

Sedgefield News

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By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
February 2005

Open for business! You too can be 'in the Zone'

After several months of planning, fundraising and late night DIY sessions, the Zone has finally thrown open its doors to the public. Providing a plethora of learning opportunities for those who live or work in and around Sedgefield, the Zone kicked into action on Wednesday 26th January with its first course - **An Introduction to the Internet**. The course was fully booked well ahead of the opening date – surely an auspicious start for the initiative. As well as up-to-date computer facilities the Zone aims to provide a haven where you can concentrate fully on your subject without distractions. (That intense and rewarding focus that top athletes describe as being “in the zone” provided the inspiration for the name). It is run by Sedgefield Development Partnership in conjunction with Sedgefield Learning Borough, an independent partnership of agencies whose aim is to promote lifelong learning. SDP provides and runs the facilities whilst Sedgefield Learning Borough will work with the public and a range of learning providers * to coordinate the programme of courses and match them to the right venue. The Zone, which replaces the space it used to use at the Advice & Information Centre, will play its part in a network of learning spaces, each with its own distinct qualities, where courses and activities can be provided. Ceddesfeld Hall and the Community College are established in the role. The Zone now provides a major boost to our lifelong learning resources. Along with the internet introduction course already mentioned, a **Basic**

Computing course started on Saturday 29th January. Both are provided by Bishop Auckland College and headed by tutor Rob Kirton. They are broken down into 15 weekly two-hour sessions.

Also confirmed are three “**Bitesize**” taster sessions, running from 10am to 12 noon, and *free* - details below.

IT drop-in sessions continue on Thursday mornings from 9.30-12.30. Maggie will be on hand to help you with skills as diverse as creating a database or spreadsheet or designing and producing your own greetings cards. For those starting out in the world of work or who simply fancy a change of direction, **Careers Guidance** interviews will also be available by appointment.

Many courses are accredited (a great boost to your CV) and many others

can act as introductory courses leading on to further accredited courses. Provision is already made for French, Spanish, family history, desktop publishing, web design, digital imaging (editing your digital photos), PowerPoint presentations, Sage accounting, administration, bookkeeping, a range of holistic therapies, basic maths, English, sign language, counselling; but all other suggestions are welcome. If there is demand for a course, Sedgefield Learning Borough will provide it. **Thanks** go to Barclays bank for funding this fantastic opportunity for us, as well as to the volunteers who have given so much precious time to bring the vision to reality. Through their efforts the Zone is up and running; it's now up to you to choose the courses it provides. mlc

Bitesize Courses in the Zone - Please register in advance

Spreadsheets, with Maggie Jackson on Thursday 17th Feb

Beginners Japanese, with Zoe Hutchinson on Thursday 10th March

Databases with Maggie Jackson on Thursday 17th March

To register interest, make suggestions for future courses, book a Careers Guidance interview or find out about other learning opportunities, drop into the Zone on Thursday mornings or contact Katie, Maggie or Zoe on **07764 269 251**.

Para-legal Training Courses start in April. Free taster sessions will be held during March. Contact Jackie at Grass Roots on **01429 420302**

* Including Education in the Community, Bishop Auckland College, WEA, Leap, Learn East, New College Durham, East Durham & Houghall, Cavos and others.



These local boxers are giving us plenty to be proud of. See Sports Update, p.6

Tim Randall, webmaster at SedgefieldWeb, and his wife Irene have reason to feel very fortunate...

Boxing Day was sunny and hot and Irene and I were relaxing on sun beds in the gardens just yards from the sea. Fortunately, being just after 9am, few other people had finished breakfast. At about 9:30, we noticed a small flow of sea water coming into the gardens, which should have rung warning bells; the sea was normally about 2m below garden level. Unaware of the significance, I stood and took a 1 second video clip with my digital camera before staff started screaming at us to run and water swirled around us. I tried to grab my belongings but was being pushed by the water, debris and a member of staff towards the hotel. Though the tsunami struck our beach with much less force than other in other places, it was still a frightening and awesome experience. Only prompt action by hotel staff, who selflessly ran



towards the approaching water to rescue us, saved us from serious injury or worse. Irene and I were both struck by debris including heavy wooden sun beds, one of which knocked my legs from under me. A member of staff helped me to get to my feet and climb a stairway to the second floor. The ground floor of the hotel was totally ruined and those with rooms on the ground floor lost almost everything. Everything in our third floor rooms was safe but my passport and travellers' cheques were lost to the ocean, as were our airline tickets which had been 'safely' locked away in the basement! Hotel staff and guests cared for the injured and took steps to ensure our

future safety. We were moved to the highest part of the landward side of the hotel and provided with bottled water. By late afternoon Saga had arranged transport for us and we were moved by a slow but safe route to Colombo where we were fed and watered, and given the chance to contact home. It was only then, seeing the BBC World Service, that we realised the unbelievable scale of the disaster.

