

# Sedgefield News

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By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon  
August 2004

## Sedgefield Development Partnership moves on to open learning area & office at 58 Front Street

**Thanks to a grant of £25,000 from the Barclays Community Programme** and the much appreciated support of local businesses, the Partnership has been able to secure accommodation which will allow them to plan for the long term. The owner knew of their need for learning & office accommodation, so when the Sedgefield Jeweller's premises became vacant, an offer was made which the Trustees were keen to accept. They saw it as the perfect opportunity to develop the Partnership's existing community businesses, such as Sedgefield News and SedgefieldWeb, and to build on them. However nothing could be achieved without new funding and fortunately Barclays Community Programme, recognising the potential benefit to this community, came up with the necessary financial support.



Jane Price, left & Janice Holton, rt. of Barclays, with Clare Hammond of SDP at the SedgefieldWeb launch

**Not afraid to get their hands dirty!** It's not just the money - Barclays are also sending in a team of energetic volunteers to help get the building ready. They will give up a day's holiday or a weekend to work alongside partnership volunteers, painting & decorating and fitting out, so that by late September it will be possible to welcome people in to take part in the first training programmes.

**Disabled Access.** Wheelchair user Ann Stephenson is being consulted, to ensure that access to the training sessions which will take place in the front shop area is straightforward.

**So here's to the future** - with people of all interests, ages and backgrounds getting more involved in the community. The Front Street location should make it easy for anyone to drop in and find out what the Partnership has to offer, maybe to get involved in one of the projects or perhaps to share your ideas for new community ventures.

**Sedgefield News** will now be published from 58 Front Street and we hope this means we will see more of our readers & contributors. The more feedback we get from you, the better.

**Lifelong Learning to have a place in village centre again** Education in the Community is ready to start putting courses into the new training area and will respond to your needs. Let them know what *you* want to learn!

**A BBC bus** is expected to be parked up outside 58 Front Street on **August 20th**. Why not come along? It's always interesting to learn more about how the BBC works. At the same time, you can see how things are progressing at no 58 under SDP operations supreme, John Parkinson!

### Tony Blair wields swipe-card to herald rosy future

With one swish of a giant smartcard, the Prime Minister handed the new NetPark Research Institute to the University of Durham on July 23rd. The futuristic technology whisked ownership of the impressive building from Ken Manton, chairman of County Durham Local Strategic Partnership, to a delighted Professor John Ainstie, who received it on behalf of the University. For One Northeast, who were key partners in the new development, this a major step towards hundreds of new jobs for our area. *Full story and photos on page 9*

**New sports column on Page 8**

## Parish says farewell to Martin & Alison King

On Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> Martin King is to retire as Rector of Sedgefield, after a ministry of 12 years in the Parish and some 40 years as an ordained minister. Martin has served his entire ministry in the Diocese of Durham, working in South Shields, Newton Aycliffe, Chilton Moor, Middleton St. George and Sedgefield, and he is leaving at a time of significant change in the Parish. Discussions are taking place between Sedgefield and the neighbouring Parishes of the Trimdons & Bishop Middleham, seeking to establish a single Parish structure with a team Ministry serving six Churches and communities. Martin & Alison will be moving to their new home in Bishop Middleham, so won't be so very far away from the many friends they have made during their time here. I'm sure that they will be seen about the place, and that Martin will be used by Churches in the area to conduct worship. Martin has played a significant role in the Sedgefield and Fishburn communities, participating enthusiastically in

so many activities in both villages, and offering personal support to many families through baptisms, weddings and funerals, and in times of trouble or illness, quite apart from all the normal daily activities of a Parish Priest. Anyone who would like to contribute to a collection to mark Martin's retirement is asked to send it to either: Nigel Clegg, 16 Hardwick Road, Brian Mutch, 6 Haseldon Grove, or Michael King, 42 Spring Lane. A presentation will be made to Martin & Alison at the farewell tea, to be held in the Parish Hall from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

*Michael King, Church Warden*

### Singing Day

One of the features of Martin's time here has been his musicality and this will be celebrated at a Singing Day on September 26<sup>th</sup>, culminating in Choral Evensong with music chosen by Martin. It should be a very glad sound indeed, with members of both Durham and Darlington Choral Societies, the East Durham Community College Choir, Sedgefield Lyric Singers and St Edmunds Church choir, all joining in.

