

# Sedgfield News

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

## January 2007

### Citizen of the Year 2006

The Sedgfield Citizen of the Year award is jointly organised by three groups, Sedgfield Town Council, the Rotary Club of Sedgfield, and Sedgfield Development Trust and has been running since Millennium year. Billy Cooper and Allan Smart were early winners and in 2002 Wendy Gill was the first woman to be given the award. Derrick Lofthouse took the next award for his many contributions to village life then Joan Edmundson, whose musical fundraising is legendary. Last year's winner was Jackie Postgate, Tawny Owl to countless Guides and Brownies.

#### The 2006 award

John Fitzpatrick, speaking for the Trust, allowed comments from the nomination forms to paint a word picture of this year's recipient: - "She's 'there' most days of the week, (there, by the way, is Ceddesfeld Hall) sorting out one problem or another - a toilet seat broken, a wash basin cracked, torn carpets, vandalism, stolen goods". "She does a tremendous amount of unseen work" and "if she grumbles from time to time, she is dedicated"! This "behind the scenes person" must have "nearly as many responsibilities as the keys she carries", and "will always help out if asked". All this gives an insight into the workload of the Ceddesfeld Hall Housekeeper.

**Yes of course, it's Nancy Wells** - the "larger than life personality" who is also the good woman behind well known front man, Keith!



from left: Mel Broadbelt & Basil Watson, **Nancy Wells**, John Fitzpatrick, Pat Buckley and Mayor, Cllr. Dudley Waters. 'Lirica' entertained the guests - see p.6

Basil Watson for the Rotary Club spoke why the Rotarians sponsor awards like this - particularly the honouring of people who make an enormous contribution to our community largely without recognition. With that in mind they decided to sponsor the event with a series of certificates and a piece of art work, which this year was a Crystal Glass Biscuit Barrel. Nancy was presented with the award by Mayor of Sedgfield, Dudley Waters, at the Mayor's Cheese and Wine reception. He has been an SCA colleague for many years, and reeled off a very long list of other areas where our new Citizen of the Year has made an impact: Scouts, St Edmunds Guild, Twinning, the Gardening club, to name but a few. He also paid tribute to her mince pies and

sausage rolls! She has of course provided good food for countless events over the years. A worthy addition to a proud roll call.

**Amongst other awards**, that to an astonished Rana Coates (below) for her brave action in saving a child from certain injury, was very well received. (Rana writes on p2)



**Clearly having a great time!**  
**Sedgfield Community College students (left) and their German counterparts (right)**  
**Article page 3**



## Adult Community Learning Co-ordinator Rana Coates writes:

May I firstly wish readers a very happy 2007! Secondly I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone who thought me worthy of a Special Commendation, which I received at the Mayor's Christmas event. I would like to say now the words that failed me that evening. What I did on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005 when I stopped a pram rolling down Hardwick Arms car park, was what anyone else would have done under the circumstances. All I can say is thank God I was there. I did break the bone on the side of my foot whilst catching the pram that unfortunately did not heal as it should. It required a bone graft operation which I had in May, and a lengthy spell off work. But, if ever in the same situation I would do it again. September saw me back at Education in the Community and ready for action with Adult Learning Courses in Sedgefield & Fishburn. Unfortunately since getting back to work there have been some cut-backs by Durham County Council, which have seen Development Workers for Education in the Community re-applying for their jobs. Although at present I do not

know if I have been successful in retaining my position, I still plan to continue offering Adult Community Learning programmes throughout Sedgefield if we are successful in gaining the funding to do so.

**It is my intention to be at 58 Front Street from 9.30am till 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday during term time, starting 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

I will offer Information Advice and Guidance on Adult Education and Careers and also take names and to promote Adult Community Learning Courses. Please feel free to drop in for a cup of tea and chat at any time I am there.

### Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall Association

New Year's Message from the Chair

Well, another year has nearly come to a close so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for his or her support with the village hall. We have had a terrific year! The events that we have put on have raised a substantial amount so it gives us a very good boost to our fund-raising for a much-needed extension. A special mention to John Wade for the generosity he has shown. Not only did he allow us to hold a barbeque on his premises, he has also funded the whole event giving all proceeds to the village hall. The only thing the committee had to organise were the raffle and auction prizes, which were very kindly donated by people of the parish and local businesses. We raised a staggering £4,500, so many thanks to all who donated. Also, can I thank the members of the committee for all their hard work. A Happy New Year to you all! *Wendy Sayers*

### What are you doing on Wednesday 10th January?

You could come to the 'Zone' at 58 Front Street to find out about **'Test the Community'**

It's a new national qualification in English and Maths which is equivalent to a GCSE. So what would you get out of it? Well, a certificate to start with. But also it could improve your career prospects and it *will* boost your confidence. The FREE test only takes an hour and we will help you prepare for it with friendly support & advice. Please come along, and meet course leaders Joe & Tina.

