

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon, and published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No: 4312745 Charity No: 1100906



Sedgefield NEWS

January 2008

.... and the answer is

..... Peter Hinde



The Mayor, Councillor Dudley Waters, presenting Peter Hinde with his award as Sedgefield Citizen of the Year. Also in the picture are John Fitzpatrick of the Sedgefield Development Trust and Basil Watson, President of Sedgefield Rotary.

Surprised quizmaster extraordinaire, Peter Hinde, was the proud winner of the 2007 Sedgefield Citizen of the Year Award.

Introducing the award, John Fitzpatrick for the Sedgefield Development Trust and Sedgefield News, said that it was fortunate that Sedgefield News has so much 'good news' to report. People are friendly and helpful and this is reflected in the number and quality of the nominees for Citizen of the Year. Basil Watson, President of Sedgefield Rotary, traced the history of the award back to the first one in 2000 when Billy Cooper was the recipient. He said it was now a well established event and 2007 saw a big increase in the response for nominations, making the selection by the judging panel so very difficult. He went on to announce, that to mark the refurbishment of the Parish Hall, the Rotary are to create an 'Honours Board' for the annual Citizen of the Year. It is intended to do two things, it will record the names of those deserving citizens who give their time and expertise so willingly for the benefit of the Community; secondly it, hopefully, will encourage other to emulate them. Hopefully, the board will be placed in a prominent position in the new Parish Hall.

The Mayor, Dudley Waters, in making the presentation, enumerated the many qualities and activities which had enthused the judging panel and finally Peter was presented with a framed certificate, an engraved rose coloured glass ornament and a bottle of whiskey, to great applause.

Parish Hall

A reminder to all that the Parish hall internal works begin the first week in January and the hall will therefore be closed from the 2nd onwards – it is hoped to re-open in March.

Pictured right are a group of happy shoppers enjoying the Town Council trip to Leeds on the 5th December.



We wish a Happy New Year to all our readers!

Sedgefield Development Trust Limited

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited

will hold its Annual General Meeting on
Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.45 pm
at No 58 Front Street, Sedgefield.

Any special or general resolutions proposed must be with
the Company at its registered office no later than
12 noon on Friday 8th February 2008.

All nominations for Directors must be with the Company
Secretary by latest noon Friday 8th November.

This AGM is an open, public meeting.
SDT is owned and controlled by the community.

Please come along and help us 'Refresh our Agenda'

Sedgefield Development Trust is a company limited by
guarantee; Company Number: 4312745
and is a registered charity; Charity Number: 1100806

Switching on the Lights

Switching on the new Christmas lights was a resounding success! This was the first time the Town Council had organized such an event and wanted to make it "special".

The "switching on" included a Snowman Parade led by Angela Simpson, the Council's Community Development Worker. Angela had worked with local children to produce the fabulous snowman hats and she and Santa led the children through the lych gate and the "snow" onto the turning circle to be greeted by children holding their tea lights.

These had been bought earlier - proceeds going to St Edmund's Church lighting appeal, and the owner of the drawn raffle ticket - Jake Spalding had the honour of officially switching the switch.

Our own Olympic competitor Bradley Saunders was there to help the proceedings, and afterwards many of the children together with their parents proceeded into Church with their tea lights and joined in with carols. "We were delighted with the number of children and relatives and visitors who came along" said the Mayor, Councillor Dudley Waters. "We all thoroughly enjoyed the event and we hope this will be the first of many".

Wine, Cheese and Quiz Evening

A Wine, Cheese & Quiz evening will be held at Ceddesfeld Hall on Sunday Feb 3rd, 2008. This is a Friends' of St Edmund's fundraiser towards the expenses of the flower festival in July. Doors open at 7.30 pm, the quiz starts at 8 p.m. This will enable anyone who also wants to, to go to evensong.

Youth Council

Sedgefield young people held a vote on Thursday 6th December to elect their representatives to the Sedgefield Town Youth Council. Ballot boxes at each of the schools were well used and the count was held in the Town Council Offices, where the Youth Council will hold its first meeting in January.

