



The Bugle



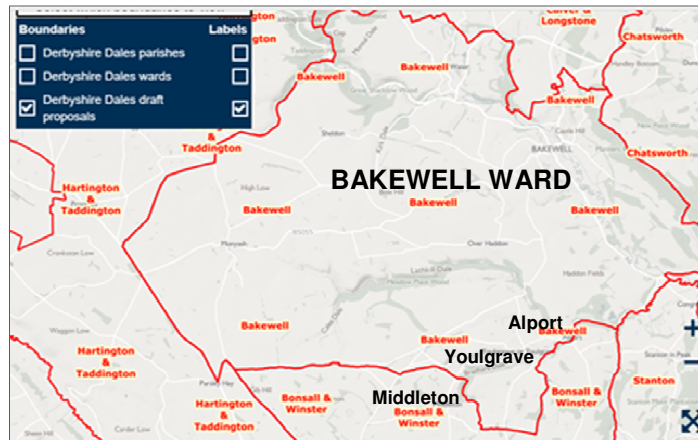
A chance to blow your trumpet for the villagers of Alport, Middleton and Youlgrave

No. 233

March 2021

Youlgrave, Alport and Middleton set to lose out in District Council boundary shake-up

The future of Youlgrave's distinct and independent representation on the District Council is under threat, following controversial proposals unveiled by the Boundary Commission. They recommend that Youlgrave should be amalgamated into Bakewell ward, while Middleton would be absorbed into a new Bonsall & Winster ward.



Proposed Boundary changes would see Lathkill & Bradford ward disappear and Youlgrave swallowed up by Bakewell.

The electoral review proposes reducing the overall number of Derbyshire Dales District Council wards from 39 to 34 and is intended to even up the number of voters in each ward. The Commission also says that ward boundaries should “reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government”.

However, the proposals put out for public consultation recommend that Youlgrave's Lathkill & Bradford ward is abolished and instead Alport and Youlgrave will be incorporated into

Bakewell, which will be represented by three councillors. Meanwhile, Middleton & Smerrill, despite being neighbouring parishes in the same valley, will be put into Bonsall & Winster ward.

Youlgrave has been represented by an Independent District Councillor for many decades.

Youlgrave Parish Council is firmly opposed to the plans, arguing that villages like Youlgrave have completely different interests from those of a town such as Bakewell and need separate

Continued on page 7



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Granby House, Youlgrave

Do you feel the need for more company or support, but don't want a care home? Or do you have an elderly relative who wants to be closer to you? Granby House could be the answer.



Granby House has successfully managed lockdown without any residents or staff getting COVID. All residents have now had their first vaccination and it is becoming safer to think about welcoming new residents.

At Granby House you can eat meals cooked by the staff, and visits from carers can be arranged if you need extra help. But Granby House is not a care home.

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.

Granby House needs you!

Granby House has successfully managed lockdown without any residents or staff getting COVID. All residents have now had their first vaccination and it is becoming safer to think about welcoming new residents.

Do you feel you need more support but don't need to move to a care home or want to leave the local area? Are you fed up with cooking for one? **Granby House could be the answer.**

Have you found it hard to visit an elderly relative who lives at a distance and needs more company or support? Would it be easier to have them living in the village? **Then Granby House**

could be ideal.

A unique asset amongst Peak District villages, Granby House offers high quality sheltered housing to people regardless of income. As it operates as

a social landlord, the rents are very reasonable and housing benefit may be available to meet part of the cost.

Residents have their own private self-furnished room with en-suite facilities and most importantly the companionship of up to 8 residents and our friendly housekeepers. We sometimes have two connected rooms suitable for couples. Residents have their own front



Continued next page



Latest news from Youlgrave WI

Our February Zoom meeting raised a few smiles and memories, as Liza Jones stretched us through a History of Underwear, from the earliest bikinis to the dangers of corsetry, and other unmentionables! Attended by around 30 members, we appreciated the chance to ask questions and to see each other again.

The February Tea party was accompanied by Cath's Valentine Quiz, won by Karen, with runners up Christine, Jane and Janet. We also have one in March, on Tuesday 16th.

Committee are busy discussing future events and an eventual very welcome return to 'real' meetings with much to look forward to.

The Derbyshire Federation and the Denman college also offer a variety of online courses and talks. The creator of the fields of ceramic poppies commemorating World War 1 recently offered a talk, and Jennie Bond is appearing on March 22nd. Some of the other subjects to book in for, at a small cost, are Parmesan biscuit-making and Women in Magic.



February quiz, with our friend Gloria.

It will be truly magical when we can all start meeting in groups again, and definitely our outdoors events will prove very popular this summer.

The March Meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 9th at 7.30pm on Zoom, on the subject of Forensics.

The WI bade a sad farewell to a valuable and much-loved W.I. member, Lillian Clark. Many Members played an important part in her funeral, whether lining the village streets or partaking in her funeral service. A full tribute will appear in the next issue of the Bugle.

Liz Hickman

door keys and can live as independently as they wish. All meals, except breakfast, are prepared for you. All rooms are connected to an alarm system and help can be summoned day or night. If more assistance is required support from a carer can be arranged.

