



The Bugle



**A chance to blow your trumpet for the villagers of
Alport, Middleton and Youlgrave**

No. 234

April 2021

Slimmed-down Welldressing to go ahead

After the success of last year's lockdown slimmed-down Welldressing and with the uncertainty of the 'roadmap to unlocking' this summer, our village Welldressing will again take the smaller form of a collection of small boards petalled by individuals and families.

It is important to mark the occasion as Welldressing means so much to generations of people in our village, not only giving thanks for our wonderful independent water supply but also a celebration of midsummer.

There are a limited number of boards (though we can make some more if lots of you want to join in) and they will be provided already filled with clay on the evening of Wednesday 16th June. If you would like to reserve a board, please contact us through the Welldressing Facebook page or via a call or text to 07899 920204 by Friday 11th June. Please state where you would like to collect your board from, school gate or top car park, or if you need one bringing to you and collecting when it's done.

The boards can then be displayed around the Fountain from 6am on Saturday June 19th. If it's possible and safe to hold a small ceremony with the restrictions at the time, details will be published in the June Bugle and via the Facebook page.



Last year's small scale Welldressings.

Bumper 32-page April issue of the Bugle!

Easter church services, Youlgrave Preschool, History of Alport part 2, Youlgrave Harriers running club, wildlife report, River Bradford, farm diary, Middleton Parish Council Chair's annual report, WI, School, and tributes to Philip Stone and Lillian Clark.



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If you or a relative would like to consider Granby House please contact Pat Cleaver on 01629 636836 or email granbyhouse@gmail.com. We can then tell you more about Granby House, and arrange a visit and a trial.



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Happy 65th wedding anniversary

Love and best wishes to my Grandparents, Ernest and Margaret Grant of Conksbury Lane, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

From Emma and James

Thank you for helping!

Having had an accident a few weeks ago, I would like to say a BIG thank you, on behalf of myself and Steve, to friends and neighbours for all the support and help given or offered. The kindness we have received, and concern expressed, by people in the village, is heart-warming and reinforces the appreciation we always have of living in Youlgrave.

Once again, many thanks to all.

Kath Blackshaw



Local reaction to Boundary Commission proposals

Dear Editor

The controversial proposal by the Boundary Commission to abolish the Lathkill and Bradford ward of the Derbyshire Dales District Council was originally made by the local Conservative Party (Bugle, March 2021). Why?

According to the Boundary's Commission's criteria for boundary changes, a ward boundary should "reflect the interests and identities of local communities." Could the Conservative Party explain how the present ward boundaries, based on geographically and historically close rural communities stretching the length of Bradford Dale and up to Monyash, fail to reflect such interests and identities?"

Were the ward parish councils in Youlgrave, Harthill, Middleton and Monyash consulted on this matter?

If the Conservatives consider that it is

appropriate to absorb Youlgrave, Alport, Harthill and Monyash into an expanded Bakewell ward, what have they to say about Middleton-by-Youlgrave, with its innumerable ties to Youlgrave, being severed from it and placed inexplicably in a new ward with Bonsall and Winster?

Does Sarah Dines, the local MP, support the joint position of the local parish councils in opposing the abolition of the Lathkill and Bradford ward, or is she in favour of its removal?

Hopefully the Conservatives can address these issues fully. If not, could they offer any other explanation for their submission to the Boundary Commission, which would result in the retention of three Bakewell ward seats and the scrapping of the Lathkill and Bradford ward held by an elected Independent for over the last three decades?

Paul Jeremy
Middleton-by-Youlgrave

Ward boundary changes

As reported in last month's Bugle, the Boundary Commission's proposals to abolish Youlgrave's District Council Ward and amalgamate it with Bakewell's, and to separate Middleton by placing it into a new Bonsall and Winster Ward, has met with widespread local opposition. Follow the links below to read the submissions by Youlgrave and Middleton parish councils. You are also encouraged to register your own views by going to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk//have-your-say/22484>. The more responses from local people the better, but don't delay as the consultation closes on 12th April.

<http://www.youlgrave.org.uk/>

<https://www.middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk/latest-news/>

Youlgrave Garage Shop

The newly re-fitted Garage Shop will open on Monday 19th April.

We will be selling ice cream, hot and cold drinks, confectionery and car accessories.

We are also looking for a cleaner for one hour, three times a week. If you are interested please call 636943 or email youlgravegarage@gmail.com.

Philip Stone (1924 – 2021)

Philip was born at Greencroft Farm, Middleton in 1924, the second of four children born to Dennis and Zillah. He went to the village school in Middleton and then Bath Street School until the age of 14, where he formed a lifelong friendship with Joe Kenworthy, Joe Slack and Joe Oldfield – four farming boys with a simple idyllic life.

It was when he was 14 that he made his first visit to a Derby County football game with his Uncle George Rowland. It was also around the age of 14 when he met Fanny Holland in Youlgrave. They married in June 1948 in Youlgrave church. They had holidays in Blackpool every year and later other places around the country.

After Fanny died in 1988 at the age of 61, he learned to fend for himself and even took up baking after seeing a recipe in a farming magazine that stated 'Any fool can make this'. His speciality was apple cake and you did not have to be on a diet when you went to visit as he would bring out a plate of cake with the words, 'try this and see what you think'.

Back in the day Philip was one of the first people to have a car in Middleton and he was someone that people went to if they wanted taking anywhere. He was also the first person to have a TV in the village and people used to share that luxury as well.

He enjoyed a simple family life. He had four children, Kathryn, Norma, Diane and Paul, 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. He was a lifelong supporter of Derby County and enjoyed watching football, cricket, rugby

and snooker on TV, and reading.

But his main passion, as everyone knows, was farming. Dale Farm had sheep and dairy cows and then in the 1960s the sheep were back for good and he was never happier than if he had a couple of new-born lambs in the house in front of the fire. Sheep always came first.

He had a cow that had triplets and many sheep with triplets and even some with quads. He said he first went to Bakewell cattle market when he was 13 and went every week until 2019, missing only a few weeks. And he was still lambing last year aged 95.

He had two loyal companions – his dogs. First Jess, who was given as a 70th birthday gift from his sister Diana. The second was Floss, daughter of Jess, who was

always by his side and who is still with us today.

It's the end of an era at Dale Farm as the Rowland and Stone family have lived and farmed there for over 120 years. Philip's mother was born there in 1903. We have many lovely memories of life at Dale Farm and it was sad to see it empty and stripped of all its contents.

