

Sedgfield News

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*By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgfield, Bradbury & Mordon
February 2004*

Landmark proposed for A689

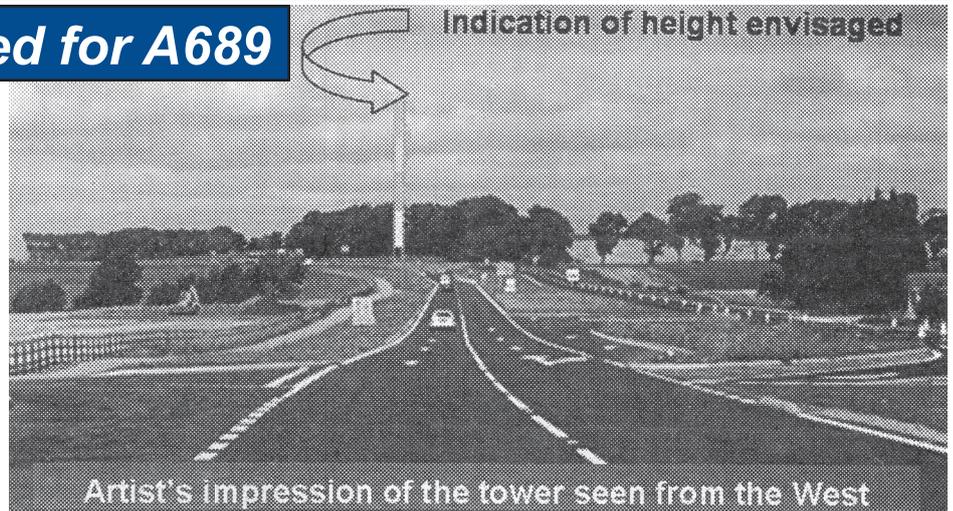
Gateshead famously has the Angel of the North, which met with much scepticism at the time of its inception, but which is now an undoubted success and an icon of the region.

So what about the proposal for a giant piece of illuminated artwork to form a prestigious 'gateway' feature on the A689, a key route into the county from the south east?

Recently approved by members of the Durham County Council Cabinet, the steel and glass way-marker, measuring almost 60 feet high, four feet square and bearing the words COUNTY DURHAM vertically down its length, is intended as a finishing touch to the recently completed dual carriageway development and will be visible round the clock from miles around, including to passengers en route to or from the local airport. At night it would be lit by two up-lighters, screened at the bottom of the glazed panels to prevent light 'spill' and glare to passing road users.

The sculpture is designed by internationally acclaimed lighting artist Peter Fink, whose eye-catching light-work already forms an integral part of the nearby bridge which takes the National Cycle Route over the A689. The bridge artwork, in the form of gently undulating coloured tubes shaped like bird's wings radiating from either side, has already become a popular landmark to travellers returning home at night.

The new commission, made from stainless & galvanised steel and



coloured glass, will give the impression of changing colour when lit.

The stainless steel lettering forming the words COUNTY DURHAM will be offset from the main body of the column. It will also be lit at night, by white light emitting diodes illuminating the leading edge of each letter. The top of the marker will also be capped to prevent light pollution. This is intended to be public art on a scale which the County feels would reflect the importance of this route into the county. They link it with the National Cycleway & new cycle bridge, the restoration of Hardwick Country Park and the development of the NetPark in Sedgfield.

Visible to vehicles well to the west of Waterloo Junction, it first appears as a small rod of light across open fields, gradually becoming larger and clearer. From the east, it will appear as soon as drivers pass under the cycle bridge.

The location has been chosen with traffic safety in mind.

Gateshead Metropolitan Council traffic engineers say there is no evidence that the Angel of the North has caused any accidents, on a much busier stretch of road, because it is seen from afar as part of the landscape. The estimated £50,000 cost of the artwork will be met jointly by Balfour Beatty, who carried out the dual carriageway scheme, and the County Council. Installation will be funded as part of the overall road scheme.

There is actually an extensive landscaping scheme planned for the area around the bridge, with many indigenous trees but also a number of giant sequoia, which over years can be expected to form a stunning 'natural gateway' in themselves.