The programme might include a wonderful anthem by Gerald Finzi and a very well known and loved excerpt from Handel's Chandos Anthems.

If you would like to raise your voice in celebration, please call Martin on 01740 620274 to let him know which voice part you like to sing.

Details next month of rehearsals and the event itself.

### The other half of the story!

We hope September's issue will feature Alison's take on life as a 'clergy wife' - one to look forward to!

## Tradition kept up at Sedgefield Show

The 151st Sedgefield Show on 14<sup>th</sup> August and its volunteers are working hard to maintain a tradition that belongs to rural communities all over the world. Categories may have changed but local produce will still be on display as it was at the very first show. The horse section is again a feature with Shetland Ponies, Welsh Ponies and the beautiful Dale Classes on show. Sheep and cattle are also very important sections and they too can be seen competing for prizes. Horticulture, handicraft, photography and writing categories abound along with sections for guinea pigs, rabbit, poultry and other birds. Follow the crowds to the Dog Agility events and see leading trainers and their prized canines show off their credentials.

Take a trip down memory lane and celebrate the tradition of a Show that almost slipped completely off the calendar three years ago. It goes ahead this year and it's guaranteed to be one to remember.

Entries closed on 30 July but you can contact the secretary, Mr B Woodward, on 620431 for information. **Details on p. 11**



**Home Composting Day at Trimdon**  
- Entry free & open to all  
see p.11 for details)

## Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

now has some spaces for term time before and after school child care  
We open at 8am before school and close at 6pm for after school care  
Please phone 623565 for details

### Lifelong Learning - Community College perspective

As another academic year draws to a close, it is good to reflect on the many learning opportunities provided in and amongst our community. At Sedgefield Community College we place learning at the very core of our values. In this respect we are always happy to support any organisations that share our passion for the promotion and development of education and learning. Our guiding principles are co-operation and collaboration and we are keen to work with any organisation that shares these values.

In recent years we have made a great effort to work in tandem with a range of organisations, the Borough and County Councils and the Local Education Authority to try and maximise the learning opportunities for our community. We take great pride in the part we have played in promoting initiatives that have enriched the learning experiences of all sections of our community.

We were delighted to host the Mayor's Charity Concert last November. This was not just a successful and very entertaining fund raising event but also an opportunity to bring together many different groups who otherwise may never have shared the experience of working together. The collaboration with Linda Maddison has cemented our relationship with the Town Council and the community will continue to reap the benefits far into the future.

The Community College has been represented on the Sedgefield Development Partnership since its foundation with a specific interest in the Lifelong Learning section. We are delighted with the learning opportunities that have been developed through the work of Bob Harris and although Bob has now left the Partnership, we continue to provide significant support to Bob in his new role as Education in the Community Development officer and are pleased to have him based at the College.

We look forward with keen anticipation to further opportunities in learning provided through collaboration and partnership and we remain totally committed to providing our support to all who promote a culture of learning within our community.

*If you think we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Ackland or John Tomlinson at Sedgefield Community College.*

### Classified Adverts

#### Driver

#### for Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

to do pick ups from Coxhoe school most days during term time.  
One hour a day around 3-4pm.  
Please call 623565 for details.

### WANTED

#### Office for 1 person in Sedgefield

Call 01740 623225

*To advertise here see contact details on p.12*

**Does anyone have a spare copy of the May '04 edition of Sedgefield News?**

**We would be grateful if you could drop it off at 58 Front Street but if you can't do that, call us on 629011 and we will pick it up.**

# Community Safety

## Sedgefield Village NHW Citizens of the Year 2004

This year's Alan Sowerby Shields were presented by Sarah Norman, at ceremonies held at the individual schools.

