

Sedgefield News

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By the Villagers for the Villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
August 2003

Acting the part - school has fun in a good cause



Reception Class pupils, Teachers and Teaching Assistant enjoying Book Exchange Day

Children and staff of Sedgefield Primary School got into the spirit of literature on Book Exchange Day. Harry Potter was seen competing with Rapunzel, Batman with Minnie Mouse, Scattercat with James Bond and Scoobie Doo and the Ugly Sisters tried to outdo Aslan the Lion in a quiz and all sorts of other bookish competitions. There was a 'best bookmark' and a short story competition - could the next J K Rowling be in our midst?

Youngsters had the chance to revel in lots of books that their classmates and friends had brought in to sell (at 25p each) to raise money for Book Aid International. So far the Book Exchange has raised £113. 10 and with this money, books will be bought for children in Asia and Africa. Definitely a very worthwhile effort.

Broadband

At the time of going to press, contrary to the rumours flying around, we have not reached our 'Trigger Target' of 350.

A recent phone call to BT clarified the position - we are still 11 short of the target.

But once the next 11 names are registered the process will begin.

BT will write to everyone who showed interest, to confirm their interest and only upon 75% returning a 'Yes' reply, will BT consider up-grading the exchange. This could take up to 3 months, so keep up the pressure. If you haven't already shown your interest, go to

www.bt.com/broadband

Remember, this won't commit you to actually signing up, but it will help those who do want to.

High Achieving Guides

Jennifer Nathan, Sophie Bell and Carly Hitch have achieved the highest award in their Guide section - the Baden Powell Challenge Badge. They had to show that they could promote healthy lifestyles and active citizenship, that they are aware of global issues, could take part in new experiences and develop self confidence.

According to Sedgefield Guider, Jackie Postgate and her team, during their 4 years as guides these young people have shown great commitment to the organisation.

"It has been very rewarding to see them mature into young women of the future. We are very proud to know them, and as they leave us to go into the senior section they take with us not only our good wishes, but also the ability to pass on their skills to other individuals."

Insert photo Jennifer, etc..

Jennifer, Sophie and Carly

John Wesley - a celebration

This year the Methodist Church celebrates the Tercentenary of the birth of its founder John Wesley, who was born on the 28th June 1703 at Epworth in Lincolnshire. Throughout the course of this year many events are taking place up and down the country in recognition of the profound effect his life has had on Church and Society.

It was when John was five years old that he had a miraculous escape from a fire in his family home at Epworth. This rescue left him with the conviction in later years that God had spared him for some great work.

It was his 'evangelical conversion' on the 24th May 1738, which marked a real turning point in his life. This personal experience gave him the desire to share what he had discovered about faith in God with others, and eventually led him to travel the length and breadth of the Country, travelling on horseback to everyone who wanted to listen to his preaching. Many a time he faced opposition, but he went on undeterred. He used to say "the world is my Parish".

John Wesley played a great role in the Christian Revival of the 18th Century in this Country. His enthusiasm for God's word brought many into faith and his open air preaching is something he will be remembered for - he took the message to the people.

Every generation faces its own challenges, ours being no exception, but the basic needs of people like you and I don't change. We each have a need to be loved for ourselves. We all have hopes and aspirations we look to becoming a reality. We need to feel a purpose in life and find fulfilment. The Church today holds out an invitation to each individual to find through faith the 'essentials' to meet life's challenges, to establish lasting relationships and values which enhance our lives and build up the life of the community. The Church believes in life values, which are an outward and visible expression of Christian living.

Rev. John Bower, Minister of Sedgefield Methodist Church

Summer Holiday Library Activities

Unless otherwise stated, all these Library activities are suitable for children aged 4-12 years. There is a charge of 75p including refreshments, and an adult MUST accompany any children under 8 years old.

For Information & Reservations call the Library on 620103.

Thurs 24 th July	10-12n	Dinorama
Mon 28 th July	2-4pm	Din0-sew (9-13years)(£1 charge)
Thurs 31 st July	10-12n	Glass painting/collage pictures
Mon 4 th Aug	2-4pm	Dino-sew (9-13years)(£1 charge)
Thurs 7thAug	2-4pm	DLI Dinosaurs
Mon 11thAug	2-4pm	Dino-sew (9-13years)(£1 charge)
Thurs 14 th Aug	10-12n	Masks/Finger puppets
Mon 18 th Aug	2-4pm	Dino-sew/crafts (9-13years)(£1 charge)
Thurs 21stAug	10-12n	Dinosaur crafts
Thurs 28thAug	10-12n	Dinosaur crafts

From the Community College...