Philip was a gentle, kind, quiet and unassuming man. Someone everyone looked up to – a shepherd to everyone. But to us he was different. He was special. He was our Dad, our Grandad and our Great Grandad.

The family would like to thank the people of Middleton and anyone else who came out to say goodbye to our father Philip Stone. It was very much appreciated.



Youlgrave Preschool: where children learn through play

We have been working hard to keep our small village preschool running, even in the current situation. Despite everything going on in the world, the children have taken it all in their stride and have even learnt some new key skills along the way, such as the importance of hand washing and to always have a smile on our face.

Throughout lockdown preschool has remained open and we have been extremely busy with home learning and our home wellbeing calls. The children have enjoyed keeping in touch with friends and having fun drawing, writing and playing at home.

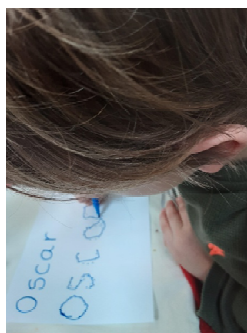
Since getting back to some normality the children have taken part in lots of fun activities. In January the children loved learning about different animals and putting together their own creations. In February we focused on shape and numbers; and in March we have enjoyed learning how to sound out and write our names.

A light at the end of the tunnel is appearing for our little ones and we have some exciting events coming up: Easter hamper, Spring tidy of the garden, Marcus Johnson's charity run, Sponsored walk and Summer fair. We are always trying to provide our children with the best care and resources.

September is just around the corner and we have plenty of spaces available – if your child is aged 2-4 years then we would love to hear from you. We provide a safe, fun and relaxed learning environment where children learn through play and gain independence. In the heart of the village, we are preparing children for their educational future. At Youlgrave preschool we respect that every child is unique and we value their effort, interests and purposes allowing them to flourish in their development.

We are a team with over 20 years of experience and we are dedicated to keeping up to date with training, safeguarding children and following the Eyfs. Contact us on 07494 522615 or email us at enquiries@youlgravepreschool.org

Thanks, Preschool Team



Lillian Clark (1933 – 2021)

Lillian – a woman committed to so many people and organisations in the village. When asked why, she said: “It’s because I’m nosey!” Mistress of wit and humour, guaranteed to have friends or even foes helpless with laughter in almost any situation. For so many of us, Lillian was Youlgrave and Youlgrave Lillian. She will be sorely missed.

Lillian was born in Youlgrave, one of four children, but their Mother left them all when she was five. Baby Douglas went and lived with their Aunty Edith. She had big family, so they all helped out with Lillian’s family. Lillian went to Youlgrave School from ages 5-15 and it was there she developed her love of poetry and reading. They always had books in the house which they got from Sunday School. She didn’t sit her 11+ as there was no point – there wasn’t the money for her to stay on at school. They never saw their mother again, but discovered in 1981 that she had been living in Chesterfield all the time; but by then she had died.

Lillian’s first job was as a van girl delivering eggs. Then as a live-in domestic at Winster Dower House where she had a uniform which didn’t like! She then worked at knitting factory (“I liked that and was good at it”). But it was there she met John, where he was the mechanic. She said: “I really fancied him – he had black curly hair and a twinkle in his eye.” But it was not to be – at least not then.

Lillian badly wanted more education,

so she went to Chesterfield to try and sign on for a typing course, but then walked out because she found it too frightening.

She met Eric, her first husband, when she was 18 at Barnard Castle, where she was doing holiday work on the land.

When she married she was 23 and they lived in a tied cottage at Heeley Bottom, by the railway. They would get flooded out every time the River Sheaf

overflowed after a blizzard.

Lillian got a job as a housemaid to the Thorntons chocolate family and her daughter Marion remembers playing in the garden there. They managed to buy their own house in Rotherham, but the marriage was not a happy one. By the time her son Richard was 12 and Marion had started at university, Lillian wanted a divorce. She wanted to buy

Eric out of the house, but as a woman she couldn’t get a mortgage, so she asked her brother Eddie to act as guarantor for her, which he did.

When Richard was 14 she came back to Youlgrave and got a flat. She got a job at the hospital as a cleaner, but then got a job as an auxiliary nurse which she did for over 20 years.

She met up with John again when he was visiting his late wife’s grave. They went out for a drink and when Lillian was 65, they married.

Lillian’s community involvement and commitments was, to say the least, extensive. Here’s the list – with probably some missing! Parish Council, Village Hall Committee (as representative of



Parish Council), Lady's Section of the Royal British Legion, W.I., Pantomime, Bankside Wildlife garden (founder worker and concert performer), Community Land Trust (Hannah Bowman Way), Chariots of Women, All Saints Church, Monday Club, helper at numerous fund raising events, Tennis Club and Cricket Club.

Anyone who got the Monday bus to Bakewell would have experienced Lillian's grand entrance and her "Good Morning everybody, how are you all on this fine Derbyshire morning?"

Nine times out of ten it would be raining, but that didn't matter to Lillian. At this stage the bus got noisier and then emptied in Bakewell, where several of the ladies would go into the Methodist Church for coffee and share more laughter with Lillian.

Lillian was one of the world's do-ers, par excellence. Involved in so many

things, totally committed to them and to the village. She was a passionate supporter of the Community Land Trust and the development of housing for young people in the village.

But Lillian was a born entertainer and many of us will dine out on stories of her many performances over the years: Anna Pavlova many years ago at the top chapel, the ghost in the pantomime, Auntie Sadie in Chariots of Women and her most moving and unforgettable interpretation of the Yeats poem 'I will arise and go now'.

Lillian has now, but will not be forgotten.

There will be a celebration of Lillian's life on Saturday 31st July in the Village Hall.

Maggie Ford



Lillian (right) at the opening of the Hannah Bowman Way housing.

Want to share an electric car?

At some point, not too far away, we are going to have to go electric and electric cars aren't cheap.

Most cars lie idle for 90% of the time and many households have two. It is very convenient to have your own car instantly available at all times - but is it essential? We want to get a group of 5 to 10 people in the village to explore the idea of leasing, renting or buying a small electric car with its use shared by members of the group. The group would have to agree a way of booking the vehicle and sharing its use equitably. This may not be easy or even possible but if we can come up with a scheme that works it would be a move in the right direction.

