

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



Sedgefield NEWS

March 2009

Maria, her friends & those 'teen Fridays'. A 'Place2B' might help

It was interesting to read the letter from Maria in February's Sedgefield News, and it is gratifying that young people in the village care enough about the lack of facilities available for them to actually put their thoughts on paper so that we can all understand their point of view.

Maria and friends may be interested to note that a new organisation, Place2B, has been formed under the auspices of Sedgefield Development Trust, to try and address the issues she raised. We would be interested in talking to Maria, her friends and any other young people who would be prepared to talk to us about their hopes, their ideas and the kind of facilities they would like made available to them.

Please contact us initially at **Place2B, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield**, and include your contact details so we can get in touch with you to arrange to meet and talk things through. *Ian Thomson, Place2B.*

*See page 2 for the **Place2B COMPETITION***

Below: meet the "SEDEHOGS"

The Sedgehogs are members of a motorcycle club formed just over a year ago by a group of friends from around the local area. It is still quite a small group, just 18 members, but these now come from as far afield as the Isle of Man and Galesburg, Illinois, USA.

The name Sedgehogs was suggested as the club meets in Sedgefield Social Club, where Graham, who runs the club, has been very supportive.

The photo was taken on February 7th outside the Sedgefield Social Club, when a cheque for £651 was presented to the Great North Air Ambulance. The money was raised at the Sedgehogs' Christmas Fancy Dress Party where they held a raffle and auction of items kindly donated by members, friends of members and local businesses.

Sedgehogs will be supporting the Air Ambulance again later in the year when they participate in the Boundary 500 event, a 500 mile sponsored ride around the North East & West.

More information & photographs can be found at www.sedgehogs.co.uk together with links to other sites, including the Boundary 500.

The Midnight Walk

Ladies - your application form is on page 3!

Outrage as caravan park gets go-ahead

Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum gives us a detailed account of the meeting at which this controversial decision was taken, including the voting of individual councillors, in this month's Jottings.

The Forum would like to take legal action and for this they are reliant on finding funding. See Letters on finding funding. See Letters page 12 & Jottings page 5



!!!! COMPETITION !!!!

Prize is a voucher from HMV

For all you young budding artists out there, we are a new group in the community called

'PLACE2B'

and we would like you all to put your pens to paper & design a logo for us. So come on, get those coloured pens out & let's see your creations'

Details of the competition

It has to include our name - 'PLACE2B'

Maximum size is A4

You have to be within the age range of 13-17 yrs

All submissions must include your name, age and telephone number on the back of your application

Closing date for receipt is 27th March 09

The winner will be notified 1st week in April

'Friends of Hardwick' ten years old!

The Friends of Hardwick recently held their 10th Annual General Meeting where they heard about the progress made in Hardwick Park over the last year. Tony Smith had retired and Catherine Grezo had moved to a new position, the Park project was now headed up by Andy Niven for Durham County Council.

Andy sketched out the highs and lows of the year, saying that the positives included the vast improvement in the visual aspect; the site now looks very good. The Visitor Centre is nearer completion than this time last year! The work to finish the landscaping and the Car Park has been completed to a very high standard. New staff have been engaged; Michael Monroe, Paul Ellison, Kate Philips and Danny Booth and an Education Officer is soon to be appointed.

Slightly less positive is the lack of money available to finish the job and run the site. The re-organised Durham County Council has not got round to appointing a Head of Service yet and it is not clear how the Park will fit into the new structure. There has also been a need to revisit the interpretation scheme and exhibition area.

Out in the Park itself, the Bath House will soon be consolidated and the footprint turfed. the fence has gone from the Gothic Seat but the Bono Retiro will soon be securely fenced because of health and safety issues. The Cascade is nearly finished and a footbridge over the water channel will soon be in place. The rip rap cladding on the Dam has been more firmly secured. The Temple roof has been repaired and the fence round the building is soon to be removed once the handrails to the steps are installed.

The new Car Park is almost finished, landscaping and planting will start soon. Lighting will be installed and it is hoped that it will be open for Easter. The Visitor Centre has a number of problems which will have to be rectified before it can open. Ultimately it is hoped it will be used for a variety of activities including an environmental education service, talks, family events, corporate training and volunteering, children's parties, health and guided walks, orienteering courses and education space to let. It is anticipated that the formal opening will be during the summer

In the East Park the corridor development has commenced and wildflower planting will be done shortly.

All-in-all it has been a year of progress!

Fancy a dance?

DIDO's line dancing group is now recruiting. They all have tremendous fun and anyone who takes a chance with them would be warmly welcomed.