As we relive our experiences we realise the tremendous debt we owe to the staff of the Tangerine Beach Hotel and we are determined to return to Sri Lanka as soon as their infrastructure and other repairs make it possible. Tourism is a vital part of their economy and we want to help them to re-establish their position as a beautiful, exciting and friendly place to visit. Sir Arthur C Clarke has described Sri Lanka as a paradise; with help and hard work, it will be so again. **Tim Randall**
A fuller version of this article is on sedgefieldweb.co.uk. **Tim** is happy to make an illustrated presentation of our visit to Sri Lanka to any local group in exchange for a collection towards the relief fund.

Meet the Sedgefield Handbell Ringers



A happy band of music-makers

The group was founded almost exactly twenty years ago when a small group of enthusiasts got together with borrowed bells, limited experience but much enthusiasm. A lot of fund-raising in the early years and help from Sedgefield Community Association enabled them to buy their own bells.

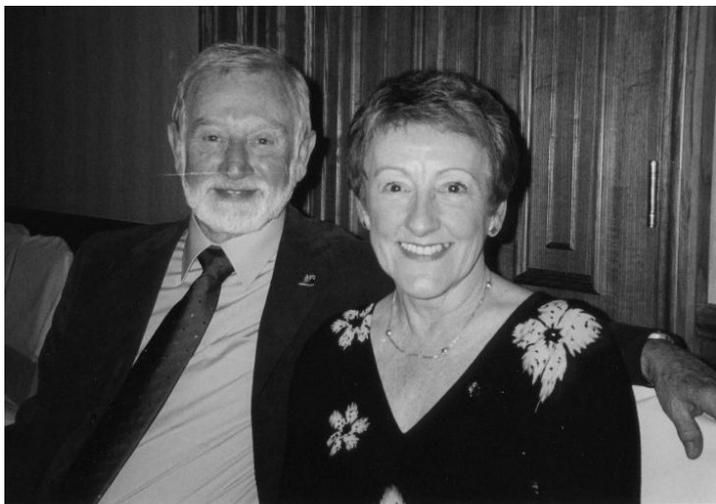
The music performed varies greatly and recently has included Christmas Carols, American marches and works by classical composers. Over the years, they have performed at a variety of venues such as weddings, churches, shopping centres and conventional concerts.

Members range from age 13 to 80 and meet on Wednesday evenings at Ceddesfield Hall at 7.45 pm. The session is always great fun with lots of mistakes made when new pieces are being tried! New members are always welcomed; no previous experience is required although an ability to read music would be an advantage.

For further information ring Rosemary Burnip on 621292.

Singers Needed!

Is there anybody out there who likes singing and could spare some time on a Sunday morning? St Edmund's church is the only church in the locality which still has a choir, but we need help to make a joyful noise! We practise on Tuesday evenings in the vestry at St Edmund's and our main duty is to lead the worship on Sunday morning, but we also sing for special services throughout the year such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. Don't worry if you can't commit to every Sunday or to every practice – you are still very welcome. For further details please ring Elizabeth Whitehead, 620702 or Judith Edgoose, 620244



Wow! Millie Howell, MBE!

Mildred Howell, pictured above with husband, Walter, has no idea who nominated her for her Honour, but 'surprised and delighted' hardly begins to describe her feelings when she heard she was to become an MBE.

Millie took early retirement from teaching mathematics at Wellfield School in the nineties, but was asked by a former work colleague to "help out" at Hurworth School and Maths and Computing College and eight years later she is still there! This is not her first award. In 2003 she was Teacher of the Year in a secondary school (North East).

Millie, who lives here in Sedgefield, loves working with young people and enjoys teaching so much that even after 42 years she has no thoughts yet of retirement.

She has been overwhelmed by the response to her achievement and thanks everyone who has sent cards, letters and messages of congratulations.

Millie is looking forward to word from Buckingham Palace, some time in the next five months, with details of her date with the Queen.

Word has it that Walter is already busy polishing tiaras!

Santa's fundraising benefits Baby Unit



Yet again, Kevin Cook of Naylor Road, Sedgefield, dressed up as Santa to collect money in the Co-op store and around the village. The marvellous sum of **£2802** has been raised for the North Tees Baby Unit. Thanks must be made to the people of Sedgefield for their generosity and to Kevin himself for spending so much time to help with this good cause.

Usually hidden behind a rather flamboyant beard during his marathon collection, it's difficult to know who he really is. We thought that it would be nice for people to see a portrait of the real Kevin.

Pensioners' Party 'rounds' off the year for 'Table'

Sedgefield and District Round Table host their annual Pensioners' Party in the Parish Hall on Saturday 5th February 2pm - 5pm. Senior Citizens in the area can obtain free tickets for the event from the post office and usual sources. Entertainment will include performances by local artists and Bingo. The day is the culmination of 2004/2005 calendar which has seen the round table donating hundreds of pounds to local good causes. In addition they have supported the community in marshalling the bonfire night fireworks, erecting the Christmas tree on the green and organising the three churches carol concert.

