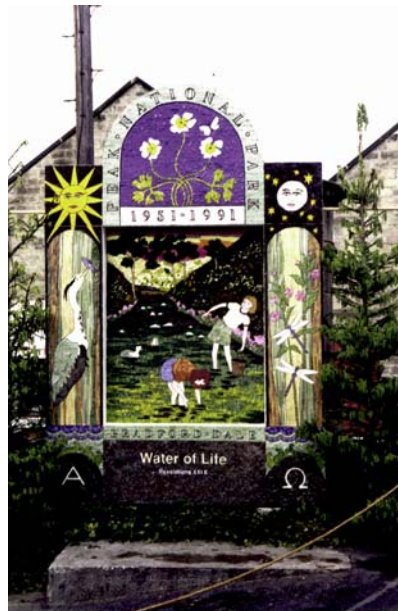
## STAGE ONE

Each Welldressing begins with the design, which in Youlgrave is created by the team responsible for that particular well.



## STAGE TWO

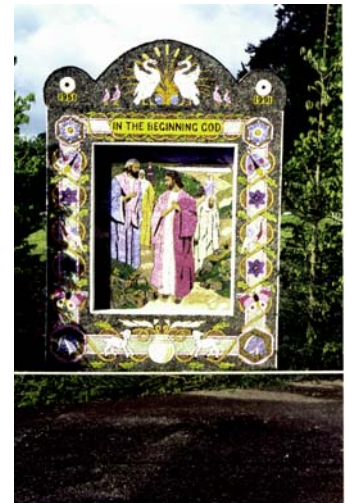
For most of us, the first indication that Welldressings are upon us again, is the sight of the boards in the river, soaking in preparation. They are then removed and a layer of clay (mixed with salt and water) is placed upon them. To mix the clay it's all wellies to the pumps for 'puddling' – a messy, but enjoyable pastime.



The Fountain Welldressing (above) pictured 1991.

The Children's Welldressing at the Church (left) pictured 1991.

Since the Welldressings in 1869, when the second water supply was undertaken, they have been produced annually up to the present day with only a break for war. However, in 1945 only one well was dressed.



Holywell Lane Welldressing (above) pictured 1982.

## STAGE THREE

The design is then pricked through the paper onto the clay or marked out with pen, and the picture starts to take shape.

Gradually, using the least perishable items first, thousands of petals, berries, twigs and other materials are added. For large areas of colour, petals are stuck into the clay and laid down like tiles on a roof. The results are beautiful and often extremely intricate and a tribute to the long and exhausting hours of work on the part of the dedicated teams of Welldressers.



## Picture of success . . .



Pictured (above) is an example of

The preparation of a Welldressing is an exhausting process, requiring considerable skill, dedication and more than a little patience. Here are a few facts about Welldressing in Youlgrave:

- The Welldressings take place the Saturday nearest St. John the Baptist Day (June 24<sup>th</sup>).
- It is generally believed that Welldressing in Youlgrave began with the introduction of a piped water supply to the village from a local spring to The Fountain in



The Bank Top Well (above) pictured 1982.

### MATERIAL INVESTMENTS

Welldressers use only natural materials, but don't stop at flowers:

- Egg shells are an ideal skin colour when depicting faces.
- The grey moss that grows on local gritstone is also used. Soot is sometimes used to darken the back of the moss to make it really jet black.
- If you hear welldressers on the look-out for black knobs, don't worry, they are the cones from the alder tree and make an excellent outline.



1829 and continued for about 20 years.

- 1869 saw its revival, when a second waterworks scheme introduced a number of stop taps around the village. It is on, or near, these taps that modern Welldressings are located.
- Such is the fame of the Welldressers, that their skills have been sought as far afield as Germany.
- Every year, the Welldressings raise valuable funds for charity.
- The Welldressings bring hundreds of visitors to the village, boosting trade for local businesses.
- Welldressing provides an excellent opportunity for new residents to meet the locals.

Middleton Welldressing (right) 1998  
'The International Year of the Ocean'



The 'Top' Well (above) pictured 1982

**The 1914 Welldressings Parade** (pictured above), showing either the Foresters Friendly Society or the Buffaloes with their Banner and Youlgrave Silver Band. Garlands used to be draped around the boards.



### MIDDLETON WELLDRESSING

Middleton's Welldressing was revived in 1977 for Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. A Village Market is held to mark the beginning of welldressing week, the proceeds of which boost parish funds.

Middleton does not use Biblical references for the design of its displays. Local, National or International events are chosen and money collected at the Well is sent to a relevant charity.

At Middleton there are two smaller boards in the shape of arrows, which are placed at the road-side on the approaches to the village. The children in the village who are interested, learn the methods of welldressing on these.



# FANCY DRESS ON PARADE



The Carnival attracts the Queens and other floats from neighbouring carnivals and lots of pedestrian entrants from the three villages add to the excitement and colour of the day.



No Carnival is complete without its royalty and pictured here (right) are the Carnival Queen and attendants circa 1933: Grace Gratton, Lillian Bacon, Marie Wardle, Annie Roper and Joan Marsden.

A dray from a 1960's Youlgrave Carnival (pictured left) shows locals getting into the spirit of the occasion, all dressed up . . . with somewhere to go.

Over the years the people of the three villages have shown how capable they are of providing entertainment, not only for themselves but also for people from far and wide.