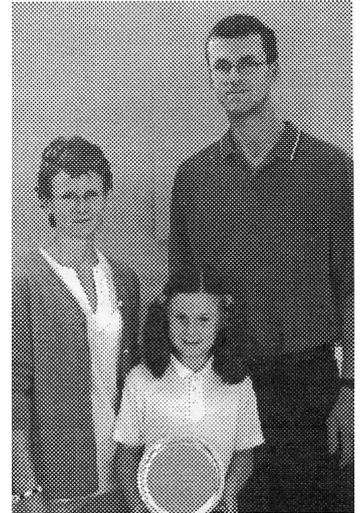
At **Hardwick School**, **Kate Weightman** was presented with her Citizen of the Year Award at the year 6 leavers ceremony. Ms Coulson, headmistress, said "Kate has always been friendly, cheerful with a good sense of humour. She can be a bit of a worrier when faced with something new, but usually because she wants to do her best. She is very helpful in class and around school, and caring and thoughtful towards other children. Kate is an active member of the guitar group and school choir and is a school buddy. Kate has the qualities we all look for in a "good citizen" and is a worthy recipient of the Alan Sowerby



Sarah Norman presenting shield to Kate Weightman, Ms Jill Coulson looking on.

**Hardwick School** this year introduced a **Junior Citizen of the Year** award for Year 2. It was won by **Kelly Dobson**. Ms Coulson said of Kelly, "She has been a model pupil and a good citizen - a good worker, always giving of her best. We have found her helpful in class and around school, reliable, trustworthy and very caring towards others. Kelly has represented KSI classes on the school council & has good ideas to put forward. Following school council meetings she gives a good report back to the class!"

Right - Kelly Dobson with her parents



At **Rectory Row School** prize-giving, Sarah presented the Alan Sowerby Award to **Jenna Barker**. headmaster Mr Irvine, said of Jenna "This year's decision was not so difficult to make, as one pupil shone out above the rest during her time at school".

Left; Sarah presenting Jenna's scroll, with Mrs Barker watching

After the ceremony, teachers, staff and pupils of Rectory Row School made a farewell gift to the **Reverend Martin King**, who will have retired when the school re-assembles in September. The gift was a thank you for the Rector's help during his incumbency at St Edmund's.

Neighbourhood Watch are pleased that Hardwick School has extended the award to include younger children. The Alan Sowerby Award will be presented at Sedgefield Community College for the first time in September and we are glad to highlight some of the excellent young people we have in the area

### PC Todd reporting

Summer is here, the schools are on holiday, yet we are still having damage to windows by youths. Naylor Road, Lile Gardens & White House Drive have all been targets. Headstones were kicked over in the Cemetery & the white sight screen at the Cricket Club smashed by vandals. Thieves don't care who or where they strike. A home in West End became a target at 5am, but they were disturbed & ran off, it's believed to a waiting vehicle. Items were taken, but it could have been much worse!

**Pub Watch** - A male from Trimdon is banned from Sedgefield Pubs for 12 months for assaulting a customer. We don't want people like this drinking in our pubs. I would like to thank the Licensees and customers for their efforts in preventing glasses and bottles leaving the premises. This can only be a positive move to keep our streets safe!

Enjoy your holidays, Keith.

Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures	Last month	This year to date
Youths Causing Annoyance	Nil	6
Burglary Non Dwelling	Nil	7
Burglary Dwelling	1	3
Crime Drugs	Nil	Nil
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Nil	8
Theft of Motor Vehicles	Nil	5
Taking & Driving Away	Nil	2
Vehicle Interference	Nil	12
Assaults	Nil	1
Criminal damage	9	35
Theft	2	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

## Old Beacon Lane

From Durham County Council

On 24th June the Sedgfield Community Safety Partnership discussed recent events at Old Beacon Lane, when a large amount of green waste was left after a stopover of Travellers.

The amount of waste left had caused considerable disquiet amongst residents living on the Beacon Lane estate next to Old Beacon Lane.

Agreeing that the problem was complex, in part caused by a shortage of places for Travellers to stopover without falling foul of the law, the Partnership referred the matter to the Sedgfield Ethnic Minority Liaison Group to monitor the situation and to assist Durham County Council to create a countywide strategy for dealing with such situations. It was agreed that it was important to balance the needs of local communities with the needs of ethnic minority groups such as Gypsies and Travellers. It was also accepted that the Travellers had to stop somewhere and that Old Beacon Lane was a safe location for them to do so. The meeting discussed possible closure of the Lane, but it was agreed by all parties present that this was neither possible nor desirable. It was agreed that there was a need to understand the concerns of residents living next to the Lane, but also to recognize that Travellers are an ethnic minority that has endured prejudice and discrimination. It was noted that the Commission for Racial Equality has made the rights of Travellers and the fight against discrimination towards them one of its main priorities.