Anyone aged between 18 & 45 can join Round Table and ladies can join the counterpart Ladies Circle. Both are always pleased to welcome new members. Contacts: for Round Table, Rob Moran on 629079 and for the Ladies Circle, Gillian Wright on 623856

Thurlow Grange News

When the **Craft Group** at Thurlow Grange Sheltered Housing meets on Friday afternoons, the residents enjoy the chance to knit and sew whilst they chat with friends. However, they would love to find a teacher who can inspire them and help them to learn different crafts. They are looking for a kind-hearted volunteer who can spare some time from 1 - 3 pm on Thursday afternoons to teach the ladies.

If you can help, please contact warden Kath Wakes on 077 5377 9964

There are also **Bingo** sessions on Monday and Tuesday 7pm and on Thursday at 1:45pm. Anyone who enjoys the game is very welcome to join them!

Residents of Thurlow Grange raised £450 for the Tsunami Appeal Fund. A great effort.

Yellow Pages

We should all by now have received our new Yellow Pages, but it is not widely known that Sedgefield numbers are also entitled to the Sunderland Yellow Pages.

Phone **0800 671 444** to request your free copy

Minutes of Meeting held on 14th December 2004

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of 12/10/2004 were approved.

2. Matters Arising: Item 2(7) Phone Stickers – after discussion it was agreed not to purchase any just yet. Neal informed members that the telephone no. **0845 6060365** is now in use nationally so that no matter where you are in the country and want to contact the Police on a non urgent basis you only have to remember to use this number.

Item 2(8.1) Personal Alarms – these are being given to anyone over 60 who is a resident.

3a) Treasurer's Report: Details of bank balance was given.

3b) Secretary's Report: Correspondence had been: received from - Town Council, CAVOS, Barclays, Sarah Norman (Xmas Party), Cassie Wilson (letter of thanks); and issued to - Town Council, Co. Durham Foundation, Barclays, Jill Coulson Hardwick School (Leaving & our thanks), Lynn Ackland Headteacher Community College (see below).

3c) C/man issued his appreciation of the Town Council for allowing the Executive to hold the bi – monthly meeting in their Offices.

C/man advised members that the last Carbon Monoxide monitor had been installed (grant totally spent) and was recommending that any further need in this area was to be dealt with by other bodies i.e. Borough Council, this was agreed.

C/man gave details of the presentation to Jill Coulson the Headteacher at Hardwick Primary as she leaves the school, and the area.

C/man gave update regarding lack of progress with Community College implementing the Alan Sowerby Good Citizen Award. Headteacher received the Shield from N/Hood Watch (David Hillerby) in March, since then David has been advised that actual presentation might be as late as September term. David was told in October that the Shield was not present and with no further contact from the College (as was promised) the Secretary wrote to Head-teacher on 1st December; this has not been acknowledged. C/man suggested that we wait until next Panel meeting (8/2/05) before taking any action; this was agreed.

4. Representative Reports:

4a) Village Constable: PC Keith Todd circulated the Crime Report for the period (13/10–14/12) 2004. Keith stated that whilst crimes were down this period they were of a much more serious nature, and then provided members with further details. There was a valuable discussion between members and Keith over specific youth/children problems (that Keith is already aware of). Members confirmed that not all events are reported however even when requests for assistance are made they are not always followed up or it is too late when attendance is made. Members provided Keith with details of youth misbehaviour he was unaware of and

other items of concern.

4b) Crime Prevention Officer: Neil gave an update on Operation DARC and expressed concern at the recent (surprise) increase in Distraction Burglaries in the Borough, whilst overall there is still a downward trend in relation to burglary in the Borough. He pointed out that 70% of burglaries are **not** forced entry so there is still much room for the Public to improve their security and so reduce crime. Neil apologised for not having any lights / timers available due to heavy demand elsewhere. There was an active discussion about “mixed messages” over reporting and/or requesting Police assistance, with members and Neil exchanging views freely. Neil sought a 15 minute time slot to present a video he has made covering a 24hr period of a Sedgefield Borough Police Officer at some future date.

4c) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Apologies received.

4d) Community Force: Tim distributed copies of Task log for our Village and his letter of thanks for being allowed to lay the Panel's wreath on Remembrance Sunday, as an ex soldier it meant a lot to him. Tim gave details about his anti-litter activities with school children and reminded members that if they have any litter or dog fouling problems to request his assistance. He confirmed that there is still no phone available to him at Ceddesfield; his Manager is looking into this communications aspect.

5 Ring Round: C/man stated at previous Executive meeting it was proposed, subject to tonight's meeting approval that a letter be issued to Chief Constable asking for his assistance to get this system to become a realistic and useful one for us, as promised over 3 years ago. There followed a very full and open debate with members and representatives present. Finally it was concluded that the Secretary proceeds to write to the Chief Constable on behalf of members.