## YOULGRAVE CARNIVAL WEEK

Youlgrave's summer calendar has more than just the Welldressings to bring visitors to the village - there's also the grand spectacle of the Carnival.

The Carnival was started by Youlgrave Bowls Club in 1932. The present committee, Youlgrave Community Group, took the reins in 1982.

The committee organises a week of activities culminating in the Parade on Saturday during the day and a disco and live band in the marquee on the playing field in the evening.



## YOULGRAVE SILVER BAND (below)

Youlgrave Band was founded over a hundred years ago and is still going strong. It plays outdoor concerts sponsored by Derbyshire Dales District Council in various villages in the summer, Youlgrave Welldressings and Carnival parades and indoor concerts and services in Youlgrave in winter.

The Band provides children of all ages with an introduction to music. Youlgrave Silver Band has instruments and will offer free tuition to adults and children alike.



## POMMIE'S FINEST PLAYERS (above)

Pictured above is the Youlgrave Silver Band c 1880, resplendent in fine uniforms and showing off the brand new instruments that were bought through the newly-formed Co-operative Society.

One story goes that the Band were walking along the road with their new instruments unable to play any tunes and resorting to a 'Pom, Pom, Pom'. And so it is that the village was nicknamed 'Pommie'. Could these be the very instruments and bandsmen responsible?





## And on stage . . .

### GANG SHOWS (right)

Youlgrave Scouts put on several Gang Shows in the early 1950's.

The shows were written and produced by Nick Mercer, who kept the village Post Office.

Note Tom Rhodes, Harry Goodwin and Doug Wardle, among others on the back row.

Michael Wragg makes a gorgeous brunette in the middle and Lawrie Tabbenor and Tony Hadfield are amongst the little angels at the front.



### YOULGRAVE PANTOMIME

Youlgrave has, through the years, enjoyed a wealth of performances from its aspiring artists. As well as the Gang Shows, there have also been the Village Pantomimes and plays by the Holywell Players.

The Panto is perhaps the widest attended and longest running. The performances began in 1927, when the then manager of the Village Hall, Major Mockett, started his run of six shows with 'Dick Whittington'.

In 1962 this wonderful much-loved spectacle began its present run, when Norman Wilson produced 'Babes in the Wood'. Norman produced five pantomimes, and was followed by Martin Brooke-Taylor (2), Stephen Walker (1), Margaret



JUNIOR CHORUS  
Mother Goose 1970

The Junior Chorus 'Mother Goose' 1970 - spot frequent Principal Boy, Mary Froggatt, second from the right on the front row.



Queen of Hearts 1980

(Above) The Junior Chorus 'Queen of Hearts' 1980 - spot the Editor of 'The Bugle' as the Mad Hatter.

### TWENTY-TWO YEARS AND COUNTING

Jan Wilson became Musical Director for John Roper's 1976 production of 'Babes in the Wood', and when he returned to the boards the next year, she succeeded him as producer of the show.

Jan added to her impressive service when she returned to produce the year 2000 show, 'Jack and the Beanstalk', after two years off, in which 'Archers' writers Louise Page and Chris Hawes took the reins.



(Above) Jim Evans as Cornelius Kreep, a rascally lawyer, and Tom Rhodes as 'Queen Clot Hilda', a royal curd, in 'Puss in Boots' 1971.



Sinbad 1990

(Above) Mick Patterson with no less than five Shimwells among his admirers in 'Sinbad' 1990.



# SPORTING LIFE



On 17th July 1993 Youlgrave Cricket Club held a memorial match against the Derbyshire XI (pictured above) as they opened the new score box in memory of keen sportsman, Peter Hill.

Back Row - Ralph Wilson, James Allen.

Row Two - Tim O'Gorman (Derbys.), Chris Adams (Derbys.), Karl Krikken (Derbys.), Robert Allen.

Row Three - Max Payne, John Taylor, Kevin Brassington, Dominic Asquith, James Turner.

Front Row - Nick Asquith, Robert Jackson, Nick Kirkland, Martin Hill, John Morris (Derbys.), Peter Bowler (Derbys.).

Other Derbyshire players present were - Devon Malcolm, Dominic Cork, Frank Griffiths, Kim Barnett, Alan Warner, Ole Mortenson.

## CRICKET

What is a village without its cricket? Nestled on the side of the hill on the approach to Youlgrave is our cricket pavilion and pitch. Like the Bowls Club, local cricketers enjoy lovely views over the surrounding countryside though I'm sure their minds are concentrating on far more important matters, such as victory!

Captained by Nick Asquith, the team has a proud history and in 1972 built its pavilion on the village field.



YCC c 1930's (above)

Back row - Bert Evans, Henry Carson, Frank Evans, Jack Bacon, Harold Bacon and Charlie Botham (Umpire).

Front Row - Harold Wragg, Tom Craw, William Wragg, Jack Rowland, Harold Hadfield and Greg Hadfield.



## FUN IN THE SUN

As this picture shows, (left) being a member of the Cricket Club isn't all work. Young cricket enthusiasts are shown enjoying themselves on their Cricket Club float at Youlgrave Carnival.

We think was probably taken in 1953, the year that England won back the 'Ashes'. We need your help in putting names to these smiling faces. Were you there? If so, let's hear from you.

Pictured (below) are Barbara Wragg and Bill Darley in the rare summer sun and showing off a not so rare tennis trophy.