The session runs from 1.30 - 3.30pm and remember - it's **FREE!**

## Youth worker Ellen Barker reports:

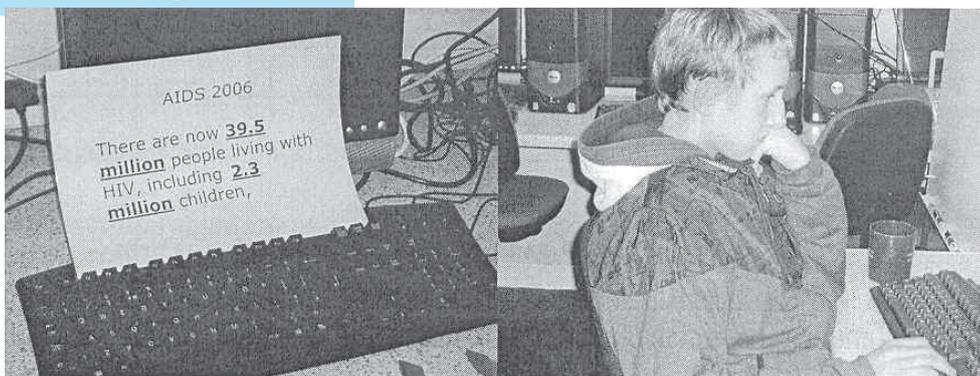
*Issue based work at the Health Drop-in*

As the local Youth Worker I was delighted to see 'Be fair to young people' - December's very positive letter about young people. It's good to break through the stereotypes.

I run a Health Drop-in on Tuesday and Thursday at 3.30-5pm at 58 Front Street (beside the Fish Shop) and have recently secured funding to develop a Youth Club at the Parish Hall. The age range I work with is 13-19 and it would be lovely to see new faces at both ventures. Part of my role is to provide access to information and guidance for young people and this is the main aim of the health drop-in. The young people that attend have really taken ownership of the provision and are keen to participate in any issue based work we do. In the past 6 months we have worked with over 60 young people, the majority being male - in itself important, because across the country young males are under-represented in this form of youth work.

The drop-in provides a safe environment for young people to explore their beliefs and values and to question their position in society. We give them the opportunity to express their opinions, through issue-based work on topics like drugs, alcohol, STI's and crime. We also provide an opportunity to get involved in accreditation, which allows the young person to develop their interests or opinions further and receive a certificate for their efforts.

Other important provisions at the health drop-in are the C-card programme and more recently the Chlamydia screening programme. Providing this service outside the



usual medical facilities can reduce embarrassment and avoid any stigma that may be attached in accessing a sexual health service. I have seen a number of young people and with each visit their confidence has grown and their attitudes have started to change. Through their involvement in the health drop-in a group of young people were given the opportunity to take part in a residential stay in the Lake District, where they experienced a number of extreme sports such as Kayaking, Gorge walking and Rock climbing (below) There is a youth club in Fishburn five nights a week, Trimdon Village Youth Club is open three nights a week and there's a junior session



on Thursdays. The Rural Youth Project provides mobile sessions in the Trimdons and Fishburn. These sessions allow youth workers like myself to engage with a large number of young people in the Sedgefield 'Corridor', which coincides largely with the Community College catchment. Each club also develops its own summer programme but there will always be young people who do not want to participate, and as youth workers we have to respect their views and opinions.

If you have any questions or wish to be involved in youth work please contact me on 01740 623585 or email ellenbarker@hotmail.co.uk

## *continued from front page:* German Exchange success

Earlier this year Sedgefield Community College organised a German Exchange visit with Sedgefield's twin town, Hamminkeln, which is in NW Germany. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 14 German exchange students from Hamminkeln came over to England and stayed with host students from Sedgefield Community College for one week. During that week many special friendships were formed and, although they were in different parts of Europe, all the students managed to keep in touch with each other. The College then arranged for the English students to go back over to Hamminkeln and stay with their German exchange student and their family. However, only 8 of the English students went back to Hamminkeln on 18<sup>th</sup> October, returning to England on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The exchange proved to be very successful and many remarkable bonds have been formed with all the exchange students and their families. The 8 students who went back over to Germany are arranging for their German exchanges to come back over to England for another week next summer; however, they are arranging it among themselves as they will have left school by then. All the students said it was an amazing experience and hope that their friendships last forever.