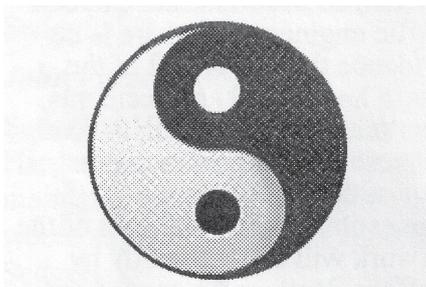
What do you think? Our back page is open for your comments.

Czech-born Peter Fink, has designed several high profile light projects, including one at Britain's tallest building, Canary Wharf Tower.

Playing in the Shadows

Joe Harte lives in Sedgefield and is branch instructor for the Northern School of TaijiQuan. He occasionally travels to China and Taiwan for work.

Dawn breaks and before the city wakes, I stroll through the strange and ancient streets, themselves quiet, with hardly a soul to be seen. But not far away the surrounding parks are filled with people practicing Taiji, moving silently in the shadows. It's a fascinating sight for me, having practiced martial arts and Taiji for many years. So what is it that has attracted generations of people to this ancient and beautiful of art? What is this haunting slow motion 'dance' of ancient times? For some, the interest is to do with reported health benefits; for others though, the legends of immortality and feats of power of the ancient Taoist sages hold a fascination, for the roots of Taiji lie in Taoism, the philosophical observation of the natural world succinctly expressed in the Tao Te Ching, attributed to Lau Tzu some 2500 years ago, sym-bolised by the Yin/Yang diagram.



In simple terms, Yin and Yang have the possibility of representing the interdependent nature of equal and opposite energies - Insustantial/Substantial; Empty / Full, and so on, and it's through Taiji that the practical realities of the principles are explored. For most Taiji styles the main practice is found in the Form. This is a choreographed routine that takes the practitioner smoothly flowing through the numerous postures, each moment exploring the subtle changes between Yin and Yang or substantial and insustantial whilst aligning the skeletal structure. The role of the mind is paramount, and for the art

to be considered truly Taiji concentration on the 'Yi' or effort of will and deepening awareness of the resultant body/ mind/ energy responses is the key.

Here in China people gather at anything from 5am onwards. These people have probably been coming to the same park for decades to meet up with old friends and go through their training ritual. Interestingly, and sadly, I see hardly any younger people training. As increasing numbers in the west begin to turn towards to the esoteric arts to try to give meaning to life, the east or at least the new generation growing up in the China, only look towards the west, and particularly the overt expression of materialism found in the USA as a model for their aspirations. It's a strange and wonderful sight seeing so many people in the shadowy half light practicing together many different styles and 'Forms'.

There is even the odd ballroom dancing class and a spot of backward walking - the Chinese believe this uses more energy than normal walking; hence it's good for weight loss!

Half hidden in the in the shadows so as not to attract attention and yet able to observe all around me, I go through my own practice and feel a strong connection to the generations of genuine teachers and students that have lead to the understanding and practice we now have.

Of course in practical terms it is only after people have trained well for sometime, that the more subtle aspect of the art begins to emerge. Unfortunately, in our 'western' rush for results most find the path a little long and the 'results' too slow, so give up just as the familiarity with the external is beginning to be well understood, but before the internal aspect can really begin to emerge.

Taiji, Meditation, Yoga, Kung Fu, Karate are all, at their highest levels, similar paths sometimes running parallel, diverging, crossing over, and in the end tending towards the same point. Each has cultural traits and differing methods requiring different types of energy, that suit the needs of different people. Of course we can all be calm and serene when undisturbed in a quiet place, but to be able to use the depth of the mind when all around is in turmoil requires something else.

One of the great joys of Taiji, just like life, is the interaction between people; not just people gathering to practice, although this too has an effect in that over time a group energy is formed. But also, to enter into the aspect known as pushing hands. This would be much better named sensitivity hands because pushing is the least important part of the carefully scripted interplay between two people. This is where the overlapping principles of yielding and neutralising are explored and in the end the potential for dealing calmly with an external force and the possibility of returning our partners force becomes somewhat more of a reality.

A saying from an old desert Yogi goes some way to help express the determination and constant effort required to practice Taiji sincerely. "To find water in the desert, rather than run around endlessly digging shallow holes, better to choose a reasonable place and keep digging".