6 C O Monitor Project: Covered under 3c) above.

7 Schools: Covered under 3c) above.

8 AOB:

8.1 A member asked for feedback from PC Todd re Mobile Youth Centre, this was given.

8.2 C/man asked members to make residents aware of the need to have **clear** (not white on white) and **distinct** Numbers to their property. This follows a request from Ambulance Service & the Fire Brigade and a recent incident to a Village resident that did not receive treatment, as quickly as would have had been the case, if their Number had been easily visible.

8.3 Vice C/man drew attention to potential hazard – Fire from “Plug in Air Fresheners” following information he had received. Tim Spearey corroborated this; he has information of 7 fires believed to be from this type of source.

Raffle Held after the meeting raised £12.00

Next Meeting: Tues 8th February, 7 pm, Parish Hall.

Flooding proposal at Skerne Carrs

**Important meeting at Mordon Village Hall on
Wednesday 9th February at 7.30pm**

At a meeting on for the joint Parishes of Bradbury and Mordon, Roger Martin, the Environment Agency Representative, will comment on the feasibility report commissioned by them and published in December, on the Skerne Carrs Phase 2 Study.

It is proposed to switch off the drainage pumps and allow the Carrs to flood, to provide a haven for wetland wild life. The implications of this are discussed in great detail in the report. Don't miss your chance to comment upon and discuss the issue.

Success means change at Farmers Market

Since the farmers market was launched in May 2003 it has grown and become firmly established with people in Sedgefield. Visitors too come along on the second Sunday of the month to purchase fine wares from our traders, some of whom are award winning. Word of its success has spread and more traders want to come; we already have a fishmonger travelling all the way from Eyemouth in Berwickshire - weather permitting.

The organisation of the market has been complimented and it is becoming a model for other towns. As a result of this success we have had to arrange for a larger site – hence the move to the car park behind the Hope Inn - an exciting opportunity for the market to expand. There's a chance of some shelter, too, when the bad weather strikes, and a choice of refreshments from the Hope Inn and Katie's Kitchen. We look forward to seeing you there on the 13th. Happy shopping!

Bob Harris, Market Coordinator

PC Todd reports

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who helped and supported me last year. This year two issues have been brought to my attention. Both require your help if we are to resolve or reduce the impact they are having on nearby residents.

Firstly, the area known as Jubilee Gardens, a small grassed over area surrounded by trees and bushes – a pleasant place to sit in the warm weather. However recently, youths have been gathering there, with resulting noise, litter and damage. If you live near the area of Chestnut Road and The Lane, please advise your children to keep away to allow the grass and plants to recover.

Secondly, parking; we are all aware of the lack of spaces within the village, but I do ask that you park correctly, as responsible and considerate residents. I will be concentrating my efforts at the following locations: outside Bells Store, on the High Street and on Rectory Row. You have been warned!

Bye for now. **Keith**

Crime figures for Sedgefield Village 6.12.04 - 9.01.05

4 thefts were reported, 2 involving cars, as well as cash and air-line tickets from a workplace and cash, wallets and mobile phones from the community college changing rooms.

There were **6 incidents of damage** – mainly to windows, but also to vehicles; **2 assaults**, both involving facial injuries and

2 arson attacks, 1 on an unoccupied house, 1 on a car/garage.

More of Your Letters

Childhood memories stirred

I read with interest the two stories about 58 Front Street. My name is Sonny Blakey and I lived with my parents Bill and Gladys at No 58 for 6 years during the war. I was born in a house called 'Roslyn Castle', which is next to the Vets on the right. I cannot remember why we had to move out of this house, but we had to, and went to live at 58 Front Street. It was much smaller than 'Roslyn Castle' with only two bedrooms, a living room and scullery and an outside toilet. Myself, brother Ron and sister Iris had one bedroom, and my parents and later, brother Bill, had the other.

We were the last residents of no 58 and when a bomb exploded behind the council houses, where the nursery school fields are, the ceilings upstairs in No 58 fell in. We had to move downstairs and sleep on the floor. We lived like this for 3 months before we were re-housed at the council estate.

I have happy memories of No 58, but it must have been hard times for my parents.

Sonny Blakey

Yobs Rule in Sedgefield?

When I moved into Sedgefield Village several years ago many of my friends and acquaintances commented what a lovely place Sedgefield is and how lucky I was to be moving there. Now it seems, the village is not such a nice place to live in, particularly in the evenings. We seem to have deteriorated almost into a state of mob rule.

Groups of marauding teenagers, some local, some from surrounding areas congregate outside the takeaways and at bus stops to harass any passers by brave enough to go near them. This evening I was accosted by a group of about 10 boys and girls - no older than 14 or 15 while I was outside Theakstons in the village. One boy was sent over to me by the group to inform me that the 'leader' wanted to speak to me. I declined the offer. I was then pursued up the street with chants of 'smelly cow' directed to my back. I was glad to arrive home and close the door. My own children and their friends have experienced similar incidents.