They next step up to the line on Monday 2nd March in the Parish Hall -12noon - 2pm

Yee Hah!

101 gigs in March

02 - The Red Lion, Norton

05 - The Vic, Saltburn

06 - The Daisy Hill, Sacriston

07 - Camels Hump, Middlesbrough

12 - The Grange, Sunderland

13 - The Queens Head, Crook

14 - Private Party

21 - Princess Alice, Middlesbrough

22 - The Black Lion, Sedgefield

27 - The Ox & Plough, Washington

28 - The Ox Inn, Stanley

Charity Fashion Show

The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield invites you to a show presented by

HOUSE OF FRASER

at Sedgefield Parish Hall on

Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 from the BP Garage,

North End, Sedgefield

or call 622377

Musical treat

The Darlington & The Dales Youth Orchestra has joined forces with the Cobweb Orchestra to perform a big concert of symphonic proportions for Mothering Sunday, at 3 pm on March 22nd in St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington.

The programme features renowned flautist, Gareth McLearnon, as soloist in the world premiere of a flute concerto, plus Wagner's Meistersingers' Overture and Dvorak's Symphony No. 8. Gareth has kindly offered to run a flute workshop on Friday 20th March at Carmel RC College from 5- 9 pm, to which any flute players are invited. Tickets for the concert are on sale in Darlington at Guru, Geoffrey Gillow's and Ron's Music £5 adults, £2.50 concessions, free for accompanied children. People can pay at the door.

Any musicians of ABRSM Grade 5 or above, who would like to join us for this exciting programme, should contact admin@dyomusic.org with name, instruments played, approximate standard of playing & contact details.

The same contact details should be used to enrol for Gareth's flute workshop.

Dave Jasper, Chairman, Darlington & The Dales Youth Orchestra

To advertise with us or to send contributions for publication
email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Butterwick Midnight Walk 2009

1000 places are on offer for women to take part in this year's Midnight Walk at Sedgefield Racecourse in aid of Butterwick Hospice Care on Saturday 20th June.

Organisers are keen to point out that the walk will take place on the grass and the whole area will be floodlit. Last year the women raised over £65,000, all of which has been spent locally to provide specialist palliative care and bereavement support to people affected by life limiting illness or the death of a loved one.

Places are limited, so please cut out & return the entry form. Entry is £12.50 and you'll receive a walking pack including a Sponsorship Form, Fitness Sheet, Unlimited bottled water, Chocolate bar, Fruit, Breakfast (Bacon Sandwich, tea or coffee) and a well earned medal!

Pam Royle - one of the Midnight Walkers



Pam, who took part last year, says "There was something really exciting about setting off at midnight. Each and every woman I spoke to had her own very personal reasons for joining in and yet we were all able to laugh and share our sense of fun in the occasion. There was real camaraderie between us all combined with a steely sense of determination and purpose. We were all thrilled with the amount of money the walk raised and I would urge any woman who is thinking about taking part to sign up now! Go for it!"

Sedgefield Primary School, Rectory Row: Saturday 29th March, 1-3 pm Spring Fair

Can you remember your favourite stall from previous years? The chocolate fountain, the big screen computer games, the face painting, or the football targets? What will you find to thrill and entertain you this year? Will you climb aboard the fire engine or take a pony ride, rise to the Sedgefield Junior Harriers' agility challenge or dip into the chocolate tombola? It's not just all the usual stalls and games; older pupils will be doing their bit too, devising and running a variety of weird and wonderful activities; will we ever forget that mushy dip of fairs gone by, or the trail of photos of our teachers as children? There's no entry fee, it will be warm, friendly and fun.

Grab some change and come along for a cake, a cup of tea, a bounce on the inflatable, a rummage through the toys and the books or just a good old nosey round the school. You might even take home a prize!

Joan Seymour's volunteering trip to India - an update

Dear friends and supporters,

My trip, planned for this April has been postponed and I'm now going in January 2010. I'll be part of a medical team working in the village of Udaipur in Rajasthan. There will be several fundraising ventures and I would like to combine one of these with the visit of our friends from Hamminkeln in mid-September. Joan Edmundson and John Wrightson and friends will supply us with great entertainment, and supper will be included. The date is to be arranged, but watch this space. A big thank you to all the people who have given so generously. £611.91 has been forwarded to I-Connect Friendship in India. For more information, call Joan on 620256.

