



The

Bugle



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

No. 20

November 1999

AUTUMN IS HERE

Partly because of the lack of summer, November seems to have crept upon me this year. This, of course, means Christmas and the very special New Year celebrations are not far away. October has, however, been a riot of colour owing to a short, sudden frost turning the leaves

'The Bugle' is, as last year, having a month off in January, so, to even things out a little, the December edition will be going out a little later than normal. This means we won't need your contributions

quite so early – copy received up to 1st December will be considered for the Christmas issue. We hope you'll receive your newsletter by mid-December.

Following my comments in last month's editorial, I've received a letter (thank you Joy Frost) asking just what Alport, Middleton and Youlgrave are doing for the Millennium. We've published articles about some of the projects, for example the video, 'Made of Clay', but please don't hesitate to send in details of other celebrations – there is obviously interest in what you're doing!

Our celebration at 'The Bugle' upon reaching the year 2000 is to be a collection of the photographs some of you

have lent us. There is, however, one photograph we'd really like to include that we haven't been able to find. Members of the team have seen a picture of the funeral procession following the mine disaster in May 1932. If any reader has this photograph, please may we borrow it? As I have said before, we can, if necessary, take a copy of the photo whilst you wait.

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Youlgrave Wesleyan Reform Chapel  
presents  
**Tideswell Male Voice Choir**  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm  
Admission Free  
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THE RETURN OF WELCOME VISITORS

'They're back, they're back,' I kept hearing people say. 'Who?' I asked. 'The kingfishers – they've returned to Bradford Dale'. It was, however, to be some weeks before I caught my first glimpse of one of Britain's most beautiful birds.

Unlike our other resident birds, namely the heron, ducks, wagtails and dippers, the kingfisher has proven somewhat elusive; a glimpse of vibrant turquoise is all that I have managed to see as it flies

past at great speed. Other locals, I know, have been more successful, managing to get quite close to the kingfisher as it dips and dives its way along the water. I, on the other hand, have spent what seems like hours walking up and down the waterway, following the kingfisher, trying to get a close look at this magnificent bird, but to no avail.

At 'The Bugle', we would like to hear about your sightings of the bird, or birds, as some people claim that we have a family of three kingfishers on the Dale, whilst others have only seen a solitary bird. Does anyone know, for instance, where they are nesting and has anyone taken any

photographs of the kingfisher in the Dale? If so, please let us know and we may publish them in the next issue of 'The Bugle'. We would also like to hear about the history of the kingfisher on the Dale from locals with long memories.

Finally, I hope you are all more successful in your bird watching than I have been so far. If you should spot a strange woman lurking in the bushes in the Dale, please don't worry - it is only me, trying, yet again, to get a close look at the kingfisher!

Please let us hear your thoughts and experiences of our kingfishers and send us your pictures too. Elley Pilkington



The stunning dive of a kingfisher

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On 13th October we continued to celebrate our 80th birthday at our Annual Group Meeting. Our visitors came from Monyash, Ashford in the Water, Great Longstone, Stanton in Peak, Over Haddon and Great Hucklow. The County Chairman, Annie Gidelow, came to present us with an 80th Birthday Certificate.

A beautiful cake was made by Marjory Shimwell and iced by Jean Stacey. Tea, sandwiches and cakes were served by six Nippies from Lyons Corner House. We all came wearing something old and one visitor brought a lovely 1920's wedding dress which was worn by her mother.

After business, we enjoyed a wonderful fashion show entitled "100 Years of Fashion" by Notty Hornblower of Astonefield. Notty collects old clothes and

exhibits them in her museum. Her enthusiasm is contagious and we were all enthralled. Four beautiful girls and one gentleman modelled for us. We saw a Victorian crinoline, twenties dresses, wartime suits and an RAF Uniform, wedding dresses and ball gowns, all with authentic accessories. A stunning show! ACK

YOULGRAVE CARNIVAL FUNDRAISERS

Youlgrave Carnival Committee would like to thank everyone who helped in any way at the Sale on 25th September. £177.86 was raised. There was also a Quiz Night at The Farmyard Inn on 9th October, at which £37.50 was raised. Thank you to Andrew Bristow for organising the quiz and thanks to all those who supported us at both events.

Mrs. Sylvia Birds.

YOULGRAVE PANTOMIME 2000

Youlgrave Village Hall Management Council are to present 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as the first pantomime of the Millennium.