Thanks to all who responded to my article about litter. I am really pleased we are beginning to see it as a 'Sedgefield' and 'National' problem rather than something that only children do. Just today as I drove to work, some papers were thrown from a moving car. I am sure we can work together to get the problems resolved.

I would like to report to you an overall 8% increase in our Key Stage 3 Standard Test results. This is really good news and is helping us on our way to being the highest achieving school in County Durham. Our English department have been designated a 'leading department' and will now advise other local schools. One thing we are trying to do is open up school resources for the use of the local people. We have recently purchased a new minibus, which can be hired if the correct MIDAS certificate is held by the driver. We are also the home of Sedgefield Lawn Tennis Club, a flourishing Trampoline Club and numerous other sporting activities. In October our state of the art Multi-Gym should be fully installed. The School and the Community Association are working together to publicise the sporting facilities and the brand new 'community' ICT suite.

We appreciate that for some people the idea of being anywhere near a school is difficult, but

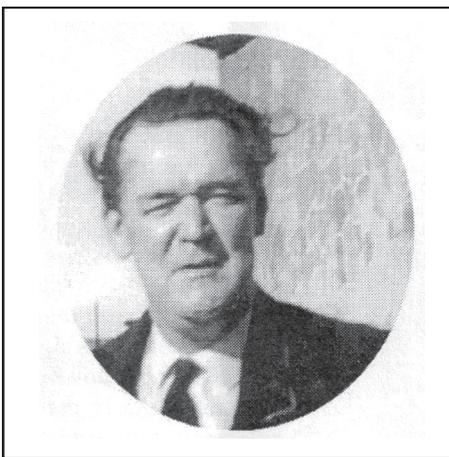
there could be something for you on offer. We have really delightful young people at the college who enjoy meeting new people and seeing new faces. A warm welcome is extended by us and the Community Association to anyone who would like a tour, or just a cup of coffee and a chat with me, or one of my Leadership Team.

We are looking forward to exam results on 21st August, two summer schools, and numerous courses, planning for the next year, lots of building improvements and maybe a holiday!

Lynne Ackland Headteacher

Cec Denton: an appreciation

In May this year, another milestone in the story of Wilkinsons' Motor Services was reached with the death of Cec Denton at the age of 80.



In 1967 Cec was Top, or No. 1 driver for Wilkies when they

were taken over by United Automobile Services. It meant he led the fleet, driving the latest Coach (Bedford coaches weren't included in this scheme, only Leylands or AEC's).

On Friday 24th Feb 1967, Cec drove coach No 76 (Plaxton, Panorama AEC) to the Solway Firth with a party of Ornithologists. Returning to Sedgefield late on Sunday, Cec was the last driver to operate a Wilkies' liveried coach. UAS had removed the Wilkinson's name from the fleet at midnight on Saturday 25th. Cec went on to work for UAS, but with a sad heart, until he retired in 1984, completing 41 years uninterrupted employment.

It isn't certain where Cec was born. Maybe Ferryhill where his grandmother lived, or maybe West End, Sedgefield, but he spent most of his early years at Sedgefield Station. He left school at 14 to work at Thubrons' Sawmill, where by 18 he was driving timber transporters. In 1943, at 21 Cec approached Tom Wilkinson for a job. Cec passed his PSV test and the job was his. Cec married Hilda in Dec 1948. They had 54 years together and had 4 children. Sadly the first lived for only 2 days and Geoffrey, the 2nd, died at 5 years of age, but Pauline & Derek are both still going strong! Lots of us will miss Cec Denton. ***He was a gentleman!***

Community Safety with contributions from Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Police, the Road Safety Group & S. B. Volunteer Bureau

Road Safety Group

The Panel asked Sergeant Trotter to give us his position on Road Safety issues. Here is his reply. "The Durham Constabulary Road Policing Strategy underpins the force's commitment to ensuring that an individual can use the road with confidence, free from death, injury, damage, fear or loss and to prevent road user related criminal activity."