Mayor, Dudley Waters was the presiding officer and announced those duly elected as follows:-

Community college representatives

Evie Williamson, Brad Dancer, Jessica Saddler & Esme Hatre

Sedgefield Primary School

Alexandra Wall, Oliver James Larcombe, Jonathan David Muir & Melissa Lowe.

Sedgefield Hardwick School

Kaitlyn-Leigh Bell, Jack Tinkler, Sophie Carr, Zoë Dobson.

Turn out was excellent with over 85% of eligible students casting their vote. The Mayor, Cllr. Dudley Waters, was delighted to announce the members which would make up the new council. Councillor John Robinson was impressed with the enthusiasm and genuine interest so many young people had in both the voting and in their ideas for enhancing youth facilities in Sedgefield.

The Youth Council will be the first in the area, representing the views of young people in Sedgefield.

The Council will play an active role in all aspects of community life which will have a bearing on young people.

Sedgefield Town and Borough Councils are very supportive of the Youth Council and are looking forward to fully involving young people in the development of their services and opportunities.



Days In Days Out Sedgefield



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]₃

Through Awards for All



Well as you can see we had another smashing day out at Boundary Mills, with over 40 DIDO members, enjoying a day of spending their money. The driver very kindly took us to South Shields Market on the way home and many took the opportunity to get a meal at the local restaurant where I am told the fish and



chips were excellent, *and the wine wasn't bad either!*

The next meeting was 3rd December which was part of our Christmas programme with entertainment from a Magician Noel Brookes, and from over 30 schoolchildren from four local comprehensive schools. It was a real treat for the older people to hear such talent, and a great example of bridging the intergenerational gap. Together with the singers, was a brass section, cellos and bass players, and even a tap dancer. This was organised by Jim Morgan, and we would like to thank him personally for making this happen. Our thanks to Carolyn Norris, Jackie Shaw from Sedgefield Community College,

Mr Butcher from St Bede's in Peterlee and Andrea Whisker from Ferryhill who all contributed, but most of all these young people who demonstrated their talent and gave us the excellent entertainment. We hope they will visit us again soon.

Linda and I would like to thank our volunteer helpers, John and Mel, Barbara, Anita, Olive, Sheila and Margaret.

We would also like to thank Theakstons and Jaiz for their support for the raffle, and in particular a big thank you to Sainsbury's/Bells who made a generous donation to the raffle

and refreshments. It was very much appreciated.

Without them the programme could not run so well. *Although I was a bit worried when the lads didn't have the strength to blow up a 'balloon' when they assisted the magician. (Sorry lads, couldn't miss that chance.)*



The next meeting of DIDO is Monday January 14th in Ceddesfeld Hall at 1.15pm. If you would like to join the New Line Dancing Group they are meeting at 12.00pm in Ceddesfeld on that day, before DIDO. If you want any further information please contact either Gloria 01740 622447, or Linda on 01740620857.



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crimewatch Panel

Sedgefield village says Farewell to Sarah Norman

The Christmas meeting of Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch took place on Tuesday 11th December in the Parish Hall.

The main object of "Christmas" meeting is to get the usual business & representative reports over as efficiently as possible, and then take time to enjoy a chat amongst the members whilst partaking sustenance with Bell Saiger's excellent cooking together with a glass of "something" festive, kindly provided by husband & C/man Ken Saiger. Unfortunately for what is normally such a friendly and joyous occasion members had to learn that we have just lost our most valued Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to date - Sarah Norman; who has become much more than a co-ordinator for the Police she has become regarded as a real friend to so many of the members.

Members learned that Sarah had recently taken up a new and challenging post in the Durham Police organisation which has seen her move on to H.Q. at Aykley Heads. In announcing her change in direction Sarah said how hard the decision had been to move on from a job she really enjoyed, from people she really enjoyed working with and also one that had given so many opportunities for her to meet and work with so many nice people from the public. Sarah described her contact with Sedgefield people and our group in particular as "very special, and being among friends".

