



The Bugle



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

No. 273

March 2025

Can you help replace Youlgrave's defibrillators?

A little over 10 years ago our fantastic community rallied together to raise funds to have defibrillators installed at locations around the village, for use by both residents and visitors should the unimaginable moment arise. Unfortunately, the lifespan of many of these units is coming to an end. Youlgrave Parish Council would like to ask for your help in raising funds to replace them.

There are 4 defibs to replace, each costing around £900. We would like to ask every household for a donation towards this very large cost, so we can be ready to purchase

when the time comes.



Our suggested donation is £10 per household.

Please scan the QR code to make a donation to our 'Defib Fund'. If you prefer not to use the QR code, but would still like to help, please contact youlgraveclerk@youlgrave.org.uk

Thank you for your support.



The former telephone box at Alport.

Youlgrave Parish Council

Youlgrave Parish Council maintains a total of five defibrillators around the village for use by the public on victims of sudden cardiac arrest (heart attacks):

- ◆ *Alport telephone kiosk*
- ◆ *Youlgrave Garage*
- ◆ *17 Mawstone Lane (adjacent to the Limestone Way and Bradford Dale)*
- ◆ *Farmyard Inn*
- ◆ *Holywell Lane toilet block (the Parish Council hosts the Village Hall defibrillator at this location to make it more widely available).*

In the event of an emergency dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. The operator will confirm the location of the nearest defibrillator and give you the number code to unlock the door of the defibrillator cabinet and access the equipment. For more details go to: www.youlgrave.org.uk/youlgrave-parish-defibrillators/

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VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Youlgrave Village Hall
**SPRING CRAFT
 AND
 ATTIC SALE**
Saturday 26th April
10am – 1pm

To book a stall ring Judith on 01629 636492. £8 per stall
 Free entry. Refreshments available.
 Fundraising for Youlgrave Village Hall, Charity no 520538

Youlgrave Surgery (01629 636207)

OPENING TIMES

Monday	8.30am-12 midday 2-6pm
Tuesday	8.30am-1pm
Wednesday	8.30am-1pm
Thursday	8.30am-12 midday 2-6pm
Friday	8.30am-1pm
Weekend	Closed

MOBILE LIBRARY:

Friday 14th March
 3.15–3.35pm Holywell Lane
 & 3.40-4pm Grove Place, Youlgrave



Christian Aid Week 2025 is 11th to 17th May. The team is already busy with preparations for a coffee morning, collections and lunch at the Wesleyan Reform church on Sunday May 18th. More details to follow.

Poetry Reading Group

Maggie and Annie on Bankside are exploring the possibility of setting up an informal Poetry Reading Group. The basic idea is to have a group of women who are interested in reading and sharing poetry who could meet in different houses for about an hour, hour and a half, to share poetry of their choice. It could also be something they have written. We might decide between us on either a theme or a particular poet or just choose 3 or 4 poems you really would like to share.

It would be up to someone to say 'what about a poetry session next Friday afternoon?' - for example - and see the response. We would aim to set up a Poetry WhatsApp group. If you may be interested text or phone Maggie on 07970 970289.



Andrew McCloy (Editor), Englemere, Brookleton, Youlgrave, Derbyshire DE45 1UT tel 01629 636125, email bugleEd01@gmail.com

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The views in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

Youlgrave Panto 2025 – another fantastic production!



Youlgrave Panto 25 – a real team effort (thanks to Kirsty Prince Photography).

On behalf of Youlgrave Village Hall, I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's production. It's the best turnout we've had for 10 years and such a fantastic production directed by Nick Wilson. As you see from the photograph, there's many more people involved behind the scenes (41 to be precise) to make this happen... you make us so proud that the community pulls together to put on such a memorable Panto!

If you'd like to be involved in any way, either the Panto itself or by joining the committee, please contact Phil Smith 07790 940909 or email me at: yvh.org@btinternet.com.



Youlgrave Parish Council report: District Council set to be abolished in big shake-up of Local Government

Council met on 25th February to discuss the replacement of the village defibrillators, as four are coming to the end of their life over the next 20 months (see front page item).