## Praise for Sedgfield

When my (now late) wife and I at long last decided to retire in 1987 we agreed to settle in County Durham as against returning south. Several considerations impelled our choice: our separate experiences of Durham people (mine being their reliability as excellent soldiers); the beauty of the County Durham hinterland and the care taken of it; the proximity of incredible places.

This choice has been amply justified by those whom we have been in contact with and who have consistently shown kindly understanding. My recent 80th birthday was unexpectedly and greatly enhanced thereby, hence I am content and grateful at my staying in Sedgfield.

*Norman Coates*



## DEFEND OUR VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT (SEDFIELD)

**A less than satisfactory meeting was held on 14 July** to discuss the issues relating to Old Beacon Lane (fly tipping, drugs, illegal encampments, etc). Durham County Council seem determined to think only of the long term strategy for Gypsies and Travellers (which involves creating 'zones of acceptance' and 'temporary' sites) and to ignore other medium and short term solutions which would go a long way to resolving all of the problems. They are not prepared to consider the problem of Old Beacon Lane on its own merits.

At this meeting, chaired by John Burton representing our MP, there were representatives from Durham County Council, Sedgfield Borough Council, Sedgfield Town Council, the Police, the National Association of Gypsy Women, farmers and Defend Our Village Environment – Sedgfield (DOVE). Three main proposals were considered:

- Durham County Council's long term strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in County Durham
- A proposal from Sedgfield Borough Council that an area acceptable to all parties, with facilities, should be identified and for Old Beacon Lane to be 'gated' to restrict access
- To immediately 'gate' Old Beacon Lane and only allow access at times around Appleby and Yarm Fairs.

There was agreement that the long term strategy must continue. And there was confirmation that residents would be consulted. This strategy should be approved by June 2005.

However, there was not full agreement on the two remaining proposals.

Durham County Council did agree to meet with Sedgfield Borough Council to try to identify a suitable area but they considered that this would take some time. The County Council were extremely reluctant to even consider the third option even though it was fully supported by the National Association of Gypsy Women, the Borough and Town Councils, the farmers and DOVE. The County Council appears worried that they could be creating a precedent by 'gating' Old Beacon Lane.

This situation is not acceptable to DOVE and they are planning to step up their campaign.

**Stop Press.** At the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, attended by 199 people, a vote of NO CONFIDENCE was unanimously agreed against Councillor Ken Manton, that a petition be raised to that effect and that all should write individually to their MP! It was however, decided to withhold this until Durham County Council reply to the letter which will be sent from DOVE asking for the immediate gating of Old Beacon Lane, in line with the result of the meeting held by representatives (14<sup>th</sup> July) of all the interested parties, when all except DCC representatives agreed that this should happen.

## Drop-in Computer support returns to Sedgfield Library

New computer users will be glad to know that these useful and popular sessions will re-start this month.

**From August 5th, if you need help or advice on IT, you can drop in to Sedgfield Library on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm.**

The tutor, provided by Sedgfield Learning Borough, will also bring three extra lap-top computers to supplement those provided by the Library.

## Shape of new lake emerging

Hardwick Park is now really showing signs of the huge changes involved in its restoration, with the Rustic Bridge at the end of the Serpentine now finished and the Cascade that will feed water into the main Lake taking shape.

Large earth moving plant has moved in to strip off the soil to re-form the Lake bed and in the course of this work the position of the Grand Terrace was revealed. The 1856 map is being used in an effort to be as accurate as possible in determining the position of the Lake edge, inlets and the island.

Outside on the by-pass, the roundabout is nearly ready, awaiting only the installation of the new road signs at the beginning of August; and after taking advice about the change of use in the East Park, it seems that three to five years of silage making will be required to reduce the fertility of the land before it is suitable for feeding cattle.

