

SCHOOL LIFE

Education forms a vital part of village life and Youlgrave has a thriving Church of England school. All Saints. With four classes, the teachers, under the headship of Mr Snow, give the village children a sound footing from which to begin their secondary education at Lady Manners School in Bakewell.



Class Five, Youlgrave Primary School c. 1914



YOULGRAVE SCHOOL COOKERY CLASS, c. 1927 (above).

Back row - Eleanor Bacon, Ada Toft, Mary Finney, Connie Shimwell, Mary Holland Walker, Betty Rowland, Olive Gresham, Dorothy Birds.

Second row - Marion Shimwell, Freda Stevenson, Cary Shimwell, Mabel Holmes, Maud ThomhMls Louie Birds.

Front row - Lilian Bacon, Alice Marshall.

YOULGRAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The fabric of Youlgrave School has undergone some substantial changes over the last twenty years. Firstly, in 1980, the addition of a dining room, which means the children no longer walk to the George Hotel for their dinners. Then, in 1996, inside toilets were added, meaning no more trips across the yard to spend a penny.



The children c. 1926 - look at all those knees!

'GOODBYE MR SHIMWELL'

Popular School Master, J W Shimwell (below) retired in 1979 after 31 years at the school.

Bill has written books about Youlgrave's past, and he has been a valuable source of information in compiling this publication.



MIDDLETON SCHOOL

The school at Middleton closed in 1972. In the years leading up to this, attempts were made to keep it open, including bussing children up from Youlgrave.

The building is now the Village Hall and is used for village parties, Welldressing teas and life drawing and upholstery classes.



MIDDLETON SCHOOL 1941 (above)

Back Row - Miss Lomas, Frank Weston, Frank Harrop, Peter Stone, Reuben Slack, Lewis Sheldon, Henry Purseglove, Jack Oldfield.

Row Two - Monica Weston, Margaret Roose, Winifred Alien, Ena Weston, Peggy Oldfield, Amy Johnstone, Brenda Foxon, Betty Weston, Kathleen Alien.

Row Three - Miss Kay, Barbara Titterton, Henry Brocklehurst, Jean Oldfield, Gordon Oldfield, Mary Roose, Sidney Marsden, Anne Weston, Brian Sheldon.

Front Row - Tony Slack, Vie Oldfield, Alan Oldfield, Billy Purseglove.



YOULGRAVE PLAYGROUP (left)

For many years the parents of the pre-school children were able to maintain a weekly playschool, which was held in the Village Hall.

Changes in working habits and other factors have sadly meant the recent closure of the playgroup. There is, however, a Mothers and Toddlers group, which meets weekly.

BUILDINGS OF NOTE

The architectural heritage of Alport, Youlgrave and Middleton reflects the changes in village life over the centuries, from housing for mine workers, schools and shops to elegant residences for genteel families and successful tradesmen. Here are just a few of our better known buildings:

YOULGRAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL (right)
 Youlgrave Primary School still operates out of the building erected in 1868 on land donated by the Duke of Rutland. The school was built by local stonemason, 'Old Will' Shimwell, who also built the Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1895 and Grafted the fine carving of a bull's head for the pub of that name.

This impressive building consisted of a large room, divided by a folding partition, and was accessed by two



doorways, one for 'girls' and the other for 'boys'. The sexes were further segregated during playtime by use of a wall in the playground, although classes were mixed. The wrought-iron hinges on the folding partition still reveal the name of the village blacksmith - 'Eli Toft 1869'.



Built in 1887, the Wesleyan Sunday School (above) is now a private house

THE READING ROOM (right)

Built from monies raised by public subscription on land donated by William Pole Thornhill of Stanton Hall, the Reading Room was erected in 1857 and was the home of the Youlgrave Literary Society.

Amongst its members was the notable local poet and playwright, Susan Shimwell, who was a personal friend of the novelist, George Eliot.



The Reading Room continues its tradition of learning in the new Millennium as plans for it to become an IT centre for parish use are set in motion.



OLD HALL FARM (right)

Situated just behind the Old Hall, is Old Hall Farm, a beautiful example of the architecture of its day, being of slightly earlier origin than the Old Hall, having been built in 1630.

Owned by the Buxton family until 1685, it was sold to the Manners family (later the Dukes of Rutland), and is now owned by the Gillingwater family, who originate from Chesterfield.

The interior of the building has altered little over the years, and still retains a number of original features, including fine examples of oak panelling dating back to the Seventeenth Century.

THE OLD HALL (left)

The three villages boast a wide array of splendid and ancient buildings alongside bold, modern architecture.

Prominent amongst the oldest buildings in Youlgrave stands The Old Hall. Built in 1659, it has been extensively added to and altered over the centuries. It still stands proud, nestled against the main road that runs through the village.