Granby House is not a care home and we can't support people with dementia or severe mobility issues which prevent them from getting to the

dining room.

Please don't leave it too late to consider living in Granby House. 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 tell you more about Granby House and help you decide if it might suit you. You can then have a trial stay to make sure Granby House is right for you.

Report from Youlgrave Parish Council

Boundaries, grit bins, flooding, traffic speed and litter picking

Youlgrave Parish Council met by Zoom on 23rd February to discuss the Boundary Commission proposals to make us a backwater of Bakewell and split our ward up piecemeal. Council will be making a formal response, but would urge everyone to write and make their views known – as highlighted by the front page story in this issue of the Bugle.

Council also agreed to 'adopt' a grit bin on Stoneyside. We now supply 20 around the village, largely off the main routes that Derbyshire County Council is responsible for. Separately, we have been advised by the Peak District National Park Authority to contact the Environment Agency about the flooding at the Mawstone Lane/River Bradford crossing, which worsens each year, and are doing so.

The '20 is Plenty' campaign in Derbyshire is asking for all villages to write in support of lowering of the speed limit in places where people live, work, shop, play and learn. Council agreed to support this initiative and is keen to see lower speed limits in villages like Youlgrave become the norm.

Council reminds resident groups wishing to do their bit that we have a supply of litter pickers and bag hoops in our store, as well as a stock of the official pink sacks that the District Council will collect from arranged locations. If you wish to borrow these and let the Clerk know where you are leaving the full bags we will be pleased to loan out the equipment. We have extended this offer to our neighbouring parish to help keep our dale clean. Obviously group activities await the relaxation of lockdown rules currently.

We also have a number of small but vital maintenance jobs that help keep our community facilities going and where Council will be pleased to supply materials if parishioners wish to assist. At the moment we have a toddler area gate and fence in need of repair, stone picking to make good some small disturbed areas of the playing fields, touch-up painting on Coldwell End woodwork and other jobs that arise throughout the year. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Matthew Lovell, Clerk to the Council
Email youlgraveclerk@youlgrave.org.uk, tel 636151

Church Street closed for sewer repairs

Church Street between Barnes Lanes and Bradford Road will be closed for a period between 8th-19th March for essential sewer works. A diversion via Conksbury Lane and Back Lane will be in place and Derbyshire County Council says that access will be maintained as far as possible. For more details go to <https://one.network/?tm=120652737> or ring Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

MIDDLETON ROCKS 2021

Provisional date:
Saturday 21st August

Subject to restrictions being lifted, more information to follow

Continued from front page

representation. Although Lathkill & Bradford ward was one of those identified with too few electors, the Parish Council points out that by adding Over Haddon (which was originally in our ward), or even Stanton and Birchover, it would bring up the numbers and make it an appropriately-sized and logically defined rural ward.

The Boundary Commission's aim was to ideally have two Councillors per ward. Bakewell already has three councillors, but to justify retaining this number extra voters would need to be found, so both Bakewell Town Council and the local Conservative Party recommended adding Youlgrave.

Youlgrave Parish Council argues that the communities of the Bradford valley

– Alport, Harthill, Middleton and Youlgrave – have a separate rural identity that should be reflected in its own continuing representation at District level. Bakewell's needs and day to day issues are very different from Youlgrave's, and the fear is that by being swallowed up in Bakewell ward our community will lose effective representation.

The Boundary Commission's consultation is asking for public responses to its proposals, so follow the link below for further information about the proposals, including more maps, **and make your views known**. The closing date is 12th April 2021.

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/22484>

UPDATE FROM YOULGRAVE SURGERY

Covid-19 Vaccinations/Hub Letters

We have had numerous queries from patients regarding the letters from NHS England inviting them to be vaccinated at one of the local hub sites. Sometimes these appointments have been quite a distance away and patients have not been keen to travel. We have been asked to focus our efforts on the high risk cohort, as we are able to search our clinical systems and target these groups more efficiently than the national system. If you receive an invite then we would advise you to take it if you are able to travel. If you are not then don't worry, we will get to you, just wait for the surgery to get in touch. We are keeping constant monitoring on who has had and who is yet to receive the vaccine. Please try not to contact us regarding the vaccination process – we will contact you.

We use all vaccine within days of it arriving and the main limitation is supply. Also, please be patient with us – we are working really hard to get all patients vaccinated as quickly as we are able.

Online Pharmacy Letters: Pharmacy2U, ECHO, Pharmacy Direct, etc.

You may have received letters from the above companies offering to arrange your medications. These companies are not affiliated with the Practice in any way, they are private companies who are directly competing with the practice for business. Like many other small, local businesses, we appreciate the loyalty of our patients and will continue to provide a dispensary service as long as there is a demand for one.

Alistair Scrivener (1939-2021)

From over 150 tributes from Facebook, Alastair was described by past pupils, bookshop users and friends as a memorable and great art teacher, talented artist and wood sculptor, one of the loveliest, funniest, cheekiest persons, amazing and brilliant man, lovely, quiet, gentle soul, inspirational and eccentric gem, kind and helpful, knowledgeable and always encouraging, a gem and legend in Buxton. This description may sound strange to local people, but sadly this is how he was before Parkinson's got hold of him.