C/man Ken Saiger presented Sarah with a Carriage Clock and a framed certificate of appreciation from Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch. Once again one of the reasons for Sarah being appreciated by members was instantly apparent in the surprise and humility shown by Sarah when presented with these tokens of our thanks. Ken thanked Sarah for all the hard work she has put in on behalf of the village and for all the personal support she has given to our group. Finally Ken thanked Sarah for becoming a personal friend as well as a friend to so many of us.

As said above the evening concluded in good heart thanks to the generosity and kindness of C/man Ken Saiger & his wife Bel Saiger with everyone saying "good luck" and thank you to Sarah.

Foot note: Full details of the Dec. Panel meeting will appear in the Feb. issue of Sedgefield News, however there are two events to bring to members' attention from the meeting:

- Due to two observant and diligent residents reporting their concerns promptly to the Police there are two properties in our village that have not been burgled in December - THANK YOU to whoever reported sightings of the man acting suspiciously around these two (different) properties; and
- THANK YOU to PC Keith Todd & Sgt. Brian O'Connor acting quickly and for finding and apprehending the "suspicious gentleman".

The panel recorded their total disgust with the Home Office's treatment of our Police Force by breaking their agreement to accept arbitration for the Pay Award. Events above demonstrate why even in a relatively low crime village like ours we need our Police.



Telephone Numbers

Community Warden
Tim Spearey at Sedgefield
623654
or via Chilton Control Room:
01388 721351

Local Police: 0845 6060365 -
to report concerns, seek advice or
pass on information to the Police
(it may be prudent to keep a note of
details of any conversation & to obtain
an incident number).

For advice/assistance, call CPO Neil
Langthorne on 01325 742714
or Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator Sarah Norman, on
01325 742755

Sedgefield Residents' Forum

Holiday Park at Brake's Farm - As a result of an amendment to the proposed plans (a reduction in the number of chalets), the planning meeting at SBC will not be in December. It is likely to be 11th January. Five members of the Forum will attend and speak on behalf of the residents and the Town Council has appointed a Planning Consultant to speak on its behalf.

The Appeal Inquiry on Bolam's incinerator - This takes place on 16th January in the hospitality suite at the Sedgefield Racecourse.

Please make a note of these two dates as it is essential that as many people as possible make the effort to attend to give strength to our views. Times will be displayed on the village notice board outside the library, in the library and via the email contact list.

Licence Variation Application from Hardwick Hall - Although objections to an application to extend the current hotel premises licence to marquees in the grounds had to be received by 11th December, it is equally important that we continue to monitor and report to SBC any noise heard from the premises and times when the entertainment exceeds the time condition.

Building Schools for the Future Initiative - A letter from the Residents' Forum has been sent expressing its view that this initiative should be driven by plans generated locally by partnerships to provide excellent facilities for the school's pupils but also for the wider community.

Congratulations to Dewjoc on their work to the façade of the Manor House.

Residents' Forum Meetings - There will be no meeting in December with subsequent meetings on the first Monday of each month.

Next meeting: Monday 7th January in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.00p.m. Everyone is welcome.



All who attended the special seasonal Farmers' Market must have been delighted with the friendly, traditional Christmas atmosphere to which the Town Council contributed very generously. Not only did we have warming mulled wine and home-made mince pies but also a children's choir singing Christmas songs and a very smart Santa keeping his eye on things. I am sure that the town councilors deserve a big thank-you for ensuring that the market was indeed very special.

Sedgefield Harriers also made a big contribution today by organising a Fun Run of a mile around the village for all who wanted to find out how much fun running can be. Once again youngsters participated in the run and those who dressed up as fairies, elves, santas certainly added fun and colour to the proceedings. The Harriers are to be thanked for emphasising that considering fitness and health should become a natural part of our daily routine.