It has received an update from Derbyshire Dales District Council regarding the 'pink bag' litter picking and notes that pickers wearing hi-vis on the highway and collecting within our parish will be covered as volunteers by our insurance, provided pre-notification is received by the clerk. Allotment renewals are ongoing with a small waiting list. The news of a potential Youlgrave junior football team from September was welcomed. Council also gave its consent for Youlgrave Community Land Trust to take over legal ownership of Bankside Wildlife Garden from its current trustees.

Move towards Derbyshire Devolution

The topic of Devolution is now becoming a reality with major changes ahead to Local Authorities as Government looks to abolish District and Borough Councils in favour of a single-tier Unitary Authority system. The likelihood is that Derbyshire will be split into one or two authorities replacing County, City and District Councils. The statutory role of the National Park is unclear in the Devolution White Paper. Whilst this doesn't yet affect Parish and Town Councils, there inevitably will be changes. Advice from the National Association of Local Councils is that any direct arrangements with our

Continued next page



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District Council is likely to see the end of annual funding and our precept increasing, as there are no plans to assist our tier of Local Government from the savings made.

There is a further White Paper due out in Spring on Community Councils which it is hoped will shed light on the future of grass roots local government. It is planned for the first tier of Unitary Authorities to be functioning by 2028. Derbyshire is not part of this deadline, although there is already an elected Mayor for the East Midlands Combined Authority (ie all Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, so could be soon after) with our authorities having until 21st March 2025 to propose the new authority boundaries to Central Government. We will share any news and information on further developments and the likely impacts on our community as it happens.

Our next meeting is at 7:15pm on 18th March in the Community Room of Youlgrave Village Hall. All welcome.

Matthew Lovell, Youlgrave Parish Clerk, 01629 636151
youlgraveclerk@youlgrave.org.uk

Update from Youlgrave Waterworks

Youlgrave Waterworks Ltd has set the coming year's water supply bill at £273 from 1st April. This amounts to a 5.4% increase and is necessary to meet rising costs, especially in insurance and materials, and also to build funds for the self-financed header tank project which now has favourable advice from the National Park Planners to allow a full application to be made and a second tank purchased and installed. The metered business rate is rising to £2.07 to match our buy-in rate from Severn Trent Water.

Final demands have been sent out and all accounts for 2024 should be completed as soon as possible, as once sent to our Debt Collectors all previous year payments are dealt with by them and their new legal department. The bills from April will be sent out towards the end of March.

Leaks continue to be our prime concern so please be vigilant and remember this is your water being wasted; and early notification helps keep our costs down.

News from Youlgrave Silver Band

Unfortunately we are still on the look out for a new musical director of the band. If anyone would like to lead our little village band or know of someone then please don't hesitate to drop us a message or contact our chairman Dereck on 07790 786863.

We are also still on the look out for players to join the band, as we have had to say goodbye to some players over the last year and are keen to keep our little village band going. We also offer a leaner band for anyone of all ages who want to learn! Rehearsals are every Thursday night at Youlgrave Methodist Church from 7:30pm till 9:30pm. Performances booked for 2025 so far:

- ◆ Saturday 21st June, 2.30pm: Youlgrave Welldressing Blessings
- ◆ Sunday 22nd June, 6pm: Service followed by 7pm concert
- ◆ Sunday December 7th, 5pm: Middleton by Youlgrave 5pm Christmas Carols.

Eileen Lowe (1952 -2024)

Born in Rugby, Eileen first trained as a hairdresser but, encouraged by her husband Rob, she retrained as a social worker, becoming highly qualified in work with children and young people, based in the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak. Rob suffered from early onset Parkinson's Disease and Eileen's dream was to open a small children's home in a country environment. This brought the couple to adapt Gratton Grange which opened briefly as a welcoming refuge, but sadly Rob's health was fast deteriorating and Eileen was forced to give it up and come to Youlgrave to look after her husband in more practical, less isolated surroundings.

