

Sedgefield News

logo in green

Produced by volunteers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon

April 2006

Be one of the first to walk the trail Sedgefield's new Heritage Trail is ready for launch

After 15 months of careful planning, April will see the launch of Sedgefield's new heritage trail. First suggested by Sedgefield Rotary Club and taken up enthusiastically by both the Town Council and the Local History Society, the project gained Heritage Lottery funding which initially enabled the full restoration of the village pump and the replacement of the concrete slabs with the more attractive granite sets.

The funding allowed two leaflets written by members of the Local History Society to be professionally designed, as well as the provision of metal pavement markers to show the route, plaques for some of the interesting buildings on the way and a lectern to be sited at the start of the trail by the village pump.

Pupils from Sedgefield Rectory Row School have been involved with devising a quiz to accompany the children's trail on a separate leaflet which will include some stories of local interest.

The grand opening of the trail will take place on the village green at 1.15pm on April 6th when Alex Watson of Tyne Tees Television, aided by some school children will perform the opening ceremony. There will then be a chance for all to walk the trail for the first time.

The trail leaflets, one for adults and one for children, will be freely available on that day and for some time afterwards. Later on they will be available to purchase for a small sum, from many of the local shops and the library.

It is hoped that this new trail will be a considerable asset to Sedgefield Village life, as well as being enjoyed by visitors.

Below: Alison Hodgson, Judith Edgoose and Ann Oliver of Sedgefield Local History Society make finishing touches to the quiz, in preparation for the opening of the trail.



INVITATION

You are invited to attend
the **Grand Opening of Sedgefield Heritage Trail**
by Alex Watson of ITV
and local schoolchildren
at 1.15pm on
Thursday 6th April
beside the Village Pump
Music & Refreshments

Inside a packed Sedgefield News this month:

Situations Vacant - p 2

Sports Update pages 6 & 7

Ball Game feature pages 6/7
and events galore -

on the Diary page & all through the paper, Spring is bringing out all the fun of the 'funds-fairs'!

Inserted into this edition of Sedgefield News is your copy of the Town Council's newsletter, Sedgefield Extra.

We hope this arrangement will benefit to all parties, ensuring that Sedgefield Extra is received by all the homes and businesses to which Sedgefield News is already delivered.

The two publications will maintain their editorial independence, Sedgefield News being published by Sedgefield Development Trust and Sedgefield Extra by Sedgefield Town Council.

The Bookworm *A reader recommends...*

A completely different book for this month...

Eddie Mackay suffers a major brain trauma, and in the "blue shadowlands" of near death he is visited by his dead father, who says that there was something he had always wanted to tell him – but what? His struggle to regain his health after his near-death experience takes him to Orkney, where he becomes deeply involved in the village community, and at the same time he starts to research his father's life, as he never knew him well. As we follow his search, we simultaneously follow the life of the young Alexander Mackay, Eddie's father, as he travels to Penang in the 1930s to run a maternity hospital. Two very different worlds are vividly portrayed with their passions and scandals; the chapters are short and easy to read, each one a cliff-hanger as the mystery in Alexander's past is gradually revealed.

"**In Another Light**" by Andrew Greig is a thought-provoking book with a satisfactory ending. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did! It is published by Phoenix and is available from Amazon.

Judith Edgoose

If you would like to share your idea of a good read, please send your review to snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or write to **Sedgefield News,**

58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ

World Book Day

Sedgefield Library celebrated this year in African style! On the day itself the library held a coffee morning with a difference. Guests enjoyed samples of fair trade products (kindly donated by the local Co-op and Sedgefield Borough Council) including tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and chocolate. The event aimed to promote awareness of fair trade issues and fair trade fortnight (6th–19th March).



To add to the atmosphere the library was decorated with African crafts made by local children (see *photo*) during the previous week's half term craft sessions.

There were also books available to borrow on a variety of African themes.

The event was well attended and many favourable comments were received. In particular the fair trade chocolate bars and hot chocolate drinks seemed to be firm favourites - with both staff and borrowers alike!!

For future Library activities, see the April Diary on page 11

Cook's Corner

Orange Turkey and Rice

3 portions fruit & vegetables per serving. County Durham and Darlington's Five a day programme

(Serves 4)

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 1lb (450g) lean turkey, in strips
- ground black pepper
- 1 tsp dried mixed herbs
- ½ pt unsweetened orange juice
- 8oz (225g) broccoli florets
- 6oz (175g) frozen peas
- 1 large orange
- 12 oz (350g) cooked brown rice

Method

Heat oil and gently fry onion for 2-3 mins. until softened then add turkey, pepper and mixed herbs.

Cook, stirring, for 3-4 mins until browned and pour in orange juice. Bring to the boil, simmer for 5 min. Add broccoli & peas, bring back to the boil & simmer 3 mins more.

Meanwhile, using a sharp knife, peel off all skin and pith from the orange. Slice between segments to remove the flesh.

