

Sedgefield News

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By the Villagers for the Villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
Issue 12 - April 2003



*Education Secretary Charles Clark
enjoying story-time
with some of the children*

Hardwick School opened officially by Secretary of State for Education

It's now over 2 years since fire destroyed Hardwick School but it's now a bright and welcoming place. The new layout of junior classrooms, twelve extra places at the nursery and an extended play area are all proving to be very beneficial. Much good has come from the disaster, thanks to hard work by Durham County Council, help from the community and the positive, helpful attitude of children, staff and parents.

Tuesday 11th March was a very special day for everyone at the school. After a special assembly there was entertainment from Martin the Magician, and lots more fun. The television cameras created quite a stir! Mr Charles Clark unveiled a plaque and gave a speech outlining the efforts made by everyone involved. Both this and the buffet which followed were very well received. Mr Clark visited all the classrooms, speaking to children, staff and parents and was presented with a Hardwick mug. The plaque will have pride of place in the new foyer and school life continues with enthusiasm. Life is back to normal.

New Community Website for Sedgefield wins 'go ahead' grants

At the invitation of the Town Council, Sedgefield Development Partnership has been busy drawing up proposals to turn the Council's web-address into the Sedgefield Community Website, and they are very pleased to announce that grant support has been awarded, which will allow them to build and run the new community site for the next three years.

The money will come from the Community Empowerment Fund and the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages fund. These bodies are keen to support new services to the community and encourage

local peoples' participation. The website will use the address www.sedgefield.net. As well as having pages for the Partnership and Town Council, it will be a great way to highlight the activities of community groups, schools, churches, sports clubs. The list is endless - one of the great features of the web is creativity it inspires in its users! Local businesses will want to make their mark, and there will be useful links to other websites. A site administrator will be appointed (see p. 8) to make sure that the web-site is clearly laid out, well informed & not abused.



The Courtyard Café

at

**Sedgefield Community Hospital
is now open to all**

Visit us for delicious soups,
home-baked pastries & cakes
as well as the famous
pork pies, quiche & pasties
from 'Robinsons of Wingate'
(est. over 100 years)

*Enjoy the relaxing ambience
and an assured warm welcome*

Office & Function Catering
for any number, large or small.

Tel: 01740 626626

*Agents for dry-cleaning
& alterations*

From the Library

*Easter Holiday
Activities for Children &
Poetry for Sale!*

Staff at Sedgefield Branch Library promise to have a really interesting programme of activities for children during the Easter Holidays.

Watch out for the details which will be displayed around the village, or ask about it next time you go to change your books.

The library stocks a very interesting collection of local writing amongst which is a book of poems by Pam Grainger. It's on sale at the very reasonable sum of just £1. Pam is trying to raise funds for her daughter, who is spending her "gap year" in Sri Lanka doing charity work.

Sedgefield Community Network

The Sedgefield Community Network Team has been working for the past year with people from Ferryhill, Spennymoor, Shildon, Sedgefield, Fishburn & Trimdon to bring communities together across the Borough.

The Network administers the Community Empowerment Fund, which exists to help towns and villages with neighbourhood renewal. The participation of people from the communities ensures that decisions effecting our lives are influenced by as wide a range of opinions and needs as possible.

The fund can be used to help make people aware of the opportunities there are for wider participation in local democracy,

particularly women, the old and young, the disabled and those from minority ethnic and faith communities.

Also it allows ideas and initiatives from the community to become part of the strategic planning process.

The Network aims to develop existing partnerships between the voluntary and community sectors and to reach out to those who are currently excluded or are not represented by any community body.

It is accessible to all and it draws its leadership from within the community and voluntary sectors.

Further information from
Anne Frizell,
Community Network
Coordinator.
Tel: 01740 655105.

Sedgefield Twinning Association

After a very successful trip to our twin town, Hamminkeln last autumn, when the mayor of Sedgefield, Mr Ian Sutherland and his wife Sheila discovered for themselves the incredibly generous nature of our hosts, we are now looking forward to a return visit in October. This time two male voice choirs and a brass band will be arriving! The visitors will be staying at Ushaw College, as 70 host families could perhaps be hard to find.