The wonderful range of Farmers' Market produce on offer today also reveals increasing awareness of the importance of home-made, farm-reared and fresh in the minds of the public. In addition to the stalls now well known at Sedgefield Farmers' Market there are interesting new stalls which you may like to visit. The Darwin Brewery run by Keith Thomas from Sunderland University sells beers with an emphasis on the traditional. Keith teaches students the skills of brewing; the students will eventually set up their own brewing business. The enterprising university sells the results of the students' work at Farmers' Markets. Keith was very pleased with this his first time at Sedgefield and intends coming again in January and February. His "Flag Porter" has a fascinating background in that the yeast it was made with came from a Victorian bottle of beer found in a wrecked ship in the English Channel! Do ask him about this and other beers in his range.

Embleton Hall Dairy Farm were present today with their yogurts, all deliciously fruity and absolutely no additives. Paul Thompson who runs the farm will be bringing their lovely yogurts next month too. The yogurts are a new venture for Embleton Hall and have been very well received by the customers.

Stallholders known (maybe even loved) at Sedgefield include Larberry Farm organic meats, Patterson's sea food, Burtree Farm poultry, eggs and cakes, Broom Mill bacon and pork, Pickled Pink Preserves, market organiser Nigel Davison from Ing's Nurseries, David and Anne Mellanby with their wonderful vegetables, so reasonably priced, Joanne Martin's home-made cakes, Rushyford Game, and a welcome return to Weardale Organic Soups. Richard, from Weardale Soups, says that two new soups of theirs, the Cauliflower and Cheddar and Carrot and Coriander, are fast becoming favourites with customers. Peter Allanson from "Shire Honey" has been attending Sedgefield this year; he has a wide range of honeys. It wasn't just the beautiful sunny day, bright but cold, which "made" the market today, but the warm cheer given out by the councillors, the youngsters' activities and also the wonderful support given by you the customers at each and every market. We on the Farmers' Market would like to thank our customers for continuing to make Sedgefield so special.

A very Happy Christmas to all.

The next Farmers' Market is on 13th January 2008.

Correction

Please note that in the letter 'Foul Play at the Flowerbed', "spring cleaning" in the second paragraph should have read "spring flowering".

I recently watched SP07 on BBC1. SP07 = Sports Personality of the Year 2007. What on earth happened to Sports Review of the Year as a title? It looks like the BBC has surrendered to the demands of the 21st Century's celebrity obsessed culture, which is a real shame.

And as for some of the winners! Take team of the year, for instance. Okay, the England rugby union team did pick themselves up magnificently to reach the World Cup Final, but they didn't actually win anything this year, until they picked up this SP07 trophy. Meanwhile, the GBR cycling team left the opposition trailing in their wake during the recent world championships, yet they were overlooked for the award. Durham County Cricket Club didn't even get shortlisted in this category, despite winning their first ever trophy, getting promotion as winners of the second division of the one day leagues and almost clinching the County Championship. Yet the Scotland football team made the shortlist – yes, that's another outfit that in the final analysis didn't achieve success. So, I'm going to get off my high horse and conduct my own Sports Review of the Year. I will try to be objective, but will probably fail, and I'm not going to set up any sort of telephone voting, as there lies the road to corruption and infamy.

National/International Sport

I'll stay brief in this area, as it won't make for pleasant reading. With a few notable exceptions (cycling, rowing, sailing to name three), the performances of our national teams and individuals were mainly marked by glorious and inglorious failure. Take the traditional leading three team sports of football, rugby union and cricket and you have a sorry tale. I won't really add to what has already been written about the rugby union team (so surprisingly close, but no cigar) and the footballers (so undeserving of the reprieve that Israel gave them, but embarrassingly unable to take advantage of it). The women's football team did get to the quarter finals of their World Cup, but were then comprehensively turned over by the USA, so no salvation for the sport there either. Turning to cricket, the England team started their year contemplating the wreckage of

their Ashes defence, and failed to spark at the World Cup or the World Twenty20. They then beat the West Indies in a Test series, but followed that up by losing to India. Their one day international fortunes are starting to turn around under new captain Paul Collingwood, and as I write this, they are still in with a shout of sharing the honours of the Test series in Sri Lanka. I still have high hopes for the cricket team, but it hasn't been a vintage year.