Many people will remember "Wobbly Rob". Certainly, with Eileen's care and support, he lived a far fuller, more interesting life than many Parkinson's sufferers could have hoped to do. Countless others also benefited from her support and gift as a listener, as they poured out their troubles and problems to her, fortified with maybe a glass or two of wine! And she loved to feed people. Her roast dinners were legendary! But the table always had to be properly laid, the cutlery classically set, with serving spoons and fabric napkins, NOT paper serviettes!

Eileen was always keen to support the community, so she became Youlgrave's public toilet cleaner extraordinaire. She did such a good job that Over Haddon and Monyash claimed her services, too. She was proud of doing that little bit extra – leaving air freshener and hand cream for patrons' use and putting up hanging baskets outside in the summer. Watering them could be problematic. She was short and as she herself said, it wasn't her fault she hardly had any legs!



Eileen Lowe with Parish Council Chair Graham Elliott in 2019 when she opened the newly built toilets at Coldwell End.

She loved children and babies. How many expectant mums have blessed her for the expertly filled "baby baskets" which saw the new family through the early weeks after the birth? Children were spoilt. There were always ice lollies in the fridge and she quickly grasped her young guests preferences - chocolate or Haribos. She had an almost child-like enjoyment of the year's festivals. The house and garden would be decorated with bunnies, chicks, eggs and flowers at Easter. Hallowe'en would see spooky lantern light, witches and ghouls, youngsters would troop into the house for toffee apples, gingerbread and pop while trick-or-treating parents had something a little stronger. Christmas was best of all. Decorations went up early, festooning house and garden. Everyone had to have a present – which Eileen hated wrapping, so visitors were co-opted into gaudy paper and sticky tape duty. Anticipation, joy and the occasional disaster – perhaps the biggest disaster was her death on Christmas Day, but when else could she have gone? She will remain forever Mrs Christmas.

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A celebration of the life of Jack Blackburn

In the February issue of the Bugle, we alerted the village to plans for a celebration of the life of longstanding village resident Jack Blackburn who lived on Bankside and died just over 3 years ago at the height of Covid restrictions.

The programme for the event is coming together and it will commence at 2pm on Saturday April 12th in Youlgrave Village Hall. Jack's many and varied interests will be covered and there will be music, drama, readings, and memories. There will also be an accompanying display of photographs, books, mementos and ceramics – Jack's exhibitions of Pots from France will be recalled by many - and light refreshments will be served.

This is an open invitation for anyone who remembers Jack to come along.

There will be time during the programme for those attending to contribute their own memories and bring along photographs and other mementos to share, if they wish.

If anyone knows in advance that they would like to contribute to the programme, we would love to hear from you. Contact Sheila Harding harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk or Pat Coleman info@patcoleman.co.uk



Due to the difficult circumstances, the village and friends raised the funds for Eileen's memorial service and wake. As someone said, Eileen was kind and generous to the village so the village was kind and generous to her in turn. Finally, after expenses were settled, £570 remained and was sent to Ashgate Hospice, as Eileen wanted. Her friends thank everyone for this magnificent response, as they thank Youlgrave Church for the support Eileen received and everyone at The George for a "grand do" at the wake.

Dee Frith

In addition, a coffee morning fundraising event in her memory was held in the Reading Room, following which a cheque for £250 was presented to Ashgate Hospice.



Thank you to whoever installed the bench at the top of the footpath near Hollow Farm. It's a lovely place to sit, have a rest and look out at the scenery. *Name supplied*

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.



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.

We recognise that a move to Granby House is a big step. So come and visit us and have a look around. We then offer a two week trial to ensure that Granby House is the right choice.

If you or a relative would like to consider Granby House please contact Ian Webster on 01629 636836 or speak to the housekeeper at Granby House, on 01629 636264. You can also email granbyhouse@gmail.com and look at our website www.granbyhouse.org.

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- HIP, THIGH OR KNEE PROBLEMS
- POSTURAL CHANGES DURING PREGNANCY
- CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (ME)

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for degenerative discs or spinal joints which cause long term chronic pain and herniated or prolapsed or bulging discs that cause debilitating nerve pain such as sciatica.