The above statement is the aim of the Durham Constabulary Policing Strategy, which I felt was appropriate to head this short article which highlights concerns regarding related incidents brought to my attention by the Road Safety Panel by and on behalf of residents.

As a result of the meeting Officers have been paying particular attention to Station Road, West End, North End, and Stockton Road, the main concerns being excess speed, parking and driving below the normal acceptable standards. Road user related criminal activity is anti-social and is a proven cause of road casualties. It can and will lead to Police involvement and enforcement.

Parking on double yellow lines, grass verges, footpaths and the approach/exit of zebra crossings reduce the number of safe places for pedestrians to cross the road and is a contributory factor to reduced visibility of approaching vehicles and pedestrians waiting to cross.

Excess speed and driving below the normal acceptable standards reduce safe stopping distances, the driver's ability to control the vehicle and are major factors in road collisions/casualties.

My aim is to request drivers to show patience and courtesy and to evidence and educate the reasons why "parking for only a moment" in the wrong place is anti-social and dangerous. Local officers will monitor the situation and I have liaised with traffic management at Police Headquarters regarding these issues and the support to deal positively with them. It is also my intention for traffic Wardens to work alongside local police officers at identified times to deal with issues raised.

Police Officers can deal with these offences in a variety of ways, from words of advice to positive action and reporting for summons to magistrate's court. In view of this please be aware of the concerns raised and your individual responsibilities. If you wish to discuss this matter with me, I can be contacted at Sedgefield Police Station, 620272.

Simon Trotter, Police Sergeant 761.

Profile: Police Sergeant Simon Trotter

Born at Bishop Auckland, Simon Trotter was part of a family which moved around County Durham, as his father was a serving Police Officer. Simon was educated mainly in Durham City. At 15 he joined the army as an apprentice and served 6 years as a Computer Systems Operator. At 21 in 1989, he left and joined the Metropolitan Police where he served until 1993 when he transferred to Durham. He served as beat officer, detective constable and in the drugs squad until in 1997 he transferred to Hampshire Police, as his wife Sally's mother was ill, and Durham was too far away. He was promoted to Sergeant during this time.

Feeling homesick, he returned to Durham police at Bishop Auckland as Beat Constable in 2000. However he was soon promoted to Sergeant, moving to Spennymoor and in 2003 came to Sedgefield.

Hopefully he will be allowed to grow roots and stay here in Sedgefield, long enough for the village to get to know him!



PC Todd reports

My thanks everyone who sponsored my abseil down St Edmund's Church Tower. I hope to have raised over £200.

Crime in the village is very low at the moment - long may it continue. But the drugs problem never seems to go away. Two local lads found to their cost that if they indulge in this illegal activity they will be caught and arrested at some point. Smoking Cannabis is neither big nor clever, as these two found out, embarrassing themselves and their families. They were caught hiding in bushes on the dirt track formerly used as an entrance to the big school. I will be checking other areas so be warned. If anyone knows other areas to check, please let me know. Finally, I would like to thank First Responders for allowing me to watch a demonstration recently. I was impressed and learnt a lot from the experience. Until next time! **Keith.** (NHW)

	This Month 10/6-10/7 2003	Year to Date 10/1-10/6 2003	2002 Jun/Jul figures
Youths Causing Annoyance	5	5	0
Burglary Non Dwelling	3	4	2
Burglary Dwelling	2	5	1
Crime Drugs	2	2	0
Theft from Motor Vehs	1	1	1
Theft of Motor Vehs	0	1	0
Taking & Driving Away	0	0	0
Vehicle Interference	0	2	0
Assaults	5	5	1
Criminal damage	0	10	0
Theft	0	12	5
TOTAL	18	42	10

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & North East Ambulance Service First Responders need your help now!

You may need their help in the future so please help us to help you, by taking part in our

GRAND PRIZE DRAW

You'll find a ticket inside this issue of Sedgefield News - Here's how to purchase it

Complete the tear off receipt and detach it
Place in an envelope with £1, then seal & write "1st Responders" on the front.
"Post" the envelope into the SPECIAL BOXES where you see this notice @

Post Office / Dowens / Selections / Sedgefield Jewellers / Sedgefield Library / Council Offices or wherever you see this poster.

