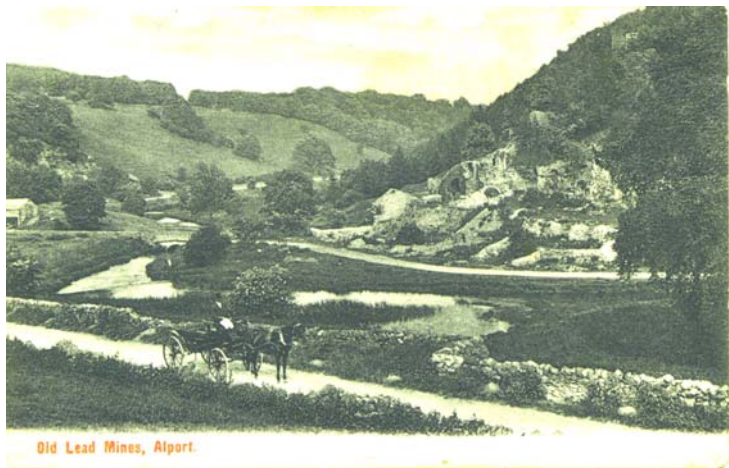


## LOCAL INDUSTRY

With a history dating back to the Bronze Age, the area has seen many changes over the centuries; mining, quarrying, agriculture and cottage industries all dominating local life at one time or another. With such changes came the rise and fall in the population and the local businesses that supported the villagers, be it alehouses (of which there were plenty), shoemakers, tin plate workers, blacksmiths or builders.

These changes are mapped out in the buildings, both inhabited and derelict, scattered throughout the villages and surrounding countryside, and the remnants of mined fields and quarry and mining tracks long-since disused by industry, but re-born as public footpaths for the villages most recent booming industry - tourism.



**Pictured (above) the lead smelter at Alport.**

### LEAD MINING

Dating back to Roman times, evidence of lead mining can be seen throughout the area. With the Eighteenth Century came an expansion in lead mining, employing more miners in increasingly larger mining sites thanks to mechanical pumps and other developments. This expansion continued through the first half of the Nineteenth Century, as seen in the building of the smelting works at Alport in 1840. By 1851 the number of lead miners in Youlgrave reached its peak of 181; as the mines declined, however, so did the number employed and, by 1881, there were only 57 lead miners. By the 1920's, lead mining as a local industry had almost ceased to exist. Amongst its many legacies is 'house-launderers', the local term for guttering, launders' being the vessels through which miners channelled the water used for washing their lead.

### QUARRIES

Limestone and gritstone quarries grew with the rise of the railways and the demand for increased housing and road making during the Victorian Era. It has been suggested that redundant lead miners adapted to work at the quarries as the local mines declined. To this day, quarrying remains a major industry in the area.



**Pictured (above) Charlie Bacon and Ken Brassington shot firing at Bacon's flour spa quarry**

### ASQUITH DESIGN PARTNERSHIP

Although many of the older industries have died away, others have sprung up, including the award-winning company, Asquith Design Partnership.

Working from studios in Youlgrave, the company has been at the forefront of contemporary design and manufacture of fine metalwork for 40 years.

Asquith Design Partnership has a reputation for commissions ranging from silver coffee sets for N° 10 Downing Street to the design and manufacture of all the metalwork in the Peace Gardens in the centre of Sheffield, which was opened by Prince Charles.

**Pictured (left) a fish slice designed by Brian Asquith**



### METALWORKING

With the industrial revolution came new machinery, the decline and, for some, the end of many industries, including handmade lace, blacksmiths, shoemakers and dressmakers.

However, Billy Clark (pictured above) continued to blacksmith at Middleton until his retirement c. 1975. The Smithy is, at present, being converted into living accommodation.

## The Water of Life...



### YOULGRAVE WATER WORKS

As seen with the annual Welldressings, water has always played a vital role in village life. The introduction of piped water in 1829 and stop taps in 1869 not only brought valuable water to the local

**The three faces of Youlgrave Fountain - with, without and then with railings.**

Village for domestic and industry use, but also helped reduce the spread of disease through contaminated water supplies, especially during the summer .

The Fountain still takes pride of place in the centre of the village and the Water Works remains an independent company to this day, owned by those that use the water, the villagers.



### HARNESSING THE POWER OF WATER

The villages have supported a wide variety of occupations, including spinning (Eighteenth Century) and lace working (late Nineteenth Century), both of which were cottage industries, employing local womenfolk. A bobbin mill at Middleton (left) was erected in the Nineteenth Century. This was later converted into a single-storey building, which became the pumping station for Middleton's water supply. Unlike Youlgrave, Middleton lost its independent supply and now receives Severn Trent water.

The Corn Mill (bottom left) was situated down the path at Roughwood Hollow (the second sharp bend on the road from Youlgrave to Middleton).

### AGRICULTURE

Man has worked the land in this area since before the Bronze Age and agriculture remains an intrinsic part of local rural life.