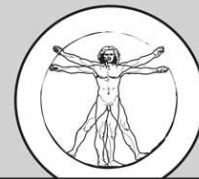
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John Whitby MP
Derbyshire Dales



Update from Derbyshire Dales District Councillor, Laura Mellstrom

Local government reorganisation

The District Council's days remain numbered [see Parish Council report on page 6], but you've got me for a while yet as Derbyshire is not in the Devolution Priority Programme. The County Council elections will be going ahead in May after all, and I am sure more details on that will be coming soon to a doormat near you.

What our eventual Unitary Authority will look like is still very much up in the air. All Councils in Derbyshire have been invited to submit initial proposals by 21 March, with final submissions by 28 November 2025, and then the Government will decide how things move forward. Two schools of thought are emerging. The County Council wants to have a single giant authority for the whole of Derbyshire including Derby City, and has set up an online "poll" inviting people to say whether they agree or not: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/the-future-of-councils-in-derbyshire.aspx?utm_source=Banner&utm_medium=Web&utm_campaign=LGR&utm_id=LGR

All the 8 District and Borough Councils, plus Derby City Council, disagree with this and are working together to formulate alternative options, likely to involve two separate unitary councils along a north/south division with Derbyshire Dales joining High Peak, Chesterfield, Bolsover, NE Derbyshire and possibly Amber Valley in the north.

There is no indication under either proposal of how many councillors there will be. This obviously affects how well your local councillor can respond to local issues and concerns. The

Derbyshire Dales area currently has 34 District Councillors, and my ward of Youlgrave covers 6 parishes. The same geographical area at the County Council level is served by only 6 County Councillors. So we really need to know how big an area each councillor in the new unitaries will be responsible for, if we are going to keep any sense of localism in local government.

Public toilets

The District Council has recently passed a motion (insert your own joke here) to invest funds in specific toilets including Artists Corner at Matlock Bath, the Whitworth Centre in Darley Dale and a new unisex toilet at Ashbourne Recreation Ground. Middleton-by-Youlgrave toilets will open on a year round basis for a 12 month trial period (in line with the Council's contractual obligation which has not been met in recent years) with a footfall monitor to track how well used they are. So please do pop in, if you are in the area, whether you need to go or not.

The Council has also reinstated the Community Toilet Scheme under which businesses that allow the public to use their toilets can apply for a financial contribution. Also, in recognition of the pressure on communities which took over the running of public toilets in Council owned buildings, a fund has been set aside to provide financial support of up to £1,000 towards stock and cleaning materials.

Car Parks

Following last year's consultation the Council has also updated the charges for

Continued next page

Council owned car parks, some of which in the town centres will, from 1 April, offer a free half hour. In Bakewell these are Granby Road and Market Place. In Matlock it is Imperial Road, Lido, Olde English, Spa Villas and Town Hall Front car parks. You will still need to get a £0.00 ticket out of the machine though, and it can't be tacked on to a longer parking session. It is just for popping in and out. The Residents' freebie permit before 11am and after 3pm will continue to apply.

Council Tax premium on second homes

Double council tax on second homes comes into effect on 1 April 2025, as previously announced. At the end of 2024 there were 1,060 second homes, 1,154 holiday lets and 1,444 empty homes on the Council Tax register for

Derbyshire Dales. We are told that the Valuation Office has been checking up on holiday lets during 2024 with the result that some have moved back on to council tax as second homes. Most second homes are at the smaller end of the scale with 60% in bands A to C.

There will be some exemptions to the double rate, including for members of the armed forces, houses being marketed for sale (up to 12 months), job related dwellings, and those which have a planning condition prohibiting year round occupation.



Cllr Laura Mellstrom

Laura.Mellstrom
@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
c/o Town Hall, Matlock
DE4 3NN
07503 674335



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From the Churches

Dear Friends.