Mix rice and orange into turkey and vegetables. Heat through for 3-4 minutes, or until piping hot.

Serve with a crisp salad

Local History Society

The society meets on the first Monday of every month except August in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45 pm and has a varied programme of speakers on historical topics closely linked to the north east of England.

The talk on the 3rd April is "**Women in the Roman North**" by Lindsay Allason-Jones from the Museum of Antiquities in Newcastle.

New members or even one-off visitors are always welcome and there is often the chance to get involved in projects such as the heritage trail which has just been completed.

Future plans involve some field walking on a mediaeval village site on the outskirts of Sedgefield and an investigation into late 19th century Sedgefield. We aim to have two trips each year to places of historical interest and hold occasional exhibitions.

Further details can be obtained from Judith Edgoose on 620244.

Family History Group

Interested in tracing your family tree? Why not come along to one of the meetings of the Sedgefield Family History Group? We are a branch of the Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham Family History Society, and our meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall, Rectory Row, Sedgefield (no meeting on Easter Monday).

For more information about meetings, family history or joining the society please contact Sylvia Hall on 620367

It's Spring Fayre time!

Sedgefield Primary School opens its doors for the fayre on Saturday 1st April from 1 - 3 pm and the PTFA invite you to attend. Do you remember your favourite stall from last year? Was it squirt-a-duck, the bottle wrap or pop the balloon? What will you find to thrill & entertain you this time?

Mr Irvine's biscuit icing promises to be sticky, there's the fire engine, a treasure map and an Easter egg stall, as well as tombolas, raffles and games. Key Stage 2 pupils are doing their bit too, donning their thinking caps and devising a variety of weird and wonderful activities to keep you busy; will we ever forget last year's mushy dip?

There's no entry fee, it will be warm, friendly and fun, so why not grab some change and come along for a cup of tea, a bounce on the inflatable, a rummage through the baby equipment stall, toys and books or just have a nosey around the school!

**See you there -
you'd be a FOOL (aagh!) not to attend.**

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Notes from the latest meeting of the Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch and Crimewatch Panel

At the February meeting Village Constable Keith Todd circulated copies of the reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period between 13th Dec. & 14th Feb. which recorded 13 crimes, consisting of: 5 Thefts; 1 Burglary; 5 Damage to Property, 1 Assault (+ damage) & 1 Vehicle theft.

Keith discussed his report with members (there have been several arrests made in relation to these crimes). Keith confirmed that several of the reported crimes and other (not recorded) incidents in the village are alcohol related.

Members yet again expressed their dissatisfaction with the amount of anti social behaviour (from younger persons mainly) and drink related damage including fights that regularly occur in the village. These continue to give rise to personal safety fears and worries to many of the residents.

Members queried Keith about reported violence at the Pizza shop and fighting in the village (& pubs) not recorded in the list above, and gave their concerns that Sedgefield is not a safe, trouble free place at the weekend, suggesting more Police should be present at these "known" trouble times.

Members told Keith and other representatives present that they are very concerned with the Police who "do not want to know" (& are often unhelpful to residents) when they ring in to report their concerns or seek assistance. Members stated that there is now more confusion than ever about getting help, who do you ring / report to – the Police (which number), Community Warden (which number), Sedgefield Borough, Town Council, Durham County etc., etc.

Members expressed their concern (yet again) that there are now more people unwilling to ring in to the Police as they feel: - ignored / you wait for ages / it's a waste of time / and then - nothing happens.

C/man Ken Saiger urged members not to give up, to continue to ring in and report issues / problems - but **keep a record**; and he informed members that our Police Area Commander had stated publicly only the previous evening in Ceddesfield Hall, that the Police need the contact and intelligence from the public to enable them to be effective in County Durham; and he urged residents to call - even if in doubt as to the need to do so.

A member recorded thanks to Keith for the much improved information and guidance he has provided via Ringmaster messaging system to Panel members. The C/man advised members that the Secretary had already written to Inspector Andy Neill on this subject and had formally recorded the Panel's appreciation to Keith.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Sarah Norman, reminded everyone about the need to lock their premises even whilst at home, giving details of sneak thefts elsewhere in the Borough. This led to a discussion over concerns about "Cold Calling" at peoples' homes, and of the initiative by Durham Trading Standards with Shotton Colliery Neighbourhood Watch where they have declared a "**NO** – Cold Calling Zone" within Shotton Colliery. The Panel have formally requested (via Sarah) for the initiative to be adopted and implemented here in Sedgefield, as soon as possible.

Community Force Officer Tim Spearey circulated copies of his report and gave details of some events relevant to our village and of recent fines issued; also to changes in the law regarding littering. Tim also requested members to get in touch with him directly if they know of any out of date vehicle tax discs as he now has powers to issue a notice to display correct taxation within 7 days.

To contact Tim at Sedgefield ring **623654**;
via Chilton Control Room ring **01388 721351**

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th April** @ 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. All are Welcome

TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE OF CONTACTING THE POLICE:

to report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police, ring **0845 6060365**

For crime in progress ring 999.