A Warwickshire lad by birth, he left school with one 'O' Level and started his working life as a farm worker. He was turned down by the Church, so trained as a youth leader, where he met and married Barbara. He became a full time youth leader in Salisbury, then an Outdoors Education Instructor at Hollowford Training Centre in Castleton. Later he applied to Matlock College to train as a PE teacher, but they rejected him; they were, however, keen to have him as a student, so offered to train him as an art teacher instead – the big turning point of his life!

He taught art at High Storrs School in Sheffield for 15 years. During that time he started his own art journey, working mainly in wood, having five exhibitions of his work. Latterly he carved some wonderful pieces in polystyrene, one being an 8ft high Christ figure, copied

with permission from Epstein's wooden Christ in Llandaff Cathedral.

Along the way he managed to produce (with the help of Barbara!) two much loved children, Claire and Daniel, not knowing they would lose Claire aged 30.

When he took early retirement from teaching, circumstances strangely turned him to book binding and he started in the Over Haddon Craft Centre. Needing more space he moved to a shop in Buxton. It was a wreck of a building: leaking roof and windows, water running through the cellar, dust, dirt, cobwebs everywhere! Many of the improvements and alterations were done by him and a small group of friends. Just Look at Scrivener's Book and Book Binding shop now!

He was a keen music lover, especially Early Music, and many have seen his 6 foot high contra bass recorder! History and archaeology loomed high

in his interests, recently inspiring the beginning of Youlgrave History Society. He always wanted to 'dig things up' – especially in Elton churchyard!

Two of his many regrets were his unfinished plans to produce a memorial in Youlgrave Church to the Mawstone Mine Disaster miners, and to explore the supposedly William Morris tiles in the church, hidden behind wooden panelling. Anyone willing to take up the challenge? If so please contact Barbara.

Bell ringing was another of his passions. He rang in Youlgrave for many

Continued next page



years, and after his move to Elton, he introduced and taught bell ringing there, leaving behind a very respectable?! team.

Throughout his life he was a committed Christian and church-goer. He was very involved at Youlgrave Church and latterly was church warden at Elton church for four years.

He was renowned amongst his close friends for his DIY skills. No more need be said, except: "Shall I use a nail or a

screw?!" He is buried in Youlgrave churchyard, after being driven through Elton to say goodbye to his good friends there, followed by a service in Youlgrave Church. He leaves wife Barbara, son Daniel, daughter-in-law Jozede and granddaughter Malaika. He is greatly missed.

The family wishes to thank everyone for their support and many cards of comfort during this sad time.

Barbara Scrivener

In the next issue we will pay tribute to Lillian Clark, who also passed away recently.



Youlgrave Community Land Trust News

The results of the housing survey revealed seven units – mainly flats – were required. The final build will depend on discussions between Peak District Rural Housing Association (PDRHA), the Peak Park, Parish Council and ourselves. Several sites around the village have been identified and landowners will be approached through the new Housing Enabler who is Jeremy Mason. If all goes well, housing will be completed and available late 2023 or spring 2024. **Anyone with housing need, or is an adult still living with parents, should make sure they are registered with Housing Options if they want a chance of acquiring a property. If you are already a resident with Peak District Rural Housing and wish to upsize – you must tell them.** It's so important that we have a good idea of how many people are seeking more appropriate housing. This information helps decide which site would be most appropriate and how many units we need. Here are the links you need, go to both:

For Home Options go to <https://www.home-options.org/register/> and PDRHA <https://www.peakdistrictrha.org.uk/find-a-home/finding-a-home-to-rent/register-of-interest-form/>

The orchard is becoming well established now and the planting of wildflower seeds is paying off. We did, however, lose two trees last summer which will be replaced. Trees were also planted in memory of Tony Wilkin (ex board member) and Julia Thornton.

There are lots of decisions to be made about the housing regarding layout, landscaping and environmental decisions that will be discussed with the architect. If you want to be involved why not join our 200 or so members and have your say? It costs £1 and if you're interested contact Glenys Moore on 636477. You could then become a board member – we have vacancies, especially for those in their middle years or younger! **Our next meeting is the AGM on Monday 8th March at 7.30pm** via Zoom. If you would like to attend please apply to the chairman, Richard Powley richardpowley@makepaper.net

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Ash dieback in Lathkill Dale: turning a negative into a positive



By Joe Alsop

Lathkill Dale forms part of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve (NNR), managed on behalf of the nation by Natural England, the UK Government's adviser for the natural environment in England. NNRs offer the best examples of England's wildlife, habitats and geology, they are the 'jewels in the crown' of England's biodiversity and as such they are managed in the best way possible.

Whilst famous for their orchid-rich grasslands, limestone geology and unique landscape character, the much-loved Derbyshire Dales are possibly even better known for their ash woods. So the news that the invasive fungal pathogen ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) had been found in a UK tree nursery in 2012, and then shortly after within the wider environment, was a truly worrying prospect for their future.

