

Sedgfield News

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

February 2007

Stop Press! Christmas charity successes

Cricket Club Xmas Talent Show

The Annual Christmas Talent Show at the Cricket Club, once again exceeded expectations and raised £350 for the Great North Air Ambulance. Previous years, other charities have benefited from what was essentially a fund raising effort, and has developed into the function it is today. Now in its 7th year in the current format, the show goes from strength to strength. This year it was organised by a 5 member committee and enjoyed, as ever, by a packed house. Tickets are always in great demand and seats for 2007 are already reserved.

Regulars commented that this show was the best yet, which gives the organisers a headache for the next show. 22 individuals performed 20 spots throughout a well organised evening show, the committee performing another grand finale just before midnight.

A big mention has to go to the artists, who have to perform professionally - strictly no 'al a Karaoke' allowed here! It has been said that the talent is there but hiding in the cupboards - we've just given them the platform...

Next Year? Two of the committee members had resigned once again due to the stress of organising the event... however, shortly after the success of it all they agreed to think about it once again as they have done year on year. The month of October generally starts them twitching, and then thinking of a show, a couple of telephone calls... a get together... and then... what can we do next? *Best Regards... The Committee!*

Santa's collection hits new high point

By the time all the cheques were in and the cash counted, our heroic Santa, Kevin Cook of Sedgfield, had actually raised **£5,700** - even more than was reported in the other local press - for the North Tees Neonatal Baby Unit .

Relocation Relocation!

After well over a year of waiting the Post office was finally relocated on January 26th to its new home on Front Street, between Peridot and the Tanning shop, in what was formally the Chemist's shop.

Unfortunately, due to the wonderful powers of technology, we had to close for two days while the computers were moved and up-graded to broadband. Hopefully this will make the computers a little faster but only time will tell!

As a result our customers have had to travel to other offices for their usual service; all we can do is apologise for the inconvenience - it was a requirement of the Post office and not ourselves.

As many of you will be aware we have had an addition to our family in the form of a beautiful baby girl, Ellen Laura, who if all goes to plan will take over the office in about eighteen years so I can take an early retirement! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave gifts and cards. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of this community.

So it's a New Year, a new shop and a new baby. Remember if you don't use your local post office you may lose us, so we look forward to seeing you soon. *Richie and Sheri*

Our telephone number has unfortunately had to change.

It's now (01740)**623851**.

Opening hours remain the same:
**09:00 - 17:30 Monday to Friday
& 09:00 - 12:30 on Saturdays.**

Proud to wear the vest



Sedgfield Harriers (above) do it in uniform - page 7

Also inside: Get off the sofa and watch some real sport! page 6

Wind Power: the debate continues on page 9



Phill Nixon is honoured at DCCC.
Chris Lines on 'Dart-istry' - page 6

EXPERT ADVICE for FREE

A PRIVATELY-RUN business support agency which has helped start more than 200 businesses in County Durham has moved to Salters House here in Sedgefield.

The Enterprise Group has marked the start of its second year creating new companies in the county by moving from its old base at Tursdale. Enterprise Group co-ordinator Mick Wood said the move was an indicator of both the group's first-year success and its intention to improve on its 2005-6 results. "Our move to new premises will help us to improve our activity levels and growth after our successful first year" he said. "Last year's results - for example, creating 300 new jobs and helping to set 207 businesses - were a tribute to the staff and our partners and a real measure of how successful our approach is".

Drawing from professionals within the group, as diverse as solicitors, accountants, marketeers, website designers, IT advisers, community and social enterprise specialists the group adopts a 'start up buddy' mentoring approach which includes bringing in the best available experts to help people develop their ideas into real life businesses.

Rated one of the best performing business start-up organisations in the North East the group intends to continue to adopt a no-nonsense approach to setting up and can be contacted on 0845 630 0620. Ask for Ed Henderson.

AND THE SERVICE REALLY IS *Free*

Local man paints the Town

Local man Owen Murr decided a successful corporate life undoubtedly had benefits but there were other things to life. Having always been keen on DIY, particularly painting and decorating, he decided in the Autumn of 2006 to contact The Enterprise Group to investigate setting up his own business. After long talks with his wife Christine and a couple of sessions with Ed Henderson, Business Start-Up Adviser with The Enterprise Group, he decided to take the plunge.

Owen said "I was no different from many individuals, working for an employer and wondering what it would be like to be my own boss; talking to Ed the concerns quickly disappeared as he took me through the process of developing my business plan and 'buddying' me; generally my confidence grew. In December I undertook my first decorating job and since then I have had a steady stream of work".

The Enterprise Group is contracted to Business Link County Durham to assist business start-up in the local authority areas Sedgefield, Easington, Derwentside, Chester-le-Street and Durham City. Their Sedgefield office is conveniently located in Salters Lane. **FREE** advice is always available.

To contact Owen Painting and Decorating

Tel: 01740 620204(Office) 07847 006 125 (Mobile)

To contact The Enterprise Group Tel 0845 6300 620

"POP-IN" to the POP IN CLUB

Now in its 15th year, the club is still increasing in pop-u-larity! The following is an extract from the Annual Report to the Trustees, copied here for general interest.