I have reported these incidents to the police and they are just as frustrated - I am told that the new Anti Social behaviour laws are unenforceable and that Sedgefield District is undermanned. Perhaps we need an MP who can be 'in situ' in order to remedy the situation. Either that or an increase in police levels in the evenings so that ordinary people can walk abroad without fear of assault. As Sedgefield residents, we pay extortionate council taxes and receive very little in return.

Christine Murr

In response to a few comments the sports update will be now be subtitled so if you are not interested in the latest football news you can skip past it - maybe to motor grass racing!

Football The Golden Lion and Cross Hills played their second league derby of the season, with a similar outcome to the first. Cross Hills won 6-3, the result founded on a very strong first half performance that saw the team ahead 5-1 at half time. The Golden Lion fought back with spirit in the second half, but the damage was already done.

Meanwhile, the Black Lion's team continues to make good progress in the Durham and District League. By the time this newsletter has been printed, the team will have played its quarter final in the league's flagship Staffieri Cup. It has been a great achievement for the Black Lion to reach that stage of the competition, considering the club currently sits in the fourth division. The opponent is Langley Park WMC, which offers the team a chance to gain revenge for an earlier defeat in another cup. On that occasion, the Black Lion was short of a couple of key players, so hopes of a victory have been high (though it should be pointed out that Langley Park has won every game it has played so far this season!). The team from St. Edmund's also play a quarter final tie in the Staffieri Cup on the same day. Both results will appear in the next issue. Back in the league, the Black Lion has enjoyed an impressive run of form of late and now lies handily in sixth place, with several games in hand on the teams above. A good second half of the season is expected

Finally on the football front, the Sedgefield branches of Middlesbrough and Newcastle United football supporters are taking on each other in a football quiz competition from 8pm on Thursday 3rd February, in the Cross Hills. Century Radio presenter Gordon Cox is quizmaster for the evening and landlord Darren is providing food for supporters of the event. Perhaps this will be the first of many such quiz nights - Sunderland vs Darlington vs Hartlepool United fans next?

Boxing South Durham Amateur Boxing Club has had a fantastic start to the season, with some great performances from a number of talented young Sedgefield boxers. First, the club took on a team from Bolton at Hardwick Hall, boxing for the Sedgefield Cup (kindly donated by John Robinson). South Durham retained the cup, winning the tournament by seven points to three. Elsewhere, there has been more considerable success for the club's boxers. At Crystal Palace, 15-year-old Matthew Toothill won gold at the Golden Belt national championships, knocking out a strong opponent from London in the third round of his bout. Matthew has shown huge determination since he entered the gym and the gold is testament to his great work ethic and fitness. At the same tournament, Terry Fox won the North East title, but didn't manage to go on and win the tournament outright. There have also been recent good victories for John Freeman and Joe Lewis. As if this weren't enough, club members Karl Thompson and Paul Warnett received a last minute call up to box against Scotland for a Midlands select team. Karl overcame his opponent in a tough bout, and Paul just lost out on points (17-15) in another hard fought contest. Given that both lads were given only 12 hours notice of the tournament, they performed exceptionally well. A re-match has been secured with a Scotland team, to take place at Chilton WMC on 12th February. Last, and anything but least, I can report that **Bradley Saunders won a gold medal** at the Youth Commonwealth Games, which took place during December

in Australia. This exceptional achievement was only possible through Bradley's own very considerable talent and the support of a lot of people and organisations. Coach Jeff Saunders would like to thank Brian Robinson, Colin Richardson, Barry Warnett, Craig Ayre, David Cook and Tracey Saunders for their hard work and commitment. The sponsorship provided by Jeff Ayre of Woodcrest Developments and Ramside Hall Estates has been essential, as has the backing of Sedgefield School. Congratulations again to Bradley.

Ten Pin Bowling We now move swiftly on from knocking out opponents in the ring to knocking down pins in an alley. My attention has been drawn to a ten pin bowling team from Sedgefield that is going great guns in a Hartlepool league. Paul, Matt and Tom call themselves Women's Troubles (work it out and don't have a go at the messenger), and at time of going to press were joint leaders of the league with only four weeks to go. Matt tops the league's individual player statistics with an average score of 173 (those who know a bit about the game will be impressed - those who don't, believe me when I say that's impressive). Apparently, the league will be looking for new teams to join once the current season ends in a few weeks. If you think you've got what it takes (and bear in mind Matt's average) and would like a go, let me know and I'll put you in touch with Matt.

Greyhound Racing We know a mole in the world of greyhound racing, which does sound a bit odd. Anyway, our mole has been kind enough to provide a lowdown on the nearest racing, which is at Sunderland and Brough Park, where there are regular meetings. Locally run website www.thehareisonthemove.co.uk offers a comprehensive information and tipping service, covering six meetings from around the country every day - worth a look if you're interested in the sport.