The dates to book in your diaries are **October 18th and October 19th**. On the Saturday the groups plan to give a concert in St Edmund's church, and on the Sunday afternoon they hope to take part in an ecumenical service. We hope that both events will be well attended so we are giving you plenty of advance notice!

It's always good to have new members getting involved, so we're very pleased to welcome Joyce Jordan to the committee as Vice Chairman.

Sedgefield Borough Council

the next meeting of the
Area 3 Forum

at 7.00 pm on
Wednesday 16th April

at the
Youth & Community Centre,
Butterwick Road
Fishburn

Sedgefield and District Round Table

Currently consisting of twelve members who are very active in many aspects of community life, the main aims of the Round Table are for young men to meet, take an active part in the village, and try to put something back into the local community. As many people may already be aware, our group has been carrying out several annual village events for many years. Recently, the annual party hosted by Round Table for the pensioners of the village was another popular success.

Have you seen a Santa's Sleigh visiting children around the village at Christmas time? Perhaps you have visited the annual Autumn Fayre in the Parish Hall or saw us launch the Grand Balloon race on Mediaeval Fair day. Maybe you bought tickets for the Co-Op Trolley Dash.



Lucky winner of the Round Table Co-Op trolley dash Joanne Ridley seen here with her prize – 1½ trolleys of free groceries. With Joanne are Table Chairman, Jason Legender & Ways and Means officer, Rob Moran.

These are just some of the events organised by volunteers from Round Table. We also lay a wreath on Remembrance Day, help put up the Christmas Tree and support the traditional Carols on the Green.

One of the most satisfying things about Round Table charity events is that all the money raised goes directly back into local good causes in and around the village.

Of course all this hard work by Table members is rewarded by a tremendous social calendar. Table members meet at Ceddesfeld Hall on a Thursday night about once a month, to plan and organise events.

A few of the social events that Table members took part in last year included driving giant Cat Dump Trucks around a quarry, a Dad's and Kid's camping weekend, the Dunelm boat race in Durham, and the Coast to Coast bike ride. There were visits to Amsterdam, a brewery and the golf driving range, as well as an 'alcoholic food' night (!) and many others.

Do *you* want to get out more and put something back into your village? Interested? Call membership secretary Dave Wright on **623856**.

**Do you run a Society,
Group or Business
in Sedgefield,
Bradbury or Mordon?**

Sedgefield Development
Partnership
is currently updating the
SEDFIELD DIRECTORY
for publication in May.

We will contact as many entries
as possible but if you don't hear
from us before mid April, and
want to be included,
please contact us.

Drop a note into the SDP office,
Advice and Information Centre
email us at

sdp@sedgefield.net
or phone **629011**

Community Safety *with contributions from Sedgefield Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Primary Care Trust & the Road Safety Group*

PC Todd reports

Last month I tried to influence drivers to slow down and consider their driving skills. This month I would like to influence the parents of teenagers. Do *you* know where your offspring is and what they are doing of an evening?

I ask because I'm sure some parents are unaware that groups of teenagers gather in ever increasing numbers around the village. They are often found with alcohol and cigarettes. Don't get me wrong - they don't *all* indulge in these activities, but one thing they do have in common is wherever they have been they leave a mess - from cans and bottles to sweet papers and soft drink cartons.

Friday appears to be the worst night for groups to gather. Each week I speak to them and sometimes confiscate items. Parents - be aware that teenagers found committing an offence will receive a letter and possibly a visit from me - so be warned!

At the recent Pub Watch meeting all Licensees agreed that this year's ball game was a huge success - no trouble reported from any of the pubs. Well done! Till next time, **Keith**.



Sedgefield Road Safety Group

We appeal to drivers to take note that children walking to school are being put at risk by inconsiderate drivers. Vehicles are being parked across school crossings and on dropped kerbs!

School crossings should not be used for dropping the kids off, and dropped kerbs should be left clear to enable wheelchair or pram/pushchair users to cross the road. Police and Traffic Wardens will issue instant fines to anyone transgressing, so be warned.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch.