## YOULGRAVE TENNIS CLUB

Tennis and British summer go together like strawberries and cream. As with cricket, tennis continues to flourish as a popular sport amongst the locals, especially in clement weather!

Youlgrave Tennis Club was started in the early 1980's. It has

two courts, which are located at the bottom playing field (at Alport Lane). These were converted from grass to tarmac in the late 1980's.

The Club currently has 85 members and new members are always welcome. Club nights are on Tuesdays and usually run from March through to September.

# Football Success Over the Years . . .

## YOULGRAVE FOOTBALL CLUB

Invented by the British, football remains at the heart of community life for all ages. Muddy knees, bruises and rain aside, it is a sport which remains very popular for players and spectators alike.

As the photographs show, football strips have altered over the years but the spirit of the game remains unchanged. Youlgrave's footballers are still attracting the crowds, but unfortunately the adult team hasn't had any wins for the last decade. The Juniors are, however, currently top of the league.

We need your help in naming some of our local sporting celebrities. If you recognise anyone shown here, or took to the pitch yourself as a player, let's hear from you.



This photograph (above) was taken on the Vicarage lawn in 1891 - note the long trousers, heavy boots and shin guards worn on the outside of trousers.

Back row - Chas Birds, Abe Salt, Joe Roy, Sam Slater, Albert Evans.

Middle row - Will Slavey, Will Gregory, Ben Thompson, Geo Shimwell, J H Marsden.

Front row - Geo Thompson, Tom Wragg, Ellis Birds.

Pictured (left) is the team of 1926-27.

Back Row - Ike Lomas, Frank Wilson, Bernard Hambleton, \_\_\_\_\_, George Marsden, Sid Wardle, Arnold Hamilton, \_\_\_\_\_, Harry Wardle, Gill Housely.

In 'civvies' - Fred Dawson, Ellis Bowering.

Front row - Ben Billinge (ref.), Arthur Wardle, G W Gimber, Ronnie Spooner, John Wardle, Dick Moody, G H Ollerenshaw, John Brindley.



## YFC JUNIORS 1947-48 (below)

Back row - Stuart Nuttall, Peter Coleman, Alan Shimwell, Ivor Bacon.

Middle row - Bert Marsden (manager), Leonard Gladwin, R Wardle, Aaron Taylor (trainer).

Front row - Charlie Hollis, Brian Frost, B Broomhead, Rex Bacon, D Birds.



## 1945/46 TEAM - CAVENDISH CUP WINNERS (above)

Back row - D Bateman, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Middle row - T Brazell, \_\_\_\_\_, Billy Lancaster.

Front row - M Dawson, R Davies, G Calladine, I Hayes, \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't forget that we'd love to hear from any readers who can fill in the spaces for possible future publications and for posterity.





## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



All Saints displaying their trophies.

### ALL SAINTS TUG OF WAR CLUB

Mention sport and most people think of football, cricket or, maybe, rugby. Few, however, think of Tug of War, yet it was this often much maligned game that firmly established Youlgrave in the world spotlight. For four glorious years, the All Saints Tug of War Club gained national renown as champions of all classes. We felt it only fitting, therefore, that their magnificent achievements should be recorded for posterity in the 'Bugle! One member of the victorious All Saints team's humorous recollections are given below.

To the uninitiated, a tug of war team consists of eight unshaven morons, each with a wide leather belt holding up a beer gut; ' nothing could be further from the truth.



Getting to grips with success. There's nothing like the real thing as shown here when practising in the buildings of Derbyshire Silica Firebrick Co.



All Saints partaking in a little light training in the fields 'Down Bradford'

### FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

It all began at the 1966 and 1967 Carnivals, with a Tug of War contest. But what started out as a bit of fun, soon became a serious business. As the game grew in popularity at other local events and the Youlgrave team improved, the need for dedication and training soon became apparent. The team took the name Youlgrave All Saints Tug of War Club, although many members came from the surrounding district and the Derbyshire Silica Firebrick Co. granted them permission to train at their works. The team was on its way.

### A WINNING TEAM

Victory came at the Crystal Palace with the 1969 Championship, following months of rigorous training, with the team winning the 88 stone and 108 stone events. All Saints were to go from strength to strength after that, hardly ever losing an end, let alone a competition.

All Saints were the first team to achieve a 'Clean Sweep' at Crystal Palace in 1970, winning the 88st, 100st, 104st, 108st and catchweight contests.

At this time a youth squad was also set up, training alongside the senior team, and went on to win the outdoor and indoor national titles. With victory also came a growing crowd of supporters, often noisy, but always enthusiastic. Supported by their fans, the senior team went on to win the 1971 Championships at Bracknell and were presented with a silver commemorative shield, now sadly lost.



Youlgrave's youth team proudly displaying their winnings.

### THE END OF AN ERA

As anyone who has run a team knows, getting success is hard enough, but keeping it together and successful is even harder, and so it proved with All Saints. Albert (Nabby) Oldfield, a stalwart of the team, emigrated to Australia, whilst others left because of important personal commitments.

A few 'insane' members remained and it was decided to amalgamate with the Sheen team, with whom close ties had been forged over the years. This team was to go on to represent England so successfully in the European and World championships on many occasions.

Who would have thought that in the space of four years, starting with a carnival event, a motley crew of country yokels would beat every team of note in the United Kingdom and

save its finest performance for Perhaps our local lads could again Crystal Palace. Will we see this find fame and become sporting unusual feat continue in the area? National Champions in the future.