These ancient woodlands have been

managed under limited intervention for decades and their ash composition is thought by many to be entirely natural. Spread over a number of different sites in the limestone areas of the Peak District, in total, they contain the largest extent of ash woodland in the UK. They are literally dominated by ash, which in many parts comprises 99.9% of the tree cover.

Unique woodland

The woodlands are of both national and international importance, designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and even more significantly, they form part of the Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC). At nearly 1,000 hectares, the Peak District Dales is home to the UK's largest expanse of this woodland type, covering other sites such as Cressbrook Dale, Dove Dale and Monsal Dale. *Tilio-Acerion* ravine woodlands, to give them their correct title, exist throughout Europe, growing on steep slopes and ravines with very specific soil conditions, such as those

found in Lathkill Dale. The Peak District supports the largest resource of this rare habitat present within the UK.

Serious threat

With evidence from Continental Europe indicating that only 1-5% of the ash population will possibly remain unaffected by ash dieback, these woodlands are recognised as being at serious threat from the disease. Faced with such a challenge, Natural England has been pioneering the response to ash dieback from the start and Lathkill Dale is at the forefront of this work.

Evidence based response

In deciding how best to respond to the threat of ash dieback, Natural England staff first researched the history of these woodlands and despite their perceived naturalness, their ash dominance is largely a result of previous human interference. There is strong evidence to show that rather than ash being the dominant tree, the woodlands should be a much more diverse mix with small-leaved lime large-leaved lime and wych elm being the true dominant species.

Further evidence was sought from studying European ravine woodlands, where lime, elm, ash and maple are all the significant species, each playing their role and favouring different slope

and soil conditions – for example, ash preferring the deeper moister soils in the valley bottoms whilst lime is better able to cope with the much dryer, steep, rocky ravine slopes.

As for where these species are now, and why the woodlands are dominated by ash, then this is due to the majority of the woodlands having at some time been cleared for either livestock grazing or more recently lead mining operations. This, in conjunction with other factors such as being isolated in the landscape – by not neighbouring other natural woodlands which can seed back in to them – has led to the two species of lime becoming locally extinct from many of the dales, Lathkill Dale being one. Furthermore, wych-elm which largely disappeared in the 1970s when Dutch elm disease struck, has subsequently been replaced by ash.

Reintroducing species

Whilst the expectation of losing so much ash and the impact this will have on the woodlands is sobering, the potential for mitigating against this negative by restoring the woodlands is a truly positive prospect. With this in mind the Derbyshire Dales NNR team has been pioneering a response to ash dieback and since November 2017 have been reintroducing small-leaved lime and large-leaved lime to the reserve.

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Moving forwards

Now in the fourth year of tree planting at Lathkill Dale, Natural England are leading a new project called LIFE in the Ravines, which aims to replicate the work carried out on the NNR, throughout the rest of the Peak District Dales SAC. After securing an EU grant the project started in September 2020 and will run from 2020 to 2025. The project is in partnership with Chatsworth Estate, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.

For further information contact: Joe Alsop, Senior Reserve Manager, Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve, 07827 307531 joe.alsop@naturalengland.org.uk

Other key species, such as yew, field maple and aspen are also being planted, to supplement existing, albeit small and isolated populations which are still present. This has been no easy prospect, as the planting sites are on steep, rocky dale sides, often with 50° slopes, and have required the development of specialist techniques and tools to tackle the work.

Furthermore, deer are an emerging issue in the dale, so trees have had to be staked and protected by tubes, more than doubling the work in both planting and getting materials into site.

Areas for planting have been selected from those which are expected to be most at risk from ash dieback. Firstly these areas are thinned, mostly by removing the smaller, stressed ash trees which are already succumbing to the disease, whilst leaving other species and the more mature ash. Followed by planting and protecting the trees.



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Controlling the flow of the River Bradford

During the recent cold weather many of you will have observed the catastrophic flooding at the bottom of Bradford Road and Mawstone Lane. Gardens were inundated, a car filled with water and the footpaths washed away. Such scenes are only a recent phenomenon. Why? The intense rainfall events that used to happen once in 100 years are now occurring much more frequently due to climate change. After consultation with academic experts in hydrology and fluid dynamics, the flood damage is in part due to lack of control of surges in water volume in the Bradford River.

Hopefully the Bradford River Action Group and landowners will pay greater attention to the consequences of high water flow, as well as low water volume? The policy of 're-wilding' Bradford Dale has allowed the Bradford Dams to fall into decay. However, this problem requires active, not passive, management.

Re-wilding aims are be laudable, but the direct unintended consequence is the potential damage to properties adjacent to the river.

Proper operation of the sluice gates and maintenance of the channels could help to alleviate these problems. It is unconscionable that the cost of such enthusiasm could be foisted onto insurance companies by the deliberate actions or inactions of the landowner.