All for One and One for All

Next meeting Tuesday 8th April @ 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Everyone welcome

With spring just around the corner, be careful when gardening - don't leave a door unlocked for even the *smallest* amount of time. Recently there have been a number of distraction burglaries in Sedgefield - one member of a gang holds the householder's attention while his mate ransacks the house! We cannot emphasise often enough that the elderly and vulnerable should not open their door to anyone they do not know personally. Think about the **Nominated Neighbour** scheme we outlined last month. If you would like to know more, contact your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, or Ken Saiger 621896 or David Hillerby 621343.

If you are renewing your **household and building insurance**, why not try the Norwich Union Neighbourhood Watch scheme? You'll get a discount as a member of NHW. Ring Keegan & Pen-ykid, the Neighbourhood Watch specialists, on 0131 243 9661 for a quotation without obligation.

Data-Link 'Flask-in-the Fridge' is still available free to anyone who requires one, from the Surgery, Chemists, Library and Parish Hall. Age Concern Durham County are promoting their version, Message-in-a-Bottle from the end of March, helping the scheme to be recognised nationally.

Health issues for Chinese Community

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust has linked up with leaders from the local Chinese community to find out about their health needs. And as a result, Heart Disease Nurses Karen Reid and Jayne Nicholson will now work with them to design special sessions for local Chinese people. The plan is to make a start in April and May, working in community centres.

Heather Inglis, from the PCT said, "Until we spoke with local leaders, we did not understand how the Chinese community dealt with health problems. For example we didn't know that Chinese people do not talk openly about their own health or join local 'support' groups the way others might.

Listening to them has taught us a lot and the issues raised will help us plan services around their needs".

Ball Game Winners – Can you fill in the missing names?

1909	Usher Stubbs	1960	.....	1982	Kevin Stephenson
		1961	.....	1983	Jock Roper
1940	.....	1962	.....	1984	Paul Archer
1941	.....	1963	Harold Shann	1985	Jimmy Cain
1942	.....	1964	.....	1986	Jeff Saunders
1943	Harold Shann	1965	Cliff Stephenson	1987	Colin Mullen
1944	.....	1966	Thomas Johnson	1988	Nigel Archer
1945	.....	1967	Fred Lower	1989	Barry Warnett
1946	.....	1968	Harry Gregg	1990	Gary Saunders
1947	Thomas Johnson	1969	Jaqueline Auton	1991	Steven Dovaston
1948	Jack Cunningham	1970	Harry Gregg	1992	Darren Fox
1949	Thomas Johnson	1971	Harry Edwards	1993	Bob Workman
1950	.....	1972	Andy Beamson	1994	Jeff Ayre
1951	.....	1973	Gordon Smith	1995	Gary Soppitt
1952	Jack Gordon Smith	1974	John Adcock	1996	David Icton
1953	.....	1975	Ben Reed	1997	Stephen Tinkler
1954	Robert Johnson	1976	Charlie Icton	1998	John Beamson
1955	.....	1977	Phil Shann	1999	Stephen Cooper
1956	Thomas Johnson	1978	Anthony Hunter	2000	Jeff Saunders
1957	Thomas Johnson	1979	Micky Price	2001	John Musgrave
1958	.....	1980	Barry Warnett	2002	Gus Fox
1959	.....	1981	John Icton	2003	Paul Warnett

Peter Hamilton, landlord of the Hardwick Arms has adopted the Ball Game as a feature of the pub.

A board of winners' names will be proudly displayed above the fireplace in the bar.

Careers Fair in the Parish Hall

Information

Wednesday 2nd April

Direction

12 noon - 5.30pm

Prospects

Lifelong Learning, in conjunction with Sedgefield Development Partnership, has organized an event to take place in the Parish Hall

It aims to give people in the community a chance to come along to talk to employers about how they can get into a particular career or job role. Many of the exhibitors will be able to give guidance on how to start or what qualifications you need to get into their field of expertise.