Regional Sport

North East England's various teams have had very mixed fortunes during 2007. I think that the progress, or otherwise, of the region's football teams is fairly common knowledge, so I won't dwell on that (as a Nottingham Forest fan, I have more than enough to worry about these days without thinking about any other club!).

Onto other sports: In basketball the Eagles have soared back to the top of the British Basketball League; over in the ice hockey arena, the Vipers' sting has been potent some of the time, but not consistently; on the rugby union pitch, the Falcons are hovering a few places above the danger zone in the league and in pole position in their European Challenge Cup pool (again, as I type this).

For me, the region's outstanding club this year has been, by some distance, Durham County Cricket Club. I won't bore you by repeating what I have already written about DCCC, but simply believe that the club's achievements have been absolutely stunning, not only on the domestic scene, but also in the fact that Durham continues to be a conveyor belt of exciting England players. Heady days for a club that has been an official first class county for less than 20 years.

Sedgefield News Sports Awards

Unilaterally and unanimously, I have decided to announce the inaugural Sedgefield News Sports Awards. Unfortunately, we've run out of space this month, so you will have to wait until the end of January to find out who has earned these instantly prestigious accolades. I can already feel the anticipation building. Watch this space...
chrisjlines@aol.com.

Another Letter

Sedgefield Community Christmas Fayre in Aid of Tommy's, the Baby Charity

Both of our families have been through the heartbreaking experience of stillbirth in the last year. So, last summer, we decided to team up to fundraise and commemorate the first anniversaries of our born silently babies.

Originally, we had just planned a coffee morning. However, as we spread the idea, and so many people were supportive and enthusiastic about the project, it soon became a Community Christmas Fayre in aid of Tommy's, the baby charity.

The fayre meant hard work for months and weeks of late nights, but, also, the invaluable chance to honour the memory of our babies through something positive.

We would like to thank friends, family, neighbours, schools, nurseries and playgroups. We would also like to especially thank all those who kindly volunteered and worked really hard on the day and express our sincere gratitude to all our donors for their generosity as well.

Finally, many thanks to the following organisations for the auction lots, prizes donated and support: ASDA Peterlee, Beauty Angels, Billingham Campus School Art Department, Ceddesfeld Playgroup, CENAMPS Limited, Dun Cow Inn, Durham County Cricket Club, East Durham Play & Community Network, Evolution, Gordon Cattrell of Crook Golf Club, Morgan Family of Fishburn Airfield, G and S Textiles, IRIS Engineering & Technology Ltd, Jayne's Shop, Middlesbrough Football Club, Morrisons Teesside Park, Netpark Incubator, Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club, Rosebys Teesside Park, Sedgefield Library, Sedgefield News, Sedgefield School, St. John Fisher, Sunderland AFC, Tate's Plumbing and Repairs, The Florist Shop, The Ministers Indian Restaurant, The Wigglets, Trimdon Grange Nursery and Infant School and Tumble Tots at Wolviston.

So far, with your help, we have raised a fantastic £2,396 and there are still a couple of collection tins circulating and some initiatives on-going. We have set up a web page where you can see the latest updates on our fundraising total or make a donation if you wish to do so: - http://www.tommys.org/supportus/personal-appeals_s2/fundraising-event-111.htm

With gratitude and best wishes for a Happy New Year, Chaparro-Falco Family and Lewis-Woodhead Family.

Cricket Club

The close season for the Cricket Club may be thought to be a time to have a break from the day to day activities with a club like ours. In truth, this is definitely not the way it is. It is a time for repairs and maintenance to be carried out. Winter nets for both junior and senior teams take place. The social side is as vibrant as usual as we build up our finances for the coming expenses throughout the summer. We have recently had a new water pipe installed which will enable our water flow to increase. We expect because of this to be able to replace our gas boiler very soon. Decorating inside and out will be ongoing as our volunteer force can give the time up. We are currently looking to hire a new groundsman to commence duties in late February or March. Could anyone who may be interested or want more information please contact myself on 01740 620373 or leave a message on the Club answering machine on 01740 620521.