"The Club opened in 1992 in Ceddesfeld Hall under the direction of a steering committee of representatives from the Sedgefield Charities, the Rotary Club and the Sedgefield Community Association (S.C.A.) The Club provides a point of social contact for the elderly and disabled of Sedgefield and the surrounding area. In particular, its location in the centre of the village enables a walk home from the shops, health services, post office and bank to be split into convenient stages.

As a section of the S.C.A., all members become members of the Association. Membership is granted to pensioners and their spouses. The Sedgefield Charities pays the administrative cost (rents, salaries disabled transport and secretarial expenses) of the club and the Rotary Club of Sedgefield contributes to the costs of social activities.

During 2006, visits to the three sessions (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, Thursday afternoon), have been around 79 visits per week. Some of the 85 members come to each session. A taxi service, every Tuesday morning is provided for members who have difficulty in walking.

The Supervisor's Fund generated by the receipts from the sale of coffee and tea, has enabled three coach trips, to Whixley, Whitby and Morpeth this year. Afternoon tea was provided by the local W.I. at Whixley and Morpeth. At Whitby the members made their own arrangements using a cash grant from the Supervisor's fund. Easter and Christmas are treated as special occasions with seasonal refreshments and prizes, the latter donated by the Sedgefield & District Rotary Club. Roy Smeeton, Secretary.

Thanks are due to Norma Hissett (Supervisor), Joan Rollo and Betty Roper, for their continued help and the ongoing success of the club. If you are not already a member, why not "Pop-in" some time and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

The Players' Panto - a real family affair

The Sedgefield Players' latest Panto was yet another resounding success - this year was the ever-popular Sleeping Beauty. Written by Alan P. Frayn, the panto played to good houses between Christmas and New Year. Veteran performers Viv Jacobs and Annette Lawson as Bad Witch Hazel and Fairy Lilac were joined by youngsters from the SPYS youth section of Sedgefield Players, who appeared as mini witches and a rainbow of fairies.

Other SPYS appeared in major roles. 12 year old Tim Jasper brought great life, laughter and energy to his performance as Muddles, while 15 year olds Sarah McGuinness and Alana Baguley provided the romantic interest as Prince Alexis and Princess Rose. Alana's Dad Paul was the Players' first male Dame for many a long year and rose to the occasion manfully - or should that be womanfully? Real life couples also had their parts to play. As Queen Marigold and King Cactus, Jean Hewling and Terry West did their bumbling best to protect their daughter Rose from the witch's curse, aided by those hapless heralds Fetch and Carry, also known as Jason Legender and Sarah Jones. Families figured very importantly this year, with the Jasper family taking the record. Tim agreed to step into the role of Muddles after an adult member had to drop out for work reasons, Dad David was invited to produce sound effects and music, as Sheri Parry was otherwise engaged producing lovely baby Ellen Laura. Tim's younger sister Ciaran appeared as a villager and Mam Julie helped front of house, as did Katy McGuinness, whose son Robert appeared as a villager and a witch alongside sister Sarah as Prince Alexis. The Players were very grateful to the team of people who offered to help out in various capacities during the run of the panto, including Michelle Johnson, who valiantly ran the front of house, as well as bringing along daughter Sian to perform as a rainbow fairy in each show. Sisters Megan and Sarah Cant were joined by Caitlin Pell, Ellie Thompson and Lauren Easton to complete the rainbow line-up, which not only looked beautiful, but sang sweetly as well.

The audience enjoyed energetic dance routines from the girls of Fishburn Dance and Drama, expertly choreographed by Gill Rowe. Garry



Jacobs, husband of Bad Witch Hazel, also known as Viv, did an excellent job as stage manager, ensuring that the show ran smoothly. He and Viv had also done sterling work beforehand, designing and painting the set. Official Stage Manager Richie Parry was unavailable for panto this year, due to the eminent arrival of the Parry's own little Princess, but didn't he do a grand job of the Fireworks on New Years' Eve?

Chairman Norma Neal said the Players were delighted that the panto went so well, especially as Productions' Director Walter Howell, who also does a great deal of work on staging, was taken ill in October. Happily, he is on the mend now, and in true Players' style, everyone worked together to pull off another theatrical success. The Players' March production is "Ladies Day", a comedy by Amanda Whittington, which is also their entry for the Isle of Man Easter Drama Festival.

Sedgefield Round Table



Winner Kevin Jones with his wife, Julia

Winner of the Christmas draw for a trolley dash around Sedgefield Co-op, Kevin Jones of Sedgefield, successfully managed to get £120 worth of groceries into his trolley in the 1 minute permitted, racing around the shop at breakneck speed. Many thanks to the staff and management at the Co-op, as well as everybody who bought a ticket. You raised over £300 that will go towards the pensioners' party that is run in February. The trolley dash was the end of a very busy year for Sedgefield Round Table which has seen the members doing many charity fund raising events, including the Three Peaks Challenge, which raised £1000 for Sunderland special baby unit. When you see the shape of some of those who took part it really was a major achievement!

Once again many thanks to all those who have supported Sedgefield Round Table throughout the year.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Members' update following Xmas meeting on 7th Dec. 2006

Village Constable Keith Todd was not available to attend the meeting however he provided his 2 monthly crime report for the Village.