It may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation.

PC Todd reports

This month I would like to focus on a despicable crime that an elderly resident of Sedgefield fell victim to recently. A male dressed in dark clothing convinced the resident that he worked for the water board, to gain access to the property. Once inside he asked the resident to turn on the taps. Whilst this was being done, the male took this opportunity to search the house before leaving and taking a quantity of cash with him.

This type of crime in Sedgefield is rare, but unfortunately more common in other areas.

The distress caused to this resident is heartbreaking, so can I ask that we all make an effort to be extra vigilant around the homes of our elderly, and report anything or anyone acting suspiciously.

Many thanks

Keith

Crime in Sedgefield Village - 6th February and 13th March

On February 11th there were two thefts – a handbag was stolen from a pub in North End, and a purse was stolen from a pub in the High Street, for which a male was arrested. On February 24th in Elm Avenue a "bogus official" from the Water Board stole some cash. There have been several instances of damage – roof tiles in Cross Street, a window in The Lane, and copper sheeting pulled from a window sill in North End. On March 5th in Winterton Avenue, a garage door was damaged by youths playing football.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

Annual Care Link Coach Trips

The first one for 2006 will be on:-

Thursday 27th April

"Mystery Trip"

(full details later)

£3 per head

For booking call David Hillerby on

01740 621343

as soon as possible please as seats are limited to 24

Booking Appointments at the Doctors

We have received a number of reports that people find it hard to get through to us on the telephone first thing in the morning.

In order to meet the national targets of patients being able to see a health care professional in 24 hours, (a nurse or a professional allied to medicine) or a doctor, (not named) in 48 hours, we have to work in a particular way. How we do that, in an attempt to strike a balance between having available pre-bookable appointments and also sufficient to cope with the daily workload is as follows:

Pre-bookable appointments can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance, by telephoning the surgery anytime between 0830 and 1800. For these appointments we will try to allocate you your doctor of choice – even if that occasionally means that you have to attend a surgery other than the one that you usually attend.

Calls from patients who feel that their condition is such that they need to be seen, "on the day," are accepted from 0830. To meet these demands, we hold back appointments. They are only released at 0830 daily. [In Sedgefield only requests for on the day appointments will normally be prioritised by the nurse practitioner between 0830 and 0900.]

These patients will be seen on that day – but it is impossible to offer a specific doctor. We do try to accommodate morning or afternoon appointments according to the wishes of the patient.

If the demand is unusually high, or we have the balance of appointments wrong, then the doctors have to have additional patients put on to the end of their morning surgeries. The knock on effect of which is to delay visits, community hospital commitments and afternoon surgeries.

It is quite difficult to get the equation right. Please be assured that we constantly monitor our provision of appointments and try to organise our resources in a way that is the most efficient for all of the patients involved. The Sedgefield surgery also operates a repeat prescription telephone line between 1000 and 12 noon, and 1400 to 1600, Monday to Friday. The number to ring is (01740) 629679

Colin Miller, Practice Manager

Changes at Dentists practice too

Due to changes in the contracts between Dental Surgeons and the NHS, from April 1st NHS patients at Edmonds, Smith & Associates will be offered appointments between the hours of 9am & 4pm. Outside these hours appointments will be on a private basis.

Jottings from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

The meeting held on Monday 27th February was attended by 20 residents.

A letter received from the Town Council gave the promised update of the Council's actions in response to issues raised at the November open meeting of the Forum and subsequent issues raised at each Forum meeting.

Everyone acknowledges the difficulties in dealing with anti-social behaviour issues but progress can be made if we work together. A representative from the Forum will attend the next Pub-watch meeting and there is an urgent need for interested persons (of all ages) to come forward to help establish youth services in the village - the young people of our village need a place of their own to meet.

The Forum will continue to pursue residents' issues to get a satisfactory outcome no matter how long this might take. Ongoing issues such as the A.689/Stockton Rd junction are not forgotten; we hope to have someone from Durham County Council (DCC) at the March forum meeting to give an update and answer questions.

Many residents are expressing concern regarding the proposed animal incinerator at Bolams; the Forum has written to DCC with concerns and await further information. We would urge residents to work together on this problem as well as send individual comment to DCC.

Minutes of the meeting are available from March 20th online on both village websites, in the library and from council offices and if anyone wishes to have them e-mailed directly, please contact jane@sedgefield.net with your e-mail address.

If anyone has an issue that they wish to raise and have discussed do not hesitate to come along to our monthly meetings.

They are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7.00pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. (see Diary page)

A golden celebration for Doreen and Eric

Congratulations to Eric and Doreen Richards of North Park Road, who will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 20th April.

It's hard to believe, but both Eric and Doreen will be 81 this year. They are both still enjoying their sequence dancing.

Eric was the village barber for 25 years until he retired at the age of 70, and he has been well known in musical circles all his adult life, both through choral singing and playing and conducting band music.