All Saints are pictured here after their moment of glory at Crystal Palace in 1969.



### YOULGRAVE BOWLS CLUB

Bowls is quintessentially English; an integral part of rural village life. Youlgrave is no exception. Nestled at the bottom of the playing fields, the Bowls Club enjoys picturesque views and (this year) in April 2000 will be the owner of a new pavilion thanks to funding from the National Lottery.

Established 66 years ago, the Club went into abeyance during the war years and was not resurrected until the mid-seventies. Since then, however, it has gone from strength to strength and is now considered one of the premier clubs in the area and is actively involved in many local competitions as well as the various Chesterfield and Matlock Leagues.

The Bowls season lasts from April until late September and is enjoyed by a wide section of the community, with members aged from 10 to 80-plus, it has proved a game for all ages. There are certainly few sports that offer such a great combination of relaxation and skill - not to mention such a perfect view!



# HAPPY CAMPERS

## THE BADEN-POWELL WAY

The three villages have, like many communities, a strong link with the Scouting and Guiding movement.

Currently 1<sup>st</sup> Youlgrave Brownies is a full pack with 18 girls aged 7 - 11 years and is run by Edwina Edwards, Brown Owl, and Sarah Vaughan, Snowy Owl.



### 1<sup>st</sup> YOULGRAVE BROWNIES (above)

The brownies are prepared to lend a hand in the Scout and Community Hut, which they helped to paint in November 1999. Pictured here are Charlotte Harrison, Louise Percival, Marianne Wragg, and Katie Louise Mather.

Susan Lomas led the Guide company from 1971 to 1989. She will be long-remembered by her guides for fabulous holidays and camping trips in the UK and abroad, which included the International Camps at Chatsworth and holidays in France and Switzerland.

Susan is keen to point out that such trips would not have been possible without the co-operation of the girls and their parents.

### 1<sup>st</sup> YOULGRAVE GUIDES (right)

The Guides continue to enjoy their camping trips. Pictured here are: Sophie Redfern, Penny Edmunds (Guider), Natalie Mather, Emma Bright



and Phillippa Hancock at the Pax Hoh camp in 1999. Some of the Guides are going to the International Camp, 'Peak 2000'.

The girls also enjoy activities such as canoeing, climbing, cooking and crafts.



### RAINBOWS (left)

Rainbows will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this May. The Guider, Louise Hancock, and helpers run a Unit for 12 girls aged 5 - 7 years.

Pictured: Alice Micklewright, Amy Prince, Catherine Thaw, Ellie Andrews, Emma Andrews, Hannah Wilson, Isabelle Higgins, Jessica Wilkinson, Katherine Farmer, Laurie Lee, Mary-Ann Gow, Rheanne Emily Smith, Sarah Andrews and Rachel Corran.

## 1<sup>st</sup> YOULGRAVE SCOUTS

Youlgrave Scouts was formed in 1910. The Reverend Greenshields was the first Scoutmaster. Among his first Scouts were Jack Rowland, Norman Brassington and Vernon Wilson. Later Scoutmasters include Chris Toft and Brian Asquith.

Rob Poyser is the current Scoutmaster and the Youlgrave Scouts have been concentrating their activities on outdoor pursuits. Several members of the Pack have achieved their Gold or Silver 'Outdoors 1999 Awards', which is a scheme that was designed to get the boys outside more and which will continue in 2000.

The Scouts are also going to 'Peak 2000', the International Scout and Guide camp in Chatsworth Park. I hope they all enjoy themselves as much as we did at 'Peak 80'.



The Cubs and Scouts of Youlgrave after parading (above) in 1935.



### 1<sup>st</sup> YOULGRAVE CUBS

Youlgrave also has a Cub pack, which meets weekly in the Scout and Community Hut. The Scout and Community Hut was built in 1992 on the site of the old Scout hut, which burnt down in the early 1970's. The Scouts and Cubs are pictured (left) in front of the old Scout Hut in the 1950's.

The Cubs have recently been holding a series of themed evenings, which included an Italian evening. A wonderful excuse to have pizza! The Cubs are currently working to attain their 'Millennium Badges'.

The current Cub Leader is Trevor Robinson. He also helps out with Youlgrave Scouts, who meet on the same evening. Bill Shimwell was the leader for 35 years until his retirement in the early 1980's.

## And Caring Clubs ...

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Friendly Societies are often referred to as the 'Poor Man's Masons'. In its heyday, Youlgrave had four societies, namely the 'Foresters', the 'Druids', the 'Oddfellows' and the 'Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes' (RAOB). These were formed in the early Eighteenth Century.

Committed to supporting the local community, the RAOB or 'Buffs' arranged trips for the pensioners of the village, such as the trip to Trentham Gardens in the early 1950's (see picture right).



Pictured (left) is a gathering, probably the Foresters Friendly Society, taken in the yard at the Bull's Head. A fine looking group they made, many resplendent in bowler hats and watch chains.

Back row - Ralph Webster, Ben Oldfield, Dan Prime, Frank Wragg, Enos Wragg, Billy (Becca) Oldfield, Joe Thornhill, \_\_\_\_\_, Joe Johnson.