If you think you might be interested in joining such a group please get in touch with Peter Cork (636887, email prcork49@gmail.com) or Jeremy Hewitt (636580, email jeremyhewitt@gmail.com).

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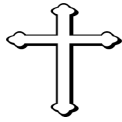
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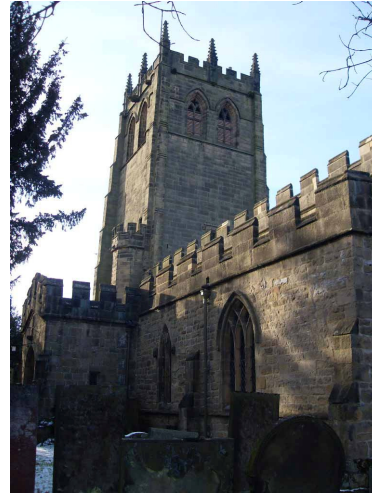
From the Churches

It has been a long winter, when those of us who been fortunate to escape Covid have been subject to so many restrictions. Among the many things we have not been able to do, many of us have missed gathering for worship in church. But Covid cases have been dropping and vaccination proceeds apace. For Christians, Holy Week and Easter is the most important season of the Church's year, even more important than Christmas. We were not allowed to gather to celebrate Easter last year and we very much wanted to this year.

So we decided it was safe and right to open the churches again from Palm Sunday, 28th March. The days leading up to Jesus's death are told as a gripping story in the gospels, and Christians relive them by retelling the story together. We are 'walking the way of the Cross' in the churches of the group. On Palm Sunday in Youlgrave we are remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, peacefully on a donkey, yet still seen as a threat by the authorities. On Maundy Thursday, 1st April, in Birchover we remember the Last Supper, the meal commemorating the Jewish people's Exodus from slavery in Egypt that Jesus filled with new meaning to mark his own death. Then on the afternoon of Good Friday we meet in Stanton for 'an hour at the Cross'.

We are told in the gospels that the women found the tomb of Jesus empty 'very early in the morning, on the first day of the week'. So a group of us is gathering at Middleton Church 'very early' on Easter Day to mark the dawn of Jesus's resurrection with a bonfire and candles, with hymns and prayers. Then mid-morning we gather as a family around the Lord's Table to joyfully celebrate the resurrection.

The resurrection of Christ really is at the heart of the Christian faith, and the Easter season is supremely the time to explore it and all it means for us.



SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sunday 4th April Easter Day

6am Sunrise service at Middleton
11am Family Holy Communion at Youlgrave

Sunday 11th April

Morning Prayer at Youlgrave
6.45pm Evening Prayer at Middleton

Sunday 18th April

11am Holy Communion at Youlgrave

Sunday 25th April

11am Holy Communion at Youlgrave

Sunday 2nd May

11am Family Service at Youlgrave
6.45pm Evening Prayer at Middleton

PRAYERS

For the New Normal

Father God,

The World as we knew it is gone, and for what feels like such a long time we have experienced so much hardship during this pandemic. As we prepare to walk into the future we pray for the “new normal” to come. May our hearts be unified in you more than ever. May the tender moments of seeing someone again in person be all the more rich and treasured. May the reunions, interactions, and moments ahead be held in such intentionality and may we turn to you in sincere gratitude. Help us to come out of this pandemic better, not bitter. Help us to become more considerate of others, more mindful of how we can help one another, and how we can serve you and your children well. We thank you that no matter how dark the night may get, there is the hope of the dawn to come.

In Jesus Name, Amen

Cally Logan

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

Wardens: Andrew Parker, 01629 636757, andrewparker10@yahoo.co.uk (general enquiries, funerals). Brenda Harrop, 01629 636638

Baptisms: Andrea Willans, 01629 636004 or 07942 922307, mrswillans@gmail.com

Weddings: Denise Figg, 01629 636526, denisefigg.wed@gmail.com

Contacts for other churches:

Youlgrave Methodist - Margaret 636558

Youlgrave Wesleyan Reform - Isobel 636251

Rev Geoff Clay

geoffclay@me.com
07833 252803 &
01629 636591

Rev Jane Clay

Ejaneclay
@icloud.com
07802 630877

Rev Richard Tucker

rev.richardtucker@
gmail.com
01629 636074

Report from Youlgrave Parish Council

Youlgrave Parish Council met by Zoom in March to discuss the re-opening of its facilities ready for this summer's visitor influx. We welcome ideas for practical measures – ideally before our April meeting and Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on Zoom on 27th April at 7:30pm.

The campaign to change the Boundary Commission's views is gaining momentum and local comments to them are very welcome to support our and our neighbouring council's wish to remain one District Ward (see page 5).

Council also met on Alport Lane Playing Fields following the meeting to discuss practical projects needed and in other areas of the village. It also noted the continuing problems with footpaths, following recent flooding, that need repairs.

Matthew Lovell, Parish Clerk, 636151, youlgraveclerk@youlgrave.org.uk

Bugle letters: Thoughts on the River Bradford



Dear Editor

I read John Orchard's article in the March 2021 Bugle with interest. His suggestions include cleaning and maintaining the culvert on the Coach Road, so I went to investigate this – it is an obstacle which slows the river's flow and raises it to the



Photo 1: Coach Road, 1950's blocked culvert with concrete slab over, River Bradford entering from the right at road level

level of the Coach Road (photo 1). It overflows when in flood as happened recently, excavating the road material. The culvert is topped by concrete higher than the Coach Road either side.

What's the history of this culvert? Well, there was a bridge here previously, but there's no picture of it. Dougie Oldfield



Photo 2: Clapper footbridge at Stoneyside, stone slabs spanning over stone piers, a grade II listed building

tells me it was a slab construction ramped at each end to clear the river, similar to the clapper footbridge at Stoneyside (photo 2). The bridge collapsed in the 1950's and the Duke of Rutland employed local men Sid Birds, Bill Evans, Dougie and two horses 'Star' and 'Prince' pulling a cart to build the culvert and lay hand-mixed concrete over it. Construction was similar to the main road bridge culvert with stone slabs spanning over stone piers (photo 3). The fast-flowing river turns a sharp corner at the point where the New Dam outflow stream joins it, which is not an ideal place to locate a very low culvert.