To read more about Taiji and the Northern School of TaijiQuan go to www.sedgefieldvillage.co.uk

Taiji beginners group

Mondays from 7pm - 8:30pm
Sedgefield Community College
Introduction Courses available
Contact: Joe Harte 629452
e mail: hartejoe@hotmail.com

The sky's the limit

Changeling Productions, a Durham and Cumbria based production company renowned for carrying out their work in unusual places, have just completed a regional tour of their exciting play, *Elevation*. Staged on a climbing wall, it tackled the themes of both fear and elation, and explored the question of why people climb mountains - very topical, with the current release of the film of Joe Simpson's remarkable story, *Touching the Void*.

Elevation premiered in 2003 at 'Rock Antics', the climbing wall at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, and created a real buzz amongst the audience. On display at the after-play buffet was artwork carried out at workshops held for local youngsters. A further six performances were given in Sunderland and throughout Cumbria, finishing at the Kendal International Film and Mountain Festival.

The venture was carried out in partnership with Sedgefield Borough Council and funded by Arts & Business New Partners, New Writing North, Arts Council England North East and The Regional Art Lottery Programme. David Naphthine of Changeling Productions found it an extremely exciting project to work on. He commented, "It shows that art doesn't have to come out of London, Edinburgh or Newcastle and it reflects the commitment of the borough to creating interesting and exciting work".

Changeling Productions are in discussions with Rockworks about taking the play on a national tour.

For more information, or to contact Changeling Productions please call 01388 663851 or email djnapthine@tiscali.co.uk

Friends of St Edmund's fundraiser to feature the

Richardson Singers

Established 36 years ago, the Richardson Singers are a 25 strong ladies group named for their original conductor, who was a very popular teacher at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College in Darlington. With its accompanist who plays piano and organ, the choir tours all over Europe and this country. Concerts are given locally in such venues as Raby & Auckland Castles and Fountains Abbey.

They are currently planning a trip to the Nether-lands, but you can hear them here first, on Saturday 28th February. *See Diary page.* Their repertoire ranges wide, from Bach to the Beatles and from Faure Requiem to the high voltage gospel music of Sister Act, so there should be something to please all tastes.

Library News

Are you interested in the social history of the Sedgefield area? If so you will be pleased to hear of a free **Local History Course** being held in Sedgefield Library on Thursday mornings from 10am -12 noon.

For more information, contact Sedgefield Library on 620133, or Janet Hughes, Durham Miner Project on 0191 3834478.

If you are the Chairperson or Secretary of a Group or Organisation, you can put your details and some information about your activities on the **Community Information Data Base**

at your local library.

The information can then be accessed on the Durham County Council Website so could possibly promote your service and improve your membership. *For further details please contact Sedgefield Library on 620133.*

Farmers Market

We have recently seen the emergence of a Farmers Market held on the 2nd Sunday of each month outside the Hope Inn. Traders from around the area arrive early in the morning, and trade from 9:30am to 1:30pm. So far they have been blessed with good weather.

At a recent meeting of the Farmers Market Committee it was decided to continue for the foreseeable future. Feedback from traders and community has been very positive and though there are a few minor problems, such as cars parking in the designated area, the atmosphere of the Market has not suffered. Photographs taken at the special Christmas market showed people smiling as they went about their business - a sure sign of a success! Thanks must go to the people who have worked so hard to make this a permanent fixture of the community and to the people who come to the Market. All the traders enjoy our market and comment on how friendly their customers are.

The next Market is on February 8th and the traders look forward to seeing you there.

Town Council Surgeries

Members of Sedgefield Town Council now hold monthly Surgeries, giving the public the opportunity to ask questions and comment on Town Council Services. It should be noted that they are unable to take any question on either Durham County or Sedgefield Borough services, but it will be possible to pass queries on to the appropriate authority. Surgeries will begin at 6.30pm in the Fletcher Room. Monthly details will appear on Sedgefield News Diary Page and full details for the year are available from the Advice & Information Centre.

Community Safety *with contributions from Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Police and Sedgefield Primary Care Trust (see p.9 this issue)*

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

Minutes of Meeting held on 9th December 2003

Minutes of previous meeting approved. No matters arising.

Treasurer's Report was provided as a separate account.

Secretary's Report: Details of correspondence issued and received included: Tapes for Blind – Community Hospital; Chief Inspector – Thanks re Mugging; Asst Manager Fishburn COOP – Tapes for Blind; Durham Trading Standards Officer re Training.