I have two tips (from a very well informed anonymous gentlepersion) that a dog to follow this month is Compatible from Eddie McDermott's kennel. Compatible has come over from Ireland and after three trials is set for top graded A1 action. In his first competitive race at Sunderland where, after barging its way to the front at the first bend, it attached itself to the bunny and continued 2 lengths in front at the jam stick. It clocked an impressive first run time of 27.22secs and will improve for each run at the track.. This dog will be good enough to compete in Open Class after beating another open class runner, Pond Gigi, by 2 lengths. Apparently, another dog to follow is Distant Thunder from the G Calvert Jnr kennel. This October 2002 dog recently had its second race back after a spell on the sidelines through lameness. Calvert's betting bandwagon obviously knew the dog was back to full fitness and after heavy support in the betting ring, pinged the lids in 4.99secs to lead and win by 8 ¼ lengths in an impressive 27.02secs. Okay, I don't understand most of that jargon - sorry if it's a little bewildering, but it comes from a genuinely reliable source, from whom I may be able to extract further tips - but, a health warning - betting rarely favours the punter!

Sedgefield Racecourse Comprehensive notes next month, but locals will be glad to hear that the Boxing Day meeting is back.. See p.10 for a 3 month fixture list.

Motor Grass Racing Unfortunately I've run out of space to cover this exciting subject this month.

Councillor Vaughan Lonie - an appreciation



Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr. Jim Wayman leads the tributes to a much admired gentleman.

“It was with great sadness that I learned that Cllr. Vaughan Lonie had lost his fight against cancer. It has come as a great shock to us all and our thoughts at this time are with his daughter Gillian and the rest of the family.

We will all have our own memories of Vaughan. My first contact with him was when he was teaching at Ferryhill

Grammar School where he taught my son. That was 28 years ago; since then our paths have crossed in a number of ways.

Vaughan came into active politics rather late in life and I found, as a fellow councillor, he was a very upright person, a man of very few words, but when he spoke his words meant something. I found him a very generous person in many ways. When he moved from what is now ‘Ministers’ to his new home in West Park Lane, it was only a matter of weeks before his wife Lorna died suddenly. I do not think he really fully recovered from that tragic event. He was involved in freemasonry, where he was well-respected and where I am sure he will be greatly missed. All who knew him will feel the loss, not least at Town Council meetings, where we will miss his wise counsel and words of wisdom.”

Another friend adds: “Vaughan was cultured man who had a love of travel and good wine - one reason for his regular visits to France. The principles which

Sedgefield Community College News

It is with sadness that we begin the new term with the news of Vaughan Lonie’s death. Vaughan was a valued member of our Governing Body who always offered sound and wise advice. He had been a maths teacher so he would have been extremely pleased to hear this first piece of news - in GCSE Modular Maths, Year 11, results have improved by 10% at A*-C. No mean feat! Our congratulations to the students who are feeling pleased with themselves.

Since I last reported to you, some very pleasing developments have taken place. I am sure that you will be interested to know that two of our staff, Colette Smith (English) and Claire Smith (ICT) have been awarded Advanced Skills Teacher Status, as a direct result of their excellent work. To have 2 ASTs in one school is a brilliant achievement.

We had another great musical concert and this year we added a pantomime, Cinderella. *Oh yes we did!* We have also extended our after school activities and on Wednesday evenings we regularly have 200+ children staying onsite to do enrichment classes or extra activities.

We continue to support village residents and to develop citizenship amongst our young people. I welcome your help. Please feel free to phone us directly if you have any concerns about our students. We always investigate and try to feedback any actions we take.

I am sure you are also all aware of the excellent adult courses now being held on our site and at Ceddesfeld Hall. Anyone wanting to learning basic plumbing?? Phone 621097

Lynne Ackland

Job Vacancy

Sedgefield Town Council requires someone **immediately** on a temporary basis to open and close the Parish Hall (£6 per day). If you are interested, further details are available at the Council Offices or ring **01740 621273**

Badminton for all at Sedgefield Community College

Junior Badminton Coaching

Fridays 6:30pm - 9pm

Contact Reception - 621097

Casual Badminton

Check with Reception to book court

Badminton Club

Monday night 7pm - 9:30pm

Contact Stan Smith 621883

Ladies Badminton

Tuesday 7pm - 9pm

Contact Reception as above

Cook's Corner

Noodles with Creamy Leek & Mushroom Sauce

Serves one person

3 (85g) wholemeal noodles

1 small leek

1.5 tbs vegan margarine

4oz (115g) mushrooms

1.5 tbs wholemeal flour

¼ pint (70ml) soya milk

½ tsp mustard & ½ tsp marjoram

sea salt & freshly ground black

pepper to taste

Cook noodles until tender in boiling salted water.

Clean and chop the leek finely.

Melt 1 tbs margarine in a saucepan

and sauté chopped leek 3-4 minutes

Slice mushrooms, add them to pan;

cook for a further 3-4 minutes.

Stir flour into the pan, then slowly

add the milk, stirring constantly (if

needed add a little more milk) until

thickened and boiling.

Lower heat to simmer while adding

mustard, marjoram & seasoning.