Between 10th Oct. & 7th Dec. there were 16 crimes consisting of 3 Thefts; 1 Burglary; 12 Criminal Damage.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Sarah Norman & Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne jointly reported on Dark Night Crime & Personal Safety & re-emphasised the fundamental need for every householder to use timed lights and to show lights are on in the home.

To support this message they had brought timers & lights to the meeting - these were available to members at the excellent price of £1 for a timer with an Energy Efficient Lamp; they all sold, & orders for more were taken. There was a lot of discussion between members and representatives regarding Bogus and Cold Callers with some valuable ideas raised by members.

C/man Ken Saiger described the November **Organisations Fair** as a major success for the Village and our Panel too. Several new members were recruited and he gave specific thanks to Sarah & Neil for the loan of their display boards, which made sure N/H/Watch were very visible on the day. Under Age drinkers: a member raised this problem again and after much frustrating debate there still appears to be no-one able / willing to help the village to crack down on drinkers, or even respond to the regular gatherings of them in our village. The same member recorded her very real fear that we will one day experience a fatality in our village due to this practice. C/man Ken Saiger expressed his concern that the current "rumour mill" was indicating that there was a real possibility that we could lose further Police Constable presence in the village and that a Police Community Support Officer may replace him. Neil Langthorne responded by stating he was unaware of any moves to reduce our Constable presence but he was aware that the new PCSOs were nearing training completion and that we were likely to get such an officer in the village soon.

Mrs. Mary Hodgson won the raffle; the prize was a hand knitted doll, kindly donated by Mrs. Pauline Suddes. Following the meeting, Xmas savoury pies and pastries very kindly provided by Mrs Bell Saiger with a glass of wine, were enjoyed and very much appreciated by all members present. Members wish to convey their appreciation & thanks to Bell & Ken, for their unstinting support and continued generosity to the N/H/Watch Panel.

NEXT Meeting Tuesday 6th February, Parish Hall 7 pm. ALL Welcome

STOP BOGUS CALLERS – DISTRACTION BURGLARY

Your local Neighbourhood Watch group promoted the Durham Trading Standard's initiative to set up **Doorstep Crime Awareness Zones**, which has been endorsed by Durham Agency Against Crime, in this paper last month. Just to remind everyone, the aim is to deter unwanted cold callers at householders' doors, & to join the scheme you simply display a sticker indicating that you don't wish to be troubled by cold callers. Visible notices will be sited around the village and these will highlight the message – No Cold Calling.

The project is to be developed and rolled out across other areas of the County through Neighbourhood Watch Groups and other Community Organisations. Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch believe this is a real Crime Reduction initiative that will be of major benefit especially to the elderly and vulnerable in our community who are the usual targets of this type of nasty, confidence eroding crime.

So next month we will ask all householders to give their support to making our village a "No Cold – Calling" zone too. We will issue voting slips in the March issue and to make it more interesting there will be the opportunity to win a prize simply by returning your completed slip.

Telephone Nos: Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield **623654** or via Chilton Control Room: **01388 721351**

Local Police: 0845 6060365 - to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police (NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no).

For advice/assistance: **Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714 & Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Sarah Norman: 01325 742755**

PC Todd reports

I can start my report this month on a positive note, that since mid December only 5 crimes have been reported to the police.

The most serious of these was a burglary where the family car and household items were taken. Persons are now helping police with their enquiries.

This is a timely reminder for you to check your own house security. Think – lights and locks.

Over the past few weeks it has come to my attention that a small group of youths have been keeping themselves amused by climbing over people's gardens. This activity not only causes a nuisance to residents, but causes damage to fencing and plants. I would like to know who these youths are.

Another prank by youths reported recently which has had serious consequences and a financial burden placed on the owners was the act of placing a hosepipe through a letterbox which resulted in severe water damage. Again I would like to identify any of the youths responsible.

Until next month,
Keith

Crimes reported:

Matfen Court: Burglary

Stockton Rd: Theft

Eden Drive: Damage to car

Cragside: Damage to car window

Front St: Window smashed

Avoid the latest scam

The Office of Fair Trading warns us not to respond to a new scam. The mailing from a business called 'Paid Surveys', states that it is a customer employment firm using 'mystery shopping' to assist companies in improving customer service. Recipients are told they have been chosen as a secret shopper and will be paid £350 for their first assignment, said to involve posing as a potential customer at a number of retailers to evaluate their service. Recipients are asked to contact an agent for detailed instructions. A cheque made out to the recipient and allegedly backed by a reputable bank, is attached to the mailing to cover pay and other expenses. The victim is instructed to cash the cheque and then complete one of their assignments by posing as a customer of a money transfer agency and wiring £1,500 to a fake 'relative' at an address in Canada. But the cheque is counterfeit and the cash goes to the scammer. Victims could lose over £1,500.