Chairman pointed out to members that despite asking for a free stall we have to be charged the standard fee of £25 but a member had paid this as a personal donation. The Chairman had insisted to the member that he would only accept if he could thank him publicly at this meeting. So he recommended we all express our thanks to Mr. John Robinson for this generous donation; this was recorded.

Representative Reports;

Village Constable: Keith circulated copies of "Reported Crime in Sedgefield. These can be summarised as Burglary 2, Vehicle related 4, Theft 1, Damage/Vandalism 4. Keith confirmed the figures were "light" possibly due to a recent Presidential visit.

However several members pointed out that they felt there were major omissions including car damage/vandalism and a public assault. Keith acknowledged there had been 5 assaults in this period (not included above) and that some incidents were not recorded on the system; however not all incidents could be reported to each meeting. This led to a healthy discussion which concluded with members being asked to identify (for the next meeting) the key incidents they believe should be included on each of Keith's reports taking into account the problems Keith had explained about the system.

Neal cautioned members about increasing the fear of crime by indiscriminate use of data.

A member confirmed we **do** experience anti social behaviour in here, another gave details of such to PC Todd. A member expressed appreciation to the Police regarding their excellent work during the President's visit but was worried as to who is to foot the bill.

Crime Prevention Officer, Neil reported on the Police reorganisation to 2 Divisions and gave details of the officers responsible for the North & South Boroughs. Describing CCTV in the Borough he gave an overview of a paper he has put forward for a mobile CCTV vehicle. Neil reported on the success of operation DARC in particular the recent arrest of 2 prolific burglars.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Sarah confirmed her support for Operation DARC and pointed out that Light Timers were in fact £2, not £1.50 as previously stated. (a good buy, obviously; several were bought after the meeting closed).

Community Force, Tim Spearey submitted apologies. Chairman stated Tim probably being relocated to another area.

Alan Sowerby Memorial/Citizenship Award, On behalf of the Chairman, Sarah read out a statement for members' verification and approval. There had been no charge for the engraving of the Shields as the owner of Sedgefield Jewellers had insisted that he make this as a donation to our group for the good work done by members. Members recorded their appreciation. He described how the Award began. Initially only local Primary schools offered the award and as with all Panel activities, members only work within the village. He sought confirmation of these past decisions and of their continuation. Members unanimously endorsed this.

Trading Standards Training, The Chairman described the training received by 7 members with regard to a distraction burglary initiative being run by Trading Standards, the purpose for doing this; and sought further volunteers.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th Feb at 7.00 pm in Parish Hall.

PC Todd reports

This year started on a positive note and long may it continue. There were only a few isolated crimes committed over the festive season. Motor Cars were stolen from North End and the Race Course, plus damage caused to three cars parked in Front Street.

The Doctor's Surgery remains a target for the mindless few who think it's clever to smash windows.

More recently a motorbike was stolen from outside a house in The Meadows. Vehicle crime within the village has accounted for most of the crimes -

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR VEHICLES!

Till next time, Keith.

Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures	Last month	This year
Youths Causing Annoyance	Nil	5
Burglary Non Dwelling	Nil	16
Burglary Dwelling	Nil	9
Crime Drugs	Nil	3
Theft from Motor Vehicles	1	11
Theft of Motor Vehicles	2	6
Taking & Driving Away	Nil	0
Vehicle Interference	4	8
Assaults	2	13
Criminal damage	2	24
Theft	2	26
TOTAL	13	121

Profile: Police Inspector Andy Neill - our new Area Community Inspector

Inspector Andy Neill volunteered to join the 13 Community Inspectors selected to oversee the Community Policing Initiative, under the new Durham County Policing Policy.

Inspector Neill has been with Durham County Constabulary for the past 20 years, he has been an Inspector for the past 5, serving mainly in the South Durham area, and in particular the Aycliffe, Shildon & Darlington areas. This means he is no stranger to our area.



Durham County crime statistics indicate that we have one of the lowest crime rates and highest crime detection rates in the country and Andy intends to keep it that way. He realises that there is a problem in our area, namely anti-social behaviour and he intends to meet this as his number one challenge. Inspector Neill intends (duty permitting) to attend our next NHW meeting on 10th February (see Diary Page). Neighbourhood Watch would like to welcome him to the area and wishes him every success in his endeavours! ***Do come along if you would like to meet him.***

What price a life? Accidents at the A689 junction



The recent spate of accidents at the end of Stockton Road is causing much concern to road users. The police share our concern and their statistics of accidents with reported injuries show that from the beginning of the year 2000 to January 1st 2003, there were only three slight accidents and one serious. However, from January 1st to November 30th 2003, on the new system, there were two deaths, from five accidents - two serious and three slight, and there have been more accidents since then.