The event is also aimed at year 11 students, who will be taking their final exams after the Easter Break. It will give them a chance to talk to people already in jobs, about what they do and what results students need to achieve to get into the world of work.

Not only will employers be there, but also further education establishments, who will be able to advise on courses available to anyone who wishes to gain further qualifications, either full time or part time.

Some of the exhibitors are:-

The Army

Navy and Royal Marines

NHS Careers

Open University

Teesside University

ITEC Training

Tyne Tees Television

Alpha Radio

Northern Echo

East Durham and Houghall College

CAVOS

Plus many more so if you're thinking of a change or perhaps getting back to work why not come along and have a chat



Sedgefield Development Partnership



Learning+Skills Council

Lifelong learning *with Bob Harris*

Hello again everyone.

You may be getting fed up with me droning on about the same thing every month but I make no apologies for it! Learning will always be so very important to us all.

Since taking on this role in October 2002 I have looked at ways that we can attract people in the community to take up the learning they want, without having to travel outside of the village. One of the main barriers to learning was the fact that people had to travel to Darlington, Bishop Auckland, Durham or Teesside to find a course that they wanted.

One of the priorities I set was to talk to providers about bringing their courses to the community and I'm pleased to say we have been successful in doing just that.

We have had a few hiccups along the way and please accept my apologies for this, but I hope our successes far outweigh the problems. Over 85 people have attended courses we have set up and we are currently running 7 courses in different locations throughout the village. In fact one of the main problems now is that we are running out of suitable venues, so if you have any ideas let me know.

We are still planning to run further courses and increase the range of subjects available but to do this I need to have at least 8 people on a course so let me know what you want and I'll see if we can provide it.

Career Health Check

This new service is to be launched at the careers fair in the Parish Hall on the 2nd April. This is a career health check and looks at the type of person you are and what types of job would suit you. So if you can't make it to the fair, phone me or pop in and we'll arrange a quick chat.

If you are thinking of returning to work or are currently unemployed it can be a good tool to enable you to apply for jobs that want your skills and abilities. On the other hand if you are in a job, but feel frustrated it can help you realise why you feel that way and how you can overcome

Proms in the Park

Last year's Jubilee Prom in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, with its wide variety of music and traditional Last Night of the Proms finale and firework display, was a huge success.

Well it's back again on June 14th, so if you missed it there's another chance to join in the fun.

See Diary page for ticket info.

Just Joking!

One day as God was watching the earth, it suddenly occurred to him that he really didn't know mankind, so he sent an angel down to investigate.

When the angel returned he reported that 95% of the populace was evil, wicked and completely corrupt - only 5% could be described as *Good!*

God thought for a while and decided to send a message to the 5%, encouraging them to continue on their chosen path, and of course, being modern and highly technical, he sent it by email! Funny! I didn't think I had problems with the computer.

Could somebody please let me know what it said?

Your Community needs you!

Can you afford any spare time to support local projects?

If yes, there are a variety of volunteering opportunities available. Below are details of current opportunities and contact details. Regardless of whether you have 1 hour a month or a couple of hours a week to spare, the projects below could benefit from your time.

First Responders are looking for new recruits to be trained to use basic life support techniques and defibrillation. All training is provided and no previous experience is needed.

For more information, please contact Mark on **621739**.

As you've seen on the front page, the village is setting up a **Community Website**. Do you have experience of setting up/running a website? OR would you be interested in accessing training which would enable you to become involved with the website?

For more information, please contact Bob on **629011**.

The **Lifelong Learning** project is celebrating the start of its third year. We need volunteers to assist in the ongoing development of the project. There are a variety of ways in which people could get involved.

For more information, please contact Becky on **629068**

For an informal chat about any of the projects listed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks, *Mark, Bob and Becky*

Community Appraisal 2002

At the public meeting to discuss the Appraisal in January there was great interest in how and who would tackle the community's issues and concerns.

The next meeting is arranged for Wednesday 30th April (see Diary on page 11) so do take your chance to get involved.

Remember you can see full copies of the Appraisal at the library, surgery, SDP's office or locally in Mordon and Bradbury.