## Sunshine Corner

Sunshine Corner meets for an hour in the Methodist Church hall on Friday mornings and is a fun way for pre-school children to learn a little about the Bible.

A typical session includes singing, a short Bible story and an activity. We also take a break for drinks and biscuits.

We make a small charge of £1 which includes coffee or tea for carers and juice and biscuits for the children. All pre-school children and their carers are welcome.

**Our first meeting of 2007 is on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 10 a.m.**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



#### STOP BOGUS CALLERS – PREVENT DISTRACTION BURGLARY

**HOW?** Your local Neighbourhood Watch group firmly believe that Durham Trading Standard's initiative to set up **Doorstep Crime Awareness Zones** is the best method available to the public tried to date. Recently Trading Standards Service joined forces with Police & Neighbourhood Watch to launch 4 new **Doorstep Crime Awareness Zones** in Bowburn, Ushaw Moor, Nettlesworth & Bishop Auckland, where 94% of residents pledged their support.

The aim is to deter unwanted cold callers at the door, and a similar scheme in Shotton Colliery has seen a dramatic fall in the number of bogus caller offences since it was set up a year ago. The project will be developed and rolled out across other areas of the County through Neighbourhood Watch Groups and other community organisations.

"We're not trying to stop cold callers altogether, as this is obviously not realistic" said David Young from Durham Agency Against Crime, which is working with Durham Council to tackle the problem. "Instead, we're looking to deter the Bogus Officials and make people aware that if they have any doubts about the caller, they don't have to let them in."

To join the scheme you simply display a sticker indicating that you don't wish to be troubled by cold callers.

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch are fully supportive of this initiative and wish to see it come to our village sooner rather than later. What does the rest of the village think; is there anyone who doesn't see the benefit especially for the elderly and vulnerable in our community (the usual targets of this type of nasty crime)?

#### Relevant Telephone Numbers:

##### Community Warden Tim Spearey

at Sedgefield: **623654** or via Chilton Control Room: **01388 721351**

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

#### For advice or assistance: -

**Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714**

**Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Sarah Norman: 01325 742755**

## PC Todd reports

Recently we have seen an increase in the number of bogus callers around the county, including in Sedgefield. On one such occasion a male and female knocked on the door of an elderly resident and asked to come in to write a note for a neighbour, who they wanted to visit. On leaving minutes later they had managed to make a search and left with a quantity of money. It later transpired that no note was left with the neighbour. **If in doubt, keep them out!** Do not let anyone into your house unless you are 100% sure they are genuine, and report anything suspicious.

Other recent crimes include poison damage to greenhouse plants; damage to garden fence; Theft of garden solar lights; burglary - motorcycle taken from garage.

I would like to thank all the people of Sedgefield who supported and gave donations to my recent Charity Parachute Jump.

I raised £606 for the Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

#### Pub Watch

At a recent meeting held in the Black Lion pub only one report was received regarding an incident in a member premises and persons are helping the police with their enquiries.

Enjoy what remains of the festive season - and a happy, safe new year to all. *Keith*

## Sponsored Walk update

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for supporting Tim & me on our sponsored walk back in October. We are sorry it has taken so long to give you feedback, but it was only last week when we finished collecting the last of the money. With your help we raised £791.93. **A VERY BIG THANK YOU!**

Overall we managed to raise £1084.73 from the sponsored walk & the Exhibition. After expenses and a quiz prize totalling £216.58 we were left with a balance of £868.15.

We have given the Sedgefield Scout Group £40 for services rendered, towards St Edmund's Explorer Scouts, Tom Watson & Jonathan Dunn attending the 2007 World Jamboree; we also propose to give a cheque each of £150 to SSAFA and McMillan Nurses, leaving a balance of £528.15 to take forward into next year and help us to raise the £20,000 plus that we require to put on the re-enactment we have proposed for the weekend of 19-20-21 October 2007. A copy of the figures is available at the Council Offices.

**We certainly need everyone's support to achieve this and all our other plans.** Our next meeting is on January 18th (see Diary page) so PLEASE DO TRY TO COME ALONG! A Happy and Prosperous New Year to one and all.

*Tim Spearey & David Hillerby*

## Sedgefield Veterans: 2007 notes

At Easter we have been invited to take the exhibition to National Railway Museum at Shildon (more details later) then we hope to have a stall at the Mediaeval Fayre in May. 27th June, National Veterans Day; a service in St Edmunds Church. Rev Michael Gobbett has agreed the date but we need to fill in the details yet. We hope it will have a "Falklands" theme as it is 25 years since that conflict.