On Thursday 15th January the police met Durham County Council, to discuss, in the words of the police 'the long term solution of the problem'. We await the outcome with interest. However in the meantime, we publish here a number of suggestions that they may like to consider. Implementation of any solution is a matter of urgency.

Reduce the speed limit on the approaches to the junction to 50 mph or less on both carriageways. A car travelling at 70 mph is moving at over 100 feet per second. It covers the distance from the bend on the west bound carriage way to the junction in about 13 seconds. At 50mph this is 18 seconds; still little enough you may say, but it would give more time to make the turn.

Abolish the right turn into Stockton Road from the A689 west bound. (Proceed instead via the roundabout)

Abolish the straight over crossing from Stockton Road South (Merrington's Garage to Sedgefield) and the right turn eastbound onto the A689 (Proceed via roundabout)

Abolish the U-turn to the garage.

Clearly identify the right of way of traffic on the junction. Who has precedence - the traffic crossing from the West bound carriageway or the traffic from Sedgefield going straight across?

Create a new roundabout at the crossroad. This radical solution, and the related idea of diverting Stockton Road on to the existing roundabout, have been suggested as 'planning gain' from releasing land to house-builders. But this safety problem justifies a solution in its own right and should be separated from developers' demands.

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

has personal alarms for sale at the special knock-down
price of **£1-50p**

Contact David Hillerby
on **621343**

Killed by kindness?

Recent visitors to Hardwick Country Park may be aware that only five of the original eight cygnets remain, two having died just before Christmas.

Their deaths reminded us that besides being prey to all the normal wildlife hazards, the waterfowl (swans, cygnets, moorhens, ducks, coots etc), are also at risk of being killed by kindness.

We are therefore asking visitors NOT to feed bread to the waterfowl.

It may be worth noting that if each of last year's visitors had brought but two rounds of bread the grand total would have amounted to around 471,000 rounds!

Whilst wildfowl should ideally be left to fend for themselves we are aware of the immense pleasure that adults & children alike, gain from feeding them.

We are advised that either barley or wheat or a mixture of both is acceptable, especially if pre-soaked or at the very least thrown into the water. But please do be restrained in your generosity - if every visitor last year brought just a quarter pound of grain, then around 59,000lbs of grain would have gone into the Lake!

No matter how 'skilled' are the waterfowl at convincing any likely 'source' of food that they are starving, we assure your readers:

there is ample natural food in the Lake to sustain its wildfowl population.

Finally may we thank those with whom we have spoken over the past weeks for their support, and for their very positive response to the concerns expressed.

The Countryside Rangers at Hardwick Country Park

Sedgefield Development Partnership: Lifelong Learning Project Update

In general the project continues, with SDP providing the link between learners in the community and the County Council's Education in the Community (EitC) team. The Partnership's well researched database of learners and their requirements is the key to demand, while the EitC team's access to providers completes the supply side. SCA and SCCA are involved in the project and both Ceddesheld Hall and the Community College are being used as venues for classes. Other venues are needed though, particularly in the centre of the village.

Drop-in Resource Centre – the story so far

The Partnership's idea is to offer a place in the heart of Sedgefield for computer & IT training, with informal tutor support, and where people can use the equipment for homework or to access the internet. We particularly want to help those without a computer at home to gain confidence with IT equipment, and to appeal to younger people with video projection sessions. This centre would be a social resource as well as a valuable piece of community infrastructure.

However, progress has not been as smooth as we would have hoped. In February last year, with the agreement of the Town Council, proposals were finalised to use a room at the back of the Advice and Information Centre and a start was made on installing equipment, including an interactive white board and video projection gear. In March, the Partnership's application for £25,000 for the project was approved by the Countryside Agency, subject to support from the Town Council, but unfortunately the Council's letter of support was delayed, so that money was lost.

The Partnership put together a second proposition, supported by £10,000 from the Learning & Skills Council and a similar amount in dedicated IT equipment provided by East Durham and Houghall College, but the agreement with the Town Council broke down when the area previously identified for this project was allocated for other purposes. Funding bids to both the Countryside Agency and the Learning & Skills Council have now been lost, so another approach has to be found.