Books of tickets can be purchased from any of the above or from members of 1st Responders or Neighbourhood Watch
(Cheques payable to Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch)

Price £1 each or £5 for book of 6

1st Prize: 2 watches, value £260

2nd Prize: Bar-B-Q valued @ £150 3rd Prize: £100 cash

4th Prize: Pair "Plano" Sun Glasses 5th Prize: Food Hamper 6th Prize: Mystery

7th Prize: Meal for 2 @ Hardwick Hall 8th Prize: A day @ Sedgefield races (excluding Boxing Day)

9th Prize: £20 voucher against a meal @ Dunn Cow, Sedgefield 10th Prize: 51 piece Tool Kit

Plus more than 40 other prizes including Whisky (no claim from anyone under 18yrs of age),
Wine, Cuddly Toys etc.

Ticket receipts must be returned to Bob @ Sedgefield News Office no later than **Wed 6th August 2003**

The draw will take place at Sedgefield Show on Saturday 9th August at 3-30pm & will be made by the Mayor, Councillor Linda Maddison

Any problems contact Bob 629011, David 621343 or Ken 621896

DO please HELP us to HELP you!

Volunteering...

It isn't *just* good for the soul! It can put you on track to improving both your career *and* your bank balance. Some of the benefits include:

Valuable work experience to enhance your cv.

Up to date professional reference.

Opportunities for training and to develop skills and build confidence.

A chance to meet new people & put something back into the community – most voluntary groups couldn't exist without volunteers.

Volunteering is flexible; you can commit to as much or as little time as you like and there are opportunities in just about every field you can think of.

Contact Sedgefield Borough Volunteer Bureau on **01325 313930**

SCCA New Fitness Suite

We were ahead of events last month, but the new fitness suite at Sedgefield Community College will soon be open to the community. The suite will have 16 new stations - 10 fitness and 6 resistance, including an abs area and free weights station. There will be a television and access to a fitness instructor.

Football Fever

SCCA is also looking to develop football at the college by setting up and running football leagues in two formats.

An adult league of 8 -10 teams, with 10 registered players max, will play 1 evening game a week, 12 minutes each way. The league will last about 10 weeks with times arranged on a rota basis. A qualified referee will take charge of all games. Cost will be £5 registration and £1.50 per team member per week.

An under-10 league will run on Saturday morning and consist of 8-10 teams playing 1 match a week over 10 weeks, 10 minutes each way. Fixtures and referees to be arranged by the league organiser. Teams may come from Junior Clubs, Schools or friends and the cost will be £5 per team and £1 per player per week.

Medals will be awarded to the winning teams in both leagues.

For more information contact Rana Coates on 621097.

Rosebank Special School Sports Day was supported by SCC & Sports College. Junior sports leaders Jeffrey Murray, Aaron Walton, Darren Bill, Mark Jones, Lee Cooksey, Justin Preston, Daniel Mason, Kelly Laird, Clair Howie and Amy Pratt were on hand to give the children all the support and encouragement they needed. Medals provided by Sedgefield and District Ladies Circle and Round Table were presented to every child. A brilliant and rewarding day for all involved.

Alan Sowerby Memorial Award

at Hardwick Primary School Sedgefield

This was the last assembly for pupils transferring to the Community College next term and it was to be one providing the greatest of surprises to one modest young girl. There were surprise visitors to the assembly, specifically her Mam & Dad and two gentlemen from



Neighbourhood Watch. But Leoni still didn't expect what was coming next. After a song and the Lord's Prayer, Headteacher Jill Coulson reminded everyone of the award initiated by the Village Neighbourhood Watch Panel last year, to commemorate one of their founder members, Alan Sowerby. The award for "good citizenship" is given to the pupil who consistently

demonstrates such qualities and just like last year the recipient was totally unaware!

Leoni Million, a member of the school choir, and who will always lend a hand to staff and fellow pupils alike, had been chosen to receive this year's award. She was described as well behaved, well mannered and always giving her best in class. Caring and supportive towards other children, she sets them a good example and always shows respect for others. "Leoni is a reliable and most dependable pupil with a lovely sense of humour" said Ms Coulson "and she is someone who makes a good ambassador for Hardwick Primary School".

Offering Leoni the School's congratulations and wishing her well in the future Ms Coulson asked the Secretary of Neighbourhood Watch to make the presentations. Leoni received a book voucher, a commemorative engraved silver Plaque and a parchment scroll to record this significant achievement and her name will be added to the shield permanently on display at the school.