What would operating the sluice gates mean? Closing the sluices and allowing those basins which currently are empty upstream towards Middleton to fill. In times of peak flows, the additional capacity across the series of reservoirs would decrease the surge



Recent flooding on Bradford Road.

effects currently experienced downstream. The flooding close to riverside properties would be reduced, provided that these downstream channels are open and clear, and that obstructions like the culvert on the Coach Road (50m from the gate on Mawstone Lane) are cleared and maintained. This would prevent such rapid decreases in flow at the location of the existing overflows. Indeed, discussions with established local farmers reveal it was their ancestors, operating the bobbin mill, who designed and built the dams specifically to manage surges in water flow. The fishing of brown trout was an afterthought, rather than the purpose of dam construction.

What should be obvious to all, is that high volumes of flow affect all inhabitants of Bradford Dale much more than the absence of flow which prompted the formation of the Bradford River Action Group. It would be great if the work of the group could therefore consider the two extremes that we experience.

John Orchard

Youlgrave History Society: Alport

*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 is published for your enjoyment in this issue, but you will have to wait until the April Bugle for the second instalment. (Amanda Hall, Youlgrave History Society)*

PART 1: ABOUT ALPORT

The village of Alport (pronounced Awlport), situated at the confluence of the rivers Lathkill and Bradford, was for many years an administrative anomaly in that it fell into three different parishes. The portion west of the Lathkill and the millstream was in Youlgrave; the eastern portion, north of the Lathkill, was in a detached part of Great Rowsley parish; while those houses south of the river were in Harthill parish. This situation continued until 1933 when the Great Rowsley portion was added to Youlgrave parish.

The village owes its name to the fact that it was a major fording point on the old Saxon road known as the Portway, running from Derby northwards into the High Peak and beyond, along which there are several other Alport place names.

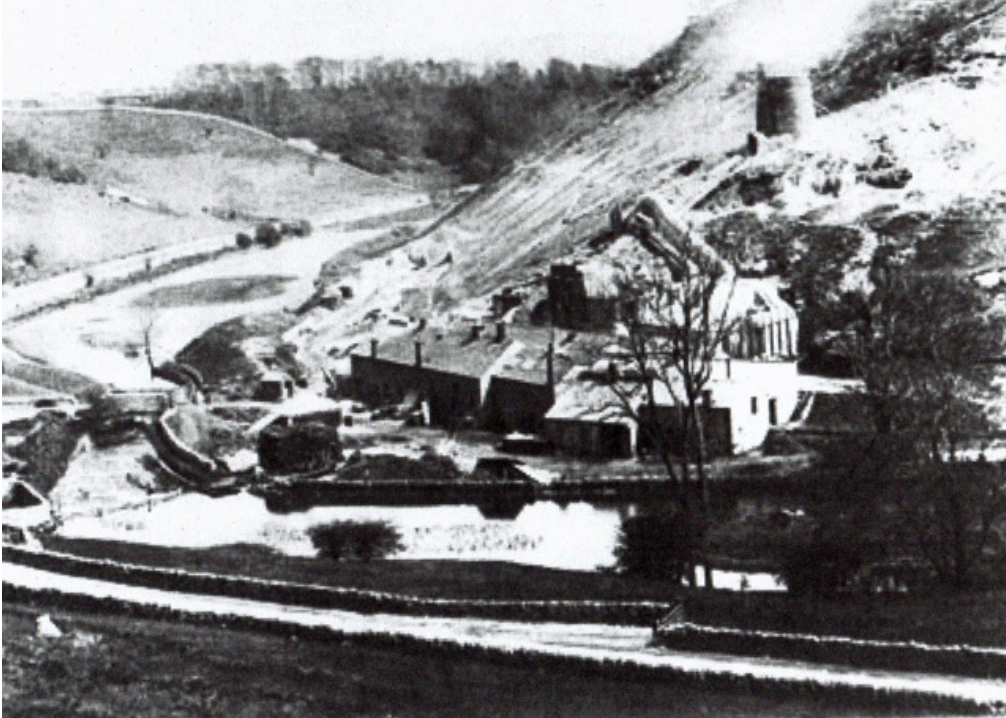
The earliest form of the name, Aldeport, gives its literal meaning as 'old way'. In 1758, the section of the Manchester to Derby turnpike running down the Wye valley between Bakewell and Rowsley (A6) was completed and much of the long distance traffic was diverted from the Portway and from Alport. The main road linking Youlgrave and Alport with this turnpike at Picory Corner was constructed at the expense of the Duke of Rutland in 1799 and the new route caused the village and the

Portway to go into decline as a staging post.

The village had grown around the ford and became an important agricultural and industrial settlement from the 14th century onwards, due to the abundance of natural resources such as limestone, lead and water. In 1319/20, the Court Rolls of Baslow record the assignation under the dowry of Julianna Vernon from a third part of various pastures, the fishing of the water at the fulling mill, lead mines and marl pits at Aldeport.

Five centuries later, in 1829, there were 22 houses, four farms, a corn mill, paper mill, dye house, quarries for limestone, chert and tufa and several limekilns. Four major lead mining companies – Blyth, Hillcarr Sough, Shining Sough and Wheels Rake had extensive operations in the neighbourhood and there was a lead smelter in the tenancy of Messrs Rawson, Barker & Co. There were woollen and calico handloom weavers, a maltster, brewer, exciseman, carpenter, woodturner, currier, shoemaker, blacksmith, hatter, tailor, smockmaker, two doctors and a lawyer. One resident of the village, Major Eley who had served under Robert Clive in India, wore a scarlet coat which had been woven, dyed and tailored in the village.