Photo 3 Road bridge culvert, stone slabs spanning over stone piers, needs cleaning out, a grade II listed building

When did the Duke build the Coach Road? There's no sign of it on the 1799 map 'The Manor of Youlgreave' which you can see in Christine Gregory's superb book 'A River in Time' (on sale in the Post office). So was the Coach Road later than 1799? The packhorse bridge (Braemar bridge) is clearly shown on the map marked 'to Elton & Winster'. The map also shows the river flowing across a broad space at the bottom of Bradford, presumably the original 'broad ford' which gave the

river its name, part of which survives today as the shallow area between the footbridge and the road bridge. No bridges are shown here, so were they added at the same time as the Coach Road and its bridge? Believe it or not, the road bridge shown (photo 3) is a Grade II Listed Building, as is the nearby clapper footbridge (photo 2) and the one at Holywell Lane. Each is described in the list as 'probably 18th century'. Were these bridges all provided by the Duke when he built his riverside Coach Road from Alport to Youlgrave? The packhorse Bridge is also Listed Grade II. Incidentally the 1799 map shows no dams upstream except at Middleton Mill.

The Parish Council hopes to get the Coach Road repaired following the recent heavy flood. I hope this work will

include clearing/repairing the troublesome culverts. Alternatively, why not liberate the River by removing the Coach Road culvert completely and creating a new 'broad ford'? This could be wide and shallow for the few vehicles which use the Coach Road, with a raised footpath running along the field's edge leading to a new footbridge where the existing fence crosses the River. This scheme could look good, prevent future blockages and reduce flooding. Just an idea! By the way there is a ford on the back road between Bradbourne and Tissington. *[And see the ford and footbridge across the River Lathkill on the route between Over Haddon and Meadow Place Grange – Ed]*

Peter Knowles
Youlgrave



Dear Editor

The letter to the Bugle, "Controlling the flow of the River Bradford" contains some details that I totally agree with, but the main item is absolutely ludicrous, quote: "Such scenes are only a recent phenomenon, catastrophic flooding, inundated", all pejorative words straight out of the climate change propaganda handbook. On what basis are these statements made? Certainly not experience or research. The river fluctuations are certainly not a "recent phenomenon", or "Catastrophic flooding". Tone the rhetoric down, please, the simple folk of this parish are easily alarmed.

I was born and lived for many years at the bottom of Bradford Dale, right next to the river. I have seen the river level much higher than recently, I have seen it bone dry (countless times) and even sledged on it when it was

completely frozen over. These are facts drawn from a "lifetime in the village". The river has gone through seasonal changes many, many times long before global warming – oh sorry, climate change, and tellingly, long before the sewerage main was laid down the dale!

The two culvert bridges, at the bottom of Bradford and on the Coach Road are indeed bottlenecks, particularly when they are partially blocked as they are now (and have been for years), and will remain so until someone gets their hands dirty. As for the dale, the self appointed guardians of the river stood by while two of the most beautiful dales in Derbyshire were vandalised under the dubious pretext of free flowing the river. These are the same people who seem to have difficulty comprehending that rainfall might have some effect on the water level in the river, and is not beyond the

Continued next page

realms of possibility that the myriad of lead mines and their associated drainage soughs that lie beneath this whole area may be having the same effect on the Bradford, as it is agreed they do to a section of the Lathkill? When one looks at the countless mines and soughs in the Alport-Youlgreave lead mining field it is a wonder there is any water left in the rivers at all.

Sluice gates – with the huge amount of water coming down the river it wouldn't matter if the gates were open or closed, the same volume of water would still run down the river once the dams were filled, as they would be in minutes at the flow rate seen recently, but at least the fish and wildlife would once again have a sanctuary to survive the drier summers as they did in the past.

Finally, a brief excerpt from 'The

Highways and Byways of Derbyshire' published 1905 by John Benjamin Firth and Nelly Erichson.

"We descend the hill to where the River Bradford is spanned by a footbridge. Here we turn right and cross the river at the first reach beneath the terraced gardens. Here the river is no more than a babbling brook which looks as if it would quickly run dry were it not restrained by the weirs that transform whole reaches of this gracious stream into still pools, even more crystal clear than those of the Lathkill, here you see the trout busy on their errands among the brown water weeds that grope their way to the surface to put out their leaf."

Were it possible for Benjamin and Nellie to revisit the dale, they would weep.

Malc Stacey, Youlgrave

Statement from Haddon Estate: "After this winter's high waters on the River Bradford, Haddon Estate is working with locals affected and the flooding team at Derbyshire Dales District Council, and on advice from the Environment Agency, to help reduce any future risks to housing in the catchment. The dams in the Dale are always under review on how they are managed."

Community Voice Project at Derbyshire Dales CVS

We need your help and are looking for members of the community to help us in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This



new project aims to provide consistent, timely and accurate

information about Covid-19 to the community as well as promoting how we can keep healthy and safe during these challenging times. We are setting up a **Community**

Champion Network throughout the Derbyshire Dales and want to recruit volunteers who

will help us share key information amongst their own networks and communities. We are

looking for people who are passionate about supporting their communities and are a

community spirited person. You could really help us by sharing positive messages about

how to stay safe and protected from the virus by becoming a Community Champion. As a

Community Champion you will be invited to join our fortnightly forums where you will

receive the latest information, updates and advice about Covid-19, as well as share the views

and concerns of your community. To find out more about the project please email

Rachel@ddevs.org.uk. April Forum dates (via zoom): 1st April, 16th April and 30th April.

New running & activities group welcomes all-comers

I'd like to introduce you to **Youlgrave Harriers** www.youlgraveharriers.com. We are a 'coming soon' running (and other outdoor things) group based in Youlgrave. Our aim is to provide a central hub for all outdoors minded people to meet up for a run/walk about and have a post activity chat in the pub. We want to be a little different to the current batch of running clubs. We're not affiliated to anybody and our priority is to be a group firmly intertwined into the community and to strive to have a tangible positive impact, e.g. the annual membership £5 'fee' is a direct donation to the Friends of Youlgrave School (FYS). We'll be doing various small events throughout the year (when allowed) with the onus on entertainment for participants and spectators and 100% of the funds raised will go to FYS.