You can ask at the office for a copy on CD rom or we can make you a photocopy.

Sedgefield Development Partnership

wishes to recruit a part-time

Web-site Administrator

to manage the new Community Web-site

We are looking for a person with appropriate IT expertise, good English skills & proven administrative ability.

Also he/she will be capable of working with minimum supervision and must be able to demonstrate sound judgement.

It is expected that the post will entail about 10 hours per week.

***Pay approx. £100 per week,
depending on qualifications and experience***

For further information, job description and person specification, contact Sedgefield Development Partnership, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield or tel. **629011**

Here is a summary of the key issues

Though Sedgefield does not in general suffer multiple deprivation, it suffers from poor access to services.

Jobs were lost at Winterton. The Net-Park could bring many new jobs but in the mean time reliance on commuting does not make for long term sustainability. All 3 schools, including Community College, are meeting satisfactory standards.

Sedgefield is a low crime area but suffers from anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol consumption particularly on weekend evenings

Although an attractive place, litter control and verge maintenance need to be improved

The very limited opportunities for children and particularly teenagers is an acute problem.

Parking is seen as a problem; inconvenience and danger caused by indiscriminate parking. Bell's corner identified as the most acute problem area.

Too little low cost housing forces young people out of the village; insufficient housing for the elderly.

Future of Parish Hall needs to be resolved urgently.

Speed of traffic through Mordon and Bradbury & inadequate public transport for both communities. Isolated pockets of poverty, particularly amongst the elderly.

Shortage of commercial accommodation in centre.

Limited opportunity for business expansion.

Tourist potential can be realised with good quality leaflets, brown signs on bypass featuring attractions, tourist information centre, more events and festivals and more accommodation for craft businesses.

In sport and recreation, better information needed, & greater exploitation of Community College as a resource; future use of the open space at Winterton Green; swimming (strong support for a pool in the village) & outdoor bowling provision.

Balance between in-filling (mainly for housing) and selling off of assets and community facilities to be changed to help ensure that there are capital assets to meet community needs such as for youth.

Worried about pension payment changes?

The phasing out of order books by the Pension Service, to be replaced by direct payment into a bank account can be a concern if you don't have an account and just want to continue going to the Post Office for your cash. Here the Citizens Advice Bureau lays out the facts you need to know.

By the year 2005 all pensions and benefits will be directly paid into bank accounts. The change is happening gradually but if you currently receive child benefit, a state pension or a war pension you may soon receive (or may already have received) a letter explaining how this will affect you.

You will still receive the same amount of money, paid at the same time and it will be possible to collect it from the Post Office, but if you don't already have one, you will need to open an account. There are three options to choose from for this account.

A current account with one of the major banks – gives the widest range of banking services. Some allow you to draw cash from the Post Office free of charge, but *check at the Post Office*.

A basic bank account - a simpler service available at major banks.

A Post Office card account - a new type of account designed for the receipt of benefits, pensions and tax credits. Access to your cash at the Post Office counter.

Before deciding which type of account to open think about 3 points.

If you worry about going overdrawn and prefer **not** to have a credit facility, then a basic bank account which has neither credit nor overdraft facilities would fit the bill.

If you want to be able to get your benefit or pension paid in cash at the Post Office, either a basic bank account or a Post Office card account will be appropriate.

If you want an account you can use to pay other money into, you will need to open either a current account or a basic bank account.

Still unsure or need help with opening an account? Talk to an advisor at the **Citizens Advice Bureau**, in the Advice & Information Centre (Council Offices) - open every **Thursday from 10am to 1pm**.

Cook's Corner

Weetabix Loaf

(fat free & delicious!)

Soak 2 Weetabix overnight in a bowl, with 250ml (½ pint) Milk

Other Ingredients

225gm (8oz) mixed fruit

150gm (6oz) brown sugar

225gm (8oz) self raising flour

1 medium egg, beaten

15ml (tablespoon) honey

50gm (2oz) chopped walnuts
(optional)

pinch ground nutmeg (optional)

Method

Mix all ingredients together.