So what about your computer classes?

Well, there is good news for at least some of the 270 or so people waiting for training to resume.

Partners in the project, Education in the Community, Sedgefield Learning Borough initiative, the Learning & Skills Council and the Community College, have worked together to put together some temporary arrangements.

We can now meet the short term need for informal access to computers for the rest of this financial year - February and March.

Details of times & venues can be found at the top of the Diary Page (p11)

Meanwhile, we continue to work actively to provide stable arrangements for the long term.

We hope soon to finalise an agreement which will lead to the establishment of a permanent base for the learning resource centre, very close to the centre of the village.

News from the Community College

As I write, we await the result of the County's bid for about £11 million, to the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative! As you will all know this is the fund that will rebuild the school, and we are really excited about a new school which will bring more opportunities not only for our children but also for you as residents of Sedgefield. Please keep an eye on the press

I forgot to mention last month that we had a super carol service at St. Edmunds on the last day of term, though it was a bit cold, as a power cut the day before had knocked out the heater controls. I think that having spiritual (in the broadest sense) opportunities is very important for children. Music and drama are looking at ways to encourage children to reflect a little more - that is, of course, before they play on their Computer games!

In a new venture, we are taking all year 8 students (second year) on a 3 day outdoor activities session. This is designed to build teamwork and leadership skills to pupils and is the kind of initiative that helps our Sports College raise achievement across the college.

We are really pleased that on the Adult Community Learning front there is a real sense of sharing and partnership developing within the village. Only when all groups involved in learning work together, will we improve the opportunities for Sedgefield to get first class provision.

Lynne Ackland, Headteacher

Fun for the young at half term

We often hear that young people have nothing to do during the holidays, but this time they do have something to look forward to.

On **Thursday 19th February at Sedgefield Community College** there will be an event specifically designed for young people, with a wide range of activities and events during the course of the day.

Kicking off at 12 noon, the event will run till about 9pm and promises to be a lot of fun. It is being sponsored through the various services working with young people, with the finale in the Assembly hall being supplied by the TFM Roadshow, with quizzes, competitions and music. More detail will be available nearer the date and posters will be on display through out the village.

Charity Half Marathon in aid of Domestic Violence Charity

Rachel Guthrie, a Fitness Instructor working at the new Gymtastic Fitness Suite at the Community College, is really putting everyone through their paces to shed the extra pounds they gathered over the festivities. However, she is planning to pound the treadmill herself on Saturday 7th February, to raise money for a very worthwhile cause - Domestic Violence.

Rachel plans to walk for 4 hours in the Fitness Suite and her target is to complete a half marathon within that time. All are welcome to come along, have a coffee and give her some support.

Of course, she is also looking for people to sponsor her, so if you wish to help, please contact Rana Coates on 621097 for details.

Education in the Community

This term Sedgefield can boast a wide range of courses available. The team has listened to what the community wants, looked at what is possible and can offer 17 different courses. 104 people have signed up so far, though unfortunately not all can start yet, as we are supposed to run with a minimum class size of 10. However some courses have more than 10 and these numbers can subsidise the others courses, so don't worry if your course has not started yet; I am still trying to get the numbers up so you can start soon.

The Dance class suggested by a member of the community has been the star of the show so far this term, with over 30 people attending the first session. It runs on Sunday evenings at Ceddesfeld Hall, if you are interested.

Computer courses are always popular and the Spanish and French courses are taking off, but falling behind at the moment are the 'Healthy' courses, Yoga being the popular exception.

So far, a pilot **Bar Keeping** course, designed specifically with 16 to 19 yr olds in mind and which has the backing of the pubs in the village, has attracted no interest here, although other places in the county would like to run the course.

Places are still available on both the **Appointed Persons First Aid** course and the **Basic Food Hygiene** course. Both are 1 day courses and cost £30, including certification.

If you have a good idea for a course, please call Bob Harris on 621097.

Education in the Community is a Durham County Council project based at Sedgefield Community College. It acts in partnership with Sedgefield Community College Association, Sedgefield Community Association and Sedgefield Development Partnership.