We all of us have problems with **prayer**. Some of you may be convinced there is no God, in which case the idea of praying to a God becomes meaningless and you are welcome to stop reading now! Many of you may be unsure whether there is a God, or if so, whether he/she cares about our concerns enough to 'hear' our prayers. Sometimes we are so happy that we want to say 'thank you'. But sometimes we all feel the need to cry out for understanding or help as our personal world is too confusing or painful, or as the shape of the wider world changes rapidly around us. Sometimes it's in sorrow, as we lose a friend, parent or partner, or as the world may be losing a much-loved religious leader.

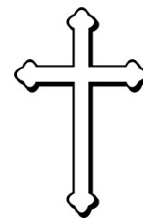
But we don't know how to pray, a problem Jesus' followers faced too. We're told they once asked him: Lord, teach us to pray. They didn't ask Jesus to 'teach us a prayer to pray' – probably, unlike us, they had plenty of those memorised. Jesus gave them the prayer we know as the Lord's Prayer. In doing so he gave them, and us, words we can say, but he also gave us a pattern prayer. Every phrase of the Lord's Prayer can be unpacked to show us something about ourselves, or something about the God that Christians worship – his (or her) nature, power, goodness and love, forgiveness, and what he expects of us. This year's Lent course looks at the Lord's Prayer – see details below.

There are dangers in prayer too: telling God what to do, assuming we know what God's will is, trying to get God on our side in contests or conflicts with others. Real prayer is not safe! We are putting ourselves into God's hands. But where better to be?

Lent course on the Lord's Prayer

We shall be using part of the Pilgrim Course produced by the Church of England. The first session is incorporated into the parish church's Ash Wednesday Communion service at 7pm on 5 March. You may not read this until after 5 March, but it's not too late to join! The subsequent five sessions will be on Wednesdays 12, 19 and 26 March and 2 and 9 April, starting at 2pm (afternoon sessions) or 7pm (evenings), lasting for 1½ hours. We shall meet in the school room at the Methodist chapel, Coldwell End. Leaders will be the clergy and experienced lay leaders. Please email me on rev.richardtucker@gmail.com, stating whether you would prefer afternoons or evenings, and I can order you a course booklet.

Richard Tucker



Services for March

2nd March

11am Family Service with Baptism of Jake Poole

6.45 pm Evening Prayer at Middleton

5th March

7 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Including first session of Lent course on the Lord's Prayer

9th March

11 am Holy Communion

16th March

11 am Morning Prayer with short address

23rd March

11 am Holy Communion for Youlgrave parish group

30th March

11 am Mothering Sunday Family Service

6th April

11 am Holy Communion, followed at 12.15pm by meeting of parishioners and annual parochial church meeting in church

6.45 pm Evening Prayer at Middleton

General enquiries:

Dan Cocker,
Church Warden
dan.churchwarden@gmail.com.

Funerals:

Andrew Parker, 01629 636757,
andrewparker10@yahoo.co.uk

Weddings:

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

Retired clergy:

Revd Geoff Clay 07833 252803
geoffclay@me.com

Revd Jane Clay 07802 630877
Ejaneclay@icloud.com

Revd Richard Tucker 01629 636074
rev.richardtucker@gmail.com

For services at other churches:

Methodist: Margaret (636558)

Wesleyan Reform: Isobel (636251)

A massive "thank you" from Pommie Pilgrimage

The generosity of Youlgrave folk and their friends, together with the amazing efforts of the 150 walkers involved in the 42 different Pilgrimages, means we have raised an impressive £45,048.51 towards loos, kitchen facilities and warmth in All Saints. The PCC has sent a brief to the architects, and had consultations with the Diocese about the plans, though these things will take time... The Palm Sunday walk in March last year started the whole project, so we plan an anniversary short walk from All Saints to Winster (for tea and cake!) this coming Palm Sunday, 13th April. Everybody is welcome to join us; just meet at the church around midday. If you can let us know that you will be coming - pommiepilgrimage@gmail.com - we can make sure there is enough cake!