By 1850, the four mining companies had amalgamated to form the Alport



Alport lead smelting works, c1880s.

Mining Company and there was a large smelting cupola downstream from the village owned by Messrs Barker & Rose which produced pigs of lead for the national market proudly stamped ALPORT. The paper mill and dye house had been demolished but the corn mill was still working in the tenancy of John Evans. William Garratt was landlord of the Boarding House Hotel, Thomas Mellor was a licensed victualler at the Cock Inn, Samuel Jones sold general provisions, Thomas Smith made shoes and heavy boots for the miners and Ann Brooks was schoolmistress. The four Rutland Estate farms were in the tenancies of Ann Broomhead, William Garratt, William Kenworthy and William Wain. Then in 1852, the Alport Mining

Company sold all its engines and other machinery, the smelting cupola closed and the village went further into decline, as first the Cock Inn was demolished and then the school closed.

By 1890, Alport had become a peaceful rural hamlet with only the Boarding House Hotel left to provide sustenance for locals and visitors. Today, many ramblers begin their exploration of the Lathkill and Bradford dales from the roadside car parks on Alport Hills on the site of the former hotel.

BOARDING HOUSE HOTEL

The Boarding House Hotel, which was in reality, little more than a local beerhouse, was built and owned by the Duke of Rutland. It stood on the first rise in the

Continued next page

road up from Alport to Youlgrave and was demolished in 1937 when the bridge over the River Lathkill and the road through the village was widened. The hotel stuck out into the road and the notorious hairpin bend it caused was a tricky corner for charabancs and cyclists to negotiate in either direction. It was known locally as



Alport Boarding House and Cockpit Corner, 1930s.

Cockpit Corner, perhaps reflecting practices occurring in previous centuries. It was also a difficult place to pass for the quarrymen who cycled or walked from Youlgrave to work at Stanton and Birchover in the 1890s. On hot, summer evenings, after a hard day stone-breaking, the hotel was an essential call before the last, long climb home up the steep hills out of Alport. Landlord William Garratt was popular with the quarrymen because he allowed them to have ale on the slate all week and either settle the bill on Friday, or work off their debts by hay-making in his meadows until dark. By way of sustenance, he provided lettuce sandwiches, known to the men as wafers, presumably because they were only one eff better than water! Needless to say, William Garratt was one of the least popular persons with the wives of Youlgrave.

The hotel was the meeting place of the Duke of Rutland's Tenants Association which organised an annual Hare Coursing Meeting from 1881-1893 and 1901-1910 at Haddon Fields, the pastures to the north-east of Alport. The meeting was held on the third

Tuesday in January and initially comprised two stakes for the local farmers and greyhound or lurcher owners. In 1907, the event was turned into an open competition with the addition of two more stakes and some of the foremost professional coursers of the Midlands and Lancashire were attracted to enter. A schedule for January 16, 1907, lists four competitions:

HADDON HALL STAKES (Open; 16 all-aged running dogs) Entrance: £3/10/- Prizes: three fifths and one fifth entrance monies.

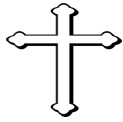
GRANBY STAKES (Open; 8 puppies) Entrance: £3/10/- Prizes: three fifths and one fifth entrance monies.

ALPORT STAKES (Local; 8 all-aged running dogs) Entrance: £2/10/- Prizes: £11 and £5.

CASTLE HILL STAKES (Open; 8 puppies) Entrance: £2/10/- Prizes: £11 and £5.

The Alport Stakes was supposedly won jointly by George Garratt's dog, Friar Francis, and Jack Heathcote's bitch, Moscar, and no doubt the jugs of ale overflowed in the Boarding House Hotel.

David W Shimwell



From the Churches

Jane and I watched a programme about the Black Death the other week. Encouraging or what! What was obvious was that we are so lucky to have the science and resources to combat what we face now. I know it's not perfect, but it is very complex as we all know.

They were tough times in the 14th century. It was also a time when the church had a very real grip on the people of Europe. Life was governed by the church. A tough regime, and often not popular, and often not very fair to ordinary people at all. The church and the faith has a very chequered history - as we all know.

In the Church today we have recently celebrated the start of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter coming. Possibly many of us had pancakes, always a good start to Lent. We might light a candle, say more prayers than usual, maybe give up alcohol or try and help others in some way.

But way back in the past Lent was deemed a rigorous time of discipline. In the 14th century there were 'rules' about what could and could not be done. No parties, no meat (fish was ok, so they 're-classified' chicken and game birds as fish!), lots of church and generally having not too good a time. The people were looking forward to Easter, when they celebrated the new life that they, and Christians today, believe that Jesus has made possible.

We may think that this Lent time is pretty bleak for us. But when we look back at the past, 700 years ago, and more recently, surely it gives us hope for the future?

Even for those of us who do not believe the Easter events, we are all living in hope. Hope that the future will bring a new sense of life, maybe different from what we have been used to, but yet something to look forward to and worth living as well as we are able.