It was noticed that there was just the hint of a tear in the eye of one proud mum as Leoni received her award. **Well done Leoni!**

"Citizen of the Year" at Rectory Row School is **Kieran Race**. The presentation is on 18th July, but unfortunately this paper had gone to

Summer Fruit Salad Ice Cream

What could be more cooling on a summer day than fresh summer fruits, lightly frozen in this irresistible ice

Ingredients for 6 servings

900g/2lbs/4½cups mixed soft summer fruit such as raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants

2 eggs

225g/8oz/1 cup Greek yoghurt

175ml/6fl oz/¾cup red grape juice

15ml/1tbsp/1sachet powdered gelatine

Method: Reserve half the fruit and make a smooth puree in a food processor or through a sieve

Separate eggs & whisk yolks & yoghurt into puree.

Heat the grape juice until almost boiling then remove from heat. Sprinkle gelatine over grape juice and stir to dissolve completely. Whisk dissolved gelatine mixture into the fruit puree and pour mixture into a freezer container.

Freeze until half-frozen and slushy in consistency.

Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff. Quickly fold them into the half-frozen mixture and return to the freezer until almost firm. Scoop into glasses and add reserved fruits.

Sedgefield Social Club - added appeal?

To our range of draught beers and lagers we have added cask conditioned ales, Bass Triangle, Flowers, Old Speckled Hen etc. So all you discerning members who don't frequent the Club, how about it? **Bill Curbeson, Secretary**

A 'SLYC' Musical Treat

On Sunday 29th June we had the great pleasure of attending a concert by Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir in the intimate surroundings of Ceddesfeld Hall. The singers were wearing their distinctive new uniform, bought with help from the charities fund for youth set up by last year's mayor, Ian Sutherland. In black tee-shirts with 'SLYC' in sequins, they



looked very smart! The programme mixed traditional and modern songs with a smattering of little counter harmony gems demonstrating the capacity and ambition of this vibrant choir. We were also treated to solos by all four of the singers who leave for university soon. They were presented with the traditional 'leavers mugs' which will serve as a reminder of special memories of performing beautiful music with friends.

As the dying notes of a body-swaying 'a capella' version of the classic, Stand by Me, floated away, the packed hall burst into appreciative applause which brought grins of pleasure to the choir. We were offered the unusual gift of choosing an encore, demonstrating confidence in their ability to sing any of their songs again to a high standard. To universal agreement it was 'Allunde', an African lullaby, which with its haunting rhythmic melody sent us away wondering where the last hour had gone, and when can we see this wonderfully rehearsed choir unleash their infectious youthful exuberance again. We are lucky to have quality music like this. You know the old adage 'use it or lose it'? Well, I urge you to attend their next concert in September - details coming soon. Until next time, thank you choir!

Peter Hinde

SLYC meets at Ceddesfeld Hall on Friday evenings during term time. It is open to boys and girls from 9 years old.

If any ex-choir members would like to join in a concert in September, please get in touch - we'd love 2CU!

Drum Lessons

Absolute Beginners to Advanced Level



Call Richard Patterson on **07974 983 405**

or 01740 621 539

It's Bizarre But True

...that the Lottery bid for the restoration of Hardwick Park has been delayed by a month. The reason? A ladder fell on the case worker's head resulting in him having 22 stitches in his head and 2 weeks on sick leave.

Visitors to the north end of the Park may see ongoing work to prepare the new home for our 5 Great Crested Newts. The small 'Finger Ponds' are being restored, silt being removed and newt-friendly plants being installed. Surrounding conifers will also be removed then the Newts will then be transferred to their new home. Newt-proof fencing will be used to stop them returning to their old haunts!

Take a bite at Learning

During August we will be running **BITESIZE** courses - sessions designed to give you the chance to try something new. Each session will last up to 3 hours maximum - most are designed for about 2 hours. The courses will usually be run by people from the community though sometimes the providers who have the resources and expertise may be found outside. The best part is that these courses are **FREE** to all participants and are open to all from 11 to 90+!

All you have to do to get on these courses is contact me to book a place on, then just turn up at the appointed time and place.

Games Workshop is one of the external providers and they will run courses on War-gaming, based on the success of the Lord of The Rings. Courses will cover; how to play the game, build and paint your models and create landscapes. This will conclude with a whole day of war gaming where you can battle your friends and put into practice what you have learnt in a tournament contest.