ONE FORM PER PERSON PLEASE

Title _____
Surname _____
Company Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone No. _____
Mobile No. _____
Email Address _____
Age _____
Any medical conditions _____
Any special dietary needs _____

I enclose a cheque made payable to Butterwick Hospice Care for £12.50
or please debit my credit card:

Card Number _____

Start Date _____ Expiry Date _____ Issue No. _____ Security Code _____

T-shirt Small Medium Large X Large
 (35"-37") (38"-40") (41"-43") (44"-46")

I will be walking the distance of 5 laps 10 laps

Would you be willing to partake in publicity about the Midnight Walk? Yes No

Do you have a special reason for fundraising for Butterwick Hospice Care?
(If so please provide details)

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

I understand that this walk is not a race. I am aware that the organisers and their employees and volunteers cannot be held responsible for any personal injury, accident, loss, damage or public liability. I can confirm I am in reasonable health and fitness. If under 16 I will be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Signed _____

Date _____

Your details will be held on Butterwick Hospice internal database and will not be sent on to a third party. If you do not wish to be kept updated about news from Butterwick Hospice please tick here.

Please complete & return this form to:
Midnight Walk, Butterwick Hospice, Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6JU
Registered Charity No. 1044816

Community SAFETY



We apologise to N/Hood Watch Members for having to cancel our first meeting of the year (3rd Feb.) but the weather was just too intimidating when the decision needed to be made. Hopefully we will see a good turnout in April (Tues. 14th).

PC Todd has been kind enough to furnish us with the crime figures & details that he would have discussed had the meeting gone ahead.

Between December 9th 2008 & February 3rd this year there have been a total of 25 recorded crimes. These comprise 8 Burglaries + 1 attempted, 6 Thefts, 9 of Damage & 1 Assault within the village.

Sadly a clear message to all that crime is ever present & causing some residents more grief than others; with this in mind we asked our crime prevention officer if he would send us a "few words".

Crime Prevention News

from your Crime Prevention Police Officer, Neil Langthorne

We are keen to impress upon residents to keep their homes secure at all times and ensure car and house keys are not visible from windows and doors. Once again it is important that homes are given the appearance of being occupied. Light timer switches can be used to activate interior lighting and dusk to dawn sensors can do the same, to automatically switch on exterior lights.

An approved intruder alarm is also something to consider. It represents a significant deterrent and is a most effective burglary prevention measure.

Thinking of upgrading your door or windows? New doors should meet the enhanced security standard PAS 24 and the window enhanced security standard is BS 7950.

Recent research has indicated that over half of the burglaries in Sedgefield Borough area did not involve forced entry. This would suggest the crime was either a sneak-in crime, distraction or the property was insecure. We are all complacent at times, but by giving a little consideration to your home security will help prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

We have had two recent spates of burglary in the village which is unusual in itself. As a result of investigations and good police work, several persons have been arrested in connection with the crimes over the Christmas period.

I always sing the virtues of Neighbourhood Watch and nowhere is it more active than in Sedgefield Village. The group are always on the look out for enthusiastic volunteers willing to lend their support.

Crime Prevention advice can be obtained by contacting your local Beat Officer PC Keith TODD, alternatively you can contact myself PC Neil Langthorne, Crime Prevention Officer on tel: 0345 60 60 365.

0345 60 60 365 is the new Police Non Emergency tel. number

As you will see Neil included the number in his news brief & it is usual to find it on this page each month, but somehow many people don't seem to know what it is or where to find it! The number takes you to a local Police Call Centre, where the operator will take details or connect you to a Police Officer if necessary. Should you wish to speak to an Officer simply ask, if it is a local officer you require again specify this & you will be transferred (if they are on duty / available).

For those concerned about costs; this number is charged by BT as a **local call**, so if you have one of their plans depending on time of day you could be calling free of charge.

Flask in the Fridge - Annual Reminder to all Users

Please remember to update your data sheet inside the flask, following any change to either your medication or to your health. **It is vital, if the Emergency Services are called and refer to the information, that it is accurate & up to date.**

Telephone Numbers (if you don't contact them, the Police/Community Force don't know a problem exists)
Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield ring 623654
or via Chilton Control Room rin: 01388 721351

To contact Local Police to report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police, call 0345 60 60 365 (NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no.)

For advice / assistance:

Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne, Telephone 01325 742714
Community Liaison Officer - Mel Elliot, Telephone 01325 742755

PC Todd reports

In my thoughts this month is the traffic speeding through the village and along the B1278 road towards Fishburn. I and other residents have noticed an increase in drivers flouting the 30mph speed limit within the village and the 40mph limit on the B1278.

In fact, one resident attended a recent P.A.C.T. meeting to express concern for the safety of children and their parents whilst waiting at the bus stop near Winterton Cottages.