God bless you all.

Geoff Clay

We are still unable to say what will happen about church services. Keep a look out on the church noticeboard for details.

CHURCH CONTACT POINTS

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

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Rev Richard Tucker
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gmail.com
01629 636074

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

Despite February being the shortest month of the year (and including a half-term break), we have been extremely busy learning both at school and at home!

In the first week of February, we participated in the national Mental Health Awareness Week (1st-5th February). Normally, schools throughout the UK are encouraged to run break-time and lunchtime mindful activities to encourage children to develop awareness of their own mental health and self-care.

So that our children didn't miss out, our Wellbeing Team (Mrs Houghton and Miss McVeigh) put together some daily fun activities for our children and parents/carers to try at home. Activities ranged from:

- Monday - Making friendship bands to wear on behalf of their friend
- Tuesday - Creating their own 'Box of Happy things'
- Wednesday - Finding and creating mindful stones
- Thursday - Making gratitude cards
- Friday - Baking

We updated our school website with a range of mental health resources for parents/carers; and developed our pupil voice pages to reflect all the ways our children contribute to school life.

In order to help our families, extend their cooking skills (and encourage our children to be interested in healthy eating) Miss Bown, our school cook, made a range of videos for our school website, on how to cook healthy recipes from the ingredients provided in the Government funded food hampers.

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) very kindly



purchased a 'Lockdown Teddy' for each child with the school logo on it as a reminder of lockdown learning; and the teddies have become familiar friends and have joined classes for picnics, online learning and even helped out with our mindful breathing activities!

Throughout Mental Health Week, our families (and staff) sent in photos of what makes them and their children happy. Images included sunsets, food, family gathering, muddy walks, animals and pets, snowmen and trees.

Our Wellbeing Team kindly collated all of these images and have made a display titled 'Express Yourself - Things That Make Us Happy' for all our children to enjoy when they return to school in March!



Love was in the air around the 14th as children and adults alike celebrated Saint Valentines' Day. In school, children made cards to give to their loved ones, such as parents and grandparents, although we're reliably told that many ended up in their friends' school bag or been given to their adults around the village to drop off. One or two even received chocolates and flowers from secret admirers!

Across school we have also started to prepare for Lent, the season of reflection and preparation, prior to Easter. A new brightly coloured purple display was put up in the Hall which reflects that symbols associated with Lent such as purple, stones, ash, money, a crown of thorns and incense. We have come together to worship in the afternoons both in school and at home over Teams using our Collective Worship pages on the school website.

On Fridays this term, we have introduced 'Creative Day' whereby we have not expected our children to take part in formal literacy or maths lessons but to embrace their creativity and undertake a personal project or creative task linked to class learning.

Class 2 made their own piece of 'Public Art', linked their topic 'Urban Pioneers'; of the coronavirus with the



message of 'staying safe'. The model included some of the everyday objects representing the activity we have all embraced to try and reduce the spread of the virus and reduce community transmission.

Can you spot the soap bottle, face mask, gloves and the syringe which hopes delivers the vaccine that will ultimately enabled us all to come out of lockdown?

The month came to an end with awarding of our School's most prestigious award, the 'Bright Plate', which is normally awarded to the child that has showed outstanding endeavour in their learning and citizenship. However, this term we could not single anyone child out - because all our children have coped and performed so well under the most extraordinary circumstances. We are so proud of them all; that we could not single just one out.

So, in a break from tradition, we unanimously awarded the 'Bright Plate' to all our parents and carers in recognition of the tremendous effort and love parents/carers have put into supporting their child/children during this 2021 Lockdown.

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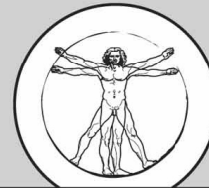
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Youlgrave Wildlife Notes: February

We seem to have had a lot of weather this month. Wind, incessant rain and a cold snap giving a covering of snow. The cold snap, rather longer than in many years recently, has had some advantages, apart from making walking the footpaths easier. There aren't many wildflowers out yet, but the snowdrops seem to have been particularly good this year and this may not be a coincidence. Bulbs like snowdrops need a period of cooling, called vernalisation, for them to produce flowers. They certainly got that this year. Today the first lesser celandine of spring was spotted. Their little yellow flowers will soon be all over your lawn if you let them, like I do.



Goldcrest (photo by Doug Aston)

Hazel catkins are still present and the tiny red female flowers, that will become the hazel nuts, can still be found.

The cold has brought a lot of birds to our feeders. Although we usually get one or two siskins, this year we have had flocks of up to seven. Siskins are very small, but we have been able to compare them with the even smaller goldcrest which, unusually, has been a regular to the feeders. This, along with the similar but much rarer firecrest, is our smallest British bird weighing around 6 grams, about the same as a teaspoonful of sugar.

Other notable birds in village gardens have been nuthatches, woodpeckers, bullfinches and long tailed tits. On both the river and the New Dam we have had several goosanders, two pairs at one point. Our swan has become quite mobile, sometimes on the river,

sometimes on the New Dam and sometimes not there at all.