By the Seventeenth Century sheep farming was prevalent. With the Youlgrave & Middleton Enclosures Award of 1818, however, much of the common land was passed to the large landowners, and many poor villagers lost their rights of pasture, collection of fallen firewood and turbarry.

By the close of the Nineteenth Century, numerous small farms in the villages ceased to exist, many being converted to residences instead.



The Mill at Alport (above) was valued at five shillings and fourpence in the Domesday Book and was still used as such as late as the 1950's to roll oats for local farmers. It then became a corn store for S & E Johnson Ltd, whose family ran three mills, the one at Alport, the mill in Bradford Dale and the mill at Eagle Tor.

In 1984 the mill buildings were filled with large tanks in which to rear trout. It is now used as a hatchery for very small fish only.

## THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

There was scarcely a village, town or city in Britain that was not touched by tragedy during the last century: thousands of men killed in action during the two World Wars. For some, the tragedy was immense, with husbands, sons and brothers all killed.

Their names are recorded for posterity on memorial monuments both in Britain and overseas, and their memories live on in the lives of the many who returned.

The Roll of Honour, 1914-1918 and the Roll of Honour, 1939-1945 (listed right and photographed

below) clearly illustrate the bravery of those local men and boys who lost their lives during the two World Wars.

Pictured (below) is the 1919 Peace Parade in Youlgrave. Numbed by the unimaginable horrors of the Great War, villages and towns throughout the land celebrated peace, whilst mourning the high price paid for victory. Youlgrave was amass with splendour and excitement, thankful for the return of loved ones who survived.

The Royal British Legion still maintains a very active branch in Youlgrave today.

1914 - 1918	
ARTHUR BACON	WALTER JOHNSON
TOM HARRY BIRDS	HORACE JONES
HERBERT BONSALL	PERCY SALT
CHARLES BRASSINGTON	HUBERT SLANEY
HARRY BRASSINGTON	GEORGE SLATER
HERBERT BRASSINGTON	JOHN STEVENSON
WALTER COWIE	MILTON THOMPSON
FRED ELLIOTT	WILLIE THOMPSON
ISAAC EVANS	GEORGE TWYFORD
WILLIE EVANS	RENNIE WATERHOUSE
FRED GOULD	WILLIE WRAGG
JOHN WILLIAM HOLMES	THOMAS GILL
also	
GILBERT BIRDS	LEONARD HOLLIS
LOUIS THROP	SAMUEL BUXTON
who died since the war as the result of it.	
1939-1945	
JAMES ROWLAND BIRDS	HAROLD HADFIELD
HARRY BIRDS	ALAN OLDFIELD
RUPERT BUXTON	PHILLIP ROWLAND
RONALD VALENTINE	GEORGE ROWLAND
CECIL CAVENDISH	ENOS YATES TAYLOR
BENNETT DAWSON	

### THE MAWSTONE MINE DISASTER

A tragedy of a very different nature was to hit the village of Youlgrave in 1932: the Mawstone Mine tragedy, which claimed the lives of eight local men.

On 23rd May 1932, an explosion, described as being like a 'gush of wind', resulted in the instant death of five men. Of the rescuers who risked their own lives to save their fellow workers, three died alongside their colleagues. The cause of death given by Dr W G Harrison, who himself went down the mine as part of a rescue party, was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

The inquest failed to establish beyond doubt the cause of the explosion, though it is commonly agreed that it was most likely due to firedamp that had built up over the weekend, when the fan was out of order and being repaired. The switch for the fan arced and thus ignited the gas, causing the explosion.

Those who died in the explosion were: William Brindley (aged 22); John Gallagher (aged 23); Geoffrey Gould (aged 28); Poultney Porter (57); and his son, James Porter (27). The rescuers who lost their lives were: Kenneth A Seville (aged 34), Mine Manager; John Eric Evans (aged 23); and John William Birds (aged 24).

All the men, with the exception of the Porters, were buried at All Saints, Youlgrave. The funeral procession was attended by the locals of Youlgrave, the British



Legion (of whom Mr Seville was Chairman), the local Scouts, the Cricket Club and the Buglers of the 6th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters Regiment. The Porters, father and son, were buried side by side in Greystoke, near Penrith.

Describing the funeral cortege, the Sheffield Independent (28th May 1932): "Youlgrave mourned them with the natural simplicity and sincerity which become the hardy folk of a Derbyshire village ... the whole village went into mourning, and the skies, so it seemed, wept in sympathy."

The mine was never seriously worked again. The memory of the disaster, and of those who lost their lives, still lives on.



### BUGLE'S LAST POST

As we begin this new Millennium, the 'Bugle' wishes all its readers a peaceful and prosperous time.

The Editorial Team would like to thank everyone who has helped us to put this publication together, too many to name, but you know who you are.

Whilst we have included the names of the people on some of the photographs, we realise that some of these might be incorrect, and there are certainly some omissions. Please come and tell us anything you can so that, if we publish again, we can update text.