Sedgefield Community Association Ceddesfeld Hall Bingo

When a few SCA members got together in 1993 and decided to try out a monthly Bingo session in Ceddesfeld Hall, it's doubtful if they thought it could still be popular 10 years later. John Hewitt is the caller, assisted by Allan Smart, Barbara Hudson, Nancy Wells and Dudley Waters. At the party held on September the 6th to celebrate the first 10 years, Nancy Wells provided a buffet and John Hewitt and friends entertained us musically.

John also compiled a Quiz, which was won by Emily Hooker, and we had even more of the same for the Christmas-tide Bingo on the 6th of December. John's Karaoke was a huge success. Everyone is welcome to join us at our monthly Bingo, which is usually held on the first Saturday in the month at 7.45 p.m. The Hall is open from 7pm and the bar facilities are available until 11pm. A recent suggestion is that an opportunity should be given to those people who would like to play Bingo in the afternoon. Volunteers would be needed for this monthly venture, so if anyone is willing to help organise it, please contact either Allan Smart, **620545** or Dudley Waters, **620607**.

Expert Patient Programme supports people with chronic conditions

People living with a long-term medical condition, such as arthritis, asthma, back pain, multiple sclerosis or mental health issues, are being offered another opportunity to take part in the Expert Patient Programme, which offers courses to help people manage their condition more effectively. Designed to run alongside current medical treatments, some of the benefits can include less severe symptoms, less pain, greater self-confidence and a better quality of life.

The first 5 courses held locally were a great success with a total of 55 people completing. The 6th is due to start in November this year, with a 'taster' event to help get people involved.

The course will be led by tutors who have long-term conditions and will cover topics such as finding information, making action plans, pain management, communicating with health professionals and coping with depression. The courses are free of charge and available to anyone in the Borough of Sedgefield. Transport can be provided if needed. The courses are supported by Sedgefield Primary Care Trust and The Pioneering Care Partnership.

If you would like to attend the taster event please contact Cathryn Taylor on 01325 321234

News from Mordon Village Hall

The Christmas Whist and Annual Raffle took place in December, closely followed by the Carol Concert organised this year in a successful new format, by Sue Whitehouse. A donation of £70 was sent to Butterwick Childrens' Hospice.

New Year's Eve revellers enjoyed a disco and party evening, despite a massive snow storm just as it was about to start. The pantomime cast are very busy rehearsing for the performance on Friday and Saturday 20th & 21st February. Tickets are available from Fiona in Mordon, Tel 620634, and Wendy in Bradbury, Tel. 01399 720677.

The programme for the year is in the course of preparation and will feature a James Bond evening and a Hog Roast, in place of the barbecue. Readers are reminded that Mordon Village Hall is available to rent at a very reasonable rate.

South Durham Amateur Boxing Club News

A good start after Christmas - Terry Fox, Matthew Toothill and Seamus Edge all travelled to Grange over Sands (Lancs) to take on Liverpool opponents, and Matthew and Terry won well!

Seamus was ready to get into the ring but one minute before his bout, it was called off due to his opponents shoulder coming out of its socket when he was warming up before his fight. In other bouts, Paul Warnett got to the semi-finals of the novice championships and Mark Dawes got to the final of the novice championships.

Bryan Robinson and Gary Fox are both entering the Senior ABAs championships and Jeff Saunders, Terry Fox and Karl Thompson will be entering the school boy's championships.

We have 19 registered boxers and 90 members in the club. Having so many young people aged 8 – 11 years, the club coach - Jeff Saunders senior - is opening a 'kid gloves' scheme in order to spend more time with new starters. The youngsters will be able to go to the gym between 5pm and 6pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our last show was an excellent success and the next is on 20th February at Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield. Contact Tracey on 07779591861 for tickets.

..and finally...

Michael Graydon, one of our ex members has now turned professional and has his pro fight debut on February 10th.

Brad Saunders has been called up for England vs. Germany on 18th February and had his name put forward for the junior commonwealth games in Australia in 4 months time.

February DIARY

Announcements on this page are **free** to non-commercial organisations

Waiting for SDP Lifelong Learning computer training? New arrangements have been made as follows:

Drop-in sessions have been arranged for February and March:

Every **Tuesday 1pm to 3pm at Ceddesfeld Hall**
(no internet connection available)

Every **Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Library**
(with internet connection)

Informal advice and help will be available at all sessions

Sedgefield W.I.