Front row - Tom Coats, Will Hollis, Billy Smith (?), John Gould, Will (Totley) Birds, Fred Oldfield



### YOULGRAVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Youlgrave Women's Institute celebrated its 80th birthday in 1999. A party was held and a Commemorative Well Dressing designed by Margaret Fell representing the Derbyshire Federation badge was produced (pictured right).

Youlgrave WI is a thriving group and over the years has had many interesting talks, visits and activities covering a wide range of interests and skills. These include choral music, country dancing, cookery, handbell ringing, leathercraft, rug making and

glove-making. Classes have also been given in painting, tatting and even driving.

Amongst its extensive charity and community activities are litter picking expeditions, knitting for Romania and fund-raising for local hospitals. The ladies have raised many thousands of pounds for the upkeep of the Village Hall with Well Dressing Teas.

On a lighter note, the WI ladies also enjoy numerous trips and events. They have won second prize in the Miss Personality of Derbyshire Federation of WI's. They are also involved in various quizzes, slide shows, trips to gardens, shows and mystery outings.

The ladies participate in various



As a regional branch, they also vote on the important National Resolutions. The WI is at present campaigning to ensure the survival of the local village Post Office, a vital service for many.



### The WI trip to the Wedgwood factory in 1963

Back Row - Mrs Keyworth, Mrs Harry Shimwell, Mrs C Boardman, Mrs Ann Robinson, Mrs Jim Birds, Mrs Dale, Mrs Bateman.

2nd Row - Mrs Weston, Mrs Scrivens, Mrs Harry Hall, Miss Olive Purseglove.

3rd Row - Mrs Connie Holland, Mrs Lucy Wardle, Mrs Annie Wild, Mrs Gadys Clarke, Mrs Gladys Sheldon,

Mrs Annie Mills, Mrs Costello.

4th Row - Mrs Twyford, Mrs Alice Brassington, Mrs Margaret Purseglove, Mrs Mary Needham, Mrs Marjorie Shimwell.

Front Row - Mrs Joan Dale, Mrs Crawley, Mrs Doris Lees, Mrs Hewitt, Mrs Margaret Fell, Mrs Florrie Lomas, Miss Martha Purseglove.



# SCHOOL LIFE

Education forms a vital part of village life and Youlgrave has a thriving Church of England school. All Saints. With four classes, the teachers, under the headship of Mr Snow, give the village children a sound footing from which to begin their secondary education at Lady Manners School in Bakewell.



**YOULGRAVE SCHOOL COOKERY CLASS, c. 1927 (above).**

Back row - Eleanor Bacon, Ada Toft, Mary Finney, Connie Shimwell, Mary Holland Walker, Betty Rowland, Olive Gresham, Dorothy Birds.

Second row - Marion Shimwell, Freda Stevenson, Cary Shimwell, Mabel Holmes, Maud ThomhMls Louie Birds.

Front row - Lilian Bacon, Alice Marshall.



**Class Five, Youlgrave Primary School c. 1914**

## YOULGRAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The fabric of Youlgrave School has undergone some substantial changes over the last twenty years. Firstly, in 1980, the addition of a dining room, which means the children no longer walk to the George Hotel for their dinners. Then, in 1996, inside toilets were added, meaning no more trips across the yard to spend a penny.



**The children c. 1926 - look at all those knees!**



**MIDDLETON SCHOOL 1941 (above)**

Back Row - Miss Lomas, Frank Weston, Frank Harrop, Peter Stone, Reuben Slack, Lewis Sheldon, Henry Purseglove, Jack Oldfield.

Row Two - Monica Weston, Margaret Roose, Winifred Alien, Ena Weston, Peggy Oldfield, Amy Johnstone, Brenda Foxon, Betty Weston, Kathleen Alien.

Row Three - Miss Kay, Barbara Titterton, Henry Brocklehurst, Jean Oldfield, Gordon Oldfield, Mary Roose, Sidney Marsden, Anne Weston, Brian Sheldon.

Front Row - Tony Slack, Vic Oldfield, Alan Oldfield, Billy Purseglove.

## MIDDLETON SCHOOL

The school at Middleton closed in 1972. In the years leading up to this, attempts were made to keep it open, including bussing children up from Youlgrave.

The building is now the Village Hall and is used for village parties, Well dressing teas and life drawing and upholstery classes.

## 'GOODBYE MR SHIMWELL'

Popular School Master, J W Shimwell (below) retired in 1979 after 31 years at the school.

Bill has written books about Youlgrave's past, and he has been a valuable source of information in compiling this publication.



## YOULGRAVE PLAYGROUP (left)

For many years the parents of the pre-school children were able to maintain a weekly playschool, which was held in the Village Hall.

Changes in working habits and other factors have sadly meant the recent closure of the playgroup. There is, however, a Mothers and Toddlers group, which meets weekly.





## BUILDINGS OF NOTE

The architectural heritage of Alport, Youlgrave and Middleton reflects the changes in village life over the centuries, from housing for mine workers, schools and shops to elegant residences for genteel families and successful tradesmen. Here are just a few of our better known buildings:

**YOULGRAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL (right)**  
Youlgrave Primary School still operates out of the building erected in 1868 on land donated by the Duke of Rutland. The school was built by local stonemason, 'Old Will' Shimwell, who also built the Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1895 and Grafted the fine carving of a bull's head for the pub of that name.

This impressive building consisted of a large room, divided by a folding partition, and was accessed by two



doorways, one for 'girls' and the other for 'boys'. The sexes were further segregated during playtime by use of a wall in the playground, although classes were mixed. The wrought-iron hinges on the folding partition still reveal the name of the village blacksmith - 'Eli Toft 1869'.