If you are among those drivers who regularly use this road as a race track I would ask that you think about the consequences of an accident before taking such risks. We will be using a mobile matrix system in our area, so best slow down and don't get caught!

If you would like to speak to me in person regarding any police related problems, why not come to the next P.A.C.T. meeting? The town council offices will give you more details. Crimes reported recently include theft of car from Milbourne Court, a fence damaged in The Lane, a mountain bike stolen from Chestnut Road and a vehicle having its paintwork scratched on all sides, on the Winterton Estate. Until next time, Keith

Pub Watch

A meeting was held at the Hope Inn. Lisa Ions from the Hardwick Arms was given a warm welcome into Pub Watch. The Hardwick Arms has undergone a transformation recently - now is the time to have a look for yourselves. No incidents were reported that required further action by members.

Surestart in Fishburn

House of Eden has opened a brand new purpose-built, Ofsted approved

Surestart nursery adjacent to Fishburn Primary School, which is proving very popular with parents and children alike.

The baby room is filling up fast! Nursery manager, Carol Woods, is delighted with the new facilities and the numbers of enquires she has received. She said "Everything is brand new, building, equipment and staff - although we are all well qualified and have a lot of years experience in previous nurseries. We have already applied to Ofsted to increase the number of baby places available so we don't disappoint anyone".

The House of Eden offers FREE morning or afternoon introductory sessions which include lunch or tea. There is also FREE early years entitlement for 3-5 year olds, 38 weeks of the year, 15 hours per week.

Jottings

from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum meeting, February '09

We believe we must give over this month's jottings space to report on the planning application for the caravan park. We are obviously very disappointed that permission for this very damaging development has been granted and that so many Labour councillors voted in favour of the development against the clear voice of our community. Residents again turned out 'in force' to show their objection at this planning meeting and great thanks must go to them all.

The 'working group' of the Residents' Forum, presenting the community's case is willing to continue to explore ways in which we might get this decision overturned. Of course we will only do this on behalf of the community if it is still the community wish. If anyone believes we should not carry on trying to prevent this huge development of caravans on the outskirts of our village please let us know by March 20th 2009.

Labour Councillors Leave a Legacy

A year ago Sedgefield Borough Council (SBC) planning officers recommended that Councillors approve an application for a caravan park on historic farm land on the outskirts of Sedgefield village beside Hardwick Country Park. The application was for 330 caravans and 48 lodges but after listening to the overwhelming objections from Sedgefield residents, the greatest public objection ever to a local planning application, the Councillors voted against the application 25 to 4 votes.

The reasons for refusal were - ***that in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposal represents overdevelopment in the countryside, does not fulfill environmental, economic and social policies and is contrary to Policy L21 of the Sedgefield Borough Local Plan.***

The developer subsequently appealed against the Council's decision. SBC paid several thousands of pounds employing a barrister and external planning experts to defend the Council's decision and indeed won; the developer's appeal was refused.

In December 2008 the developer resubmitted the application, this time without the 48 lodges but still for 330 caravans. So very little change to the application and making no difference to the overwhelming objections of the local community and Sedgefield Town Council (STC). Yet on February 6th 2009 SBC planning committee voted 14 to 9 to approve the application despite a strong case of opposition put by Sedgefield Residents and STC.

It cannot go unnoticed that the vote was clearly a political split 14 Labour councillors voted in favour of the application and the 9 Independent and Conservatives present voting against. (see box right) How can Councillors have possibly changed their minds and now support this application? If it represented over development of the countryside and went against local planning policies just a year ago and the application has hardly changed, surely then it should still be turned down.

Those Councillors voting in favour have totally ignored the views of fellow Councillors i.e. Sedgefield Town Council and have failed to fulfil their role in representing local views and opinions. They obviously do not embrace the Government rhetoric of 'Communities in Control', listening to and responding to the views of local people and enabling residents to have a say over issues which affect their lives. It is time Councillors were held to account and their roles examined and clarified. Many of the above Councillors are also Town Councillors and will continue in that role until 2013; can they be relied upon to reflect their community's views?

Sedgefield Residents are in no doubt that this development is overdevelopment of what should be protected, historic farm land and any minor economic benefit, which is questionable, is totally outweighed by the detrimental effect this huge development will have on our community

Information from the Forum meeting held on February 2nd 2009 can be found in the minutes which will be in the Library and Town Council offices at least one week before the next meeting.

Next meeting: March 2nd at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish hall. Everyone is welcome so please try to come along.

Farmers' Market

Temperatures around minus three today did nothing to deter a very enjoyable Farmers' Market in February. The bright, sunny day encouraged customers to the market and stallholders agreed that it was a great beginning to the year after maybe a false start in January when the rain and wind put paid to any fun.