The couple will be celebrating at home with friends and family and we wish them every happiness.



Plenty of news has been sent in during the last month, particularly from the world of racquet sports. However, I should kick off by reporting that James Foster won this year's Shrove Tuesday Ball Game. Congratulations to James for what was a hard fought victory.

Squash

News has come in that Sedgefield Squash Club has narrowly missed out on a national award. The club was nominated (to its pleasant surprise) for the England Squash National Development Club Award. Judging took place in February and Sedgefield was named as one of two runners-up. Well done to everyone in the club for the nomination. If you are interested in taking up squash, call James Larcombe on 620717 or Chris Rowsby on 621125.

Badminton

Sedgefield Badminton Club is based at the Community College and meets on Monday evenings from 7.00-9.00pm. Annual membership is £10.00 and the club charges £1.00 per weekly session. Members have access to three indoor courts (though availability is of course limited to those times when the college is open for business). This club has been in

existence for many years and caters for mixed abilities (men and women). It is not affiliated to a league and prides itself on being a friendly, sociable club (except when it enters teams into pub quizzes and is capable of displaying a competitive and ruthless streak!). If you are interested in taking up badminton in Sedgefield, contact Stan Smith on 621883.

Tennis

Sedgefield Tennis Club, also based at the Community College, has a range of annual membership fees, as follows:
 Adults - £33
 Juniors (aged 14-18) - £22
 Juniors (under 14) - £11
 Non-players - £11
 Family membership - £55
 The club has access to three outdoor courts and is affiliated to the Cleveland League. It runs a number of teams: men's A, B and C, women's, boys 16 and under and boys 13 and under. There's coaching for adults and juniors, while Thursdays and Sundays are especially popular for 'social' play. To find out more about joining Sedgefield Tennis Club and opportunities to play at the college call 620367 or 620143.

Boxing

South Durham Amateur Boxing Club has experienced mixed results recently. Jeff Saunders, Jack Turner and Michael Watson entered the School Boy Championships and (Golden Gloves) Watson went out in the first round, apparently stopped by an over-enthusiastic referee. This was a big shock for Michael, as only a week before he had shown great form in winning another bout. Jeff Saunders stopped his opponent, Longstaff of Newbiggin, in the second round. Jack Turner boxed well to win his contest.

Travelling to Pontefract for the next round, Jack came across a very talented lad from Leeds and lost. Jeff boxed well and beat his opponent from Hull; he is now through to the semi-finals and coach Jeff Saunders Senior believes that there is no reason why Jeff cannot win the tournament, defending the title he gained last year.

South Durham has also enjoyed a successful show at Chilton WMC - another sell-out for a Saturday afternoon, with the following results:

- A. Thomas (first bout) beat L. Williams from Bishop Auckland
- J. Turner beat L. Gilbert from Bishop Auckland
- M. Watson beat W. Phillips from Shildon
- O. Walton (his first bout) beat A. Teasdale from Chester Moor
- A. Gray (his first bout) stopped D. Martin
- M. Smith lost to J. Eggleston from Penrith
- R. Johnson lost to P. Oram from Hull
- P. Walnut lost to P. Good from Hull.

Also recently, R. Collins boxed T. Jones from Bishop Auckland at Hetton Town show. He put on a brilliant display for a young lad to win the bout. On the same card, R. Johnson proved far too much for D. Morris from the Fit Club, stopping him in the first round. Finally, congratulations from all of the coaching staff, to Craig Ayre, who recently passed an Officials course for the Amateur Boxing Association of England.

Cricket

Finally for this issue, a reminder that Durham County Cricket Club's bid to bring the Ashes to North East England is picking up pace. Thousands of people from across the region have already pledged their support for the bid on www.signthebat.com and there's still time to add your backing to the campaign. It's very quick and easy to register your support and the site has a nice way of acknowledging that...try it out. The England and Wales Cricket Board is due to announce its decision around Easter time - good luck to Durham.

As ever, send any sports news to me at chrisjlines@aol.com.

Sedgefield Harriers

Running Club sedgefieldharriers.com

seem a bit daunting! On Wednesday 19th April Sedgefield Harriers will hold a Taster Evening providing anyone who is thinking about taking up running or intrigued by a formal club environment, with a chance to find out more. We'll meet at Sedgefield Community College at 6pm and be prepared to run just one mile so you can experience it too. Why not give it a try? All abilities are welcome.

Time trials are an excellent way to test yourself over a measured route and to gauge progress while preparing for races or to just measure your fitness. Our new to running members have already seeing the benefits a formal club environment can offer, taking up to five minutes off their first recorded time trial. The Winter Timed Run Series over a 2.6 mile course, comes to a climax on Wednesday 29th March. This is the last chance for members to topple current leader Ian Blakemore with a time of 14:13. From April the Summer Timed Run Series begins and the course will increase to 4.25 mile. With over 40 Members and ages ranging from 15 to 56, Sedgefield Harriers is keen to enter teams as well as individuals into the Northern Race Programme. This is already proving a success with a Harriers Women Team - Rosie Sims, Ann Hydon and Gail Bell, gaining first place at the Castleton and Danby Cross Country race in January.