An invitation to join the Soup and Sweet Team

The Soup and Sweet gathering, fortnightly in the Reading Room, was started about 3 years ago, and continues happily. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 12 noon. We always welcome more diners, everyone is invited - it only costs £3.50, the price has never risen. We'd also welcome a few more helpers to join our lovely team - why not come along one Monday and see how we do things. Give one of us a ring so we know to expect you.



- Could you make soup for us, occasionally?
- Could you make a pud/dessert for us, occasionally?



- Could you come along, lay tables, serve food, chat, wash up, occasionally?

Members of the team find it very satisfying, pleasant and fun.

Please ring Barbara 636601 or Glenys 636477, for a chat.

I'm looking for a potential drummer



Are there any budding DRUMMERS out there in the local area? Any age! I have a set of five drums that desperately needs a new home. (My cats don't like the noise!) The set can be borrowed on a short or long-term loan. No charge. If you're interested, please ring or text Barbara on 636601 or 07866857272





Next film Friday 14 March

The Colour Purple

Cert 12



The Color Purple is a 2023 American musical period drama film directed by Blitz Bazawule, screenplay by Marcus Gardley based on the stage musical - which, in turn, is based on the 1982 novel by Alice Walker. It is the second film of the novel, by Steven Spielberg and Quincy Jones, along with its Broadway producers, Scott Sanders and Oprah Winfrey, the latter also starred in the 1985 film.

A story of love and resilience based on the novel and Broadway musical, THE COLOR PURPLE is a decades-spanning tale of one woman's journey to independence. The story of two sisters in the harsh, segregated world of the Deep South in the early twentieth century. Celie was persistently raped by the man she calls father; her two children are taken away; her beloved, younger sister, Nettie, has run away. Celie has no one to talk to but God. Then she meets Shug and discovers not the pain of rivalry but the love and support of women, and ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.

YOULGRAVE VILLAGE HALL, 7.30 pm start

Tickets cost £5 - cash only (please bring correct change if possible). Everyone is most welcome. Booking isn't necessary but if you want a particular seat, or have any queries, please phone Glenys on 636477.

And ice creams are served before the film starts - £1.50.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Following film - La Chimera, 11 April

Pommie People

This month's interviewee is **Michael Shimwell**, born in Youlgrave 84 years ago and who has lived and worked in the village ever since.

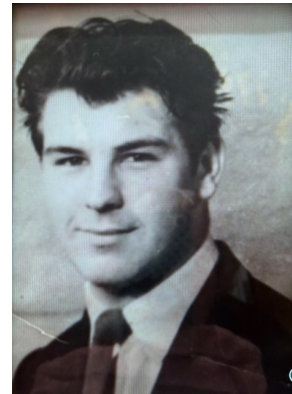
20
Q&A's

pommie
people



Where were you born and what's your earliest memory?

Moor Lane, Youlgrave. I remember trapping my thumb in the car door and being taken to Long Rake Spar in my father's Austin 7 Ruby to be mended.



Where did you go to school and what was your favourite subject?

Youlgrave C of E School and then Lady Manners. Biology and sport were my two favourite subjects.

What person has had the most influence on you?

My school teacher Bill Shimwell, who taught me about the local birds and flowers, and my father Luther Shimwell.

Tell us something about you that not many people will know.

As a schoolboy I once threw a dart in the well-dressing board – and got soundly punished for it!

Where did you work?

I left school at 16 to start work, helping my Uncle Willy with the milk churns. We farmed at Old Hall Farm and it was a busy milking operation, from milking the cows every day to washing the bottles and delivering the milk. We had as many as 11 delivery lorries at one point. When the tankers came in in the 1960s I turned to the tipper lorry business, but farming was always there in the background.



Michael Shimwell over the years.

How do you relax?

Talking, watching TV, and I used to go out for meals and dancing when I was younger.

What's your favourite food or meal?

Sunday roast or fish and chips.

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

We went to Blackpool when I was young and together with some other teenage lads I once drove to Barcelona in a Humber Sceptre with just an old AA map to guide us! Later on Marjorie and I visited southern Europe and North Africa, including some cruises.

What's your favourite time of the day and why?

Probably evening when the working day comes to a close.

What are you most proud of?