Being a 'group' not a club is important, we aim to be a gaggle of friends running about for fun. However the traditional club elements will be here, i.e. pushing to improve, a supportive group, lots of friendly club championship competition to motivate, team elements, records to beat and if there's a demand we'll enter the local leagues in the future. There will also be non-traditional club bits – we're not just for runners, we're here for everybody that wants to get outside or be involved in the community side of putting on running etc events for fundraising. The social side is just as important; we will not be a show up, run, go home group. The events we do will have the core intent of bringing something to the village, whether that be funds raised or entertainment provided. If people are in the area on their hols we'll encourage them to tag along on a club run and make a honesty box donation to FYS.

We aim to start up properly as soon as restrictions allow but sign up now on-line whilst you're thinking about it www.youlgraveharriers.com. More details will appear on the website and in future issues of the Bugle. If there's demand we'll put on a tried and tested 6-week training plan for absolute beginners (tick the box on the membership form) and we'll also publish it here.

If you're wondering who I am, in brief, I'm the short bald fella you may have spotted running around the local lanes or returning from the shop with cake in hand dressed in tasteful clownfish inspired running wear and sunglasses (because they're prescription reactalight and just go dark at a sniff of daylight). Myself and my wife Fran moved here from near Nottingham in February and we're missing our old running club 2-pint night, hence starting a new one. I've been running for a very long time, though unfortunately I've moved from the 'reasonably quick' category to the 'reasonably quick... for an old person' category. Which I'm handling JUST FINE. Feel free to Strava stalk me.

Any questions? Drop me an email via youlgraveharriers@gmail.com. **John Wadelin**



John and Fran running in sunnier climes.

Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council: Chairman's annual report

The last 12 months have been more than difficult for all of us. However, during this time, the Parish Council have held five meetings, some of which were via Zoom which in itself presented additional difficulties with poor broadband connections. A factor that should be highlighted is that poor broadband in rural areas does have an effect on how we conduct our lives in this day and age.

We are all aware of the effect that covid-19 has had and is having on us all and hopefully we can look to a brighter future. With virtually no activities taking place within the Parish for almost 12 months and into the immediate future, we can but look forward to some taking place later this year and beyond. One such event is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Bateman on 8th November, whereby the Parish Council have commenced work to make the tomb access safer and more presentable for visitors, including installing a new boundary fence. Unfortunately, this led to a formal complaint against the Parish Council, but after being assessed by Derbyshire Dales District Council the complaint was not upheld.

We are now working in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee and the Peak District National Park Authority to plan a series of events commencing in November and into 2022 to celebrate this event.

In addition, and given the current forecasts regarding the pandemic, there is every chance that other activities will also happen, and I am

pleased to say that as ever our Village Hall Committee is well placed and working hard to make them happen.

There have been numerous planning requests whereby your Parish Council has given due consideration and have supported those where the interests of the Parish, its inhabitants and the requirements of the applicants have been met. We have on occasions asked for the Peak Park Planning Committee to review their actions rather than a delegated decision being made, which led to success on one and a disappointment on another whereby as a result of an administration error we did not make representation at one of the meetings. It is acknowledged that the planning authority is listening more to local residents, but I believe that more can still be done.

For some time now there has been a review of Parish and Ward boundaries. We are currently part of Lathkill & Bradford Ward, which includes Youlgreave, Monyash and Harthill, which we believe sits well with our parish. Our views were expressed to this extent last September and a revised proposal has just been received which now proposes that we become part of a new ward, Bonsal & Winster. This will receive further thought and discussion and if anyone wants an input then please look at the details on the Local Government Boundary Commission website or on our Middleton by Youlgreave website and the Bugle. Any comments then please let the Parish Clerk know.

We are still progressing various alternatives with regard to establishing a

permanent village hall occupation, as opposed to the uncertain occupancy that we have at the moment. The three options previously highlighted are still being pursued and it is hopeful that a clear route can be decided upon in the not too distant future.

A Climate Change subcommittee has been formed that will involve additional members of the parish to look at ways that we can enhance our local environment and they are already proposing actions to that effect. Any members of the parish are invited to join this initiative by contacting the parish clerk.

On other matters, we have continued to chase for road repairs throughout the parish and street cleaning within the village with reasonable success and maintained grit bins on all three approach roads into the village; and maintenance of the parish assets continues. Our website has been updated to meet new legislation and again welcome any comments or views

on its format and content. A request has been made to the Haddon River Keeper following the visit last year and we will continue our dialogue with him.

The Parish funds have been slightly reduced following necessary expenditure on Bateman's Tomb in preparation for the celebrations mentioned earlier, however, we are pleased to announce that the decision has been made to maintain the precept at the current level for another year.

As always, my personal thanks to fellow councillors, our clerk, the village hall committee and all those involved in various ways to make our parish a pleasant place to live.

With the rollout of the vaccine program the future looks promising and hopefully we can get back to some sort of normality.

David Mallaband

Chairman, Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council

National Park offers support for community litter-pickers

We know resident communities have pitched in to help with litter collections to complement the work that Rangers and various land managers have been undertaking, which is very welcome and much appreciated. Whilst we engage with new visitors and work to build understanding of both rights and responsibilities through our #PeakDistrictProud messages, we also know that challenges with litter will continue, so we welcome connecting up with litter champions in our village communities.

We've had several communities coming to us and offering to volunteer, so we're looking at ways we can support groups and individuals to do this safely. One way we're doing this is to build kits which will include physical resources and guidance, including health and safety information, for groups and individuals. Our own teams are working with district councils to arrange for safe disposal of any litter collected.

If your community group is interested in taking part in this scheme and maybe hosting a litter collection kit please get in touch with PDNPA Volunteer Programmes Manager Rachel Mora-Bannon, email Rachel.Mora-Bannon@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

All Saints' C of E (VA) Primary School: March news

It's wonderful to be back together again in school, all 69 children and 16 staff; enjoying being with our friends and colleagues: having lots of fun in our teaching and learning.

Here's a short overview of the science-based topics we've been exploring in our classes this half-term; but please have a peep at our website to see for yourselves: www.youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk

Class 1 (Reception and Year 1) – The Scented Garden: Together, we've 'tiptoed through the tulips' to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the garden.

We've 'visited' a florist's shop in our role-play, appreciated the flowers and found out how to look after plants. We've written information texts on how to follow instructions to care about plants and enjoyed the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to write stories of our own.

We've also discovered our own 'green fingers'; planting beans in class and herbs in our school kitchen garden. We've also learnt about the different parts of a plant and created, and performed, our own 'planting and growing' action rhyme.