October: a Re-enactment with a WW2 theme, probably French Resistance attacking 'Chateau Ceddesfeld' plus (hopefully) a fly-past. There will be other events at the same time in other parts of the Village and in The Trimdons.

November; wreath-laying at both Sedgefield and Winterton Memorials, this time both on the same day as Remembrance Day is on Sunday 11th (Winterton in the afternoon, probably 2pm). We hope to have a standard and possibly a band with help from Trimdon Branch of Royal British Legion.

We hope to have another sponsored walk with much more participation to raise even more cash. More details later, just a taste to whet a few appetites. WE DO NEED A LOT OF HELP!

*Tim & David*

## Remembrance Day correction

**It has been pointed out that as well as the Scouts, many other groups took part in the ceremony in November. In particular, we should acknowledge the presence of a very large number of children and young people who attended, representing the 1st and 2nd Sedgefield Brownies and the Sedgefield Guides.**

## **Jottings: Sedgefield Residents' Forum Nov '06**

The Forum held the Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting in November. The Chair and other officers were elected to serve another year and some members were elected to the steering group. It was generally felt that we had had a productive year, but issues still seem to take such a long time to get the authorities to address but we will continue to seek rapid solutions to issues affecting our community.

An example of the frustration in delays is that, as a result of concern about the safety of the zebra crossing in the centre of the village; the fact that the spotlights at the top of the belisha beacons needed repair was pointed out to Durham County Council (DCC) yet two subsequent calls to DCC and a call to our County Councillor has still not shown any results (it's now 11th Dec).

You may also wonder why you still have to slide on the muddy grass to read the notice board outside the Library - well - the Town Council were all prepared to place paving stones around the base, as requested, but the planning officer at Sedgefield Borough Council (SBC) who seems to think he has sole responsibility for the protection of our village decided that 'special' stones needed to be used to be in keeping with the village! We presume these stones have yet to be acquired. Whilst planning officers carry out an essential role it is extremely insulting to our community and Town Council if this man thinks that we, as a community, do not have the best interests of our village at heart.

As usual many issues were addressed at the meeting (details in the minutes from Town Council Office, Library and web-sites); in particular the proposed 17 wind turbines, the problems with NHS dentistry in the village, the need for play equipment on Eden Drive, anti-social behaviour, etc. January meeting will have a speaker on a proposed 'safe driving' initiative and we hope to have someone from the PCT to answer questions about NHS dentistry provision in the village at the February meeting. Also the issue of the proposed secure unit (on the old community hospital site) for people held under the mental health act will no doubt raise some varying views. So come along and find out more. We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to opportunities in 2007 for community members to have more influence on issues which affect them.

PS It seems that loud music from Hardwick Hall is once again becoming an issue. Please let the Town Council know if you are being disturbed

## **New Director of Finance for £850 million health care budget**

Pat Taylor, recently director of finance at Newcastle PCT and the North of Tyne Commissioning Consortium, has been working for County Durham PCT over the past few weeks as acting director of finance and has now been appointed to the permanent post of director of finance for both County Durham and Darlington PCTs.

Pat has worked in the health service since 1983 and has experience of working at all levels in the finance discipline. She has executive director experience at acute, community and priority services trusts as well as PCTs, and has also held senior posts at the Department of Health, where she led on capital and finance staff development. More recently Pat has worked for the North East Strategic Health Authority on financial recovery.

In her new role Pat will be responsible for the development of the PCTs' financial strategies and management, and will provide financial advice to PCT chief executives, Boards and Executive Committee, to ensure sound financial management and stewardship of funds.

## **Community Health Volunteer Project**

This is one year project being run by The Pioneering Care Centre, to develop a group of volunteers to provide individuals and groups with the support they need to change their lifestyles. They are currently recruiting interested volunteers who live in Sedgefield Borough, have an interest in health & healthy lifestyles and have good communication skills or wish to develop them.

No formal qualifications are required. All volunteers will receive good quality training to equip them to deliver health information in their community. An accredited training package can be completed to gain health qualifications, though this is optional. They will also be able to gain some work experience in a health environment. Volunteering for this project will enable people to increase their skills, confidence, employability and employment opportunities. For further details please contact Bev Gent, Community Health Volunteer Co-ordinator at The Pioneering Care Centre, Cobblers Hall, Off Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe or phone 01325 329939/321234.

## **Consultation on plans for the former Sedgefield Community Hospital site**

Care Principles is seeking comments on plans for a new specialist care and treatment centre on the former Sedgefield Community Hospital site.