Sewerage works for the hotel and visitor centre are well on the way to completion.

Archaeologists have been back again and discovered a small, stone based, wooden structure that is either a boathouse or jetty. Next time they come they intend to take a further look at the Bono Retiro, the Round Pond and the inside of the Temple.

## The Parish Hall -

### a contribution to the debate

I was tidying my papers today and found within my old Parish Hall Committee file, the acoustic survey of the hall by Mauchen Reynolds and Partners, Constructional and Structural Engineers, dated 23/6/2000.

It is obviously quite technical with the following section headings; Survey Procedures, Noise Level Results, Listening Test Results, Discussion and Methods of Control, Structural Solution & Summary. Part of the final summary interested me and should interest the people of Sedgfield. It stated "The construction of a separating wall would provide a solution to the problem".

The potential wall is described thus: Wall to full height in the hall based on a foundation cut through the existing floor slab. It also describes how to support the balcony etc. Approximate loss to the width of the hall is indicated at 350mm. They suggest a cost of £25,000+ but a scheme to be prepared and sent to contractors.

I appreciate that other improvements in the hall are necessary. However let us solve the noise problem first, then look at general improvements later and get the hall back into full social use.

Kind regards, *Colin Richmond*

## Mordon goes the whole Hog!



Since the Queen's Jubilee in 1977, Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall Association have held a barbecue almost every year. This time they broke with tradition to try a Hog Roast instead.



Above: Magic faces bring a sparkle to the day while below, it's down to business on the quoits pitch

Saturday 26th June was the big day and though things didn't look too good early in the day, come evening things had improved and, thankfully, the function went ahead in dry weather.

Supplied and cooked by "R. White's Hogroast" of Morton on Swale, and served with salads prepared by committee and friends, the hog was very succulent and tender with generous portions - delicious!

There was fun for all at the coconut shy and some wonderful face painting by Vicky of "Face Magic".

In the quoits competition prizes were taken by Lynn Lockett and Doug Harris and thanks are due to Robert Elders who again supplied the seating and temporary fencing. *An excellent time was had by all! JP*



**Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Association** offers a tremendous programme of events throughout the year. See the Diary page for their August offerings.

### Home Alone – with a phone

The police received a phone call from a 6 year old who said he had been home alone, apart from his 2 year old brother for about 2 hours. Police sent a patrol car but the door was locked and no amount of knocking brought any response, so they tried next door. "Well, we saw the lady leave earlier and she had both kids with her" the lady of the house said. "Come through and try the back door if you like". They did but still no sign of anyone. Returning to the front they were just in time to see the two children coming down the street with their mother. It turned out that the 6 year old had been given a mobile phone for his birthday. He'd been watching TV and decided he would ring the police. This is a true story! **DH**

### Cook's Corner Barbecued Vegetables

Serves 6

6 large flat mushrooms  
3 peppers  
6 courgettes - halved lengthwise  
2 red onions - sliced thickly  
Quarter pint (150ml) teriyaki sauce

1 clove garlic - crushed  
4-5 fresh torn basil leaves or a large pinch of fresh tarragon

Cut the vegetables into bite-size pieces and thread them on to skewers, alternating colours  
Mix teriyaki sauce with garlic and basil or tarragon,  
Thread onto skewers and marinate 20-30 mins  
Put skewers on the rack over hot coals. Grill for about five minutes, turning occasionally

Fans of Nirvana find Kurt Cobain lives again in the shape of Tim Lowe of '101' and 'NIRVADA ! Their August gigs are listed on page 11 and **we would be very happy to do the same for other local bands. Just contact [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)**