Built in 1887, the Wesleyan Sunday School (above) is now a private house

### THE READING ROOM (right)

Built from monies raised by public subscription on land donated by William Pole Thornhill of Stanton Hall, the Reading Room was erected in 1857 and was the home of the Youlgrave Literary Society.

Amongst its members was the notable local poet and playwright, Susan Shimwell, who was a personal friend of the novelist, George Eliot.



The Reading Room continues its tradition of learning in the new Millennium as plans for it to become an IT centre for parish use are set in motion.



### OLD HALL FARM (right)

Situated just behind the Old Hall, is Old Hall Farm, a beautiful example of the architecture of its day, being of slightly earlier origin than the Old Hall, having been built in 1630.

Owned by the Buxton family until 1685, it was sold to the Manners family (later the Dukes of Rutland), and is now owned by the Gillingwater family, who originate from Chesterfield.

The interior of the building has altered little over the years, and still retains a number of original features, including fine examples of oak panelling dating back to the Seventeenth

### THE OLD HALL (left)

The three villages boast a wide array of splendid and ancient buildings alongside bold, modern architecture.

Prominent amongst the oldest buildings in Youlgrave stands The Old Hall. Built in 1659, it has been extensively added to and altered over the centuries. It still stands proud, nestled against the main road that runs through the village.





## BEER, BUNS & B&B

No village is complete without its public houses, and Youlgrave, Alport and Middleton have certainly had their share. Over the years, some have become private residences, with little or no evidence of their former lives (or reputations), but Youlgrave still has three thriving pubs, all with a rich history of their own.



**THE GEORGE HOTEL**  
(above)

Originally named the Tig of Lead', its present name came into being around 1870-80, although it was not referred to as a hotel until 1941.

Local legend says that the stone steps outside the George Hotel were once used by Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall when she secretly met Sir John Manners, before famously eloping with him.

Pictured (left) is the George Hotel at the turn of the century.



**THE BULL'S HEAD** (above)

This old coaching inn has a wonderful carved bull's head (pictured below) crafted by 'Old Will' Shimwell. The door leading from the lobby to the toilets bears the date 1674.

In the Nineteenth Century the daughter of the landlord, Jane Shimwell, married Alexander McDougal, the inventor of self-raising flour.



**THE FARMYARD INN** (above)

Opened as an alehouse in 1829 by the Rowland family, it was originally, as the name suggests, the site of a farm and outbuildings. Today, amongst its many claims to fame, is the fact that it is the home of the local Boules Club.

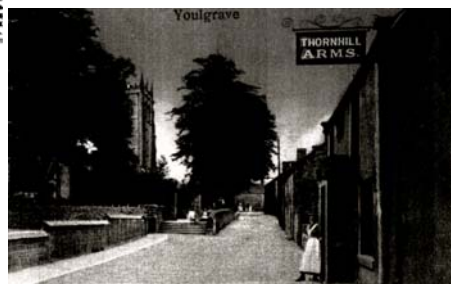


The Bull's Head, which over-looks all who go into the pub yard



**THE BATEMAN ARMS, MIDDLETON**  
(above)

Amongst those which have since become private residences, is 'The Bateman Arms' in Middleton, which was closed in 1918. Set in the heart of the village, it remains one of the village's most prominent buildings.



**THE THORNHILL ARMS, ALPORT LANE**  
(left)

Situated opposite the school in Youlgrave, the Thornhill Arms' is now known as 'Thornhill House'. Renamed three times, this public house was originally known as 'The Marquis of Granby' in 1829, and then The William the Fourth' in 1846. In 1887 it took the name 'The Thornhill Arms', which it kept until it ceased trading, just before the Great War.



**THE BOARDING HOUSE, ALPORT**  
(left)

As the villages changed over the years, with mine closures etc., fewer people were employed locally and the number of public houses declined.

The Boarding House, which stood by the bridge, was demolished in the 1930's when the main road was widened and straightened.

## In a Nation of Shopkeepers . . .



### YOULGRAVE GARAGE

The garage used to belong to the Prince family. Pictured (above) are Peter Prince with staff, James Fryer and Michael Illot, manning the pumps in 1951.

The number of shops in Youlgrave seems to be rapidly decreasing. As the few we're lucky to still have struggle to keep their heads above water, we must try to use them as much as we can. Here are those still open for business.

Rose's Newsagents (right) is another business that is currently on the market, though thankfully, it is still trading.



Today the business is in the capable hands of the Elliot family (pictured above) with employee Giles Prince, grandson of Peter and just as handsome as his grandfather!

### YOULGRAVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (left)

The Co-op was formed in 1870 by Joseph Shimwell of Old Hall Farm, Tom Birds of Hall Farm and Joseph Smith. The existing building went up in 1877.

The Co-operative supplied electricity from 1910 until the nationalisation of the industry.

In 1920 it amalgamated with the Matlock branch to form 'Derwent Valley Co-operative Society Ltd'.

The store stopped trading in 1968 and later became Youlgrave Youth Hostel.

Rose's Newsagents (above) and the Post Office (below) manage to continue to provide the village with their services with help from the visiting tourists. They each carry a fine selection of gifts, guide books and confectionery. Papers are still delivered by the newsagents and banking facilities and dry-cleaning services are offered by the Post Office.