The new, high quality hospital would provide secure accommodation for up to 64 patients with learning disabilities, personality disorders and autistic spectrum disorders. It would create at least 210 local jobs, as well as contributing around £7m annually to the local economy.

Further information on the scheme is available at Sedgefield Library. People can also request information, ask questions or comment by calling the 01740 645 555 or by writing to Jo Richards at Care Principles, Freeport LON 13565, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2B 7EE.

## **OPEN MEETING**

Care Principles have also offered to meet with the Town Council to discuss the development and an Open Meeting has been arranged for Monday 8th January at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. This will take the form of a presentation and a question and answer session which will be open to all.

## Sports Update

with [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

I have a short report for you this month. After the opening exchanges of the Ashes in Australia, I'm not exactly brimming with enthusiasm. Not even an outstanding double century by Durham's Paul Collingwood has been able to keep the Aussies at bay. Enough agony – I'll move onto something else.

I'm typing these words a week before Christmas. 'Tis the season of peace and good will to everyone, so I'm going to give you a boxing update.

The Young members of **South Durham Boxing Club** continue to put in some great performances around the country.

Matthew Toothill and Karl Thompson recently both did well in tournaments in Hull and London respectively, missing out on silverware following tight bouts. Earlier in the season, 12 boxers from South Durham were hosted by a club in Fife, where they convincingly won a tournament 12-3. The plan is to host a return match at Hardwick Hall Hotel in

May. Watch this space for more details soon.

So, 2006 was a great year for the club, and was brought to a fantastic conclusion in December when Bradley Saunders won a resounding victory in the national Amateur Boxing Association finals in London.

Bradley was fighting at senior level in the light welterweight category and was already well ahead in the bout when his opponent's frustration led to one too many infringements of the rules and disqualification.

This was a phenomenal result for Bradley, from Sedgefield, and of course for South Durham Boxing Club, and takes him a step closer to potential Olympic glory. Well done Bradley and here's hoping you have to book a flight to Bejiing before too long.

Reflecting on the club's recent successes, Head Coach Jeff Saunders said: "The results we've had so far this season have been fantastic. Two championships – one won and into the finals of the

second. Brilliant work all round!"

If you want to support the club, its next event is on 13<sup>th</sup> January at Chilton Working Men's Club.

That's all for now. As ever, please send any sports news to me at [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

### Downhill Skier scoops £1000 prize

Yes, Hardwick Primary School triumphed in the national Yellow Pages sculpture competition with their recycled telephone directory sculpture, as featured last month. It's a pleasure to report a good news story. Well done to both children and staff.

### Support the Mayor's Charities

Call at the Advice & Information Centre for your tickets to the **Dinner & Quiz at MINISTERS on Monday 5th February Tickets £20** and the **Charity Dinner Dance at the Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday March 2nd. Tickets £20**

**Singing sensations of the year, Lirica**, gave a spirited performance at the Mayor's Cheese and Wine reception in December despite being without two of their number. The event rounded off what had become an extremely busy Christmas programme, as word of their talent spread around the area.



## the Bookworm returns

### "Purple Hibiscus" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Unusual as the name of this author seems to us, I predict that it will be very well known within a few years. This enthralling debut novel has been one of my most enjoyable reads of the year. It has already won her many prizes and was long listed for the prestigious Man Booker prize, quite an achievement for a first book.

Purple Hibiscus tells the story of a Nigerian teenager living at a time of great political uncertainty in a household headed by a devoutly religious and well respected father. Home life, however, is repressive and stressful and when a military coup forces Kambili, the young girl, and her brother to go and live with their aunt they experience a totally different household of laughter and noise and begin to realise the sinister implications of the way they were being brought up.

Parts of the story are heart breaking; others full of hope; it is a well written and easy to read tale that opens a window on what it must have been like to live in a tyrannical state as well as being a member of a family with a tyrant for a father. All in all, a book I am very pleased to have read.

*Alison Hodgson*

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](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk).**

## More of *Your Letters*

### Butterwick Moor Wind Farm

We feel we must correct points made by 'concerned parent & grandparent (December). There is no comparison between electricity pylons and wind turbines. The turbines are 3 times as high as pylons. Landowners have no choice about having pylons on their land, whereas land for turbines is offered on a form titled 'Cash Crop' from E.ON. The rent paid on pylons is miniscule compared to the vast financial gains on turbines.