With AAA Affiliation confirmed, Sedgefield Harriers is now in a position to play a developmental role in the Community with the launch of its Junior Section, led by UK Athletics Coach Scott Hydon. Scott, a Middlesbrough Council Sports Development Officer, who has coached junior athletics to individual and team success at national level. He will work closely with local sports development partnerships helping to make athletics accessible to all children.

Many people are unaware of the benefits a formal running club can offer and for some, making the first approach can

**Newcastle United FC
Football in the Community
Easter Holiday
Football Course**

at Sedgefield Community
College Cost: £42 (£40 Junior
Magpies)

4 days from Tues 18th - Fri 21st
April: 10am - 3pm

Courses staffed by qualified
coaches who aim to create a fun
atmosphere, encourage team spirit
and ensure enjoyment for every
child.

All our courses now carry the FA
Charter Standard

**To book a place on the course
please contact
Football in the Community
Secretary,
Julie Oxley 0191 263 6585**

Rats invade Mordon!



Dick Whittington, played by Joanne Wetherill, and his Cat (Alex Cummings) came to Mordon Village Hall last week in search of fame and fortune, but because he didn't find any, he left for London where the streets were allegedly paved with gold!

He got a job with Mr. Fitzwarren, (Dave Sayers) and fell in love with his daughter Alice (Bethany Mann). Oliver Whitehouse, Jodie Elders, Georgia Peacock & Rhiannon Coates played Citizens of London. Kev Stevens brought the house down with a stunning performance as the Fitzwarrens' housekeeper, Sarah Suet (pronounced Sooy of course). In fact one little chap who couldn't believe it was a man dressed up told his Mum "I like the lady best".

Jim Boylan's King Rat, assisted by naughty Ratlings, Phoebe Coates and Jamie Boylan, sent shivers down your spine, so convincing was his portrayal.

IT'S SPORT OF A SORT

The 2006 Shrove Tuesday Ball Game was started by 92 year old resident of Sedgefield, Mary Barron. As Mary passed the ball through the bull ring three times she continued a tradition said to be over 1000 years old.

Photographs courtesy & copyright of Ian Hunter. For a full photographic report visit www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Captain of the Saucy Sal was Richard Mann, and his Crew were Kaye Cummings, Adam Elders, Andrew Boylan, Joe Peacock and Thomas Guppy. The force for good was a very twee Fairy Tinkle, played to great effect by Sue Whitehouse, and Idle Jack was Michael Boylan.

The Saucy Sal sailed for Morocco to rid them of a plague of rats and was met by the Sultan, Eric Whitehouse. Harem guards were Tufazell (Jean Stratford), Werafez (Thomas Guppy), El Macho (Daniel Graham). The dancing girl Avocado was Josie Grierson and Kay Thind and Julie Worrell were Harem Wives. Technical Director was Peter Worrell, Stage Manager Julie Mann, and the excellent scenery was by Ken and Alison Pallister. Carpenter was Steven Gibbon and props were made by John Parkinson. Sarah's magnificent dresses were made by Sue Whitehouse and Kaye Cummings.

The script was adapted from an original by John Morley and produced and co-director by Wendy Sayers with Jim Boylan. An unsolicited audience testimonial said it was a "slick professional production, an excellent evening's entertainment."

Proceeds go to the Village Hall funds. Special thanks to parents and friends, without whom the show could not have gone on.



Spot the ball - an unusual sight in the Ball Game

Right: Determined to be in at the start!





Meet the Optician

The last three years serving as Sedgefield community optician have been the most happy and fulfilling of my professional career. I have been made so welcome and my practice has been supported in such a way that it became the most natural step for my husband and me to make the village our home. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you. On arriving in Sedgefield it became apparent that if I was to continue the excellent work of my predecessor, the practice needed to move forward. To this end we have invested heavily in updating the fixtures and fittings. We have updated and extended the range of frames and now offer quality and choice beyond that of the majority of our competitors. We have also improved the quality our NHS prescription frames to ensure we cater for the entire community. An independent contact lens practice is now in operation, allowing for the best lenses and solutions to be used for the individual patients needs.

We are particularly proud of our new testing facilities; we have a new slit lamp which allows us to take a photograph of the back of the eye in a quick and easy way. The photos are then kept on record which allows accurate comparison of its condition over the years. Deterioration can be spotted much earlier in our younger, retired and contact lens patients, thus corrective action can be taken at a much earlier stage - especially important for diabetic patients.

Introductions include the use of a twelve point measuring system for children's spectacles and the free provision of a dyslexia test for all our younger patients. I can confidently say that the service provided in Sedgefield is equal if not more comprehensive than any provided further afield.