Our senses have helped us to describe and sort a range of smells and we even made some 'beautifully scented products of our own! We've also looked closely at a wide range of plants to create detailed, observational drawings and collaborative collages.

We think we've become young plant experts this half-term!

Class 2 (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4) – Predator: We've taken a walk on the wild side! This half-term, we invited some amazing animals into our classroom to discover how they move, what they feel like and what they eat.

We've programmed our LEGO *We Do Kits* animal models to move – do you think they were caught by a predator?

We've also learnt about the functions of different parts of a plant and how some plants are predators. From our investigations about the human skeleton, we found out how muscles make bones move. We've also investigated food chains and learnt about how animals find their food.

Using our iPads, we've researched the majestic peregrine falcon, and discovered where crocodiles live, to write a range of animal fact presentations, sketch birds in flight and learn about the interesting world of parasites.

Class 3 (Year 5 and Year 6) – Darwin's Delights: Ship ahoy! We've been off on an exciting journey with Charles Darwin and his crew on the *HMS Beagle*.

On our travels, we've investigated a range of animal specimens, describing the characteristics of the creatures and used a range of non-fiction texts to investigate adaptation, natural selection, variation and inheritance; including examining letters and journal entries written by Darwin: to write our own information texts and letters.

We re-traced Darwin's steps using maps and created sketchbooks to record the plants, flowers and trees we encountered; and used maps and globes to consider what the weather would be like and what physical and man-made features we might encounter.

To conclude our topic, we'll be thinking about why the Galapagos Islands developed such a diverse animal life and why they might be under threat. We'll also be considering what Darwin would have worked on if he were alive today and how would he use our technology?

Heather Stelling (Headteacher)



Latest news from Youlgrave WI

The Easter Rabbit visited all of our members last weekend in the form of surprise goody bags. Burrowed within the consumables were Karen's logo Quiz, an egg to decorate for Easter weekend, and for extra fun, several Bingo cards and a free raffle.

Committee have worked hard to produce an albeit provisional Programme for the year which was included in the bags. Our President, Judith, unearthed a very impressive few months ahead for us, ranging from the ghosts of Hampton Court to a Home Economists blunders, and the promise of wild 'eggstravaganzas' at our Party evenings in the Village Hall. Another hugely popular garden trail in August may result in some rearranging of lawns! A 'Royal' visit is also planned for July!

New to our Zoom repertoire will be our Ready Steady and Cook afternoons starting from Tuesday April 6th at 2.30pm. Recipes will be sent in advance, and we shall cook and eat a la Nigella, or just watch and drool! In March, our Speakers on Forensics proved extremely popular, Sue Proctor and Leisa Nichols-Drew, held our attention as they highlighted their careers and experiences in this fascinating field. Modern techniques involve DNA, 3D injury printouts, and even bitemarks as evidence. Several members entered the 'Mugshot' Competition, including a W.I. mug, scary self-portraits and a typical 'mugshot' picture.



We also held Cath's confectionary and general Quiz at the March Tea party, with Janet proudly victorious. Pam's mind-searching cryptic scenario-solving was ably conquered by Judith, and by some others who managed to think on a different wavelength to the rest of us!

On Tuesday March 30th, eggs will have been judged, winners announced, and the Quiz etc will take place for more Prizes. So Hop to it all of you!

We have another Quiz evening on April 27th at 7.30pm
Our next W.I. Meeting on Zoom is on Wednesday April 14th at 7.30pm. We shall welcome Beth Butcher who teaches Sign Language.

Liz Hickman

For more local news and information:
www.youlgrave.org.uk www.middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk

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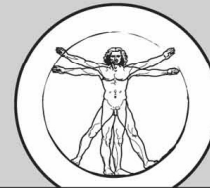
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Youlgrave Wildlife Notes: March

Whether you believe in the Met Office definition of spring or prefer the equinox version, nature certainly thinks spring is here. Having said that, many of our winter birds are still around. You can still find flocks of fieldfare locally and a pair of bramblings are still visiting our feeder. Siskins, too, are still with us. One of my favourite signs of spring is one you don't have to see, just hear. A flock of up to 17 curlews has been around the village and their bubbling call, for me, is so evocative of spring and wild places.

Another bird, more often heard than seen, is the chiffchaff, which has arrived in the last few days, reported almost the same time as last year. Black caps, too, shouldn't be long in arriving. Red kites are being seen regularly, but there have been few sightings of the kingfisher.

Many birds are now showing courtship behaviour. On St Valentine's Day the pair of swans on the Lathkill were observed neck twining and dunnocks in the garden can be watched chasing each other around often in threes. But then the female does mate with more than one male! Two more unusual birds have been seen. A little egret paid a brief visit near Lowfields and a green woodpecker has been heard and seen. Greater spotted woodpeckers, long tailed tits, nuthatches and lots of finches have been seen in gardens.

The red legged partridges are still around. Buzzards can still be seen and heard over the village.

Goosanders have been regularly seen on both the New Dam and the river. Our resident swan seems to have been commuting between the New Dam and the Dale and I even saw it on the Lathkill just above Alport. The swallows should be back with us soon. Do send in any sightings and be the first.

Butterflies have started to emerge with both brimstone and small tortoiseshell seen around the 25th. Frogs have been laying large quantities of spawn in garden ponds and the river. A pair of smooth newts has arrived in my new pond. I did my first wildflower walk on the 24th and found 15 wildflowers in bloom on my fixed route. Lesser celandine is probably the most numerous at the moment with kingcups giving a lovely show in the river. The snowdrops, naturalised rather than truly wild, are



Brambling and siskin on our feeder.

still going strong and you can find the occasional dandelion, daisy and coltsfoot.

I was pleased to find a wych elm in full bloom, with its round red flowers, towards the top of the Dale. However, wych elms are dying. Three in the Wildlife Garden and the one at the bottom of Holywell Lane are dead. From the tracking under the bark I assume it is Dutch elm disease. On a happier note I

Continued next page



Church Farm Diary, April

Spring is just round the corner, with the lambs running round, the days getting longer and daffodils everywhere. It's so nice to see all this, it lifts your heart!

My friend Jane has been coming down to help paint the cottage and she has brought with her a cade lamb in a box with blanket and milk bottle, the devotion of that girl is wonderful.