Sports Update with chrisjlines@aol.com

I must apologise in advance for monopolising this month's update with a focus on a particular passion of mine. I admit now that it hasn't got a great deal to do with actually keeping fit and healthy, other than in the numerical dexterity sense! For 11 months, we hear virtually nothing about the sport of darts (whether this is actually a sport at all is a moot point to some). Then, around the turn of the year, two events take place in quick succession, both claiming to be the World Championships. I'll explain. First to the oche is the Professional Darts Corporation's (PDC) top tungsten fest. This event boasts the backing of Sky TV and the money that comes with that, along with players such as 13 times world champion Phil "The Power" Taylor (he's won both versions), Raymond van Barneveld (who's also won both), Wayne "Hawaii 5-0" Mardle and Peter "One Dart" Manley. The PDC World Championships, held at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet, are slick, glitzy and heavily promoted by Sky. The doyen of darts commentators, Sid Waddell, the voice of the event (supported by Dave Lanning and John Gwynne), waxes lyrical about the sporting prowess and ability of the likes of Taylor. Waddell's remarkable use of hyperbole and metaphor really has to be experienced first hand. This year, the final was a classic encounter between Taylor and PDC newcomer Barneveld, which the latter eventually won in a nail biting final set on New Year's Day. Then there's the rival British Darts Organisation (BDO) event, held for over 20 years at The Lakeside, Frimley Green. Broadcast by the BBC, this has the longer heritage of the two. The first BDO World Championships, held in 1978, was won by Leighton Rees (whose physique was unambiguously 'dart-ish'). In the early years, classic arrow throwers such as Eric Bristow, John Lowe and Jocky Wilson dominated the event and its image was not exactly a picture of health (for a ruthless lampoon, see the classic Not the Nine O'clock News sketch on Youtube. Since the 'schism' of the early 1990s that led to the formation of the PDC, other players have come to the fore in the BDO, such as Martin "Wolfie" Adams, Ted "The Count" Hankey (who arrives on stage in full Dracula costume distributing small rubber bats to his

adoring fans), John "Boy" Walton and Andy "The Viking" Fordham. Fordham won the event in 2004 and is a very popular figure. He is almost literally larger than life (weighing in at anything between 26 and 30 stones) and not too long ago stated that he warmed up for each match with 20 bottles of lager and six steak and kidney pies. This year, he was taken ill and didn't play his first round tie against Australian Simon Whitlock, otherwise known as - wait for it - the Wizard of Oz.

Like some other sports I could mention, darts is dominated by a very few nations and the only country to really rival those from the UK has been the Netherlands. Raymond van Barneveld won the BDO title four times before defecting to the PDC, while last year's winner on the BBC was a 22 year old wonder-kid called Jelle Klaasen, who himself has just crossed to the PDC with two of his

countrymen. Klaasen is not a typical dart-ist. He is young, slim and photogenic, so clearly doesn't have a future in the game!

I love darts - the nicknames, the dodgy walk on music, the 'controversy' (without fail there is always some apparent 'aggro' between players during the PDC event, which generates headlines in the press - mainly those titles owned by Sky TV owner Rupert Murdoch - that help the viewing figures), the shiny shirts, the nicknames, the masters of ceremony ("Let's Play Darts" and all that), the commentary, the crowds and of course the brilliance of much of the actual dart-istry. I'm a traditionalist at heart, so although I watch both events, my heart is with the BDO World Championships on the BBC. Yes, it's in need of a makeover (which has started to happen in stages over the last couple of years) and is regularly shipping players to the more lucrative PDC, but it remains my favourite (I'm tired of Waddell's hero worship of Taylor and prefer Tony Green's

The Bookworm - a sporting life

Local author and sports fanatic Steven Chaytor has published his latest book and given Sedgefield Racecourse (see above) a starring role.

'Watching Sport Without TV' (NORTHERN SPORTS VENUES THROUGH THE EYES OF A MAN WITHOUT A SATELLITE DISH) is part plea and part direct order to stop watching so much TV and get out to see some live sport instead - a much more satisfying experience.

The book covers sixteen venues and nine sports, from European football to local league cricket and it details the good, the bad and the funny of being there in person. The visit to Sedgefield races on a bitter January afternoon is indeed raw - about as raw as it gets, actually! It features the author taking an Irish friend racing for the first time and he 'guesses' the first four winners (insert your own comments about the luck of the Irish).

Described in early press reviews as 'an invigorating...vivid taste of north east life in the raw' and as having 'a unique kind of humour', Steve's latest offering sounds like a must for sporting bookworms.

'Watching Sport Without TV' is available from all the usual high street and online booksellers for £6.99 or more conveniently, from Sedgefield Post Office and Library. As it says in the book, "choose an event and go buy a ticket".



If you have enjoyed a particularly good read, why not share it with the rest of us? Send your review to **Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ** or email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

words of wisdom on the BBC). This year, and here's the local connection, the BDO final was fought out between Martin "Wolfie" Adams and Phill "Ferryhill Flyer" Nixon. Nixon was a virtual unknown when the event began, but was the surprise of the championships as he arrowed his way to the final. His local fame spread as the likes of the Northern Echo followed his progress, giving him great press coverage as he reached the latter stages of the tournament. Although Adams eventually won the title, Nixon fought back from a seemingly hopeless situation to take the match to the wire and prove that he deserved his place in the final. Along with Phill Nixon, three other players from North East England reached the latter stages – Davy Richardson, Tony Eccles and Gary Robson. I hope that they all stick with the BDO and the Beeb – it's the real home of darts and provides an entertaining and compelling start to the sporting year.

Although inspired by a month of darting heaven to hunt out my own darts & board (reminding me how incompetent I am with tungsten!), this doesn't really help me get fit again after the festive season, so it's good to see there are plenty of other options for those who have made sporting resolutions.