When the noodles are cooked, drain

and toss with remaining margarine.

Pour the sauce over them and serve.

*Taken from Leah Leneman's
"Vegan Cooking for One"*

Hardwick Park

The holiday period has seen a slowdown in progress in Hardwick Park. The Dam is almost complete and the decorative rip-rap (cobbled) edging is being laid. The concrete base for the Cascade has been laid and the stonemasons, Anelays, are on site and have started work.

Their stonemason is one of the best in the country and this will be his last job, as he retires when work in the Park is complete.

The landscaping work is to be carried out this summer and it is hoped to use the DCC in-house landscaping team. Plans for the planting in the new Car Park have been finalised and will be carried out as soon as Cumbrian leave the site. The storm damage in the Park has been quite extensive and required closure of the Park for a while on safety grounds. A mature horse chestnut in the Car Park has fallen, as well as a large beech near the Grand Terrace. A yew near the new bridge has had its root ball moved but it may be possible to save it - the Forestry Commission are looking at it. Lots of trees in the Bath Plantation have blown down, mainly conifers, but this may cause a radical rethink on the re-planting schedules. Research has revealed that a series of duck decoys existed around the Lake in Hardwick Park at the end of the 18th century - curved inlets at the side of the lake used for catching ducks (widgeon, mallard and teal) by enticing them up the narrowing channel using tame ducks or dogs. With this knowledge, the inlets are being restored to their original profile.

The "Time Team" report on the Roman dig in the East Park has finally been received. Lee White, Durham County Council's Assistant County Archaeologist, is giving a talk about it at the Friends AGM on Tuesday 15th February (see Diary page). Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and listen.

Pleasant surprise for the Friends of Hardwick

At the recent meeting of the Friends of Hardwick, Ken Manton surprised the members with an announcement. This year the Durham County Council "Members Initiative Fund" of £6,000 would be directed towards the Friends "Neptune" fund which is being raised to commission a replacement Statue of Neptune to stand in the Serpentine River in Hardwick Park. Sedgefield has benefited in the past from this fund. It paid for a week's course on Arts and Drama at Sedgefield Community College and for the path from Bolam's to the Finn Machine Company building. The Statue of Neptune, which is to be sculpted by Keith Maddison, is projected to cost approximately £30,000, so Mr Manton's contribution is of great help and much appreciated by the Friends.

Sedgefield Community College P.T.F.A. News

The Body Shop visits the College on **Thursday 3rd February**. There will be a talk on 'Fair Trade' and a £25 hamper of Body Shop goods to be raffled - an ideal Mother's Day gift. This event will be held in the Creche (reached through the Community entrance). Tickets can be bought at the door on the night. Following the success of last year's **Race Night** we are holding another one at Sedgefield Parish Hall on **18th February**. A bar will be available. The P.T.F.A. has launched an appeal for **old mobile phones** - working or not - to boost school funds. If you have a redundant mobile phone to dispose of, please contact Sharon Rhodes, 623963 or hand it in to the college office, care of the P.T.F.A. **Our events are open to everyone in the community - please come along and have fun.**

The Friends of Hardwick AGM

will be held in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday 15th February**. It will include a talk on the findings of the "Time Team" from the Roman dig in the East Park - *All welcome*

February DIARY

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

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 1st February
at 7.30pm
in Ceddesfeld Hall
AGM & Pie and Peas Supper
*Members and prospective
members only*
Tuesday 1st Mar
Alpines and Cultivation
by **Alan Spencely**
All Welcome

Tiny Steps at St Edmund's

Wednesday 2nd February
at 1.30pm
Singing & Stories for
pre-school children & carers.
All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 2nd February
Parish Hall 6.45
Celebratory Dinner
for our **87th Birthday**
(members only)

Country Market

(formerly the WI market)
re-opens in the Parish Hall
on **Friday 4th February**
from 9.30 - 11.00am
Excellent value home baking,
eggs, garden produce & crafts.
Tea & Coffee served

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Quiz Night
Saturday 5th February
Starting at 8pm
AND - Live Music Night
Saturday 19th February
at 8pm
Main guest - Eddie Walker
& featuring the
Judith Haswell Band
and the John Wrightson Band
Admission £7 (includes buffet)
Telephone 621347
*The club now operates a no
smoking policy in the bar/lounge*

Film Nights

in Sedgefield Parish Hall
Friday 4th February
and Mordon Village Hall
Saturday 5th February
both at 6.30pm
A film for all the family -
"The Incredibles"
(subject to confirmation)
Organised by the
Positive Youth Project

Local History Society

Monday 7th February
7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
John Davison, Local Historian
**"Durham Men
in the Great War"**
Further details on 620244
Guests & new members welcome

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 7th February
6.30 - 7pm, Council Offices

Sedgefield Community College Association

Calling all members!
Our AGM is at the college on
Monday 7th March at 7pm
Please attend and help with
further development of the
association