Following improvements to the parkland adjacent to our Club, a new access entrance to this area with a path to Hardwick Park has been built in the form of a stile on the path to the A177 just after the last bungalow on the same side of the road as our Club. I'm sure this will stop any potential 'health and safety' problems and is a solution to any difficulties which had previously been identified. Anyone with any queries regarding membership, or availability of our facilities could again contact me or leave a message.

Ray Lower, Secretary

Where are they now?

I am looking for a friend and ex-colleague with whom I worked about 30 years ago. They lived in Sedgefield. I have tried many ways to find this person but without success. I was hoping perhaps you may be able to locate them through your newspaper, or perhaps you could suggest other methods of

tracking them.

The person's name is Lynn Dobson her husband's name is Mike. Of course it's always possible that Lynn and Mike may have split up and Lynn now has a different surname. Lynn worked with me for Gallenkamp & Co. (no longer in business) in Stockton-on-Tees. She is an especially kind and generous person and was always willing to help all she came in contact with. Her cheerful and upbeat attitude was a model for us all and she played a major part, without knowing, in the direction I took and successes I achieved. I simply want to say "thank you for being there for me and for being who you are".

I moved to the USA in 1989 and now live south of Atlanta, Georgia. Thanking you in anticipation,
Roy Elks
USA 770 227 9772
or USA 678 525 5932 (cell) or
RoyAir1@aol.com

Incinerator Inquiry

Remember George Orwell's warning in the first chapter of his novel '1984' that 'The Party' has taken over all aspects of life and is intent on eradicating individuality? If so, then please be aware that our local democracy is in danger as a real 'Big Brother' looms on our horizon on the 16th and 17th January. Unlike Winston Smith, you can speak out openly and query the safety for those who live here and for the local environment of our beautiful village! Please 'stand up and be counted', don't let Big Brother win this time around.

Last year Durham County Council Planning Committee asked for public opinion concerning the proposed installation of a chimney and incinerator for the disposal of animal waste at G Bolam Foods Ltd, Salters Lane Industrial Estate. They received 224 letters of which 223 objected to the proposal, their perception being of fear and uncertainty. A further 94 signatures appeared on a petition opposing

the application.

On Wednesday 16th August, 2006 fourteen members of the aforesaid Planning Committee and two other councillors made a site visit to Salters Lane to assess the pros and cons of the application before travelling to County Hall, Durham for the monthly DCC Planning Meeting. Four councillors spoke or asked questions and one councillor voted for the proposal.

The meeting resolved that planning permission be refused because:

1. There is no established need for the proposed facility, and the proposal is therefore contrary to Durham County Waste Local Plan Policies W53.
 2. There would be detriment to local amenity because of public anxieties about emissions from the proposed incinerator and the controls able to be put in place. The proposal would be contrary to policies W4 and W33.
- All the above data comes from the Planning Committee Minutes.

This decision is likely to be overturned in January! Unless we people of Sedgefield do something the first you will hear of any noise, the first you will smell of any malodorous smell, the first you will see of the chimney spewing forth whatever as you approach on the A177 from the north will be when the plant is up and running! Then it will be too late. You still have a chance to show your opposition! A public enquiry is to be held at Sedgefield Racecourse on the 16th and 17th January, 2008 commencing at 10:00 am each day. A request for an evening session has been refused. Only by filling the room for all, or part, of each day/session will the Inspector know the strength of feeling of the local population. Please make an attempt to attend each day, it is a fact that the Inspector will have to heed the feelings of the local population. Petitions seem to have little or no clout.