## Spotlight on SPORT

It is safe to say that the Sedgefield area is a hotbed of sporting enthusiasm and endeavour. Football, as you might expect, leads the way, with several local Sunday league teams about to kick-off a new season, both at senior and youth levels. Meanwhile the Community College is hosting summer football training camps for youngsters. However, football is only the tip of the sporting iceberg. Also at the college, tennis coaching is a regular fixture at this time of year, weather permitting, while inside badminton thrives. On the edge of the village, Sedgefield Cricket Club is vibrant over the summer (also weather permitting, though at least there is a bar to retreat to when the rain intervenes!). In addition, every day runners pound along roads in the vicinity, preparing themselves for events such as the Great North Run - as ever, there will be a busload of Sedgefield athletes heading to Newcastle to tackle the world's biggest half marathon in September. In short, there's a huge sporting heartbeat (across all generations) in Sedgefield and we're going to try and start reflecting that in this newsletter. Self-appointed Chief Sports Writer Chris Lines (that's me) will be trying to deliver a summary of the latest news each month, but to do so I need your help. I've probably insulted a huge community of boxers (not wise!), crown green bowlers, black belt karate champions (also not wise!) and participants of many other sports by failing to put the spotlight on their activities in this article. Let me know what's going on out there and I'll set the record straight.

Please send any sports news you have to me ([chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)) and I will put together a highlights package for every issue of the newsletter. **Right. I've blown the whistle. Game on.**

## South Durham Boxing Club

Young boxers from the club enjoyed a relaxing evening at Sedgefield Cricket Club when boxers, coaches and parents gathered for the presentation night. The season has been a success, with Jeff Saunders Jnr winning the Schools Minor Northern Counties Championship, Karl Thompson becoming Tyne & Wear Schools Champion and Terry Fox reaching the finals. In the senior section, Paul Warnett was semi finalist in the ABA Novices and Mark Dawes reached the final. Brad Saunders won Gold in the multi-nations in Poland, bronze in Germany, then reached the quarterfinals of the World Championships in Korea. **Presentation Night results were:**

Best Junior - Jeff Saunders

Best Junior Prospect - Robert Davidson

Most Dedicated - Matthew Tootall

Best Attendance - Terry Fox

Best Senior - Mark Dawes

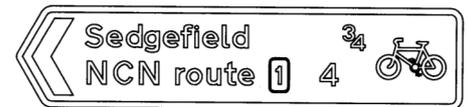
Best Senior Prospect - Paul Warnett

Best Overall Boxer - Brad Saunders

Coach Jeff Saunders Snr said the results made the hard work worthwhile. He thanked all coaches for their efforts and sponsors for their valued support.

**Photographs at [www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk)**

## Cycle routes to be highlighted



**New direction signs** are going up around Sedgefield to help cyclists and pedestrian visitors find their way around.

In white lettering on a blue background, the small but easily visible signs will point the way to and from the National Cycle Route and along various local link routes to Fishburn and the Trimdons, the Racecourse, Hardwick Park, NetPark, etc.

## Great summer event for families and carers of young children

**Education in the Community: Family Learning in association with Sedgefield Community College Association** are delighted to offer a 5 day accredited course specifically designed for anyone who cares for young children. Designed to equip you with the skills to organise an event for a group of children, it will include booking venues and transport, health & safety and risk assessment.

By the end of the 4th day you will have organised an event for yourselves and all the children attending the course and day 5 will be that day out! So please do bring your children to the course. They will be looked after by fully qualified Crèche workers.

Venue: **Sedgefield Community College**  
 Date: **Monday 9th - Friday 13th August**  
 Time: **9.30am - 11.20am**  
 Cost: **FREE**

**Contact Rana Coates on 01740 621097 to reserve your place and book your children into the crèche**

## NetPark development goes from strength to strength

**At the official launch of the new Research Institute building on July 23rd, Prime Minister Tony Blair highlighted NetPark's important role in helping to ensure a prosperous and secure economic future for the region.**

Describing the Research Institute as "a tangible sign that the partners who have drawn up the strategic vision to re-shape County Durham's future, really do mean business", Mr Blair gave the go ahead for two important on-site research projects.

The projects now housed at the Research Institute are the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation (CfAI) and the Institute for Agility & Digital Enterprise Technology (IADET). Both will be involved in groundbreaking technological research, the results of which will represent a major step forward for 'Dynamic Durham' – the region's strategic vision for the next 20 years.

The Centre for Advanced Instrumentation (CfAI) has an international reputation for the design and construction of novel instruments for optical and infrared astronomy and works with observatories around the world to improve the quality of astronomical imaging and observation. The IADET project meanwhile is involved in harnessing the latest developments in computer modelling, graphics and information management, which would help businesses to improve their competitiveness.