I can promise anyone visiting the shop a warm welcome and a cup of tea, and a thorough extended eye examination with free Glaucoma and Diabetes checks. You can have whatever time you require to ask questions of a fully qualified optician (myself) and personal and professional advice from my fully trained team in respect of frame selection.

Thank you for the last three years and hopefully, many more happy ones serving the people of Sedgefield are to come.

Winning words

Congratulations to 12 year old Tim Jasper who was presented with the Edith Kershaw Trophy at the Darlington Festival For Performing Arts, after winning the Under 13 Prose Speaking Class.

Tim recited from memory, a passage from 'The Wind in the Willows', and gained 87 marks - a Distinction - winning in a field of 19 entrants by just 1 point. He hopes to defend his title next year.

What a 'kerfuffle'!!

It was good to see a response from the Town Council to my concerns about the cost to the taxpayer of the Ceddesfeld Saga. It is such a pity that we have to hear it from the Town Clerk and not from our elected representatives, nevertheless it was good to see so many of them at the AGM, (8 out of 15 is not bad).

Clearly 2005-06 was a difficult year for our Town Council; they only had just over £20,000 increase in their budget (11.6%) although according to the Annual Report 2005 the increase was presented as 7.8%, which sounded more reasonable. It was nevertheless alarming, in the same report, to be told that the interest on a loan in regard of re-development of the Parish Hall facility, had been taken into account when setting the precept for 2005-06, when in reality the application for the loan sanction had been withdrawn by the Council in November 2003, two years before this report.

The situation was that on 10th June 2003, an interim report was presented to the Sedgefield New Parish Hall Development Group concerning the Feasibility Study which had been commissioned by them for an option on Ceddesfeld Hall. At that meeting several concerns were raised regarding the need to apply for full planning permissions at that stage. Subsequently that group was dissolved in February 2004 by the Town Council and the planning application for the extension to Ceddesfeld Hall was submitted, without any mandate, or consultation with residents, except a very small group who were co-opted onto a sub-committee of the Town Council. (I am not at all sure this is legal?)

What is even more interesting is that the councillors agreed at their P& R Committee on Tuesday March 9th 2004 that the co-opted members should have full voting rights and pointed out that all decisions taken would need to be 'rectified' by the P&R Committee of the Town Council. Clearly they were anticipating a lot of mistakes! So the Ceddesfeld Saga was born. At this year's AGM, when I questioned how the precept increase had been spent, and had it all been spent on funding the Ceddesfeld Hall application, there was clearly some confusion between the Town Clerk and the

More Letters

There's a bumper crop of letters this month. If you would like to say your piece, send your comments, with contact details please, to news@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or 58 Front Street, Sedgefield

Leader, Cllr John Robinson as to the response. It was suggested, the bulk had been spent on Cemetery paths, although other pressures were sighted.

I found this difficult to accept as I had just read the Annual Accounts 2004 -05, which stated the expenditure on the Cemetery had already been accounted for in the 2004-05 accounts, following an insurance claim, (p2 Annual Accounts '04-05) - clearly misleading and somewhat confusing yet again?

But I expect we will see the £20,000 accounted for in this year's Annual Accounts 2005-06. Oh, I forgot about the £40,000 already committed for the Ceddesfeld Hall Saga. Those bills will need to be paid in this financial year, unless we have already done so, not to mention the £10,492, (£55,000 by 6 annual payments+2% above base rate), for the Advice and Information Centre, and general administration and personnel expenditure which last year stood at over £100,000 (2004-05 Annual Accounts). But we are doing better this year with a budget increase of only £7307.

My question on the apparent inequity and unfairness of the council's decision not to raise the rent on Ceddesfeld Hall for the third year running, when all other rental assets and lettings had been increased quite substantially generated a clear response. The review of the rent was not due until this year, possibly August. However the Annual Report clearly states that the rent review was delayed for a very different reason and was actually due last December (p14 Annual Report 2005).

This is very misleading and quite serious given the clear conflict of interest of several members of the Council in the decision making process of both bodies (5 councillors holding positions as Trustees of Sedgefield Arts and Recreation Community Association, affectionately known as the SCA). It is all quite a 'kerfuffle'.

Gloria Wills

Parish Hall questions

Reference the Town Clerks' letter in the February Issue. For 15 years by their own admission, the council have been demonstrating their inability to resolve the question of the Parish Hall. Following the public outcry at their latest proposal to abandon it in favour of Ceddesfield, they now seek to quieten the protest by calling for consultations. They propose meeting the Community College, who have their own agenda which competes with the Parish Hall and SCA who are Ceddesfield Hall. Who will represent them I wonder? Which one of the seven councillors who also hold office in the running of Ceddesfield will put forward their completely unbiased comments? Strangely there will be no consultation with the W.I. or the Sedgefield Players or other groups who actually use the Parish Hall.

Probably they remember the public meeting some years ago when they did listen to the people who mattered. When they set up an independent group to deal with the problem and then disbanded it when the results failed to concur with their own wishes. What is the difference today except that the hall suffers more and more from neglect? The plans put forward do not represent the needs or the wishes of the people and no amount of soft soap from the councillors will change that. Let's move forward by returning the control of the matter to the people of Sedgefield and exclude all local councillors.