The courses will be publicised on posters throughout the village - even in the pubs! - and also on the window of the advice and information centre. Each week the posters will change to show the coming week's courses, so keep your eyes open so you don't miss out.

The grand finale will be at the Learning Fayre on the 30th August where you will be able to take part in a couple of Bitesize courses and find more information about the courses you have tried, from a range of exhibitors. There will be advice on careers routes, voluntary work, formal qualifications and enrolment for further courses.

If you would like to participate in a course or offer your services to hold one, please contact Simon or me at the Advice and Information Centre. Tel: 629011. Have Fun! **Bob Harris** *Lifelong Learning*

Congratulations to Angela Hitch, who has just completed a BSc Honours Degree in Applied Psychology (2:1) at Durham University. Angela went back to learning in her 30s, starting with an Access Course and was so encouraged by her progress that she immediately embarked on a Degree. Her next move is a PGCE course, after which she hopes to work in Educational Psychology. A terrific example of Lifelong Learning in practice.

Farmers' Market Update *from Bob Harris, Market Coordinator*

July 10th saw the second Farmers Market outside the Hope Inn. It was a glorious day and started with a bit of a laugh. The night before, the area was cordoned off with bollards and tape (thanks to the staff of the Hope Inn, who did this after the front was clear of customers). As the stall-holders arrived next morning it was noticed someone had drawn a white outline on the car park floor in the shape of a dead body, as seen in many a police movie, with the outline of a dummy next to the body!

It caused a chuckle at the start of a good day!

There were stalls covering a wide range of produce. You could purchase anything from millinery to wine and cheese, home baked cakes and pies, sausages and vegetables. I'm particularly fond of the nettle cheese - I find it has a bit of a sting to it!

Holding the market on a Thursday was part of a trial to see which day suits the community best. If you have views on this drop me a letter at the Town Council Offices. Here are the details of the next Markets.

Saturday 9th August at Sedgefield Show

Sunday 14th September in front of the Hope Inn

After this, Markets will continue on the second Sunday every month.

Keeping it in the Community

Those who can remember the Blitz during the 1939 – 45 war will recall the great community spirit that existed then, when everyone pulled together, helping and encouraging each other. It is nice to know it still exists, this time in the provision of local jobs and business facilities.

Paul Richardson, a local entrepreneur has recently taken over the AMEC building on Sedgefield Industrial Estate, using local traders to convert it into office space to cater for small businesses .

Trading as PROTEC, Paul is offering office space with a main reception area and receptionist, along with designated telephone lines. Also in the building are meeting rooms and conference facilities with video conferencing.

Again in the spirit of community, another local entrepreneur with premises on the Industrial Estate, Ian Parsons was able to help Paul set up temporary accommodation whilst work on the building was undertaken.

We at Sedgefield News wish Paul all the best in his new venture.

Sedgefield Development Partnership Open Event Tuesday 16th September at Hardwick Hall Hotel

An invitation is extended to you all - businesses, organisations and individuals - to hear the latest on your Development Partnership and to give you the chance to have an input into what happens next.

The event will focus on supporting the community's existing groups and organisations (social, sporting or other activities) and on helping new initiatives.

There will be help, guidance, funding advice, development support and 'networking'. Meet representatives from Sedgefield Community College, CAVOS, the Community Empowerment Network.

Get advice on working with the News Media and exchange ideas with other Partnerships in the area.

The event is free, but please return the slip in September's Sedgefield News, to let us know you're coming.

Finally, our thanks to Hardwick Hall Hotel for their generous support in helping to put on this event

How your Partnership has progressed since the first Public Open Meeting in January 2001

Carried out and published the "Community Appraisal 2002" on behalf of the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon

Established an active First Responders group – still the only one in the North East encouraged by the Ambulance Service to take on first aid cover for public events, as well as responding to emergencies

Produces Sedgefield News. Now in its second year, with help from Neighbourhood Watch, it is delivered free to 2,500 addresses

Lifelong Learning established and about to enter 3rd year

SDP works with other organisations and community groups as well as carrying out projects directly

Developed and gained funding for a Community Web-site to be run jointly with the Town Council

With Sedgefield Rotary Club organises 'Citizen of the Year' award

SDP has consistently achieved the targets set by funding bodies

To date, almost £100,000 raised for projects in our community.