Sedgefield Harriers

The Harriers kicked off 2007 with their Winter Invitation Handicap on Sunday 14th January. The 6½ mile course followed an undulating and scenic multi-terrain route, taking in Fishburn and Bishop Middleham, using off road trails and old railway routes.

Despite freezing cold temperatures, a flooded car park, and a wind-chill to deter even the brave, there was a good turn out. 33 runners took part, representing clubs including Billingham Marsh Harriers, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, NE Veterans and of course Sedgefield Harriers. The Harriers' best results were a Hetherington double. Gary came in first position (Veteran 45 Men's category and overall) in a race time of 37mins 10secs, while Amanda put in a great run to finish second for the women (V40W) in a time of 51:24. Overall winner of the women's race was Susan Milburn of Newton Aycliffe finishing in 50:03. Sedgefield Harrier Gail Bell was third placed for the women (Senior Women's) in 49.42. The fastest time of the day was put in by Ian Twaddle of Durham with 35:35.

Based on the handicap scoring system he finished second overall. Full results on the Harriers website. The course was well marshalled and timed by non competing Harriers and family members – a big thanks from the club to all of them. A Summer Handicap Run will be run on the same course – all runners welcome.

Proud to Wear the Vest

Replica shirts of our local football teams are in strong evidence around Sedgefield at the weekends and are always worn with pride and a sense of belonging. On most Sunday mornings the same thing happens in reverse – and there is no less feeling of pride! Most local races have a strong contingent of Sedgefield Harriers competing and wearing the vest with pride representing the club and the town. Fame is spreading wide and the club is often recognised by race organisers when the names are taken and race numbers handed out. At the Old Monk 6 race at Hart on 7th January Sedgefield also had representation when the awards were being made. Sedgefield's own Gary Hetherington finished 3rd for the men and Rosie Sims was 3rd in the women's race. The Sedgefield vest has been seen at large events like the London Marathon and the Great North Run as well as at local events including the Northumberland Coastal Run, the Blaydon Race, Raby Castle, Redcar, Loftus, Nottingham, North Tyneside, South Shields and more. Some of the runners enjoy(?) fell racing, competing over the North York Moors and the Durham Fells. To 'fly the flag' on their own streets the Harriers wear their vest when running in the monthly time trial which starts and finishes at the Community College on the last Wednesday of every month. Wherever they are racing there is a

collective feeling of pride when the Harriers pull on their distinctive blue and white vest and line up for the start. The club meets outside Sedgefield Community College on Wednesday & Friday evenings at 6.30pm and Sundays at 8.30 am. New members always welcome, see www.sedgefieldharriers.com or call 07771 828568.

Rugby

If you are a rugby union player or would like to take up the sport, you may be interested to hear that some like-minded enthusiasts hope to reform a senior team for Sedgefield and start a junior team. An open meeting takes place at 7pm on 31st January in the Golden Lion to gauge interest and discuss next steps. If you don't get this issue of the newsletter in time and want to know more, please call James Forster on 07956 930005.

Cricket

Early warning: Sedgefield Cricket Club will soon be preparing for the new season with nets sessions. Sedgefield enjoyed an outstanding 2006 and looks forward to building on that success this year. Nets will take place on Sundays at the club for five weeks from 11th March, 2-4pm. For further information call Martin Lower on 07862 715006.

Football

Can you help Crosshills FC create a club badge? Club management has accepted that its own design efforts have not really worked (that's the polite version). If you think you can help please email me or call 623090.

As ever, please send your sporting to chrisjlines@aol.com. I'm off to prepare for a career in darts – I need to work on my physique, buy a shiny shirt and develop an oche persona and a corny nickname. Lastly, I'll have to learn how to hit the board! That's all for now from Chris "Double Yellow" Lines.

Hardwick Hall Marquee noise open letter to management & residents

1. Measurement of noise levels: this should be carried out by the management of Hardwick Hall throughout the event [an accurate enough noise meter can be bought for less than £80]. Sedgefield Borough Council cannot be contacted until the next working day. Police have sufficient powers to confiscate equipment if a continuing nuisance has been reported; concerts at the end of the year attracted that level of complaint.

2. Opposition to "The Manor Born" concerts resulted in representation to the Borough Licensing Committee. In the period of "consultation" leading up to the 2005 Manor Born concert the organizing company - Blend - issued a whole forest of documents which included: "Overview of noise containment and monitoring"

1) Noise is defined as a problem should it cause true disturbance to others, causing genuine hardship. These can include interrupting the pleasure of watching television to stopping people sleeping or waking them once asleep.

2) We define a disturbance if noise is audible at the point of disturbance, i.e. sitting in front of the television or in a bedroom. Should access to a property not be available the following calculation can be made to judge disturbance from the front door or as close a reasonable to the exterior of the property. For frequencies below 500 Hz Noise levels of a maximum 3Db above ambient are allowable.

For frequencies above 500 Hz Noise levels of a maximum 3Db above ambient are allowable. This is the safe noise-reducing factor of the average UK building. If buildings have windows and doors open these figures will be readdressed at the point of disturbance.

3) All noise pollution requires a mixture of scientific measurement, human hearing and common sense adjudication within guidelines set by the event and local authorities."

I note that at least one government guidance document suggests that the maximum noise level at the boundary of the premises, in this case Hardwick Hall Hotel should not exceed 65 dB(A) so as to avoid unnecessary disturbance to neighbours. However the Licensing Committee refused to issue a license with limits on the noise levels - being satisfied with an assurance from Hardwick Hall and its solicitor.