Members 86th Birthday Dinner
Wednesday 4th February
at 6.45p in the Parish Hall
Members only this month, please

Local History Society

Monday January 5th
at 7.45 pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Annual General Meeting
followed by a talk
by David Hughes
"Life at the Co-op"

Further details from
Judith Edgoose on 620244
Guests and new members welcome

The W.I. Market

opens again for business on
Friday 6th February

*Enjoy a coffee with friends,
some good produce on sale
and a warm welcome*

Sedgefield Cricket Club

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 7th February
Starts at 8pm
All Welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The next market is on
Sunday 8th February
from 9:30am to 1:30pm

Local traders always welcome
Please contact Bob Harris on
07977 231815 for details

Sedgefield Racecourse Fixtures

February 10th; 1st race 1.50pm
February 24th; 1st race 2.20pm

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting will be held
in the Fletcher Room on
Tuesday 10th February at 7pm
Everyone is welcome

Family History Group

Monday 16th February
at 7pm in Sedgefield Library
Members' Queries & Problems
Please note change of time and

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th February
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Julie Watson will give a
demonstration called
"Around the World"
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Town Council

invites all interested parties to a
meeting on **Road Safety**
& other relevant matters,
in the Parish Hall on
Tuesday 19th February at 7pm

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 26th February
at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall
Kerry Watson - Volunteers
officer at Durham Wildlife Trust
on **'Volunteer opportunities
with the Trust & Projects
involved'**

For information call 620811

Friends of St Edmund's

present a concert by
The Richardson Singers
'From Bach to the Beatles'
in St Edmund's Church on
Saturday 28th February
at 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (Concessions £5)
including light refreshments,
from Sedgefield Post Office,
Friends Committee Members,
or you can pay at the door
*For more information ring
Brian Mutch on 622302*

A Town Councillor Surgery

will take place in the
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
on **March 1st at 6.30pm**
with Cllrs. A Goddard,
L Goddard & D Waters

Village 'Santa' says thanks

Kevin Cooke, would like to thank everyone who helped to raise £2176 for the North Tees special care baby unit. There was a presentation evening on the 21st January in the Inn on the Green.

A message of thanks

Helen, Traci and Blake, relations of Sheila Corbett, Edith Cooper and families, from Canada, would like to say a big thank you to all the friends in Sedgefield who have sent their condolences and sympathy.

Thank you all so much.

Toilets for the Public

It has been recently reported that Stockton Council are to erect a new toilet block in Norton, "for the benefit of the local population and visitors."

The facilities will be anti-vandal and open during the working day. In order to deal with the problem of damage, they will also be covered by closed circuit television.

Could this be the way forward for other communities such as Sedgefield?

John Parkinson

Sedgefield Town Council may be interested to note that management at Hardwick Country Park have a perfectly satisfactory contractor who maintains the public toilets in the park. This is in a situation which is, I would suggest, far more exposed to vandalism than the centre of Sedgefield.

John Fitzpatrick

Re 'From the horse's mouth'

The letter of clarification published in January provided some relevant additional information about a subject which I'm not particularly interested in.

However, I was surprised and disappointed at the intemperate and crude tone of the letter.

Disagreement and argument are essential aspects of a healthy democratic community; I don't think intolerance, disrespect and discourtesy are.

Gabrielle Lee

SLYC

I would like to apologise to my young friends in Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir, for the late start to this term, and to let you know that we will get together again on Friday 6th February at the usual time and place. (That's 6pm at Ceddesfeld Hall, for anyone aged 9 to 18 who may be thinking of joining).

To anyone who likes singing but thinks SLYC might be square, my message is simple.

You won't know if you don't try. *We're very friendly and you're very welcome!*

Sandy Clubley

Sedgefield News

Graeme, who organises the distribution of the newsletter to Winterton, and the rest of the News team, would like to thank the group who ensure that the area gets the paper delivered promptly around the new housing development. So, many thanks to Clare, Elaine, Anthea, Denise, Linda and Mrs Easton.

Thanks also to the rest of our volunteer 'posties'. We couldn't manage without you.

The editorial and distribution team

All local groups, charities and not for profit organisations are entitled to a **FREE** entry into the

2004 Sedgefield Directory

For more details please contact Simon on **629011** as soon as possible.

The deadline for copy for inclusion in the March issue is

February 15th

*Send to Sedgefield News,
Advice & Information Centre,
Front St, Sedgefield,
TS21 3AS*

or to

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net
or telephone Simon on 629011

We wish to make it clear that views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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