### EATERIES

Meadow Cottage Cafe (below) offers walkers and villagers alike refreshment from hot and cold drinks -to sandwiches and soup.



At present, the Fish and Chip Shop (right) is closed and for sale. We all hope to see it operational again soon.



### BUTCHERS

Youlgrave used to have three butcher's shops. Harry Hall traded in a shop by the Fountain until his death in 1977.

Today the remaining two, Parker's (above) and Holland's (above left) have become general grocers too, enabling people to obtain everything they need without leaving the village.



## LOCAL INDUSTRY

With a history dating back to the Bronze Age, the area has seen many changes over the centuries; mining, quarrying, agriculture and cottage industries all dominating local life at one time or another. With such changes came the rise and fall in the population and the local businesses that supported the villagers, be it alehouses (of which there were plenty), shoemakers, tin plate workers, blacksmiths or builders.

These changes are mapped out in the buildings, both inhabited and derelict, scattered throughout the villages and surrounding countryside, and the remnants of mined fields and quarry and mining tracks long-since disused by industry, but re-born as public footpaths for the villages most recent booming industry - tourism.



Pictured (above) Charlie Bacon and Ken Brassington shot firing at Bacon's flour spa quarry

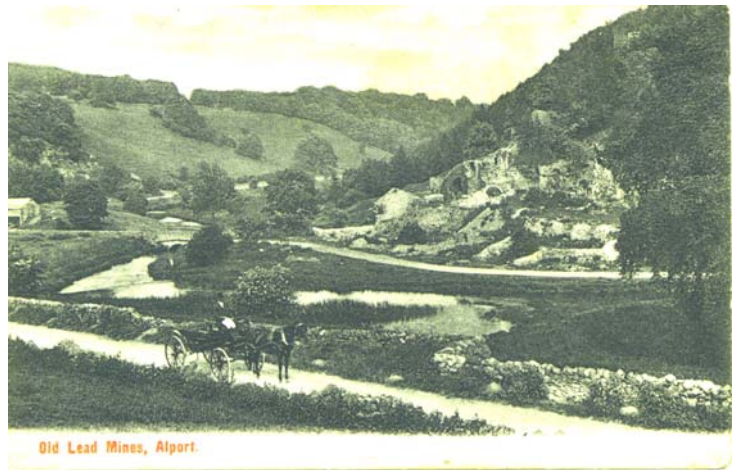
### ASQUITH DESIGN PARTNERSHIP

Although many of the older industries have died away, others have sprung up, including the award-winning company, Asquith Design Partnership.

Working from studios in Youlgrave, the company has been at the forefront of contemporary design and manufacture of fine metalwork for 40 years.

Asquith Design Partnership has a reputation for commissions ranging from silver coffee sets for N° 10 Downing Street to the design and manufacture of all the metalwork in the Peace Gardens in the centre of Sheffield, which was opened by Prince Charles.

Pictured (left) a fish slice designed by Brian Asquith



Pictured (above) the lead smelter at Alport.

### LEAD MINING

Dating back to Roman times, evidence of lead mining can be seen throughout the area. With the Eighteenth Century came an expansion in lead mining, employing more miners in increasingly larger mining sites thanks to mechanical pumps and other developments. This expansion continued through the first half of the Nineteenth Century, as seen in the building of the smelting works at Alport in 1840. By 1851 the number of lead miners in Youlgrave reached its peak of 181; as the mines declined, however, so did the number employed and, by 1881, there were only 57 lead miners. By the 1920's, lead mining as a local industry had almost ceased to exist. Amongst its many legacies is 'house-launders', the local term for guttering, launders' being the vessels through which miners channelled the water used for washing their lead.

### QUARRIES

Limestone and gritstone quarries grew with the rise of the railways and the demand for increased housing and road making during the Victorian Era. It has been suggested that redundant lead miners adapted to work at the quarries as the local mines declined. To this day, quarrying remains a major industry in the area.



### METALWORKING

With the industrial revolution came new machinery, the decline and, for some, the end of many industries, including handmade lace, blacksmiths, shoemakers and dressmakers.

However, Billy Clark (pictured above) continued to blacksmith at Middleton until his retirement c. 1975. The Smithy is, at present, being converted into living accommodation.



## The Water of Life...



### YOULGRAVE WATER WORKS

As seen with the annual Welldressings, water has always played a vital role in village life. The introduction of piped water in 1829 and stop taps in 1869 not only brought valuable water to the local

**The three faces of Youlgrave Fountain - with, without and then with railings.**

Village for domestic and industry use, but also helped reduce the spread of disease through contaminated water supplies, especially during the summer .

The Fountain still takes pride of place in the centre of the village and the Water Works remains an independent company to this day, owned by those that use the water, the villagers.



### HARNESSING THE POWER OF WATER

The villages have supported a wide variety of occupations, including spinning (Eighteenth Century) and lace working (late Nineteenth Century), both of which were cottage industries, employing local womenfolk. A bobbin mill at Middleton (left) was erected in the Nineteenth Century. This was later converted into a single-storey building, which became the pumping station for Middleton's water supply. Unlike Youlgrave, Middleton lost its independent supply and now receives Severn Trent water.

The Corn Mill (bottom left) was situated down the path at Roughwood Hollow (the second sharp bend on the road from Youlgrave to Middleton).