Transfer into a 1lb loaf tin, bake in mod oven, 150c (gas mark 2) for 1½-1¾hrs.

Tribute to a popular teacher

Ex students and parents of Sedgefield Community College will have been saddened to learn of the death of teacher John Wilson, following a long illness. John made a huge contribution to the life of the school, supporting school trips, exchange visits, sports teams and musical productions as well as giving a total commitment to his teaching. He is fondly remembered for his keen interest in 20th Century World History, particularly in aviation and passed on his enthusiasm to several generations of students.

John also gave huge support to the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. Several ex-students and their families have been in touch with the school expressing the wish to acknowledge John's outstanding contribution.

A fund has been set up to purchase an appropriate tree specimen and a commemorative plaque to be located in a suitable area of the school. If you wish to contribute to this, please forward your donations to John Davison at Sedgefield Community College, Hawthorn Road, Sedgefield, TS21 3DD. (cheques payable to Sedgefield Community College).

Mediaeval Fair

Amazing to think this will be the 33rd year! It's great to look forward to the fair, but organising this huge event is no mean feat - it takes months of preparation. The money raised is absolutely vital to Ceddesfeld Hall, home to over 40 groups. If you'd like to help, come to the organising meetings in Ceddesfeld Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month. It's worth getting involved if only for the feeling of exhausted satisfaction at the end of the day!!

Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall Association

A big thank you to all those who attended the recent AGM. It was great to see such a good turn out and even better to welcome 5 new members onto the committee - Wendy Sayers, Michelle McDonald, Angie Ward, Steven Gibbon and Ellen Lawson. The old committee was sorry to accept the resignation of our chairman Dave Sayers. He has worked tirelessly for three years leading the fund-raising for our charity, so we'd like to say an even bigger thank you to Dave for the commitment he has shown during this time.

Fiona Avery takes on the role of chairperson for the coming year and she started by explaining that the immediate problem with the village hall is the government's change in the operation of the funding system. It seems that at the moment the only way to obtain funding is to run Accredited Educational Courses, where students receive a certificate at the end of their studies. These are recognised by the funding authority. This has created an enormous difficulty for our joint village hall, as most of the activities are social and do not lend themselves to educational qualifications.

The former grant aid from Durham County Council will now cease and the committee is diligently looking for alternative sources of money to keep the hall open. But people pledged their support for future events and many offers of help were forthcoming - you can be sure you *will* be called upon - so the meeting finished on a positive note, with a glass of wine donated by the committee.

Our next meeting is on **1st April** when we will set out the programme for the year and plan in detail the next three months' events. Please be sure to bring any new ideas to our attention before the meeting.

Village Hall Events for your Diary

April 5th at 8pm **Dandelions** - NOWT's un-missable production!

April 11th at 6.30pm **Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets**

April 12th at 7.30pm **Irish Night** Put on your Green & White!

April 26th at 6.30pm **Film Night - Spy Kids**

April 27th **Easter Treasure Hunt.** Kids finished all their eggs? Let them hunt the village for more - just in time before school starts again!

May 2nd & 3rd - An Evening with Oscar Wilde & Brendan Behan

May 24th at 6.30pm **Film Night - Spy Kids 2**

June 21st at 6.30pm **Film Night - Treasure Planet**

And finally....the wildlife spot!

During the cold weather at the end of last month, a flock of redwings, ten or more in number, inhabited the village green for a couple of weeks. Rather like large thrushes with a red flash at each side of the breast, they spent their time searching for worms in the grass. We assume that as the weather warmed up they moved further north. The jackdaws are preparing to nest in some of the chimney pots in the village, most of them preferring to re-use old nests from last year. This causes a fair amount of mayhem, with in-comers trying to take over the prime sites!

WI Market in the Parish Hall

Friday mornings 9-30 till 11am during school term

Home-made cakes, pastries and preserves.

Handmade cards and crafts EE Eggs, plants and garden produce

Tea & coffee served. We would love to see you!

Sell-Out Success for Nowt Premiere

North of Watford Theatre's original production, 'Dandelions' played to a capacity audience in the Bishop Auckland Town Hall Theatre on the 7th March, and the company wishes to thank their audience for all the support they have shown.