*Prime Minister Tony Blair is welcomed to the leafy surroundings of NetPark where he introduced the new Vision for County Durham. Below: all round delight at the handover of the Research Institute.*



**Sedgefield's new science park is fast winning recognition as one of the UK's leading hubs for research-led technology.**

Mark Lloyd, Deputy Chief Executive, Durham County Council, lead partner in the development of the NetPark, said: "These research projects are already attracting national and international attention and represent an important step forward in the creation of a thriving community of science and technology entrepreneurs at NetPark. Science and technology businesses that locate on NetPark

will be tapping into a network of first class business support and the world-beating research and development capabilities of our region's five main universities. The benefits for potential occupiers are very clear." In addition to the opening of the new Research Institute, NetPark is also planning to launch its new Incubator Unit for growing and emerging science and technology businesses, in the near future. The NetPark Incubator will provide purpose-built facilities for businesses, wishing to locate close to regional knowledge centres and research facilities.

**For more information about NetPark and phase one facilities, please contact John Smith on 0191 383 3088 or visit [www.uknetpark.com](http://www.uknetpark.com)**

# August DIARY

Announcements on this page are free to non-commercial organisations

## \* Late entry for July 31st \*

### Groundwork Community Composting Event

at Hart View Allotments,

Trimdon Village

see p.2 for details

Contact Stephen Armstrong

0191 527 3333

### Events in Bradbury & Mordon

Exercise your competitive spirit at the **Sports Day on Saturday 7th August**

Test your creative skills and show your produce at **The Village Show on Saturday 21st August**

### Sedgefield W.I.

meets at

Sedgefield Parish Hall

on **Wednesday 4th August** at 7.15pm

Speaker is glass artist, Maralyn O'Keefe

**"The Art of Glass"**

Competition for members - a Glass Paperweight

*New members always welcome*

### Sedgefield Farmers' Market

**Sunday 8th August**

9.30am to 1.30pm

*Local traders always welcome*

Please contact Bob Harris on **07977 231815** for details

### Craft Fair at the Parish Hall

A wide variety of crafts on display & for sale

**Sunday 8th August**

10am until 4pm.

Free admission

Refreshments available

For information please contact Jeanette or Phil on 01388 816004 or visit our website at

[www.communitycrafts.org.uk](http://www.communitycrafts.org.uk)

### Sedgefield Library

**Junior Craft Activities**

at the library will run during the

**Summer Holidays**

*For more information or to book a session, please telephone the library*

### Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

The next public meeting will be held on

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm** in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

### the 151st Sedgefield Show

takes place in the

**Robert Brown Showfield,** West Park, Sedgefield

on **Saturday August 14th**

Gates open 10am

Marquees open 12 noon

Grand Parade 3.15pm

**Admission:** Adults £4

Concessions £3

Children (5-16) £2

**Enquiries:** B. Woodward (Sec)

Tel: 01740 620431

### Sedgefield Family History Group

meets at

**Sedgefield Library**

on **Monday 16th August**

from 7 - 9pm

"Members' Queries & Problem-solving Evening"

*Members please note the change of usual venue and time is for this meeting only!*

### 101 & Nirvada

**Gigs in August**

4th The Studio, Hartlepool (as NIRVADA)