We will help carry forward your priorities from the Community Appraisal, but it's important to keep in touch with your views, so come along in September and have your say.

Details, time and reply slip in the next edition

About SDP...

Anyone who supports the Partnership's purpose and aims can become a member. It is an example of what is known in the jargon as a 'social enterprise'. It aims to become stable and sustainable, so that it can help fulfil our community aspirations. Our open events put issues on the public agenda by direct participation & involvement.

SDP is part-way to being registered as a charity, with charitable purposes in learning and regeneration.

Our office is within the Advice & Information Centre, where Bob Harris and Simon Leadbitter are based.

We are a member of the Development Trusts Association. From being an unregistered association we have become a company limited by guarantee, controlled by a Board of Directors elected by our community members.

Over 85 people voluntarily contribute time and energy each month to make the organisation successful, but more will always be welcome - and very useful!

Just joking!

A man visited the Doctor with a minor complaint. The Doc examined him and said it was just minor but he would prescribe some tablets. Take two tablets one day, he said, and skip the next, then two tablets and skip the next, and so on.

A few weeks later the Doctor met the man's wife and asked how he was. "Dead, Doctor" she replied. "But there wasn't much wrong. What happened?"

"It wasn't so much what was wrong" said the wife "It was the skipping that killed him!"

August DIARY

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

August 9th - Sedgefield Show

After a lot of hard work by the volunteers, all will be ready for members, exhibitors and visitors to assemble on the Robert Brown Show Field on West Park Lane to celebrate the

150th Sedgefield Show.

By 10am most of the tents will close for judging. They re-open at lunchtime, when there will be a rush of exhibitors and friends to see who has won.

Special prize cards and rosettes have been produced for this historic occasion.

The main ring will be busy all day and there will be show jumping in the top ring in the afternoon. The popular dog agility competitions will take place all day in a separate ring. A new attraction this time will be a vintage tractor display.

Members of the show committee hope everyone will have a very enjoyable day.

Sedgefield Family History Group

Monday 18th August

NB This Meeting will be held in Sedgefield Library from 7pm to 9pm and will be a chance for members to bring along genealogical queries and problems for other Members to help solve. Members will also have access to the Internet on the Library Computers.

Monday 15th September

Back to usual venue and time, Ceddesfeld Hall from 7.45pm.

Mrs Beatrice Wilson on
"My Victorian Family"

WI Market

Closed during August

Re-opens Friday 5th September

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday August 6th

Illustrated talk on Venice
by George Flynn
Competition for members is
a decorative fan.

Visitors are always welcome.

Meetings start at 7.15pm
in the Parish Hall on the
1st Wednesday of the month

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

Visit our stall at the
Sedgefield Agricultural Show
Saturday 9th August
and find out more

Support our tombola and
Guess How Many Sponsors

**NHW & First Responders
Grand Draw at 3-30pm by
Councillor Linda Maddison,
Mayor of Sedgefield**
Raffle tickets on sale until 3pm

Neighbourhood Watch & Crime Watch Panel

Tuesday 12th August,
6-45pm in the Parish Hall

**The Chief Constable of
Durham Constabulary**
will be answering our
submitted questions

Note the change of starting time

Sedgefield Cricket Club's Folk & Live Music Night

features Lindisfarne lead singer

Billy Mitchell

The John Wrightson Band

John Weighall

Brilliant young Guitar Vocalist

Kate Gormley

& great young duo

Tremor

Saturday 20th September 8pm
Buffet included

Admission £7 by ticket only
Tel 621347

Sedgefield Cricket Club Fixture List

Home matches in August

'A' Division

Sat 16th - v Tudhoe

Sat 30th - v Esh Winning

'B' Division

Sat 9th - v Crook

Sat 23rd - v Mainsforth

Mon 25th - v Kimblesworth

3rd Team

Sun 3rd - v Felling

Sun 17th - v Marsden

*And finally... as events are quiet
in August, we have space here
for a shortened version of....*

Dog Mess!

I don't understand why
people with dogs
Refuse to clean up their mess.
If they picked up the 'poo' every
single time,
Then litter would be a lot less.