As usual, there was a good variety of home-made or farm reared produce. The Town Council has plans for further stalls to enhance our customers' visit to the market. Watch that village green space!

The next market is on the second Sunday of the month, March 8th.

Voted in favour of application

TF Forest – Chilton
 Andrew Gray – Spennymoor
 Andrew Smith, Chair – Spennymoor
 Vince Crosby – Newton Aycliffe
 Jim Higgins – Ferryhill
 John Kahn – Spennymoor
 George Gray – Newton Aycliffe
 David Chaytor – Fishburn
 Kath Conroy – Ferryhill
 Terry Ward – Trimdon
 Alan Hodgson - West Cornforth
 Vernon Chapman – Shildon
 W (Billy) Waters – Spennymoor
 Pauline Crathorne – Ferryhill

Voted against

DR Brown – Conservative, Sedgefield
 T Hogan – Ind, Shafto St Marys
 WM Blenkinsopp – Ind, Neville, Simpasture
 A Warburton – Ind, Newton Aycliffe
 E Maddison – Ind, Spennymoor
 L Cuthbertson – Ind, Woodham
 Brian Haigh – Ind, Shafto St Marys
 Sandra Haigh – Ind, Woodham
 Irene Hewitson – Ind, Greenfields, Middridge
 Cllr E Wood – Ind, Spennymoor left the meeting before the vote

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

Well, we're two months into 2009 and there's plenty of domestic and international sport to enjoy. While I'm typing this, I'm watching England try to bowl out the West Indies after tea on the last day of the third test. Oh, and there goes the sixth wicket! It's going to be a tight finish. Meanwhile, there's UEFA Cup football on other channels and over the next few weeks, I'm looking forward to Six Nations rugby union, indoor athletics, tennis, and of course more cricket and football.

Of course, this update is mainly here to champion local sport and encourage people to do more than just watch. Well, the nights are going to get lighter soon, so there will be more opportunities to get outside and have a go at various activities. Sedgefield Harriers are already fairly easy to spot even in the dark with their high visibility tops, but we'll see even more of them over the coming months, as they have a very busy calendar this year, for runners of all ages.

However, this issue focuses mainly on an indoor sport that might not offer great opportunities for spectators in Sedgefield, but which is certainly popular and played by many villagers, young and old.

Squash

The squash season is just over half way through and Sedgefield Squash Club is thriving. The men's 1st and 2nd teams are top and third in their respective leagues, and both in with a great chance of promotion. Meanwhile, the men's 3rd team, ladies' team, juniors u13 & u15 teams, and the ladies' friendly team, are all enjoying their squash and meeting members from other clubs.

2008 ended with some great recognition for the club and the way it had promoted the sport and developed opportunities for juniors and seniors in the community through the year. The 12 months had seen the roll out of a range of initiatives, such as the Saturday morning junior coaching sessions and the introduction of racketball for seniors, as well as successful applications for grants to enhance facilities at the club. Sedgefield Squash Club was nominated as "Club of The Year" for Sedgefield Borough and as a result progressed to the final for Durham County Club of the Year, ending up as a runner up at this level. All in all, a great achievement.

The club's open afternoon on Saturday 7th March (12 noon-4pm) will provide anyone in Sedgefield area, juniors or adult, with the opportunity to try out squash or racketball. Visitors will also be able to have a proper look around the facilities (in the grounds behind Ceddesfeld Hall in case you didn't know) and gain an idea of plans for future improvements for the club. If you are interested, all you need is a clean pair of trainers which you can put on inside the building. The club will provide all of the other equipment. There will also be the opportunity to take advantage of discounted membership fees on the day and the club is looking forward to seeing many Sedgefield News readers there on the day.

In other news on the court, the most recent competition run at the Club was the Pairs Handicap Competition which saw the pairing of Gordon Peden and Maureen Cameron narrowly beat Gary Hetherington and George Peden in

the final. Other club 'closed' competitions will take place during March and April with finals night scheduled for Thursday 23rd April, and the club's annual presentation event on the following evening. For more about Sedgefield Squash Club, please contact Chris Rowsby on 01740 621125 or email crowsby@crowsby.fsnet.co.uk.

Sedgefield Harriers

The public ballot for this year's Great North Run has just closed and most people will now know whether they have secured a place or not. Last year around 50 people from Sedgefield took part in the Great North Run, running for charities and other good causes. The 50 included 10 from Sedgefield Harriers who recorded times from around an hour and a half to over three hours. This means around 40 other Sedgefield runners were 'unattached', i.e. not members of a club (accepting of course that some may be in a club other than the Harriers). Running with a club is more than about competing; there's mutual support and advice; most runners will testify that the time on a long run seems to reduce by about a factor of ten when that run is with good company.