7th Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough

8th Blacksmith's Arms, Gosforth

26th **The Hope Inn**, Sedgefield

29th The Blackwell Ox, Carlton

### Sedgefield Cricket Club

Home fixtures in August

**A Division:**

Sat 7th v. Willington

Sat 21st v. Ushaw Moor

**B Division:**

Sat 14th v. Tudhoe

Sat 28th v. Shildon

### Sedgefield Races

**Meetings on -**

**6th August** First race at **2.30pm**

**31st August** First race at **2pm**

### Afternoon Bingo

Monthly sessions at

Ceddesfeld Hall

**Friday August 20<sup>th</sup>**

and to plan your diary ahead -

**September 17<sup>th</sup> & Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Looking forward to September

### Town Councillor Surgery

None in August

**Next surgery on**

**Monday 6th September** in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

### The W.I. Friday Market

will restart on September 3rd

### Sedgefield Garden Society

No meeting in August

**Tuesday 7th September**

at 7.30pm

in Ceddesfeld Hall

**Spring flowers in Crete** a talk by **Dr Alan Pearson**

*All Welcome*

**Saturday 18th Sept**

**Trip to Harrogate**

**Autumn Show**

cost (inc. admission) **£20** deposit (non returnable) **£5**

Information/booking

**01388 722 245 (after 6pm)**

or **01740 621 504**

## I Have Rights Too

I was born "Physically Disabled." in the days it was felt we were best out of sight in Homes and Institutions. I was very lucky I had Grandparents and a young mum who loved me very much despite my physical differences, so the home I was in was more like Boarding School. I got to go home during school holidays: lucky too that Matron and the teachers, physiotherapists and nursing staff who cared for us saw something in me that the doctor who'd advised my mum I'd be a vegetable all my life, didn't. The Disability Discrimination Act says that by October 2004, I as a disabled person should have the same access rights to public amenities as any able bodied person. I'm a realist. I know not every building will be able to comply fully, but I object strongly when those that could, seem to be making no effort, while small shops like Selections and Evolution try so hard. I feel very angry that English Heritage and Planning Departments object when better access to older buildings is thwarted because they are listed. Will they compensate an elderly person who struggles with heavy portable ramps to get me into church? Of course not. It will fall to the church, which has tried for years to come up with a feasible plan for permanent ramps and disabled toilets, but face objections at every attempt. Ceddesfeld Hall presents similar difficulties. I can't join in upstairs activities because there is no lift for wheelchair users. At least they have a disabled toilet, though I need someone with me to use it. The Council is finally dropping more kerbs (in some instances in the wrong place) but it doesn't help

when cars park across them or some bright spark tries to save money and builds a drive beside the dropped kerb and visitors park across it!! I'm not whinging for whinging sake. I love Sedgefield. My happiest memories are here, where my children were born and bred, but I make the same challenge I made at the Council AGM. I complained about the steepness of the ramp in the Parish Hall and offered to transfer to another chair to let them experience what I do every time I use it (funny no one took me up on it) but nothing's been done. If anyone wants to experience life as a wheelchair user, I'll tell you where I'd like to be able to go in the village and let you take my place for a day, but remember you haven't got a carer to help and you can't get out of the chair! Or you could just take a walk with me and see Sedgefield through my eyes!

*Ann Stephenson , 18 Chestnut Road,*

## Vandalism at Social Club

Dr. Christine Hearman recently expressed her concern that the surgery was a constant target for vandals. Now the target is Sedgefield Social Club. Having recently spent in the region of £250,000 refurbishing the club, it is continually plagued by teenagers (many of them young girls) intent on causing mindless destruction. Roof tiles, guttering, rainwater pipes and security lights are ripped out as soon as they have been replaced. There is graffiti and broken wine bottles strewn around. Over recent months it has cost us approximately £3000. Despite calls to the Police this still prevails. Perhaps when our MP is having lunch here he might take time off to walk across the road and have look at the mess behind the club. Where are the thousands of police he tells us that have been recruited? Not here. *T.W. Curbeson (Sec) on behalf of members*

## We have been asked to publish this resignation letter:

to David Bolton, Sedgefield Community Empowerment Network  
Dear David

As you know I am in my third year of membership of the Network representing Sedgefield, therefore, a founding member. The Network demands on my time and the paperwork involved have increased exponentially during this period. Apart from input over the years in the CEN main meetings, its executive and finance Grants Committees etc. we are now involved with government office on performance, delivery plans, protocol meetings and our last five hour meeting was working together with our Responsible Body (CAVOS) to try to develop a way forward. In addition to this through the Network I am invited to attend many other related activities.

I find the increasing demands on my time are just too much to ask from a willing volunteer and I wish to resign. The CEN team are the "salt of the earth" and I wish them well. Any future Sedgefield representative would have my full support in transfer of information.

I would like to thank the people of Sedgefield who have voted for me over the years. Kind regards, **Colin D Richmond**

*Please note new OFFICE  
and E-MAIL ADDRESSES*

*Sedgefield News is grateful for the support of the  
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Development Trusts Association.*



*Copy for September by  
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