### AGRICULTURE

Man has worked the land in this area since before the Bronze Age and agriculture remains an intrinsic part of local rural life.

By the Seventeenth Century sheep farming was prevalent. With the Youlgrave & Middleton Enclosures Award of 1818, however, much of the common land was passed to the large landowners, and many poor villagers lost their rights of pasture, collection of fallen firewood and turbary.

By the close of the Nineteenth Century, numerous small farms in the villages ceased to exist, many being converted to residences instead.



The Mill at Alport (above) was valued at five shillings and fourpence in the Domesday Book and was still used as such as late as the 1950's to roll oats for local farmers. It then became a corn store for S & E Johnson Ltd, whose family ran three mills, the one at Alport, the mill in Bradford Dale and the mill at Eagle Tor.

In 1984 the mill buildings were filled with large tanks in which to rear trout. It is now used as a hatchery for very small fish only.



## THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

There was scarcely a village, town or city in Britain that was not touched by tragedy during the last century: thousands of men killed in action during the two World Wars. For some, the tragedy was immense, with husbands, sons and brothers all killed.

Their names are recorded for posterity on memorial monuments both in Britain and overseas, and their memories live on in the lives of the many who returned.

The Roll of Honour, 1914-1918 and the Roll of Honour, 1939-1945 (listed right and photographed

below) clearly illustrate the bravery of those local men and boys who lost their lives during the two World Wars.

Pictured (below) is the 1919 Peace Parade in Youlgrave. Numbed by the unimaginable horrors of the Great War, villages and towns throughout the land celebrated peace, whilst mourning the high price paid for victory. Youlgrave was amass with splendour and excitement, thankful for the return of loved ones who survived.

The Royal British Legion still maintains a very active branch in Youlgrave today.

| 1914 - 1918                                 |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ARTHUR BACON                                | WALTER JOHNSON    |
| TOM HARRY BIRDS                             | HORACE JONES      |
| HERBERT BONSALE                             | PERCY SALT        |
| CHARLES BRASSINGTON                         | HUBERT SLANEY     |
| HARRY BRASSINGTON                           | GEORGE SLATER     |
| HERBERT BRASSINGTON                         | JOHN STEVENSON    |
| WALTER COWIE                                | MILTON THOMPSON   |
| FRED ELLIOTT                                | WILLIE THOMPSON   |
| ISAAC EVANS                                 | GEORGE TWYFORD    |
| WILLIE EVANS                                | RENNIE WATERHOUSE |
| FRED GOULD                                  | WILLIE WRAGG      |
| JOHN WILLIAM HOLMES                         | THOMAS GILL       |
| also  |                   |
| GILBERT BIRDS                               | LEONARD HOLLIS    |
| LOUIS THROP                                 | SAMUEL BUXTON     |
| who died since the war as the result of it. |                   |
| 1939-1945                                   |                   |
| JAMES ROWLAND BIRDS                         | HAROLD HADFIELD   |
| HARRY BIRDS                                 | ALAN OLDFIELD     |
| RUPERT BUXTON                               | PHILLIP ROWLAND   |
| RONALD VALENTINE                            | GEORGE ROWLAND    |
| CECIL CAVENDISH                             | ENOS YATES TAYLOR |
| BENNETT DAWSON                              |                   |

## THE MAWSTONE MINE DISASTER

A tragedy of a very different nature was to hit the village of Youlgrave in 1932: the Mawstone Mine tragedy, which claimed the lives of eight local men.

On 23rd May 1932, an explosion, described as being like a 'gush of wind', resulted in the instant death of five men. Of the rescuers who risked their own lives to save their fellow workers, three died alongside their colleagues. The cause of death given by Dr W G Harrison, who himself went down the mine as part of a rescue party, was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The inquest failed to establish beyond doubt the cause of the explosion, though it is commonly agreed that it was most likely due to firedamp that had built up over the weekend, when the fan was out of order and being repaired. The switch for the fan arced and thus ignited the gas, causing the explosion.

Those who died in the explosion were: William Brindley (aged 22); John Gallagher (aged 23); Geoffrey Gould (aged 28); Poultny Porter (57); and his son, James Porter (27). The rescuers who lost their lives were: Kenneth A Seville (aged 34), Mine Manager; John Eric Evans (aged 23); and John William Birds (aged 24).

All the men, with the exception of the Porters, were buried at All Saints, Youlgrave. The funeral procession was attended by the locals of Youlgrave, the British



Legion (of whom Mr Seville was Chairman), the local Scouts, the Cricket Club and the Buglers of the 6th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters Regiment. The Porters, father and son, were buried side by side in Greystoke, near Penrith.

Describing the funeral cortege, the Sheffield Independent (28th May 1932): "Youlgrave mourned them with the natural simplicity and sincerity which become the hardy folk of a Derbyshire village ... the whole village went into mourning, and the skies, so it seemed, wept in sympathy."

The mine was never seriously worked again. The memory of the disaster, and of those who lost their lives, still lives on.



## BUGLE'S LAST POST

As we begin this new Millennium, the 'Bugle' wishes all its readers a peaceful and prosperous time.

The Editorial Team would like to thank everyone who has helped us to put this publication together, too many to name, but you know who you are.

Whilst we have included the names of the people on some of the photographs, we realise that some of these might be incorrect, and there are certainly some omissions. Please come and tell us anything you can so that, if we publish again, we can update text.

