

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



All Saints displaying their trophies.



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



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

ALL SAINTS TUG OF WAR CLUB

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

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

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

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

A WINNING TEAM

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

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

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



Youlgrave's youth team proudly displaying their winnings.

THE END OF AN ERA

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

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

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

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



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



YOULGRAVE BOWLS CLUB

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

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

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