My family, of course. Marjorie and I married in 1973 and set up home at Church Farm, where we still are today. We have three children (Dakin, Hannah and Elizabeth), six grandchildren and one great grandson.

What skill would you like to learn?

To play the piano.

What's your favourite local view/place/location?

Coming down Moor Lane with Youlgrave in view.

What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?

One time, when I was delivering milk in the village, I couldn't get the lorry up Bradford past the bread van. And because I couldn't hold it on the slope the lorry went backwards. All the milk churns fell off and 250 gallons of milk ended up going down the drain.

What's your favourite sport and did you ever play it?

Football – I was once a pretty good

goalkeeper. And also table tennis, which I played to a high level, winning medals with our local team in the Matlock League.

Are you a cat or dog person?

Both, as long as they're not mine and not in the house.

What's your most precious possession and why?

I better say my wife. And my gold medal when we won the Bunting Cup football tournament at school. My nephew David also won the Bunting Cup in 1969 and Charlie, my grandson, came runner up in 2017.

What do like about living in Youlgrave?

It's home.

What could be improved about Youlgrave?

Traffic, parking and holiday homes.



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Bags of fun for Youlgrave WI

A few of us recently spent a very productive afternoon at Theresa's, sorting much needed toiletry-related items into 'Welcome bags' for the residents of the Chesterfield Elm Foundation Refuge. Some bags were beautifully hand-made, and others ranged from traditional handbags to our own Youlgrave WI Pommy Pig bags. Each recipient was given around ten different useful items, and many other products and children's items will be sent along in boxes to be distributed at the Refuge. Many thanks to all members who kindly made this possible with donations and their valuable time.

On Thursday February 27th we had a thoroughly enjoyable Supper Club with comforting cottage pie and no less than four bread and butter pud with various breads, plus apple crumble. What a choice! Many thanks go to our fantastic catering team. Another slightly Easter themed Crafty Day takes place at the Methodist Church on Saturday March 15th from 10am until 4pm. This is free to all WI members, with a £5 charge for any visitors and includes refreshments all day with a BYO lunch.

The February WI meeting was extremely well attended despite inclement weather. Harriet Ecclestone, originally from Stanton-in-Peak, enthralled us with her journey from fashion student to early employment and fashion world recognitions, and hands-on experience leading to running her own business based in her Sheffield Studio. She has a career



Youlgrave's WI sorting office (photo by Janet Pryor).

to be proud of, especially as Covid interrupted her progress, but her family and friends provided huge support. Harriet also supports inclusivity and sustainability, emphasizing the enormous waste of clothing items in today's society.

Lucy led another wellbeing walk for some of our members. This time it was up to the Lathkil Hotel and back, with those amazing views and a pleasant lunchtime break. These walks have provided a valuable sharing of friendship and exercise together, with refreshments afterwards, and Lucy has given her time and effort to plan and lead these beneficial events. Our next WI meeting is on Tuesday March 11th when Jane Collier will be revealing Mary Queen of Scots in captivity. This is at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

New and prospective members are very welcome and we've recently welcomed several new and previous members to our successful WI. Just come along if you fancy a good evening out with us.

Liz Hickman

Youlgrave Wildlife Notes: February 2025

Although the weather has been pretty dreary except for the odd bright day, nature is definitely waking up. While not wild flowers, parts of our garden are carpeted with crocuses and there are some good patches of snowdrops. Hazel catkins have been ripe for some time now, the wind carrying their pollen to the tiny red female flowers that will become hazel nuts. There has been one single garden rockcress plant on wall between the Youth Hostel and Holywell Lane out for some time, but this is starting to bloom on walls all round the village.

Some of our birds have started to sing. I have heard dunnock, robin, wren, greenfinch and song thrush, great tit and no doubt others too. The blackbirds, of which there are many, don't seem to have really started yet. Our winter visiting thrushes were certainly still with us at mid-month.