Sadly the very photogenic heron has died. It was very unresponsive on the 9th and was it dead at the same spot on the 11th. Dippers and grey wagtails are can both be found, though if you want to see a dabchick you are better looking from Raper Bridge or Conksbury Bridge. Other river birds have been kingfishers and a very brief little egret that was seen off by the swan.

Buzzards have been very common, often several together. The highest count was seven. Peregrine, kestrel and sparrowhawk can all be seen occasionally, but the exciting news has been the return of the red kites. These have been seen quite

frequently with up to three together. Our local barn owl seems to be absent at the moment and any news of it would be very welcome. An injured tawny owl was found. The big flocks of winter visiting redwings and fieldfares will be leaving us soon, but lapwings and skylarks are now both present near the village. Blue tits have been inspecting our bird boxes and mistle thrushes, song thrushes, dunnocks and great tits have all been singing. A curlew has just been heard above Meadow Place Farm. Spring is almost here.

My thanks to Edwina, Kathryn, Cath, Pat, Simon, Ian, Geoff, Gill, Laetitia, Richard, Doug, Andrew, Denise, John, Alison and Nicola who have all sent me very welcome observations.

Ian Weatherley
Email 48iweatherley@gmail.com



Church Farm Diary, March

It looks like Spring is just around the corner. I think that this Spring will be the most ever welcome, longer days, lighter hours and warmer weather, something to look forward to. We can all pretend that we are on holiday when the sun shines and where else could we go that is any better than here in Youlgrave in the Peak District?

Hopefully the travel ban will be lifted soon.

My heart goes out to all the NHS staff who have been working so hard. If only the virus would be over soon and life could continue as before, there are such a lot of people waiting for hospital treatment and operations that have had to wait (including me) making the waiting list so long.

Farming is carrying on as usual, waiting for the earth to warm up so everything will grow ready for the harvest to supply winter food. I think farming is one of the only professions where it relies entirely on the seasons; nothing changes year after year, only the mechanism to try to make life a bit easier.

Michael would like to thank everyone who sent him best wishes for his special birthday (I can't believe it!). No party, but lots of lovely cards and messages. He's still driving his lorry, having past his own personal M.O.T. thank goodness.

Marjorie Shimwell

Recipe of the Month: Pear and ginger muffins



Ingredients

250g plain flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
150g caster sugar
75g light brown sugar plus ½ teaspoon per muffin for sprinkling
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 x 42ml pot sour cream
125ml vegetable oil
1 tablespoon honey
2 eggs
1 large pear such as a Comice to give you about 300g peeled and cored and cut into small dices.

Method

Preheat the oven gas 6 or 200%.
Line a 12 bun muffin tin with cases.
Mix all the dry ingredients together, then whisk together the rest of the ingredients and fold in the dry, lastly the pear.
Divide equally between the muffin cases and sprinkle with brown sugar.
Bake for about 20 mins.
Best eaten warm.

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

“No birds sing on Wenley Hill”

An old Youlgreave tale...

In the 1930s, the old village of Youlgreave was a quiet place to live. There wasn't much of a bus service and very few cars around, so folk bought what they needed from the local shops which included a post office, a newsagent and sweetshop and two butchers. It was the sort of place where farming, lead mining and quarrying were the main sources of employment. Religious folk were well served with two or three chapels and a church.



Wenley Hill, off Mawstone Lane near the Hopping Farm junction.

The minister at the Methodist chapel also had gainful employment at the fluorspar workings on Wenley Hill, on the moor just outside the village. Being a man who had a keen interest in the welfare of others in the village, he was always stopping to have a chat with anyone he came across in his meanderings around the village most days. Of course, he would never admit to liking to hear a bit of juicy gossip for that would be most un-Christian.

Anyway, this one particular day he was on his way to work when he noticed an old villager picking blackberries in the lane. Knowing the chap liked to talk and always on the lookout for a bit of gossip, the minister started a conversation: “Where are tha workin at?” “Wenley Hill,” came the reply. “Are tha goin ta ay a walk up theer wi me?” asked the minister. “Not likely,” said the old chap. “It’s haunted up theer tha knows, this no birds sing up theer.”

The minister couldn't help but find this funny, allowing himself a little laugh. However, despite any amount of encouragement the old fellow would not change his mind. He then proceeded to tell a story of what happened to him and his brother several years previously when they were walking together up Wenley Hill. They were going up the hill to attend some cattle in a field. They were some way up the lane when something strange happened. Some 30 yards ahead a man came out of a hedge, walked for approximately 20 yards in front of them and then just disappeared into thin air. The brothers ran up to where they had last seen him but there was no evidence of the man anywhere. He had simply vanished. Turning to one another the brothers came to the conclusion that there was another thing that was wrong with the man. Turning to his brother, one chap said: “Did'st see that?” “Ah did,” came the reply. “He'd neaw head ad ee!” “Neaw, e hadna,” Both brothers had to agree that the figure they had seen on that day was walking along that lane without a head on his neck.

Maybe that's why, apparently, no birds sing on Wenley Hill.

Martyn Gillie

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