3. Music at the recent concerts, at all frequencies, penetrated my house from ca 9-10pm until midnight or later. Normal ambient noise at my property is around 65dB(C)/55dB(A): at about 11 pm last night (16th) the noise was more or less constant at 84dB(C). My boundary is about 500 metres from Hardwick Hall boundary. It seems to me that the Hardwick management team permits its marquee musicians to crank up the volume willy nilly, presumably on the 'never mind the quality feel the width' principle.

R. Smeeton

Farmers' Market Report

Some stallholders take a well earned break in January but there were still 9 stalls at the Market: Mellanby's (vegetables), Larberry Farm (beef, lamb & eggs), Patterson's (fish), Rushyford Game, Northumberland Cheese, Broom Mill Farm (pork & beef), Low Leazes (organic vegetables) Joanne Martin (cakes) and Ings Meadow (plants)

We thought that trade would be slow but the residents of Sedgefield are very loyal and business was surprisingly good. A big thank you to those of you who braved the horrible weather - it's very much appreciated!

February should see the return of Pickled Pink Preserves, Burtree Farm, Loopy Lisa, Weardale Soup and Skinningrove Wine.

If you haven't visited the market before - come and find us on the Village Green to see good quality, proper, local food on your doorstep. The next market is on Sunday 11th February. Hope to

Scouting - 100 years young

On Saturday 20th January young Scouts from Sedgefield launched the centenary year in spectacular fashion, with a balloon for every member, from the youngest Beaver Scout to the oldest Leader.

The balloons took to the air from Ferryhill, one of the highest points in the Scout District, and extra balloons were needed because numbers locally are increasing steadily. For the past five years the message has gone from youngster to youngster that they enjoy Scouting. It seems it is not just the youngsters who are getting the message; adults can also be involved and have fun. District Commissioner, Ian Johnson, said "Scouting reaches far and wide, just like these balloons. This spectacle shows everybody how Scouting is fun. We will be enjoying ourselves for the full year".

The Bishop Auckland Scout District boasts eighteen meetings every week locally, as well as nine Explorer Scouts (including some from Sedgefield travelling to join 40, 000 others for a lifetime experience at the World Scout Jamboree in July and August.

You can learn more about the Scout Movement from Ian Johnson on 0845 0944 084 or at

**bishopauckland@
durhamscouts.org.uk**

Sedgefield Singaround

Charity Night

Saturday 10th February

Hope Inn, Sedgefield (Backroom)

8.00pm – 11.00pm

£2.50 (Pay at the door)

*Come along and
listen, sing, play
and enjoy.*



WIND POWER: This month the 'pros' respond

ACE - Alliance for Clean Energy

Sadly, a small group of opponents of a proposed wind farm near Sedgefield are spreading myths and misinformation about wind turbines. The actions of SWAT (Sedgefield and Wynyard Against Turbines) are very irresponsible as they are causing unnecessary alarm and fear, especially to elderly people. It is completely wrong to suggest that wind turbines are detrimental to human health, as SWAT claims. No such problems have been experienced in Denmark, with a wind turbine density currently around 30 times that of the UK.

Fortunately, ACE, a local pro-wind group has formed to support Butterwick Moor Wind Farm; to set the record straight and give voice to the vast majority of people who support wind power. Our first action was to report SWAT to the Advertising Standards Authority for making unsubstantiated and untruthful claims. We are awaiting the ASA's verdict on two separate complaints, and are confident that they will be upheld.

Residents should therefore take SWAT's claims with a very large pinch of salt - and SWAT should be very careful about any further literature it may decide to publish. We must have a calm and reasonable debate, based purely on the facts. Level heads must prevail. Very shortly, ACE will circulate its own leaflet about wind power, with information from respected and accredited sources.

New nuclear power stations would completely undermine the renewable energy revolution. Not only are they extremely dangerous and expensive - they are also completely unnecessary. A combination of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency measures and decentralised energy (power produced near where it used) can provide us with all the power we need. Wind power is a vital part of this clean energy mix and has a massive job to do in terms of drastically cutting our CO2 emissions as well as helping to destroy the case for nuclear new-build. Nuclear can't even make a significant impact on the global warming front. Building 10 new nuclear reactors would only deliver a 4 per cent cut in CO2 emissions by 2024, even at the most optimistic build rate: too little, too late to help combat climate chaos.

Wind power is a vital part of the solution to climate chaos. It is clean, safe, cheap and ready to go now. It's popular, too. In poll after poll, 80% of people support wind farms, with less than 10% against. We are convinced that the vast majority of residents of Sedgefield, Trimdon, Fishburn and Wynyard support the Butterwick Moor project and that our support can lead to planning permission being granted.

For more information or to support the ACE campaign, please contact me, *E. J. Joss*, on **07833527379**

Wind: A Powerful Attraction

Over ten thousand people flocked to their local wind farm this August Bank Holiday to experience the real power of wind energy and to enjoy a host of free activities for the family. The 'Wind Weekend' event encouraged people to visit one of the flagship wind farms opening across the UK as part of a national celebration of wind energy.