The area may have been selected because of prevailing winds but this is not the only place the wind blows; there are plenty of derelict sites much better suited to this scale of development. eg the large wind farm being built on land at the Corus steelworks in Redcar; much more suitable than open countryside. The majority living within 3km of the proposed scheme are against it. Are the letter writers really concerned about the planet or do they have a vested interest?  
*I & L Harbottle*

### S.W.A.T - Sedgefield & Wynyard Against Turbines

We are a local group opposing the development of a further 10 wind turbines, on open farmland at Butterwick Moor. This site is next

to the already consented 7 turbine wind farm under construction near the Castle Eden walkway. Whilst we are not against renewable energy, we are against the mass industrialisation of the countryside around the villages of Sedgefield, Fishburn, Trimdon and Wynyard. If you would like to support us or sign a petition please contact [Sedgefield.wynyard@hotmail.com](mailto:Sedgefield.wynyard@hotmail.com) or call 07722022732/07867522936  
*Name and address supplied*

### Next hot topic?

The proposed secure unit on the site of the former Winterton Hospital (page 5), reminds us of the local history of employment in mental health services. We would welcome a debate on these pages, with views from all sides. We particularly invite those with experience in the field of mental health to contribute to the debate.

**Sedgefield  
sub Post Office  
re-locates to Front Street on  
January 26th.  
Long may we keep it open!**

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Sid Chaplin Short Story Competition

Congratulations to 12 year old Tim Jasper, a Y8 pupil at Carmel RC College, who is a winner again in the 11 - 14 year old class.

Last year he was the runner-up, so he was delighted to go one better this time around. He collected a prize cheque of £30 and his story was included in the competition's anthology of winning stories.

Special guests of honour at the awards were Rene Chaplin, Sid's widow and the Mayor of Shildon.

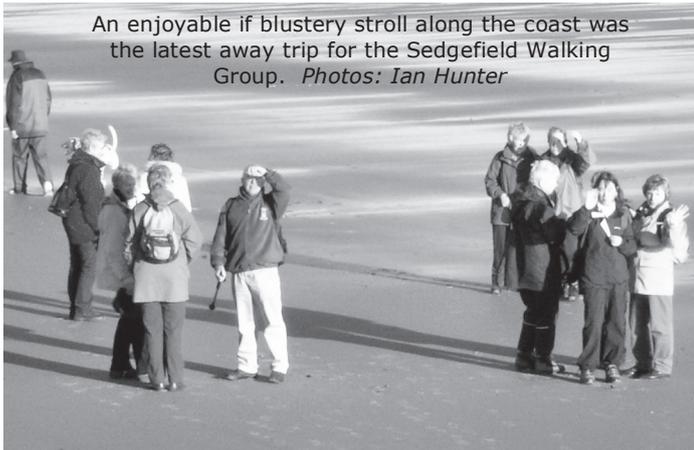
*Tim is pictured with guest of honour, Rene Chaplin*



## There & back again - from Sunderland to Seaburn



An enjoyable if blustery stroll along the coast was the latest away trip for the Sedgefield Walking Group. Photos: Ian Hunter



The group takes advantage of the Organisations Fayre to sell the benefits of walking.

## Thinking of starting up a business?

### You need to know about the new team at SASDA

Jean Thompson and Andrew Maxwell have recently joined SASDA, the Development Agency of Sedgefield Borough, in partnership with Business Link, to provide a free business start up service to residents of Sedgefield Borough. Anyone wishing to start their own business, regardless of their level of experience or nature of idea can get support.

Jean has lived in the area all her life and has successfully run her own bed and breakfast business. She has a wealth of experience in sales and marketing and knows first hand the ups and downs of running a business. Jean also contributes on a voluntary basis to help businesses and the local community. "Setting out in business is often a daunting thought, and we want to ensure people can access the right support, right from the start."

Andrew has worked for many years with a major high street bank and as a Business Advisor. He has particular expertise in business planning and working with the community sector. "Between us we can offer a comprehensive set of skills and experience, plus access specialist support when needed. This is an exciting role, each person we see is different, from a different background and with different needs, and we are here to help everyone, who is considering setting up in business."

SASDA can help with all the things you need to know when starting a business, such as writing a business plan; market research; sources of funding, grants and loans; cash flow control; marketing and sales and legislation that affects you. Then once your business is established we can offer a full range of support, via our specialist advisors and Business Link Account Managers.

To contact Jean or Andrew for a chat or an appointment, phone 01325 328833 or email [jean.thompson@sasda.info](mailto:jean.thompson@sasda.info) or [andrew.maxwell@sasda.info](mailto:andrew.maxwell@sasda.info).