Dandelions, a 1-act play set in the oncology treatment room of a local hospital tells of the developing relationship between businessman Jack Coles and fellow patient, Sonia Jackson. Catch it next at Mordon, Tickets £5 adults, concessions £4 from Fiona Avery or **07790 203072**.

'An evening with Oscar Wilde and Brendan Behan' stars Neil Titley as Oscar Wilde and Jim Boylan as Brendan Behan. It's a cabaret style evening featuring Irish wit at its best. For Mordon see diary, (bring your own drinks) and Sunday 4th May at 8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield (bar open). Tickets £5, OAPs £4.

Tel: **07870 157455**.

May Elections - be sure you can vote

You probably know already that in an effort to improve the 'turn-out' in Local Elections, voting this year will take place by **Postal Ballot only**.

The Inform news-sheet, which comes once a month with the Advertiser, will publish candidate lists and all the information you need, so do look out for that. Considerable efforts have been made to ensure the security of the ballot and special arrangements have been made for people with sight difficulty.

If you have any questions or have not received a ballot paper by April 25th please ring the Election Office on

Freephone 0800 7838874

April DIARY

Promote **your** events -
Announcements are **free** to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield WI

Wed 2nd April at 7:15pm

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mr Don Charlton, on

"Hanging Baskets"

Visitors always welcome - £1

Sedgefield Players

are proud to be hosting the

North East Division Final

of the

All England Festival

of One Act Plays

Winners from festivals at

York & Hull compete with

Sedgefield Players production

'The Trial' -

winner of the 2002 Sedgefield

Drama Festival - for a place in

the Northern Final

on **Saturday 3rd May**

in Sedgefield Parish Hall

Support your local group & enjoy an evening of quality drama

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

RSPB Warden, Kevin Spindloe

**The Bee-eaters of
Bishop Middleham**

Thursday 24th April
at 7.45pm

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Entrance £1 inc. refreshments

Further information please call

Anne Gladwin on **620 811**

Sedgefield Development Partnership

Open Meeting on

**Wednesday 30th April at
7.30pm**

**at Sedgefield Primary School
Rectory Row**

Discussions on how to take
forward issues raised in the

Community Appraisal

Refreshments afterwards.

Sedgefield Tennis Club

Start of Season Open Day

Sunday 6 April from 2pm

Members & Non Members

all welcome

Suitable footwear only

(no black soles or studs)

Racquets and balls available

New members please contact

Chris Edson on **620143**

The Daffodil Dawdle

St Edmund's Church

Sponsored Walk

on Saturday 26th April

10 miles around Farndale

on the North York Moors,

with checkpoints.

Starts and finishes at the

Lion Inn on Blakey Ridge

Anyone interested in walking or

being a checkpoint officer can

sign up at the back of Church, or

*phone **Judy Evans on 621706***

Sedgefield Family History Group

meets on

Easter Monday

April 21st at 7:45pm

at Ceddesheld Hall

**Another Members'
Questions & Queries Night**

Sedgefield in Bloom

Once again we are competing
in the Regional Northumbria in

Bloom Competition.

The judges will be here on

Tuesday 15th April,

so let's keep the village

looking good!

If you can help with

a last minute clean up,

please contact

Sheila & Ian Sutherland,

Tel: **622532**

Film Nights in the Parish Hall

Thursday 10th April at 6.30pm

Harry Potter &

The Chamber of Secrets

Friday 25th April at 6.30pm

Spy Kids

(sequel coming up in May!)

Both films are U certificate

Entrance **£1.50**

Other SCA Events

Children's Easter Picnic

Ceddesheld Hall & Grounds

on **Easter Monday,**

from 2 - 4pm.

Hunt the Easter Egg,

Easter Bonnet Competition

Prizes for best decorated eggs.

Real ale for the adults, in

CAMRA's Best Regional Club

A fun day for all the family

Indoors if weather poor

Mediaeval Fair Dinner

in Ceddesheld Hall

on Saturday 26th April

Tickets £10

A chance to relax before the

hard work really starts!