Yet in this area we seem opposed to change, why do we only see the negative side of having a local wind farm? The UK's first commercial wind farm at Delabole in Cornwall received 350,000 visitors in its ten years of operation. Wind Farm developers are often asked to provide a visitor centre, viewing platforms and rights of way to their sites. If this is the case, this will encourage tourism, as they are often user-friendly sites.

The primary concern is not the efficiency for its own sake, but to improve productivity in order to bring the price of wind energy down. In other words, Wind Farms will reduce the price of electricity bills through time. The electricity generated by wind power will never run out, whereas resources of fossil fuels are reckoned to run out within the next fifteen years. This is why we, the community, have to make the change for the future. Not only will fossil fuels run out, but we also know that burning coal, oil and the like is leading to long term changes in our weather that could be costly and harmful. I can even notice the changes in the weather recently.

Let's power our homes using clean energy from renewable sources! I've visited a wind farm and seeing the turbine blades sweeping through the air with only a whisper was quite a surprise. Standing near the foot of the turbine my friends and I could quite comfortably hold

a conversation. Thanks to advances in wind turbine technology, well-designed, well-sited turbines can be quiet enough to cause no disturbance to people living just a few hundred metres away. At these distances, any noise they do make is usually drowned out by the natural noise of the wind itself in the trees and vegetation. So for those living near, there will not need to be any worries.

I can understand worry and I can understand concern, but if we as a community at least try and understand the reasons behind this Wind Farm and how it can benefit us, we can be a leader in renewable energy, and an example to other communities who fear the Wind Farm, and the *'terrible stigma it will bring'* we can show there is better way. *Keith Royal*

Wind Farms

At the beginning of this year two of our older nuclear power stations closed down for good. In the next few years several more will close. Britain urgently needs to build more power stations, nuclear, conventional, wind and wave. We must not depend on one type of generator or on one foreign source such as Russian gas.

Is it not somewhat hypocritical of the anonymous SWAT writers to complain about the "irreversible ruination of our fast diminishing countryside" when their huge estate at Wynyard was built on beautiful classical parkland? The wind turbines that I have seen around the country look, in my opinion, to be quite majestic, unlike the coal and gas fired stations with their accompanying huge cooling towers. The point about cement production is irrelevant, as all power generators use a large amount of cement, particularly nuclear. There is no evidence of wind farms impacting on peoples' health. At Butterwick footpaths and bridleways will be enhanced.

The public should be aware of scaremongering through misinformation before making any decisions to oppose the plans. I am very much in favour of the proposed wind farm development at Butterwick. *Haydn Neal*

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL has arranged an OPEN MEETING on Thursday 1st February at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

EON, who have applied for permission to erect 10 turbines on Butterwick Moor, will give a presentation and answer questions.

February Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Sunshine Corner

Bible stories & fun for pre-school children. **Fridays 10am – 11am**

Wind Farm Open Meeting

Thursday 1st February
Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 3rd February

Doors open 7pm - Eyes down 7.45
Cash Prizes, Bar open
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Quiz Night

Saturday 3rd February

presented by Ryan Davey
Bar opens 7.30 pm for 8 pm start
Everyone's welcome!

Local History Society

Monday February 5th

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Annual General Meeting

John Jenkin will bring a selection of "Bygones" Come and see if you can identify them!
Everybody welcome!

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th February

in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Tommy Johnson talking on

Garden Chrysanthemums

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

Tuesday 6th February

in the Parish Hall at 7 pm -

All Welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 7th February

89th Birthday Dinner

7:15pm Parish Hall

nb Members to arrive 6:45 for 7pm

Sedgefield Civic Trust

The next meeting will be held on

Thursday 8th February

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

Everybody welcome

Sedgefield Twinning Association

Saturday 10th February

Dinner at 7.30 followed by AGM at

8.45pm and planning for

25th Anniversary - *All welcome*

For meal (£8) contact

Nancy Wells on 620467

Sedgefield Singaround

Saturday 10th February

8pm at the Hope Inn (Details p.8)

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 11th February

on the Village Green

Sedgefield Town Council

Monday 12th February at 7pm

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 19th February

7pm Sedgefield Library

Please note change of time and venue for this meeting only

Members' Queries and

Problems Evening

Bring along your own family history research; perhaps we can help with finding those elusive ancestors

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th February

in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

Demonstration by Mildred Stafford

Steel, Style and Simplicity

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 22nd February

at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall

Durham Otters with Terry Coult

Contact Steve Ashton on 620559

Everybody welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night

Saturday 24th February at 8pm

Main guest – Mambo Jambo

Also featuring

Huggins and Muggins,

John Weighell, Andy Joyce and the

John Wrightson Band

Admission £8 includes buffet

Tel. 621347

The Cricket Club is available for hire for private parties, free of charge.

To book, ring 620927

February at the Library

Tickle Time Songs, rhymes, etc for babies to 18 months.

Monday 5th February 2.15 - 3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesday 7th February

Stories, songs & rhymes for under 5's, from 10am - 11am

Stay & Play Toy Library

Wednesday 28th February

10am - 11am

Book circle

Wednesday 21st February

2pm - 3pm

Half Term Crafts - look out for 'what's on' in the library

101 Gigs in February

Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory

Friday 2nd February 7:30pm

Pyramids in the Sky

Friday 16th February 7:30pm

What's Up in the night sky?