Although the Great North Run is seven months away, if you have a place you should already be at least thinking about your preparation and training. Harriers are encouraging runners to join the club now and benefit from its extensive support. Membership is only £10 (plus a £5 UK Athletics registration fee) and you get access to a comprehensive programme of training sessions for all abilities.

For Great North Run entrants in particular, there's the chance to benefit from the expertise of coaches such as the legendary (their word, not mine!) Gary Hetherington, and dedicated marathon runner Rosie Sims. This year we plan to run a bus to the Run, to beat traffic and parking, with concessionary price for Harriers. What's more, once you've gained your medal and t-shirt you can celebrate at the club's annual dinner, conveniently timed for early October. So, no need to plod those miles on your own. For more about Sedgefield Harriers, contact Ean Parsons; 07771 828568 or ean2005@hotmail.co.uk.

As ever, send any sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com. Oh, and there's the eighth wicket!

Mick Carr, Stephen Rowsby, Gordon Peden and Chris Rowsby at the Durham County Sports Awards



More of *Your Letters* and a telephone call too!

A Cautionary Tale

I have read Sedgefield News with interest since it began and a few times felt the urge to respond to letters on the back page. Last month's letter by Maria has finally pushed me far enough. Having been born (1967) and brought up in Sedgefield, I am aware that there has rarely been much for the teenagers in the village. There used to be a youth club in the old hospital at Ivy House but that closed when I was a kid! I spent most nights out on the streets on bikes or just with mates going between one house and another; maybe not in large groups but the village was bit smaller then. We didn't cause damage but I do remember being chased off school property once or twice, or from the back of the club! I am pleased that Maria has had the courage to write in support of our teenagers.

I have been a policeman for 22 years now. Just a couple of years ago I had the unenviable task of dealing with a child fatality at Blackhall in our county. A 13 year old girl was killed on the railway lines there, having been in a den that the kids had made on the railway embankment under a tree. I had to interview several of the teenagers that had been at the scene on video. It was distressing. None of the kids had been up to no good. They were all good kids. But what did emerge was that they had found a place where no one bothered them. They had been moved on from one place to another simply because they were gathering in groups. Three left the den in darkness and in high wind. They walked along the lines to get back into the village; they didn't hear the train coming.

We need to engage with our teenagers, they are **our** children and the future of the village depends on them. The majority of them don't bite and will speak if spoken to. Sedgefield is a wonderful place to live but we could make it better for our kids. I am sure PC Todd is doing what he can, but we should try talking to them instead of chasing them away.

Andrew Quarmby

And summing up other messages received ...

...from a lady over 60 "never experienced any problem with teenagers. They always stand aside to let her pass and she has never experienced any personal abuse. " ... "They will always be known as PC Plods (or worse) if our police can't be more positive and gain the respect of the young."

... "For years now, our teenagers have been promised something will be done - thinking back to the time when the building across from the Surgery was supposed to be an answer. It failed and it seems no-one since has taken any action."

... "How are they supposed to meet, with no facilities? They are bored. Stop just criticising; you risk annoying youngsters and spurring them on to make trouble."

... "Someone PLEASE get to the root of the problem and get something in place!"

Just a word of thanks to the Round Table and Women's Circle for the Pensioners' Party held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 7 February. It was most enjoyable. We were waited on hand and foot with a glass of sherry when we arrived and refreshments and food later.

The entertainment was non stop; bingo, raffle, comedian (have never laughed so much) and the New Yorkers, with their singing, dancing and beautiful costumes.

Looking forward to the next one!

Thanking you again.

Mrs Jane Mann

Congratulations to Laura Oakes

Laura has been offered a place at Oxford University where she wants to read Human Sciences. Well done, Laura! We are all so very proud.

Grandad and Grandma

Name and address supplied

Place2B (see front page) is one response, and the young peoples' Drop-in at 58 Front Street is another. Let's hope the positive thinking goes on. Editor

Nurse Tyler

The author of the poem below, who will remain unnamed, sent with it the following explanation, and a question for readers ...

Nurse Tyler is buried in the old Church Yard over the road from Winterton Park, as discovered by the author. Other Hospital staff members known as 'The Attendants' in the 1900s, who used to 'restrain' mentally ill patients at Winterton Hospital, are also within the grounds. Maybe some residents of Sedgefield have records, photos or are related to these persons, as no history remains...?