Jan Wilson is back again as producer with a very enthusiastic team of actors and backstage workers preparing for what will be a most spectacular show.

There will be stunning stage effects and breathtaking costumes and scenery. Anyone who would like to help with sewing or stagecraft will be most welcome. Please contact Mrs Jan Wilson, telephone 636284.

The pantomime will run from 25th January to 5th February, with a matinee on 29th January at 2.30pm. Tickets will be on sale from 1st December. Bookings are to be made with Mrs M Gladwin, telephone 636558. Please make your calls before 9pm.

Thimble Hall Due South?

Following last month's sale of Thimble Hall for the amazing price of £39,500, here's the script of a comedy sketch broadcast on Radio 2's 'The News Huddlines' in the week before the auction.

DUN-STANDING-UP-STRAIGHT

By Michael Dines with Roy Hudd, June Whitfield and Chris Emmett

ROY: I was viewing Estate Agents weekly the other day - I buy it for the imposing frontages on page three - and I saw that Britain's tiniest house, Thimble Hall, is up for sale. It's an eight foot by seven, one-up, one-down - so small the mice got the council to rehouse them.

(L. GROSSMAN): So, who would live in a house like this?

FX: CAR PULLS UP, DOORS OPEN/ CLOSE, FEET APPROACH

ROY: Here we are sir, madam - Thimble Hall, in the heart of the Peak District. A snip at £15,000, Britain's smallest detached house.

JUNE: Looks big to me, square, solid . . .

ROY: That's the 'For Sale' board, the house is behind it. Eight foot by seven, and twelve feet high. Built 200 years ago, previously home to a family of eight.

FX: CREAKY DOOR OPEN, THUMPS

ROY: The ground - oof! - floor - oof! - accom - oof! - odation - oof! You - oof! - will notice - oof! - the - oof - the - oof! - picturesque - oof! - low slung beams on the

ceiling. I'll turn the light on - - -I'll turn the - - - I'll turn - - - Can you breathe in?

FX: SWITCH CLICK

JUNE: Oh look - a cat flap.

ROY: That's the back door. This room was recently enlarged.

CHRIS: How?

ROY: They took the wallpaper off. I'll show you round - oof!

JUNE: Oof!

CHRIS: Oof!

ROY: Oof! - Perhaps if we linked arms and shuffled?

FX: SHUFFLING FEET

ROY: Kitchen area, very compact - you chop an onion and the neighbours cry.

FX: SHUFFLING FEET

ROY: Utilities room - that mop. Study - a book. Games room - two playing cards . . .

CHRIS: O, come on, admit it, this place is tiny.

ROY: A mite bijou sir - you have to pop out the back each time the postman pushes a long envelope through the letterbox. Perhaps I show you the bedroom? Up the ultra-modern, open plan, stripped pine staircase.

CHRIS: It's a ladder! And what's that rope hanging next to it?

ROY: Stair lift. Follow me.

FX: SHUFFLING, CLAMBERING, OOF AND GRUNTS.

ROY: Here we are, the master bedroom. Sleeps five - or two if you close the window.

JUNE: What's that under the bed?

ROY: The En Suite bathroom. So - what do you think?

CHRIS: It's very cramped. We'd spend all our time getting on top of each other.

ROY: That's how the previous owners ended up with a family of eight.

JUNE: Come on darling - let's have it.

ROY: Pardon? Oh, you want the property?

CHRIS: For £15,000? I'll say - I'll write you a cheque and we'll be moving house tomorrow.

ROY: You're moving in?

JUNE: No, moving house - put it on the back of a lorry and shift it to London. Place this size - we'll get a million for it.

BAND: HOUSE OF FUN.

Thanks to the programme's producer Carol Smith. BBC copyright reserved.



Mark Bramhall of Bagshaws giving scale to a photograph of the property

F Parker Butcher: Youlgrave Lamb, half or whole, £1.10 lb Tel 636217

Down the Bank - The Oldest House

Nineteen years ago, on a cold dark rain-soaking February evening, I walked down Bankside for the first time. Some friends who live at Church Corner had told us that Malcolm and Sheila Nix were intending putting their house on the market. We were in Youlgrave looking at a cottage on Moor Lane so decided to call at Bankside Cottage unannounced.

The property was partly renovated but the garden was like a building site and stones had dropped out of the walls when pebble dashing had been knocked off. But the place felt right and after a short walk along the Dale to discuss and consider we struck a deal there and then. No estate agent involved - brilliant! And a chance to live overlooking a dale again, having spent much of my childhood overlooking Wharfdale, was exciting, and we could afford it.