The mature swan and the cygnet have both been on the river and New Dam, though I've only seen white swan recently in Lathkill Dale. On the river dippers and kingfishers seem rather scarce at the moment. However, the egret has been seen again below the swimming pool and there have been dabchicks on the river and on the Lathkill. Goosanders are still about. I was sent a very interesting list of birds seen down the Bank. Nuthatch, woodpecker and even marsh tit have been seen down there, which I seldom get on our side of the main road. Notable birds from all over the village have been siskin, goldcrest, tree

creeper and long tailed tit. There are lots of goldfinches and greenfinches on our feeders, plus the usual common garden birds.

Good news about our birds of prey. Kites have been seen a couple of times recently, buzzards are common and there are occasional sightings of sparrow hawk and kestrel. A buzzard was seen carrying a large rat with its long tail hanging down.



Rock Cress

I haven't got any frog spawn yet, but there was a pair of mating frogs in our pond and I accidentally netted a very smart male smooth newt while cleaning the pond. Three roe deer were reported from below Middleton.

On my monthly wildlife walk on the 27th we found 6 species of wildflowers in bloom. These were dandelion, daisy, lesser celandine, spring whitlow grass, hairy bittercress and garden rockcress. None were present in any quantity yet. There were

plenty of birds singing, including mistle thrush and song thrush. We saw a couple of male goosanders flying over the New Dam. By the New Dam, sitting in a bush, was a little egret. Severn Trent arrived while we were walking up the Dale and as we couldn't face scrabbling past them and their mud again, came back over the fields. We were rewarded by six buzzards together soaring over the hill.

My thanks to Naomi, Simon, Pat, Tony, Geoff, Andy and David for their contributions to this month's article.

Ian Weatherley
email 48iweatherley@gmail.com



Church Farm Diary, March

Not much to report in the farming world at the moment. Everything is ticking along nicely, waiting for spring and the growth of the crops, this is all left to mother nature. Our youngest grandson has spent time with Dakin and announced that it was the best time ever (wait till he has to work every day!). Milly was 17 years old last month, so she is learning to drive. The older grandchildren have driven the tractors round the fields, so had a good idea how to manoeuvre a vehicle before they went on the road.

Joseph is very busy with his machinery called the Umbilical. This spreads the manure on the fields through a pipe laid out on the ground. It enables you to work the fields without churning up the grass and leaving ruts in it.

The latest bull is proving to be very good; the cows are mostly calving on their own as this bull's offspring's are a bit finer in build, so enabling the cows to calve without any stress. It will be nice when the weather gets warmer and drier, not just in the farming world but generally, you always feel better when the sun shines.

Marjorie Shimwell

Recipe of the month: Boiled Condensed milk fruit Cake

This month's recipe is one I make a lot for the cake tin and the lads.

Ingredients

397g can condensed milk
150g butter
275g mixed dried fruit, raisins, sultanas, currants
100g chopped glace cherries
2 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp mixed spice
2 large eggs
225g S.R. flour

Method

Preheat the oven to 150c Gas mark 2



'The Umbilical' (photos: Joseph Shimwell)



Line a 7in round baking tin

In a heavy saucepan combine the milk, fruit, cherries and butter, Heat over a low heat until the butter has melted stirring occasionally. Let the mixture simmer for 5 minutes, then remove from the heat and allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Sift the flour mixed spice and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl then add the warm mixture, then the eggs. Mixing it to a smooth batter making sure everything is combined.

Pour into the baking tin and bake for about 1 ½ hours until it is well risen and golden brown.

Let the cake cool in the tin for 10 minutes before transferring it onto a cooling rack.

News from Youlgrave, All Saints' CE Primary School

Netball tournament

On February 6th our year 5/6 pupils took part in a netball tournament at Longstone School. Both teams played really well and had a great time, but we were knocked out of a place in the semi-final on goal difference. This competitive experience helped us learn a lot about the game, so the following week we played an inter-house competition on the playground, with Bradford taking the trophy as worthy champions!



African Dance and Storytelling

We welcomed Bemma Akyeampong into school on 4th February who shared some African dances and read a story to us all. Bemma has recently written a book, *Ayuda's Stormy Escape*, and shared this with the children.





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