Name and address provided

Youth Football Fixtures

20 Jan (A) v Aycliffe Youth
27 Jan (H) v Great Ayton JFC
10 Feb (A) v Eaglescliffe Elementis
17 Feb (H) v Ferryhill Town
24 Feb (A) v Grangetown YCC
02 Mar (A) v South Park Rangers (b)
16 Mar (A) v 21st Allstars (b)
30 Mar (H) v Beechwood Youth

Kick-off times - 10.30 to 11.00am

January Events Diary

A FREE service to
non-commercial organisations

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 5th January

Starts 8pm

Quizmaster Peter Dixon

All Welcome

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 6th January

7.30pm

Local History Society

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday 7th January

Gordon Henderson

from Roma Antiqua

"An Update on

Binchester Roman Fort"

All welcome

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 7th January

8pm in the Nag's Head

'Sedgefield Mags' run a bus to all

Newcastle United home games

Residents' Forum

Monday 7th January

7pm, Ceddesfeld Hall

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 9th January

"The Roof of Africa"

Stephen Coupland

7:15pm Parish Hall

Members' competition - a piece of
wooden jewellery

Visitors welcome (fee £1.50)

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 10th January

7pm at 6 Hasledon Grove

Everyone welcome

Mobile Movies

A film for all the family

Friday 11th January

N.B. Rectory Row Primary School.
Entry £1.50 all ages

No need to book but under 8's need
an accompanying adult

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 13th January

on the Village Green

Days In Days Out (DIDO)

Monday 14th January

In Ceddesfeld Hall at 1.15pm.

Why not join the New Line Dancing

Group at 12.00pm beforehand?

Contact Gloria on 622447

Or Linda on 620857

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

7.30pm Tuesday 15th January

in the Methodist Church Hall

A.G.M. and short demonstration

by 3 members.

All welcome

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 17th January

There will be a meeting

in the Nag's Head at 8pm

Everyone welcome

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 21st January

Ceddesfeld Hall

"Maritime History"

Leslie Cheyne

Burns' Night Supper

Saturday 26th January

£21.50

Advance booking required

Telephone 620042

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 24th January at

7.45pm in the Swinhoe Room

Ceddesfeld Hall

For more details contact Steve

Ashton on 620559

All welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night

Saturday 26th January at 8pm

Main Guest: Vin Garbutt.

Also featuring John Wrightson Band
and the Young Uns.

Admission £9 (with Buffet)

Strictly by ticket only

Telephone 621347

NB The Cricket Club is available for

hire for private parties, normally

free of charge. To book, call Jane

on 629616

101 Gigs in January

05 - Ferryhill Club (Private party)

11 - Daisy Hill, Sacriston

12 - Penny Black, Hartburn

13 - Normanby Hotel, Normanby

17 - Swan, Billingham

18 - Garricks Head, North Shields

19 - Anfield Plain Cricket Club

20 - Black Lion, Sedgefield

26 - Princess Alice, Middlesbrough

27 - Bensham Jockey, Newcastle

30 - Lord Nelson, Stockton

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Ladies' Circle

2nd & 4th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome

Contact Viv on 629079

Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory

Friday 4th January 7:30pm

"What's Up in the Night Sky this
month"

Friday 18th January 7:30pm

"Exoplanets and Extraterrestrials"

Friday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

January 9:00pm

Public Observing in the Observatory

Sedgefield Garden Society

No meeting in January

Country Market

Country Markets will re-open after
Parish Hall refurbishment.

Sedgefield Mother & Toddler Group@ Methodist Church

Mondays from 1.15 - 2.45 pm

Tea, coffee and a chat whilst your
children play. Term time only.

For further information call 620572

St Edmund's Church

Weddings and Baptisms may be
arranged in church

on Thursday evenings

at 6.30pm.

CeddesFolk Traditional Acoustic Session

No session in January

Coming up

Mobile Movies

A film for all the family

Friday 1st & 29th February

N.B. Rectory Row Primary School.

Entry £1.50 all ages

No need to book but under 8's need

Fireworks to see in the New Year!