How can we expect an impartial judgement when there is such a clear conflict of interest?

A Mowat, The Gables, Sedgefield

Please return unwanted health equipment

The Home Equipment Loans Services (HELs) is a vital service, which loans equipment to patients of all ages with illness or disabilities who need equipment to help with their care. Last year 57,000 pieces of equipment, for example beds, hoists, mobility, toileting and bathing aids, were delivered.

However, they do need to be told when the equipment is no longer needed. The service will arrange collection and ensure that the equipment is passed on to others who need it.

Contact the 01388 812812 (10am - 4pm, Mon to Fri) or write to: HELs, Unit 28, Enterprise City, Spenny-moor, Co Durham, DL16 6JF.

April Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

SPRING FAYRE

Sedgefield Primary School
Saturday 1st April
 1 - 3pm, at the school
FREE ENTRY

Sedgefield Cricket Club Final Quiz of the Season

Saturday 1st April
 Presented by C Bunting
 Bar open at 7:30pm for 8pm start

Local History Society

Monday 3rd April
 Lindsay Allason-Jones from the
 Museum of Antiquities, N'castle
Women in the Roman North
 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Charity Quiz & Dinner

at Ministers Restaurant on
Monday 3rd April
 Tickets from Sedgefield Town
 Council office - Tel: 621273

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 4th April
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm
Herbaceous plants
 Talk & slides by David Braithwaite
All welcome

Sedgefield Library

**Easter Holiday Children's
 Crafts & Entertainment**
 Please come early to book a place
Rhyme Time - stories, songs
 and rhymes for under 5s
Wednesday 5th April
 10am - 12 noon

Book Circle

Wednesday 19th April at 2pm

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 5th April
 Parish Hall at 7.15pm
**"The Re-awakening of a
 Sleeping Princess"**
 John Fitzpatrick of the
 Friends of Hardwick
 Members' Competition is
 an Easter Bonnet
Visitors Welcome (fee £1.50)

Sedgefield

Community Hospital

SPRING FAIR

Thursday 6th April
 In Sedgefield Parish Hall from
 10am - 2pm
 Proceeds to the Community
 Hospital
All welcome!

Invitation to a Coffee & Card Sale

Drop in at 1 The Orchard
 between 9am and 5pm
on Friday 7th April
 Phoenix Trading greeting cards,
 gift wrap & stationery products -
 modern designs at well below
 High Street prices

All profits to the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund

For an advance brochure contact
 Alison Etheridge on 622839

Wynyard Planetarium

Friday 7th April at 7.30pm
 What's up in the Night Sky?

Friday 21st April

Who is the first Martian?
**Adults £3 Children/Concs
 £1.50, Family ticket £6;**
 Prior booking advised:
 tel John McCue on 630544

Children's Fashion Show

from 'Abbraciare'
 in aid of children's charities
Saturday 8th April at 2pm
 in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Cricket Club

LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

?????

Admission £8 (inc Buffet)
 strictly by ticket only
 Telephone 621347

*NB The Cricket Club is available for hire
 for private parties free of charge*

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th April
 from 9.30am - 1.30pm

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

Tuesday 11th April at 7pm
 in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.
All are Welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club

Open Meeting
Tuesday 18 April
 7.30pm Parish Hall
 Lesley Smith, National & NW
 Demonstrator
"Just for Pleasure"
All Welcome

Residents' Forum

Monday 24th April
 7pm in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 27th April
 7.45pm Parish Hall
Update on Ceddesfeld Grounds
 Tammy Morris-Hale,
 Sedgefield Countryside Officer,
All welcome

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays
 Sporting, social and charitable
 events - new members welcome
Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market (WI) Fridays in the Parish Hall (NOT GOOD FRIDAY)

Great value home baking, eggs,
 garden produce and crafts

St Edmund's Church

Baptisms & Weddings can be
 booked in Church on Thursday
 evenings from 6.30 to 7.30pm

Next Month...

Family History Group

(A branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 15th May
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:45pm
"Women in a Port Town"
 Rosalin Barker from Whitby
 If you are interested in tracing your
 family tree please come along
New members always welcome

101 Gigs in April

01 - The Cannon, North Shields
 07 - The Ropery, Sunderland
 08 - The Vulcan, Winlaton
 09 - The Normanby, Normanby
 14 - The Old Fox, Felling
 15 - The Ox Inn, Stanley
 16 - The Station Hotel, Redcar
 22 - Private Party, Redcar Bowl
 23 - The Frigate, Marske
 26 - The Quaker, Darlington
 28 - Wooden Doll, North Shields
 29 - The Princess Alice, M'brough

101 return to the local scene on
 Wednesday 31st May at 9pm at The
 Fox & Hounds in Trimdon. Having
 played at The Bird In Hand in De-
 cember, in the process breaking
 the attendance record of 106, they
 are expecting a full house.
 The band has been very busy gig-
 ging in the North East and recently
 adding crowd pleasers by such
 bands as The Kaiser Chiefs, Killers,
 Arctic Monkeys and Hard Fi. If it's
 well attended they hope to make it
 a regular event. Support your local
 boys & come early to grab a seat.