Relatives visited with us before we moved in and my mother-in-law, who is famously sensitive to 'atmosphere', commented that; "People have suffered here." Quite probable given that the place was over 200 years old.

Bangbutt-Youlgrave Friendship Link 'Support a Family'

"How can I help?" is the response when disaster happens abroad. Its unimaginable scale often overwhelms us, and, because it is so far away, we feel helpless.

Christmas Concert



Youlgrave Bowls Club are again organising their Annual Christmas Concert to be given by Youlgrave Silver Band and guest artistes. This year it will be held on Friday 17th December commencing at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The admission charge will be only £2, which includes refreshments. Anyone requiring transport should contact Peter Rowland (tel 636467) or any member of the Bowls Club.

After we moved in, some of the older folk told us that it was the Oldest House. I'd overhear them as they puffed up the Bank on their way to the village: "Let's sit on't bench at back of the oldest house for a bit of a rest."

Nobody quite knew why it had this reputation, but everybody knew that the upper, 2nd storey, had been the village doss house. This accommodation, totally separate from the two cottages below, consisted of two rooms. Apparently one room had straw mattresses on which you could doss down for tuppence a night, whilst in the other, a rope was slung from side to side, and for a ha'penny you could sleep upright, leaning forward, with a rope under your armpits and across your chest. It beats sleeping in a ditch!

Doris, who delivered my milk for years, had been brought up in one of the cottages. "Ee, it were wonderful living down here, you know - we always felt a bit special it was so Bank - I don't know why we ever moved, we liked it so much." Doris definitely KNEW that the sun shone more on Bankside than anywhere else in the village.

One day, a man in his mid-thirties knocked on the door and said he hadn't visited the house since he was seven when his auntie had moved to Leek. He'd loved spending school holidays down the Bank -

But through Youlgrave's personal links with Bangbutt, a small village in Sierra Leone, you can help directly to put back the hope and purpose into lives being built after eight years of brutal civil war.

There are 54 families living in Bangbutt - we have photos and names for many of them. Why not join our 'Support a Family' scheme and help directly? The villagers need long-term help, firstly to buy rice and shoes and to pay for a mobile clinic to call. Then they will have to continue the process of reconstruction for the future.

If you can afford to pledge a minimum of £10.00 a year to 'Support a Family', the money will be pooled and sent out in the next months to pay for food and medicine for the community. You can have contact by letter from a particular family if you wish, or merely choose to have the names and photos of a family that your money will be going to support.

For more information, or to make your pledge, please contact Barbara Scrivener (636601), Maggie Ford (636189) or Jeni Edwards (636550).

Peacock Players come to Youlgrave

Following their production of 'Educating Rita' which Peacock Players brought to Youlgrave a couple of years ago, the Players are pleased to announce their return visit.

They will be performing Alan Ayckbourn's 'CONFUSIONS' at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 13th November 1999.

Tickets will be available from Parkers in Youlgrave, Ward's Shoe Shop in Bakewell or by ringing Simon Brister on 636815.

they were his most memorable childhood recollections, and could he bring his auntie, now very old (but still living in Leek) to see the transformations?

Some weeks later they turned up. She was amazed that I was living alone in a property that had once held families of six and five in the two cottages with the doss house level totally unused. "I never dreamt what it would be like up here," she said, "it was totally locked off in those days, but we heard creatures scurrying."

A couple of years later, a very elderly man came when we were holding the 'Pots from France' exhibition. He obviously had little interest in the pots, but he kept wandering around the house - "My wife was born here," he said, "she'd be amazed to see it now but she wayn't come down." "What do you mean?" "She's shy and her legs ain't good, and she wayn't come down." "Let's go up and fetch her?"

We walked up the Bank together to their car and she was persuaded fairly easily. Although it did take her some time to walk down, she was so pleased she had taken the trouble. "I see you've knocked the kitchen down and taken our staircase out," she commented, and made polite remarks as she looked around. Then, suddenly, "It scarred me for life living here, you know." When she was a toddler she had fallen down the daleside drop where an eight-foot high retaining wall supports the terrace in front of the cottages. I could see the scar clearly; it stretched from the corner of her mouth to the tip of her chin. "My mum were that mad with me. Scarred for life! But I loved it down the Bank!"

"So do I," I told her.