The May Queen Disco

Sat 3rd May

from 7 - 9pm

in **Rectory Row School**

Come along for a chance to take

a special part in the parade.

The Queen and her attendants

will be chosen by lot,

so it could happen to anyone!

Proms in the Park

Tickets for the event on

June 14th will be on sale from

Monday 7th April, at £10.

SCA contact numbers:

Wendy Gill, **620206**

John & Maxine Robinson,

620042,

17th Century Twinning?

Excuse me for my bad English! I have found at familysearch.org names of my family who lived at Sedgefield in the year 1670. They were Spanish from Valladolid. Juan Alaguero, his wife Isavel Duque, and their girls Catalina, 8/12/1670, and Isavel, 4/12/1672, born at Sedgefield.

Martin Alaguero and Maria Escobar have Catalina, 1/4/ 1675, born at Sedgefield and after, they returned to Valladolid.

My question is why? Can you answer me please?

Josette Alaguero

Intriguing. Do we have ancient links with Spain? If you think you can throw any light this puzzle, or would like to contact Josette, do get in touch.

What does 'communicating and consulting' mean to Durham County Council?

Very little, from my perspective!

Residents of the village have, for many years, been asking Durham County Council (DCC) via our elected member Cllr Ken Manton, to take action to make an area much used by the local community, safe and accessible. The problems are in Old Beacon Lane - speeding motorists, area used as a race track, fly-tipping, drug users, anti-social behaviour and a stopping-over site for gypsy/travellers, all resulting in many problems for residents. Sedgefield Borough and Town Councils both fully support the wishes of the residents but unfortunately only DCC have the power 'to make things happen' as they have control of the area. Despite much lobbying, including public meetings packing the Parish Hall, DCC will not work with the other Councils or the residents to solve these problems. The MP's office has said that they will give their support to the

Great Weekend in Sedgefield

My mother and two sisters live in Sedgefield and as it was my mother's 70th birthday in February we travelled from Burnley for a surprise party in Thurlow Grange. We had great night there.

Everyone was so good to us - the warden just couldn't do enough - so the celebration was a great success. My sisters Pat Hodgson and Carol Riley went out of their way to make sure we all had a great time. With family staying in the Crosshills, on the Sunday we had a family meal there - fantastic and great value for money!

Everyone in Sedgefield is so nice and we always feel welcome. I'd like to thank everyone. I'm really looking forward to my next visit.

Maureen Harwood

wishes of the Town Council. But still DCC operate in isolation. Cllr Manton actually stated in front of 300 people that he could not and would not represent residents views, yet he is our elected County Councillor! Questioned at the recent Annual Council Meeting in Sedgefield, Cllr Manton, informed us that DCC intended to re-instate one barrier, but this will only lessen the problem of the lane being used as a rat-run. It will have no impact on the other problems. It now appears that DCC are implementing an environmental scheme on Beacon Lane - there are markings on the road and the grass verges. What can these mean? The residents have no idea - nor do the Town or Borough Councils. Durham County Council obviously sees no need to communicate or consult with the community or their partner Councils. So much for involving local communities in issues that affect them. Just what do local people have to do to be listened to? Well we won't go away!!!

Julia Bowles

You want a Swimming Pool

In Lesley Dix's letter she asked how many more people east of the A1(M) would swim if there was a purpose built pool in this part of the Borough. Well, the Swimming Pool Survey carried out five years ago found that *for Sedgefield only*, swimming would increase by over 340%! To put that another way, instead of 1,600 swims per week there would be over 5,500. How much healthier would that make the village? how many fewer heart attacks? what cost saved?

In last year's Community Appraisal you put a swimming pool at the top of the most wanted facilities. Surprise!

Roger Clubley,
retiring Town Councillor

From the Editor

Due to computer failure it is possible that some information has been lost this month.

We are very sorry - please contact us if you were affected.

Send articles and information before April 15th please to

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net

or to

Sedgefield News

Advice and Information Centre
Front Street, Sedgefield
TS21 3AS

or telephone **01740 629011**

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