Fridays 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd February 9pm

Public Observing outdoors

If you know anyone lucky enough to be given a telescope for Xmas, bring them along to the

TELESCOPE CLUB

Friday 23rd February 7.30pm

in the Planetarium. There should be plenty of volunteers on hand to help out. Tel: 01642 365119

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Friday mornings

in the Parish Hall

St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings on Thursdays: 6.30 - 7.30pm

... and in March ...

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 3rd & 31st March

Local History Society

Monday 5th March -

County Archaeologist

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th March - Orchids

Mayor's Charity Dance

March 2nd

Contact Sedgefield Town Council
Telephone **621273**

S.W.A.T - Sedgefield and Wynyard against turbines - would like to thank everyone for the truly amazing response, which we have received from the people of Sedgefield and surrounding areas.

Much more on the Wind Turbine debate on page 9

Renee Chapman

It was nice to read that Tim Jasper has been successful in the Sid Chaplin Short Story Competition. Congratulations, Tim.

However, it is about Mrs Renee Chaplin that I would like to write. Renee was my Sunday School teacher, way back in the 40s at Ferryhill Station Methodist Chapel, along with her friend Sadie Woodward and the Wilson sisters (I can't remember their Christian names), and Arthur & Harry Bulman & Wilf Myers.

I am sure they must have found it difficult, at times, to teach us about Jesus and the Christian religion, but they persevered!

It was nice to see the photograph of Renee, still going strong. Of the other teachers, I know that Arthur Bulman is still working with Ferryhill Village Methodist Chapel, where, in his nineties, he still plays the organ, regularly! Well done and keep going, to Renee and Arthur, and to any of the others who may read this.

David Hillerby

Your Letters

Dental Provision Changes

My husband and I have read with interest, the articles and letters related to the cessation of NHS dental care in Sedgefield. Although we are unaffected by the Sedgefield practice, as our Dentist of over three decades is in Stockton, we were affected in February 2006 with his withdrawal from NHS dentistry services controlled by North Tees PCT.

I would like to point out that the Care Plan offered by the Sedgefield Dentist is by no means the *only* plan available when dentists decide to offer private treatment rather than NHS treatment. In contrast to what seems to have occurred in this village, our Dentist informed patients of his decision and offered private health care under the guise of a monthly insurance package with an established company. Whilst it is true to say that under the NHS we collectively paid on average £100 a year for twice-yearly check-ups and the occasional filling, and under the monthly contract we now pay £30 (a substantial increase), *we do not pay for treatment or inspections at each visit.*

Registration with another Dentist. Another misconception seems to be that the PCT will give

patients names of other NHS dentists with whom to register. In February I did ring the PCT and request another NHS Dentist (our practice at that time was only one of two who chose not to accept the new contract). I was told, in no uncertain terms, that although two dentists had registered their interest in having additional patients, I could *'write to them to request our names be added to their waiting list'*. In no way were we guaranteed other NHS Dental Care by either of the two dentists in Eaglescliffe and Hartlepool. I was also told in no uncertain terms that as I had last seen my dentist for a check-up four months previously, I had over a year to find a dentist as *'NHS Dentists would only be paid for seeing a patient every 18 months'*.

Clearly this was unacceptable to us as patients and to our Dentist, who wished to provide a professional, thorough service. Accordingly, we joined the scheme and regard ourselves as fortunate that whilst our Dentist reduced his patient numbers by almost two-thirds, we were amongst the third to remain with him. It is more costly, *but* we still have six-monthly appointments and the time our Dentist spends with each individual greatly exceeds the time previously available. Having had a colleague whose Dentist alerted him to the fact he had throat cancer, the autocratic way the NHS decided it was not necessary for patients to be seen every 6 months, and for the allocated consultancy time to be so diminished, filled me with dread. To date our Dentist sees the children of his registered patients on the NHS.

I hope this offers previously misunderstood information on

A) an alternative way of paying for private dental care, rather than the privilege of being registered with a practice and paying additionally for treatment, and B) the fact that registration with another NHS dentist is not automatic. Good luck to those who are searching for other NHS provision, and to the community who hope to attract NHS dentistry to this village.

Roslyn Willis

STAR LETTER *A beautiful ambition fulfilled*



In an earlier Sedgefield News it was mentioned that there may be bulb planting in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds. I would just like to say that my husband Ian with a little help from myself has already planted at least 2,200 daffodil bulbs in the grounds.

Ever since we moved into our bungalow, it has been one of the things that Ian has always wanted to do; we walk the paths round the ponds at least once a day and have always said the

grounds needed some brightening up.

At last this year, after obtaining permission from the council, Ian set to with his bulbs and has planted both sides of the main path from the hall up to and a little beyond where the path branches off to Eden Drive.

The last few yards were planted a few days before Ian went into hospital for major surgery on a cancerous growth in his mouth and jaw. Luckily his operation has been successful, although the treatment is ongoing and recovery will take a long, long time.

I noticed recently that the bulbs are starting to push through the ground and by Spring, hopefully there will be a good display of daffodils for people to enjoy for years to come. For myself, I only thank the Lord that Ian is still with us to enjoy the fruits of his labours as he walks our old dog around the pathways of the hall.

Yours sincerely, Connie Spring



the community-based regeneration network

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

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