JB

F Parker Butcher: Winter Warmer, 5lb Stew, 5lb Mince £15 Tel 636217

Forthcoming Events

- Saturday 30th October** Attic Sale. Youlgrave Village Hall, 9.30am.
- Saturday 13th November** Alan Ayckbourn's 'CONFUSIONS' by the Peacock Players. Youlgrave Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets from Parkers Butchers.
- Saturday 13th November** Tideswell Male Voice Choir. Youlgrave Wesleyan Reform Chapel, 7.30pm. Free admission with collection for charity.
- Monday 15th November** District Council Community Forum. Bakewell Agricultural Centre conference room, 7.30pm.
- Friday 26th November** Youlgrave School Parents' Association Coffee Evening. Youlgrave School, 7.30pm.
- Friday 17th December** Bowls Club Christmas Concert with Youlgrave Silver Band. Youlgrave Village Hall, 7.30pm. Details from Peter Rowland, telephone 636467.
- 25th January - 5th February** Youlgrave Pantomime, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.
- Wednesdays** Diane Kettle's Life drawing classes. Middleton Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- Thursdays** Peak Rural Welfare Rights Project 'Benefits Advice'. The Doctors' Surgery, 10 - 11.30am.
- Fridays** Yoga with Iris Pimm at Greenfields Farm Barn (tel. 636341), 9.30 - 11am.
- Fridays** Yoga for over 50's. The Scout and Community Hall, 3.30pm.
- Please let us have more details of events for the next edition**
The Publishers accept no liability for the accuracy of the information given.

District Council Matters

A Start at Last

I'm a much happier bunny now that I've got some work under way. I've written up the Labour Group's 'Action Area Audit', a list of things that need doing in the Ward, which I've introduced to the Parish Councils and discussed with Youlgrave PC at its meeting on 26th October. The main topics are social housing, farm and countryside and workspace/business support.

An unexpected bit of good news is that the European 'Leader' funds have been extended for a second round, another five years from 2000. This time, with what we learnt last time, we should get off to a better start.

I hope to give you more details in the next 'Bugle' if the editorial team can give me space. Until then, I can be contacted by telephone on 636241, e-mail jry241@aol.com or visit me at Square House, Middleton. Cllr John Youatt

Mr Middleton's Green Garden-

Mid October

I have this love/hate relationship with October. It is a period for cutting back, pulling up, drying off and storing which are all useful jobs but there is a certain tension about this work. When will we get the first frost and what effect will it have? Ours came in the first week of the month. It was hard enough to expose hidden marrows and scythe down the dahlias in one fell swoop. Surprisingly, it left lettuces, late mange touts and the autumn raspberries.

So where does the love part come in? At this time of year, the seed catalogues come thudding through the letter box. First to arrive is from friends who grow a

whole range of soft fruit up in the mid-Wales hills. There is a treasure trove of new varieties but I don't have room for more. Then comes a Thompson and Morgans heavy-weight which I will need longer to look at later and perhaps choose some seeds I have never tried before.

This year I was given three red flowering broad bean seeds. I have no idea what they taste like as I have kept all of the pods to have enough seeds for a crop next year but I have enough for anyone who would like to try growing them.

Email: Middleton2@bluecarrots.co.uk

From the Cookhouse Door

Autumn Jacket

Ingredients

2 large jacket potatoes - baked, 2 eggs - hard boiled, 6 oz mature Cheddar cheese - grated, chopped mixed herbs, tall tin of chopped tomatoes (or fresh equivalent), 1 large onion - finely chopped, small clove garlic or garlic puree, 2 oz raisins, 1 tsp. sugar, oil, salt & black pepper to taste.



Method

Slit jacket potatoes, peel eggs and carefully place an egg in each potato. Put in an oven-proof dish, sprinkle with cheese to cover the eggs and top with herbs. Put under a medium grill until cheese has melted, is bubbling and is golden brown.

Meanwhile, soften chopped onion and garlic in a saucepan with a little oil or marg. Add tomatoes (if fresh until cooked or tip in contents of tin and heat gently, adding sugar, raisins and seasoning. A few freshly chopped herbs are also good (oregano, thyme, marjoram, parsley). Serve potatoes on a plate with the sauce at

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Annual 'Bugle' sponsorship is only £10. Please contact Ann Knowles (636362) or Emma Youatt (636775) for details.

F Parker Butcher: 5lb Pork Chops, £1.20lb Tel 636217