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

Tuesday 8th February
at 7pm in the Fletcher Room,
Parish Hall
Everyone Welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 13th February
9.30am to 1.30pm
Please note the new venue
Car Park behind the Hope Inn
Local traders always welcome
Please contact Bob Harris on
07977 231815 for details

Winterton Wayfarers' Walking Group

Sunday 13th February
Fishburn and Bishop Middleham
– distance 7 miles
March 6th
South Sedgefield and Mordon
– distance 8.5 miles
Meet in Sedgefield Parish Hall
car park at 9.30am for car
sharing transport to destination.
Information: Lynn Burdess
(01740) 621199, or
David Mitchell 620034

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 15th February
7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall
Carl Brunton,
Northumberland & Durham
Area Demonstrator
"Flights of Fancy"
Everyone Welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Meets in the Fletcher Room on
Thursday 17th February
at 7.45pm
Contact Anne Gladwin
on 620811 for details
All Welcome

Sedgefield Twinning Association

AGM and Dinner
Saturday 26th February
at 7.30pm
in Ceddesfeld Hall
Cost: £7 including glass of wine
Contact Nancy Wells on 620467
All welcome

Family History Group

Monday 21st February
7pm in Sedgefield Library
Members' Queries Night
New Members always welcome
NB - change of time & venue

Panto in the Parish Hall?

The recent Sedgefield Players' pantomime Cinderella was another resounding success, playing to packed houses and bringing live theatre to the village at the festive season. People in the audience, many of whom came from outside Sedgefield, expressed both delight at the production and appreciation of the hall where we perform. Despite all its faults, the Parish Hall is frequently admired by visitors, including those who belong to drama groups based in other towns. The size, facilities and location of the Parish Hall make it hard to beat as a local centre for community events, the only fly in the ointment being the noise issue. People may wonder what the future for the Hall is, in view of the lack of information from the reformed committee, now known as the Community Hall Development Group. As a co-opted member of that group, consisting largely of members of the Town Council and SCA, I was dismayed to discover recently that current plans, based on an extension to Ceddesfeld Hall, make no provision for a stage, contradicting the original intentions of the Parish Hall Development Group, which stated that we would not end up with something worse than we already have. Several sections of Sedgefield society rely on the availability of a stage. Indeed, the Players would find it impossible to function without one. Using the Community College facilities is a non-starter, for reasons of access, size and cost.

Both the SCA and the Town Council are very keen to quote the success of the Players when, for example, applying for grants or entering competitions such as the recent Calor Gas Best Village. Both groups

might consider giving us a little more consideration or at least keep us informed when plans are afoot which may threaten our very existence. Our young people are entitled to provision for live theatre, music and dance not only as an integral part of their young lives but onwards into their adulthood and the lives of generations yet to come. We have a valuable opportunity here to provide high-class facilities which will take us into the 21st century in style, rather than simply replicating what we already have, i.e. a hall for wedding receptions and dances.

In my view, plans which wipe out the possibility of live theatre should not even be considered, but as they are, surely the public should be informed. There seems little point or indeed honesty in waiting until we have a fait accompli to ask people what think. It will be too late to object when the Parish Hall is a pile of rubble.

In writing this letter, I represent the views not only of a performing group which brings a great deal of pleasure and kudos to Sedgefield, but also my own feelings as an individual with an adult lifetime of commitment to the village and the activities which go on here. I am certain that I speak for many in voicing these concerns and hope that we can look forward to hearing details of its plans from the Community Hall Development Group in the very near future. Maybe the time is now ripe to call upon the people of Sedgefield once again, as in February 2002, when the possibility of closure of the Parish Hall was first mooted. The response at that time gave a clear indication that the people have a very strong attachment to the Parish Hall and that no moves should be made to do away with it without their clear agreement.

Norma Neal, Sedgefield Players

Open letter to Cllr. Manton

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the proposal which was outlined to the Town Council last night (11th Jan), where I was an observer. I agree with the assessment of the junction that it is to national standard. However, there are the problems which have been outlined to you during the past 2/3 years; 1). No one knows who has right of way 2). Currently there is a blind spot for vehicles in the central reservation wanting to turn right towards the A177 roundabout, being able to see approaching traffic on the A689 westbound. 3. The speed of traffic in both directions. The new proposals should reduce these. However, only a better standard of driving will reduce the biggest cause of accidents at this junction. Unfortunately that is not in any current remit; only the drivers themselves can correct that. In my opinion, the proposals outlined are the best that can be achieved in the circumstances.

The only other comment I would make is that the speed of vehicles leaving the A177 roundabout and heading east on A689 needs to be calmed and the access area in the central reservation needs to be reduced in size to accommodate only a single vehicle width of 2.55m, to control the number of vehicles in this area at any one time. Finally, though I do not apologise for the hassle you have received over this issue, I do understand your position and thank you for your diligence.

David Hillerby Vice Chair, Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

**Copy for March by
February 15th to
58 Front St, Sedgefield
TS21 2AQ - or to
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk
or 01740 629011**

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