All you happy revellers - don't forget that there will be the usual
firework display on the Green at Midnight on New Year's Eve

Your Letters

Junior Badminton Club

I write in response to the letter about the Junior Badminton Club which was published in the latest issue of Sedgefield News. My colleagues in the Community Association and I were very surprised that some Sedgefield residents were under the impression this club is 'no longer'. This is entirely fictitious. We are hoping that the existing coach will market and develop the club so that the membership increases. Should the coach not wish to do this then we will seek another. I want to make it very clear - we are seeking to expand community activities, particularly in relation to sport, not contract them. There seems to be some grave misunderstandings around. The club is not under any kind of threat. Profit has never been a motive for us but, now that there are no subsidies, we are unable to make massive losses. My staff, the governors and I are fully supportive of our community needs and share the desire to improve and enhance the lives of our students and catchment area residents. There is no conflict with our aims and those of the community. We are at a loss as to why it seems so difficult to ring or e-mail to ask about things!! We are all working hard to develop the college and feel very aggrieved with ill-informed public criticism. It is just not productive. Thank you to the majority of residents who engage in productive, balanced discussion. We do listen!
Lynne Ackland, Sedgefield Community College, Headteacher

Traffic Calming - 1

In reply to Ken Jones' letter in the last issue, may I make the following observations. The traffic calming measures on Durham Rd work perfectly well if drivers read the road signs which are well in advance of the two choke points. The problem is caused, like so much else on the roads today, by drivers not giving full attention to the job in hand.

If the choke points were removed in favour of "speed bumps" and no doubt, more added, they will lead to a huge increase in claims to the council for damage caused to vehicles grounding on them. Councils already spend twice as much on court fees fighting claims and then having to pay compensation for damage/injury caused, than they do repairing the roads.

Then there is the problem of the injuries caused by vehicles "bumping" over them. Professional drivers (bus/lorry etc) clock up hundreds of hours off sick with back injuries caused by speed bumps, not to mention further injuries caused to ambulance patients!

If the choke points are not doing their jobs, they could be altered to form chicanes, thereby forcing vehicles to alter their line of travel much more than they do now, making them slow down more. But please, no speed bumps.

I do agree with a 20 mph limit in the village, but who will enforce it any more than the present 30 mph? Cameras have to be bought, erected, maintained and serviced. Sedgefield already pays the country's highest council tax. I for one am not keen on paying any more.

Alan Patterson

Traffic Calming - 2

Reference to Traffic calming in Durham Road, 'Speed Bumps' were in place before, they were replaced with the 'Traffic Calmers'. Neither the bumps or calmers are traffic or environment calming. The bumps were also a hazard, causing damage to vehicles and adjacent properties from heavy vibrations. Loud noise and fuel emission pollutants are also hazardous to comfort and health. It is doubtful the bumps or calmers serve their intended purpose. A monitored 20 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the village would be more appropriate.
R Suddes/D Ivey

Public Footpath? Get the Facts Right!

It never ceases to amaze us why people with such forthright views seek to reserve the right to anonymity, and complain in such a way, when they could easily have come along and spoken to us face to face.

To put the record straight, the notices did not appear on the 'footpath' as stated; they were attached to our own fence, clearly visible from the right of way, and in fact to enable the ones placed near the A177 to be torn down, the person who did this would have had to cross the strip of land referred to, land which is in our ownership; land which is not within the definitive right of way; therefore they would indeed have been trespassing.

Before 1992 local residents had enjoyed using this track without any legal right to do so. The footpath referred to gives access along the track, which is some 3 metres wide and runs from Neville Drive to the A177, adopted by Durham County Council but not owned by them. This track does not belong to the public to do with as they will, they merely have the right to pass and re-pass along it. Over a long period of time some people have chosen to disregard the Highways Act and continue to stray from the definitive right of way. They have torn down fencing and previous notices, giving themselves, and their pets, access to East Park across this strip of land, having blatant disregard for the rights of others.

What concerns us even more is that some people who use this right of way, have no consideration for other users and merely see it as a 'dog's toilet'. I would suggest that these 'concerned residents' come along and clean up their mess, and get their facts right before making any accusations about their 'rights'.
Mr and Mrs Willis

More letters on pages 6 & 7

The DEADLINE for copy for inclusion in the February edition of Sedgefield News is JANUARY 15th. Contact us at 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 629011: email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

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