SASDA, Evans Business Incubation Centre, Durham Way South, Aycliffe Industrial Park, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6XP

## Christmas Farmers' Market

The wind, reaching gale force at times, threatened to lift our Farmers' Market stalls and spoil the Christmas fun. However the atmosphere was festive and enjoyable despite the weather's best efforts to ruin things. Customers and stallholders are to be congratulated for defying all odds, braving the storm to usher in Sedgefield's Festive Season. Santa visited, taking a break from his Christmas workshop to entertain Sedgefield's youngsters. There were carols excellently sung by local children. Sedgefield Town Council generously gave of their time to serve us all with the most delicious home-made mince pies and mulled wine. Their raffle raised £50 for the Mayor's charity appeal.

Farmers' Market organiser Nigel Davison and all stallholders wish to record our heartfelt thanks to our customers for the wonderful support shown for the Market today and indeed for the support shown throughout the year. Our hard work is always made worthwhile at Sedgefield.

**If you have never visited the Farmers' Market come for a look on the 2nd Sunday of the month on the Village green.**

**You can be sure of a warm welcome. A very happy New Year to you all.**

# January Diary

*Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations*

## January at the Library

**NEW! TICKLE TUMS** for babies up to 18 months. Songs, rhymes, books & treasure basket  
Mondays 8th & 22nd January from 2.15pm -3pm

**Junior Reading Group** starts Monday 15th January from 5 - 6pm  
Suitable 7-10 years (some places left - please contact library)

**Stay & Play Toy Library**  
10-11am

Wednesdays 17th & 31st Jan

**Rhyme Time** - Stories, songs & rhymes for under 5's:10-11am

Wednesdays 10th & 24th Jan

**Book circle** 2pm - 3pm on

Wednesday 17th January

Also, the new **Books on Wheels** service is launched this month.

Details from the Library

## Sedgefield W.I.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

7:15pm Parish Hall

**"Making Hats"** - Catherine Hart  
Members' competition -  
your favourite hat  
*Visitors welcome*

## Sedgefield Cricket Club

### Quiz Night

**Saturday 6th January**

Quiz Master Peter Dixon

Bar opens 7.30 pm for 8 pm start  
*Everyone's welcome!*

## Sedgefield Town Council

**Monday 8th January** at 7pm

followed by

## Community Hospital Site

### OPEN MEETING

**Monday 8th January**

at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

## Local History Society

**Monday January 8th**

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tim Randall with **Pictures of Sedgefield Ancient & Modern**  
Come and see if you can identify the older photos.  
*Everybody welcome!*

## Sunshine Corner

Bible stories & fun for pre-school children. First meeting of 2007

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

from 10 - 11 am

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

**Sunday 14th January**

## Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

**Monday 15 January**

7:45pm Ceddesfeld Hall

**"William Shaw & the Charles Dickens connection" Mr E Shaw**

## Sedgefield Garden Society

**Tuesday January 16th**

(NB 3rd Tues of month)

in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

**AGM and Pie & Peas Supper**

Contact committee member

## Sedgefield Veterans

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

Meeting starts 7pm

## Sedgefield Cricket Club

### Live Music Night

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm**

**Main Guest - Happy Cats**

Also featuring Steve Vipond,

Lace Wing, Rob Guest,

Sarah Jones & John Little,

and the John Wrightson Band

**Admission £8** includes buffet

Tel 621347

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

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

### District Flower Club

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

A.G.M. & Demonstration of Plaiting  
by new Area Chairman Jane Currie

*All Welcome*

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

**Thursday 25th January**

in the Parish Hall at 7.45 pm

**"Council of National Parks"**

with Steve Scoffin

Contact Steve Ashton on 620559

*Everybody Welcome*

## 101 Gigs in January

11 The Gold Medal, Low Fell

12 Manhattans, Stockton

13 Hayleys Wedding, Beamish Hall

14 The Forsesters, Coundon

18 The Clarendon, Redcar

20 The Station Hotel, Redcar

21 The Normanby, Normanby

23 Elgins, Redcar

27 The Office, South Shields

28 The Grey Horse, Whitburn

31 The Quaker, Darlington

## Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory

**Friday 5th January 7:30pm**

"Pyramids in the Sky"

**Friday 19th January 7:30pm**

"What's Up in the night sky this month?"

**Friday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th January 9pm**

Public Observing outside the Planetarium

**Friday 26th January 7:30pm**

Telescope Club inside the Planetarium

## Round Table

**1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays**

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

**Contact Rob on 629079**

## Country Market

**Re-opens in February**

## St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings on

Thursdays: 6.30 -7.30pm

## Looking forward ...

### Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th February

Garden Chrysanthemums

### Mayor's Charity events in February & March (see p.6)

For tickets contact Sedgefield Town Council at the Advice & Information

Centre: telephone **621273**

### Dental practice responds

I am writing to reassure you following recent items in Sedgefield News, that Joyce and myself are going to continue to provide you with quality dental care as we have done for the last 25 years.