Home of the ballgame or home of the mad?

Is it not enough these days that we have to increasingly work our way through the myriad of intolerable 'nanny state' rules and regulations, "don't eat this, don't say that, don't go there and the like", Winterton Park residents now find themselves subject to the dictats and ramblings of an over-zealous and sinisterly anonymous self-proclaimed 'official' for children's enjoyment.

Yes, anonymous notices and letters through letterboxes now proclaim small children playing in groups and ballgames in green areas should be reported to the neighbourhood wardens for Sedgefield. PATHETIC - to suggest it is the children who are behaviourally or socially delinquent to want to be in the fresh air, involved in an outdoor sporting activity and in the company of their friends.

Does anyone have any suggestions how one might go about putting a stop to unwanted and poisonous mail, or have any information about who is behind it? Or better, to suggest steps how the person issuing these paranoid notices concerning an otherwise peaceful, crime-free and child-friendly area could get his or her life back.

Russell James, Winterton Avenue

What a great afternoon

A note of thanks to Sedgefield Round Table and Ladies' Circle members for the Senior Citizens Party - a splendid afternoon. I am sure everyone appreciated the hard work done by all of those lovely young people to organize this event. The 3 entertainers were superb; the icing on the cake - in fact, a tonic.

Jason did a grand job calling out the bingo - and his jokes! Personal thanks to him for transport. I felt pretty depressed for a few personal reasons before I left home to go, but coming back I felt elated (the sherry reception, perhaps?).

Seriously, I had a great time and it was lovely to see so many friends I had not seen for a long time. The young men and women did us proud - a million thanks to all of them.

Sincerely, P.K.



Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association

Your Letters

Housing decision undemocratic

On March 3rd I attended the Sedgefield Borough Council planning meeting held at Green Lane, the main purpose being to determine the outcome of the planning application to build 68 dwellings on the site adjacent to the Community Hospital. The following objections to the development were raised:

1. Development of the site would prevent any future expansion of the hospital.
2. Since the advent of the Winterton development the village has seen a significant increase in both traffic through the village and the number of cars parked indiscriminately in the centre, because of the inadequate number of assigned parking spaces. Approval for the proposed development can only exacerbate an already unacceptable situation.
3. With well over 30 properties on the market in Sedgefield, some of which have been on sale for over a year, why do we need additional dwellings?

This is the first meeting of this nature I have attended and I was amazed to find how undemocratic they are. Some thirty plus councillors attended, only two of whom live in the village. Yet the outcome was decided by a show of hands from individuals who have no concept of the impact their decisions have on a community. In my naivety I believed that councillors elected to represent the town would have a major say as to whether or not such a development should be approved. As a point of interest, of our two representatives, one voted against and one abstained. The agent for the developer stated that the scheme would be of the highest quality, and also the highest density development ever approved by the council, at 60 dwellings per hectare. It is amazing what the carrot of 10 affordable dwellings can achieve.

Ivan Porter

Mystery Christmas card

I know Christmas was along time ago, but thanks to our new diligent postmaster, who has a very good memory. I would like to trace the owner of the "annual christmas card" which I receive with a Darlington post stamp. The post code is TS21 3DL - possibly in the Beech Grove area? I am sure Barbara, John, Ben and Charlotte would love to know that someone in Darlington is thinking about them, and that they have not been dropped off their list.

Jeff. (01740 620947)

Christmas Post - thanks

Saint Edmunds Explorer unit based at 1st Sedgefield Scout group would like to thank the residents of Sedgefield for their kind donations during the Christmas post.

We hope all cards were delivered satisfactorily and on time. We would also like to inform you that thanks to your generosity we collected £232.47; this money will be used to fund the unit. Can we also state that the cards delivery service will be operating again next December, and we look forward to your continued support.

St Edmunds Explorer unit.

Traffic calmers - accident waiting to happen?

No Bob (Workman) - it is not just you. These are an eyesore and a potential danger. Cars now race through to get to the other side. They must be a nightmare to bus drivers and heavy traffic, fire engines, etc. I also believed they were a temporary measure, as did other people I have spoken to. So come on the people responsible, "Get Rid" before there are fatal results. *Sheila Corbett*

Sedgefield WI would like to thank everyone who supported their recent Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy; also Sedgefield Co-op who donated Fair Trade cakes for the refreshments.

About £250 was raised for the Butterwick Day Ward Patients at Sedgefield Community Hospital.

Sheila Swanson

More letters on p 9

**Copy for the May issue by April 15th please to
58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011
or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk**

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**Sedgefield News is printed by
Ceddes Print & Design Tel: 01740 621793**