Nurse Tyler

*Your faded gravestone is all that is left,
Amongst the tangle of grass within the Churchyard un-kept.*

*It's unfair and pensive for us to walk on by,
When you helped those patients who in the night gave a cry.*

*No history remains of your life or career,
Don't even know if your family live near.*

*We can only imagine how you were, blonde hair, dark hair, kind or strict.
Maybe ex patients could tell whose notes you had ticked.*

*The landscapes of Winterton have reformed since you've died,
If you could see now what surrounds you, I'm sure you would cry.*

*I lay a red rose on the stone above your head,
Why should you be forgotten because you are dead?*

*People will see now and some remember your rhyme,
Nurse Tyler lies for eternity until the end of time.*

Do you know the history? If you would like to be put in touch with the author of 'Nurse Tyler' please contact Sedgefield News and we will pass your details on. Editor

For inclusion in the April edition of Sedgefield News please send news or adverts by our deadline of **March 15th to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

or to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit contributions & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. **Please include contact details in correspondence** and, if you wish, ask to have your name/address withheld.

March Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 1st March

"Friendship" - a 4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the Welcome Room at St Edmund's

Line Dancing

In the Parish Hall from 12 -2pm

Monday 2nd March

Residents' Forum

Monday 2nd March

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm

Local History Society

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday 2nd March

Jim Cole

"Bishop Auckland Castle - History with Humour!"

All welcome

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

Monday 2nd March

Social Evening

Monday 16th March

Three Paces Behind (Nora Fisher)

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 2nd March

8pm in the Nag's Head

'Sedgefield Mags' run a bus to all Newcastle United home games

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 3rd March

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

What to look for when buying a perennial plant

A talk by Howard Leslie

All welcome

Sing for Fun

Wednesday 4th March

1 - 2pm. A fortnightly lighthearted singing session, at the Methodist Church Hall

CeddesFolk

Acoustic Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 4th March

Join our line up of fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 4th March 7.15pm

Christine Atkinson

"Women in Islam"

Members' competition is a Handmade Bookmark

Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 7th March

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 7th March

Starts at 8pm

Farmers' Market

Sunday 8th March

on the village green, 9.30 - 1.30

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 8th March

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

(Tutor group meets at 1pm on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

DIDO

Monday 9th March

at 1.30pm in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Town Council

monthly meeting

Monday 9th March

7 pm in the Council Offices

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 12th March

7.30pm at 4 Durham Road

All welcome

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 12th March

8pm at the Nag's Head

All welcome

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 16th March

Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm

"Secrets of the Attic – concluding chapters"

Tony Nicholson

Visitors are always welcome

For more information please ring

Sylvia Hall 620367

St Patrick's Night

In aid of the St Mary Magdalene

Church Loo & Vestry Project

with SKERNE, comedian Martin

Nesbitt, Bert Draycott

& local singer, Michelle Burton

Tuesday March 17th - 8 pm at

the Labour Club, Trimdon Village

Ticket £5

Contact Lesley Tate 01429 880346

or Labour Club 01429 880327

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th March

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

NE Area Demonstrator

Joan Woodhead. "Trads & Fads"

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

7.45 in the Parish Hall

Thursday 19th March

Sedgefield Veterans' Group

Monthly meeting

Thursday 19th March

7pm Parish Hall

New members always welcome

Fishburn Surestart

Children's Centre

(Next to Fishburn Primary School)

Saturday 21st March

11am - 2pm

Lots of activities for children including Face Painting & Magician.

Tour of childcare facilities

Everyone welcome

Cricket Club Live Music

Main guest: **Diesel Therapy** also featuring Honest Jack, Sonic Fruits and John Wrightson Band.

8pm Saturday 21st March

£9 inc buffet. Tel: 621347

The Cricket Club is available for hire for private parties, christenings, etc.

Call Jane on 629616

Spring Fair

Sedgefield Primary School

Rectory Row

Saturday 28th March

from 1 - 3pm

March @ the Library

Junior Reading Group

restarts Monday 2nd, 5-6pm

Tickle Time

Mondays 2nd & 16th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 4th & 18th, 10-11am

Toy Library

Wednesdays 11th & 25th, 10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 18th 2pm

Family History

Monday 16th - 7-9pm

Red Nose Day

Refreshments & fundraising fun

Thursday 12th all day

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Country Market

Friday mornings in the Parish Hall

Coming up in April

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 7th April

Bedding Plants

by George Richardson's

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 4th April

Your Letters

The Caravan Park decision

The Residents' Forum 'jottings' gives a report of the planning meeting for the caravan park on the outskirts of our village. At the Planning meeting the developer's agent maintained that, because there had only been 67 letters of objection, this time our community no longer held strong objections to the development of 330 caravans. Could he have failed to notice the number of residents, more than 67, who turned up to the meeting to show their objections? At first the Planning officer's report stated that there were only 48 letters of objection this was increased to 67 after the Forum raised the question that some responses they were aware of were not listed – how many more were maybe not registered??