In the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to do this as an NHS contractor and after the introduction of the new dental contract in April 2006 we now feel this has made it impossible for us. We wish to carry on providing a service in which we professionals decide how much time we wish to spend on individual patients care and not be influenced by the need to meet government targets. The whole dental team at Chris Edmonds and Associates look forward to welcoming existing and new patients in 2007.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Chris Edmonds, Joyce Chesterton and the support team.*

### Readers on dental provision (1)

This morning I received a letter from Chris Edmonds and Associates illustrating that treatment under the Practice Plan could sometimes be less expensive than NHS treatment. However, as a family of six, once our youngest child is 5 years old, it will cost us £456 a year to join the scheme *before* the cost of individual treatments. Both my husband and I would have greatly benefited from orthodontic treatment, and if our 4 kids take after us, they will probably need it in the future. I am sure this will be costly, even at half the price!

The scheme might be an affordable option for smaller families, but it is not for us. I do believe dental treatment for children should be free. If there are any dentists living in Sedgefield reading this letter, I hope they might consider opening a practice here and offering NHS treatment for the under-16s.

*Name and address supplied*

### Readers on dental provision (2)

In response to your request for views from residents, regarding the withdrawal of NHS dental provision in the village, the first we heard of

## Your Letters

the changes was a letter from Mr Edmonds dated 30<sup>th</sup> Oct stating that due to "irreconcilable differences in how the PCT want this practice to be run" that the practice would be withdrawing NHS treatment at the end of January and offering us the opportunity to sign up for their practice plan. As a family of four we calculated that joining the plan would cost us £28.90 per month and on top of this we would still have to pay for any treatment.

We therefore contacted Sedgefield PCT to check that this was the case and to ask if we could access NHS services elsewhere. They informed us that they were aware of the withdrawal, but had not had chance to inform village residents that it was happening. We were informed that the PCT did not feel that any differences were irreconcilable and, as the practice had signed a three year contract in April 2006, were surprised at the withdrawal.

The PCT also told us that people could still access NHS treatment via practices in Newton Aycliffe and Trimdon and that they were taking steps to establish a NHS practice in the village by October 2007. Our biggest concerns are:

Firstly that NHS provision has been withdrawn just because of "irreconcilable differences" between a practice and a PCT. This surely begs the question of whether anyone actually has the dental care of the community in mind.

Secondly, in order for patients to make an informed choice, a "professional" dental practice might, at the very least, state that there are other NHS dentists in the area taking registrations.

Thirdly that no one has really taken any action (except yourselves) to inform the community not only of what has happened, but also that alternative arrangements exist.

Lastly that the young, elderly and disadvantaged in the community would not benefit from "free at the point of delivery" dental provision or, far more importantly for long term dental health, the provision of preventative advice.

*continued*

In conclusion we would like to ask that the Town Council work with the PCT in whatever way they can to re-establish an NHS dental practice in the village.

*Name and address supplied*

### Message of Appreciation

I would like to record my grateful thanks to a young man called Andrew, whose surname I failed to obtain, who came to my assistance on the afternoon of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

My wife Audrey's cousin, Bob Johnson, collapsed with an acute heart attack while we were walking round Ceddesfeld Hall grounds. Luckily Andrew appeared on the scene and used his mobile to call for an ambulance. While we waited for the paramedics, his concern and help were very much appreciated, and in fact he also helped to get Bob on to the stretcher and into the vehicle.

Sadly all our efforts were in vain for Bob, who was pronounced dead on arrival at North Tees Hospital. It had been his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday the previous day and he had come over from Australia on a surprise visit to celebrate his sister's birthday the following week. I regret that the incident did not have a happier ending but I will always be very grateful to Andrew for his valued assistance on this sad occasion.

*Derrick Lofthouse*

### A very happy birthday

I recently celebrated my 'bus pass' birthday with a wonderful bash at the cricket club. Joan and The John Wrightson Band kicked the night off in their great inimitable way; the dancing was instant! My son's fiancée Sarah Jones (a thespian of the Sedgefield Players) did a spot halfway through, singing with the accompaniment of John Little on guitar - an amazing performance! To top it all, in lieu of gifts a fantastic sum of £405 was donated to 'Breakthrough'. I want to thank everyone for their generosity. It was a great night and definitely a birthday to remember!

*Maureen Legender*

## More letters on p.7



DEVELOPMENT  
TRUSTS  
ASSOCIATION

the community-based regeneration network

**Copy for the February issue by January 15th please  
to 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011  
or [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)**

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