Reading in the *Farmers Guardian* this week, I see our local auctioneer was thanking the farmers for their Drop and Go system that makes the Bakewell cattle market work quite safely in these horrible times. He also mentions the terrible time the people of Eyam suffered in 1665, isolating for 14 months to try and stop the plague. Church records show that 273 people died out of a population of 700. No vaccines then, just time and hope for a better life.

It looks like that there will be no Agricultural Shows again this year. They are not something that can be entered into quickly; most livestock has been planned and reared to a special standard which takes weeks and months, but hopefully next year will be wonderful and normal.

Marjorie Shimwell

have found another specimen of the rare, for Derbyshire, rusty back fern above Alport.

My thanks to all the contributors this month: Pat, Tony, Ian, Edwina, Simon, Lisa, Keith, Gill, Annabelle, Carol, Andrew P, Andrew M, Cath and Phil.

Ian Weatherley
Email 48iweatherley@gmail.com

Recipe of the Month: Spanish Omelette

Ingredients

225g baby potatoes
4 eggs
75g chopped caramelized or roasted peppers from a jar
3 spring onions finely sliced
75g grated Cheddar cheese
1 teaspoon butter
drop of oil
salt and pepper to taste

Method

Turn on the grill to heat up
Cook the potatoes in boiling water for 15mins and drain
Whisk the eggs in a bowl then add the peppers, spring onions, and cheese and potatoes, season
Heat the butter in a small heavy based frying pan and when hot pour in the omelette mix and cook gently for 5 mins
By this time the bottom of the omelette should be set, and rather than turn it simply sit the pan under the grill for a few minutes to set on top
Turn the omelette upside down on to a plate to let cool – don't worry if it feels a little wobbly in the middle as it will carry on cooking as it cools
Once cool slice into 4 large or 8 smaller wedges
Serve with salad and crusty bread.



Youlgrave History Society: Alport, part 2

Inspired by the pictures of Alport in our 2021 calendar (given to him as a present for Christmas 2020 by his brother Chris), David Shimwell has penned some very interesting notes about Alport. Thanks, David! The first instalment was published in the March Bugle and now here is the much anticipated second instalment. (Amanda Hall, Youlgrave History Society)

COUNTY BRIDGE, ALPORT

Until 1718, the Portway crossed the Lathkill by a ford as the common highway from Manchester to Derby and London through which *great gangs of London carriers' horses as well as great drifts of malt horses and other daily carriers and passengers* travelled. The Derby Quarter Sessions of 1718 recorded that the ford had become dangerous due to regular flooding, the steep fall downstream and heavy rains which had rendered it impassable for ten days. *Carriers with laden horses and passengers cannot pass the said road without great danger of being cast away.* Thus it was that this picturesque, much photographed bridge, known as the County Bridge, came to be built. It remains in such an excellent state of repair due to the fact that it was only used as a main thoroughfare for some 40 years, for in 1758, the Nottingham & Newhaven Turnpike Trust built the section of road from Bakewell to Rowsley and most of the Manchester and Derby traffic was diverted down this new road and off the Portway.

Close to the County Bridge are the rocks of the former Alport Quarry, where limestone was quarried for burning in limekilns next to the road and then carted directly down to Derby or up to Manchester.

The section of the Portway running from the bridge north to the main

Youlgrave to Picory Corner road is known as *The Jews*, a corruption of the family name, *Joules*, who lived at the farm on the corner.

RAENSTOR ROCK

To the geologist, it is a coral reef-knoll of pure calcium carbonate in the Eyam Limestone Series, formed more than 300 million years ago in the Carboniferous Sea. To the climber, it is a 20-metre high crag on which 16 routes of different degrees of difficulty and with challenging names such as *Valhalla, Spirit Chaser, Murder of the Innocent and the Wizard of Aus* have been described since 1964. To the locals, it is one of the natural wonders of the district, the haunt of mischievous spirits in the guise of ravens. This feature of many different perceptions is Raenstor Rock, literally 'raven's tower', variously mis-spelled as Rhienstor, Rheinstor, Rainstor and Rainster. The bird has long since disappeared from the rock but has reappeared in the district, The Constable's Accounts for Youlgrave, which record that 80 ravens were killed in the parish in the period 1724-1734, stand testimony to the fact that it was once very common hereabouts.

If there were ravens here in 1763 they would not have stayed around for long for the location was, according to mining historians, the site of a feast to celebrate the re-opening of Alport Sough. This



Alport in the late 19th century.

sough was being driven in the first half of the 18th century and by 1718 it was providing drainage for several lead veins. It ran from the River Lathkill some 800 metres north-east of the village, followed the course of the river beneath the main road near the bridge and then passed beneath both the Lathkill and the Bradford, the latter just east of Raenstor Rock. In 1749, an agreement was signed to extend the sough at right angles to the south-east along Windy Arbour Vein, west of the rock, but in 1756, the undertaking was declared ineffectual due to roof falls and blockages. The soughers persevered and finally, in 1763, the drainage was put into good order and the event duly celebrated.

Although the first phase of the work on Hillcarr Sough was completed in the period 1766-1787, many other branches and levels were driven in later

years. One of the last was the Danger Level, driven for over 300 metres north-west beneath the river along Windy Arbour Vein, with the intention of draining the mines in Youlgrave liberty. This was in the 1860s and although the level was comparatively close to the surface, there seemed to be no apparent danger.

Then, in February 1881, it happened, and Alport became a tourist venue overnight. The month of January had been one of the coldest on record with 23 -30°F (13-16°C) of frost recorded in many parts of the Peak District and lakes, ponds, rivers and water pipes were frozen for more than three weeks. On 7th February the weather changed dramatically, the snow and ice melted and a torrential downpour, lasting for 36 hours, caused the River Wye to burst its banks at the bottom of Taddington Dale and form a four feet deep lake in the

Continued next page

valley from Ashford through Bakewell to Rowsley. The valleys of the Lathkill and Bradford were also inundated and the lower parts of the village of Alport were submerged to a depth of five feet. When the waters finally subsided on the weekend of 12th February, it soon became apparent that the River Bradford had disappeared down a hole at the foot of Raenstor Rock. The long period of frost followed by the pressure of the floods had caused the collapse of the Danger Level of Hillcarr Sough, through which the water flowed to emerge at the sough tail on the River Derwent near Darley Dale. Graphic accounts appeared in most of the local newspapers.