There is a small group of members of the Residents' Forum who are putting in many hours of work researching planning policy etc to try to prevent our village and surrounding countryside being damaged by this development, ongoing costs for this i.e. phone calls, paper, ink etc. are predominately covered by them personally since the Forum has very limited funds.

To take cases to Judicial Review, this now seems the only action open to our community, is quite a costly and onerous procedure. The Forum Group are willing to 'take this on' on behalf of our community; other communities have taken the Judicial Review route and have accessed, what would normally be prohibitively expensive, legal support by a couple of residents who claim income support putting their names to the case. So if any residents currently claiming income support are willing to come forward we would love to hear from you. You could do the village massive service. Finally, as Chair of the Residents' Forum I would like to thank the 'team' working on this campaign for their dedication and commitment to the welfare of our village and of course many thanks to all the residents who have attended the planning meetings and sent in letters. Remember, this is a massive development for our village, in fact one of the largest caravan parks in the Region and there are little or no safeguards to protect our village, our countryside, our established way of life.

Julia Bowles. Chair of Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum.



DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS
ASSOCIATION

the community-based regeneration network

Desecration of Historic Countryside is Borough Council's Legacy to Sedgefield

Appalled, stunned, angry, betrayed, I'm not sure which of my emotions had the upper hand as I witnessed our Borough Council ignore the voice of the people and vote in favour of a planning proposal that would desecrate hectares of ancient parkland and greatly increase our region's carbon footprint.

The fact that the majority of councillors on the day sided with a rich landowner against the people was in itself a depressing turn of events. The even more unbelievable fact that it was solely Labour Councillors taking the rich man's side against the ordinary people left me reeling! Councillors voting for the people were mainly Independents helped along by votes from the sole Conservative representative and a Lib Dem. Not one Labour Councillor backed the people in this vote. Just what is going on here?

The Chairman Andrew Smith banned laughter or sighs of disbelief as we listened in forced silence to Christopher Harrison sum up on behalf of the developer. Here is a sample of what he claimed:

- There are 500 parking spaces in Sedgefield which is enough for all, including the caravaners
- The 330 caravans would generate 100 jobs and £4,000,000 to the local economy!!
- There would be a 10% contribution to energy requirements from renewable sources; this totally ignored the fact that caravans are 10 times less energy efficient than other dwellings so this would still mean a *nine-fold increase* in wasted energy!

I could go on, but this is enough to indicate the weakness and lack of integrity of his case. Before his travesty of a summing-up, representatives of the village made these points:

- There are real long-term and ongoing parking problems in the village
- Benefit to the community in terms of job creation would be minimal
- There would be no income to the Council in terms of Council Tax but the caravan park would have to be Policed and its waste disposed of
- Our local Tourist development agency is placing an emphasis on increasing day visitors to the region to maximise income generation; caravan sites have the lowest income generation of all tourist initiatives and could actually harm income at local hotels and B&Bs.
- The site would be car dependent at a time when we as a society need to reduce car use

The latest national guidelines for tourist development makes the point that it is vitally important that any new development has the positive backing of the local people!!!

As I write, it is six days since the planning meeting and I am still trying to get over my disbelief and bewilderment. I have emailed each Councillor to ask if they were present last Friday and, if so, how they voted. So far I have the names of the 9 good souls and true who voted with us, that's how I know there is not a single Labour Councillor among them. As yet not one of the Labour Councillors has had the courtesy to reply, so I don't know the names of the 14 "Councillors against the people". Perhaps they might yet enlighten me. On a very personal note, my mother was buried two days before the planning meeting. Her death was unexpected and very traumatic for the family but alleviated to some extent by her wonderful legacy of wisdom, honour, fulfilment and love. I was sure in my heart of hearts before last Friday, that our Councillors would leave a legacy of unspoilt countryside to the people of Sedgefield – how naïve and mistaken I was.

Instead of love of the people, we have expediency in favour of the landowner. Instead of honour we have something strange and dark. Instead of fulfilment we have desecration and frustration. Instead of wisdom we have utmost folly: the developer and his lackey Labour Councillors might not understand global warming or the energy crisis but these things will not go away and may well make their painful presence felt sooner rather than later and bring a natural end to this preposterous development.

Anthony Robb

More of Your Letters on page 7, including responses to last month's letter from Maria.