But people are lazy, they
couldn't care less.
They shuffle away in a hurry.
The smelly 'poo' is witness to
The fact that they don't worry
It's not the fault of people's pets,
Irresponsible owners I blame.
I wonder, could we shame them
all in shop windows,
by posting their name?

So if you've a dog,
always carry a bag
And do us all a favour.
Please pick up the 'poo'
and bin it at once,
Don't leave it for us to savour!
Then owners of dogs wouldn't
have a bad name
And folk wouldn't lose their cool.
There wouldn't be heaps on
verges and paths
When I'm on my way to school!

*Timothy Jasper Class 4,
St. William's RCVA Primary
School, Trimdon*

Your Letters

Three strong reactions to cemetery criticism

As I am one of the employees for Sedgefield Town Council I would like to correct some of the comments made in Mrs Wilson's letter last month. It is not true that the cemetery missed a cutting. It is always done at the same time as the village, even if the weather turns wet, and as for the grass being a foot long, this is only in areas where bulbs are planted and must be left to die back. It is not the case that number plaques have been trampled into the ground; they have been set down by us so as to not effect the cutting. As to the 'neglect and sorry state of the place' - who does Mrs Wilson think empties the bins, picks litter, repairs fences and the continuous damage from vandalism? We re-seed areas, weed paths, remove old wreaths and flowers, check headstone stability and also clean up after drinking and drug use. If Mrs. Wilson had spoken to me I would have gladly dealt with these questions personally.

Mr S Young. *Gardener, Sedgefield Town Council*

As grass cutting contractor to Sedgefield Town Council for over 25 years, I take exception to the tone and content of Mrs Wilson's letter. The grass is cut every two weeks regardless of weather and the charge of racing around like Dodgems is out of order, as it takes sixteen man-hours minimum to cut the Cemetery.

We find that the gardeners responsible for the upkeep of Sedgefield Town and Cemetery are very conscientious and courteous and do a wonderful job. They should be applauded for their hard work and dedication.

C. E. Walker

I often go to Sedgefield cemetery with a friend who visits the unique and excellent infant memorial. We always enjoy the beautiful flowers and shrubs, which reflect the changing seasons. My friend always comments on what a peaceful, well kept place it is. Whilst arranging flowers on our last visit, we met Steve, who cares for the cemetery. He asked us what we thought of the memorial, as he was going to do some work on it later. After some time he asked our opinion on the rest of the cemetery, as he had been so distraught after reading the letter in July's Sedgefield News. He explained the amount of work he did, and that during Sedgefield in Bloom his time was shorter in other areas. But his interest and compassion in the cemetery was so easy to see.

Later we read the letter and were dismayed too. Although cuts are inevitable when budgets are tight, we think it is awful to disillusion someone with such a heart-felt interest in the gardening care of our beautiful village.

S. Harris

Hardwick Park comment

I assume that it will be pleaded that the bridge is a latter-day intrusion. However the bridge is at the end of the footpath (also a latter-day intrusion) that most walkers from Sedgefield currently use to enter the park. As such it opens alternative routes through the park immediately.

No doubt it will be pleaded that most visitors will enter the park from the new car park behind the proposed visitor centre, therefore the aforesaid bridge is a blot on the original vista.

It is intended that there should be new footpath from the show field to the underpass which may reduce local usage of the first mentioned footpath but which is a good access for users of Hardwick Hall.

I believe that restoration of the Serpentine will remove the present pond-dipping quays - a pity. Should we be pressing for their retention?

Roy Smeeton

Poetic Treatment for Dog Mess?

I am so disgusted with the lazy people who allow their dogs to foul the grass verges and footpaths in Sedgefield, that I felt moved to write a poem.

What can be done about it? There are bins for disposing of dog dirt all over the village, yet the cut from Boynston Grove to The Lane is atrocious. I would like to use my poem in a publicity campaign around the streets of Sedgefield because I'm sick of stepping in dog dirt or, worse still, getting it on my bike wheels all the time.

We have a dog, Topsy and it really is no trouble to clean up after her. Why are people so lazy? Don't they care about where they live?

Please can we start a campaign to encourage people to clean up our streets? I would be very pleased to be part of a 'poo-busters' drive for a day.

Timothy Jasper (aged 9)

For a short 'flavour' of Timothy's poem turn to page 11

From the Editor:

For inclusion in the September issue, send copy before Aug. 15th please to snews.sdp@sedgefield.net or to

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