A most extraordinary affair has occurred at the village of Alport within the past few days. A stream called Bradford Brook, which runs by Alport and empties its waters into the Lathkill and the Wye lower down, has totally disappeared. The strange affair took place during the night time and, on the morning following, the people along the banks of the river were at their wits end to guess where the water had gone. This was soon afterwards accounted for by the fact that the water had entered an old mine near Alport and was being carried along underneath the ground from that point to the Derwent, a distance of five miles. Part of a private roadway which is known as the Duke's Drive, leading through Middleton Dale has also disappeared. This roadway, which is the property of the Duke of Rutland, has been cut across, and the road to the length of about twenty yards has sunk out of sight. A large number of hands belonging to the neighbouring farmers are busily engaged carting timber and

stones to the spot and hurling them into the chasm with the object of turning the waters of the brook into their ordinary course, but up to the present, all efforts have been futile. The large stones and trees thrown down appear to be carried away as soon as they are out of sight. The muddy waters, carried along underground for the distance stated unobserved, rise again near the residence of Sir Joseph Whitworth, and empty themselves into the Derwent, thus discolouring the water for a great way down towards Derby. Notwithstanding the many hundreds of tons of stone and timber which have been hurled into the yawning chasm, all efforts to stem the inroads of the water up till now have proved absolutely useless. Some fifty sturdy miners are employed hewing huge stones from adjacent rocks, others felling trees and throwing them into the gulf. The scene of the catastrophe has been visited by thousands of people from all parts of the surrounding districts, who stand in utter amazement at the awful gap which has been made.'

The Bradford actually consorted with the Derwent for just over three weeks, by which time the miners had succeeded in reinstating the river in its rightful course. Although the local woods and rock outcrops were ravaged for filling materials, Raenstor Rock remained unadulterated due to the local superstitions. Only in 1958, when an overhang became dangerous to passers-by, was its shape altered by careful and precise blasting.

THE OLD FOLK OF ALPORT

Old Annie Hawley lives at The Lodge,
And Old John Potter is up to his dodge.
Old Abe Stephenson thinks he's a force,

Continued next page

While Old Thomas Nadin rides a white horse.

Old Jimmy Thornhill keeps beehives,
And Old Fanny Needham makes Bull's Eyes.

Old William Garratt sells good wine,
And Old John Toft's the place to dine.

Old Joel Walker deals in ponies.
While Old Harry Wall catches conies.

This set of couplets was collected from Mr Tom Walker (aged 90) in 1996. He was the son of Joel Walker of Haddon Fields Farm, Alport, where the family had resided for over 100 years as tenants of the Duke of Rutland. Hawley's Bridge, at the junction of the Youlgrave and Winster roads, was

named for the Hawley family which resided at The Lodge. John Potter was at Harthill Hall Farm, Abe Stephenson at Millfield Farm and Thomas Nadin at Lower Greenfields Farm, all in the parish of Harthill. Jimmy Thornhill lived at Rose Cottage, Fanny Needham at The Cottage and John Toft at Lathkill House Farm in Alport, in the former detached portion of Great Rowsley parish, now incorporated with Youlgrave. William Garratt was landlord of the Boarding House Hotel at Cockpit Corner on the road up Alport Hills in Youlgrave parish. Harry Wall was of no fixed abode. Many of the tenants of the Duke are listed in the 1895 and 1911 Directories of the County of Derbyshire which suggests that the rhyme was of late-Victorian/Edwardian origin.

David W Shimwell



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Do you remember when the fair visited Youlgrave?

Do you remember the Sykes family fun fair or Timmy Ray's fun fair? Youlgrave History Society has recently been contacted by Andrew McKinley who is researching and writing an article for the Fairground Society and he needs your help! This is his request:

'Many years ago the Sykes family visited your village on a regular basis with their Fun Fair. At the moment I am writing an article on the family, following a series of interviews with Jackie Sykes, for a magazine. I wonder if anyone in the village has any photos at all of any of their visits please? The brief outline to my project is the Sykes family, along with another Showman Timmy Ray, are legends throughout the Peak District villages. Both families travelled small family friendly fairs. The Sykes family gave large amounts of pleasure to many people until they ceased travelling in October 1966. They attended many villages in support of their annual Wakes Weeks, as did Timmy Ray. Youlgrave was one of their regular ports of call and I am sure some must have memories or importantly any photos.'

When his article is published, Andrew



has kindly offered to give a copy to Youlgrave History Society for serialising in the Bugle, so you will all get to read his research.

Can you help Andrew? If you have memories to share and perhaps photos of your times at Sykes or Timmy Ray's fairs please contact Andrew on andrewmck2010@hotmail.com or call 07903 891157. Or, if you prefer, please contact Amanda at Youlgrave History Society on 630417.



The **Farming Life Centre** supports rural life in the Peak District, working with farmers and their families to help create more robust businesses and communities. Our services are aimed at improving wellbeing and resilience and all our support is free of charge, impartial and confidential.

What services do we offer? **Social and health groups and projects:** Rural Social Group, Rural Befriending Service, Macmillan Rural Health Outreach Service, Walking for Health. **Practical business support:** Basic bookkeeping advice, Grant application trouble shooting, Guidance on livestock record keeping, Advice on preparing for audits (e.g. Farm Assurance), Targeted workshops and forums, Signposting to support agencies.

To find out more about any of our services call us on 01629 810903, email info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk or visit our website at thefarminglifecentre.org.uk. And we're on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS – SPONSORS

Bradford River Action Group, water management & sustainability in the Bradford valley, 636189
www.riverintime.org.uk

Granby House, Housing for older people, 636836

Middleton & Smerrill Parish Council
parishclerk@middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk, 636151

Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall
villagehall@middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk, 636532

Youlgrave Bellringers, 636576

Youlgrave Bowls Club, contact Sharon Sansom, 636712

Youlgrave Cinema, 636836

Youlgrave Community Land Trust, 636887

www.youlgravecommunitylandtrust.org

Youlgrave Methodist Church, 636558

Youlgrave Parish Church, 636576

Youlgrave Parish Council, 636151
youlgraveclerk@youlgrave.org.uk

Youlgrave Preschool, 07494 522615
<http://youlgravepreschool.org/>

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Youlgrave Village Hall,
enquiries@yvh.org.uk, www.yvh.org.uk

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920204

Youlgrave Wesleyan Reform Chapel,
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Admin matters: 07483 875719
email: waterworks@youlgrave.org.uk

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