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# Sedgefield News

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

## Sedgefield Guides flying high!

Back in April we reported on seven guides who had just achieved the Baden Powell award - the highest in guiding.

Now they have been rewarded with an exciting trip to R A F Leeming, where they were not only presented with their awards, but were also able to explore the aircraft maintenance section, see the flight simulator in action and visit the air traffic control tower.

Guider, Jackie Postgate says "These guides have been fantastic ambassadors for the movement, and we wish them well for their future; they are a credit to us all".

*pictured are:*

*Back; Hannah Pighills, Kerry Hassall,*

*Jenny Lowe, Rachael Thompson, Front;*

*Samantha Brennan, Laura Etheridge, Not pictured, Zoe Elmer.*



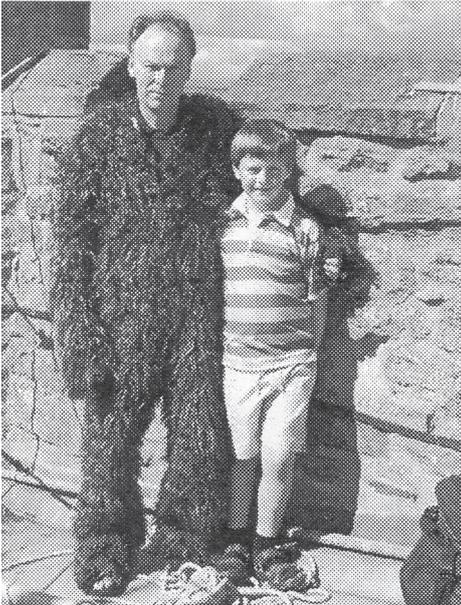
*Members of the Cobweb Orchestra (above) and local favourites, the John Wrightson Band, entertained an appreciative audience at this year's Prom in the Park, in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall*

The next big event at Ceddesfeld Hall is the Beer Festival on July 2nd and 3rd. With 12 real ales chosen by a CAMRA award winning bar, and live music - folk on Friday night and jazz on Saturday - it's the place to be for lovers of the real thing!



## A Towering Effort

*Gorilla takes heart from the brave while (rt) an angel takes flight...*



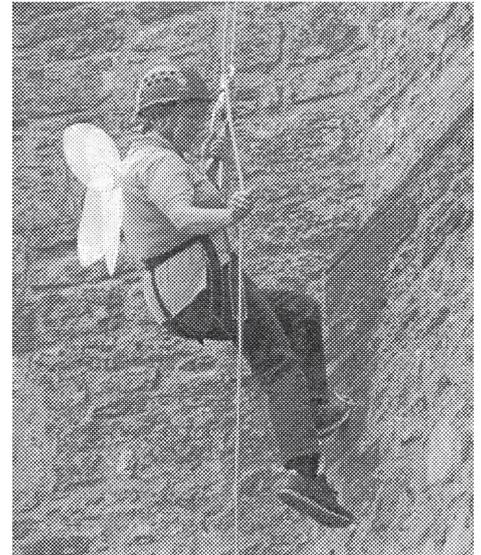
If you were in the village on June 12<sup>th</sup> you might have noticed more than a little excitement around the tower of St Edmund's Church. It was the latest attempt by fearless fundraisers to abseil the tower.

An abseil is usually organised every 2 years by the Friends of St Edmunds, who use the occasion to benefit a nominated local or national charity as well as the Church. This "gap" year event was organised by The Friends of Hardwick Road Primary School with St. Edmunds' cooperation.

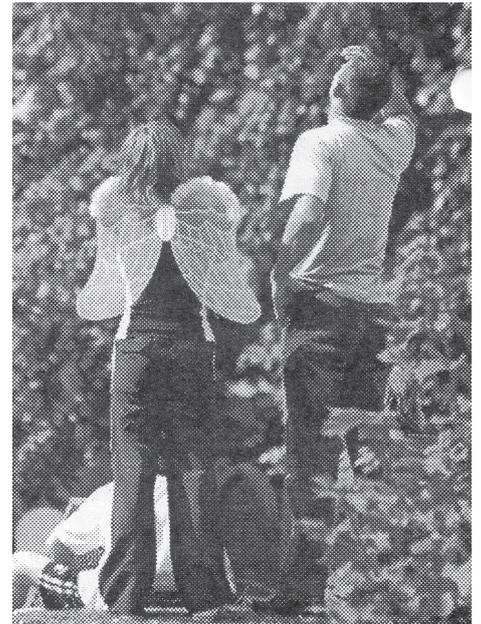
The Hardwick School group were raising funds for the school, but in the spirit of the bi-annual venture, they wanted to give something back to the church for the very worthwhile but perennial fundraising which is necessary to look after the building. So a 50/50 share-out of all profits was agreed.

With safety first and foremost in mind, K.E.C.O. (Knowledge and Education through the Challenge of the Outdoors) were pleased to volunteer their help; many thanks to everyone on their team. Their experience shone through in every respect, from those at the top of the tower all day, to the ground staff below.

In glorious sunshine at just after 10am, 28 volunteers put their heads above the parapets. They included teachers and staff, pupils (past and present), parents and friends from within the village. Two school dinner ladies, Lesley Waites and Sue Small, bravely faced the descent first, wearing little angel's wings. They were the first of five "Hardwick Angels" taking part. The eldest participant was a Grandma and the youngest was Matthew Cant, Y4 (aged 9); biggest family contribution came from Ann Burns, her daughters Ruth and Gill and their cousin Aidan, and furthest travelled was John Warner, from Australia. Karen Hall was the bravest - she had to overcome her great fear of heights, and Gary Hall, an ex pupil, was most adventurous, rising to the challenge with his arm in plaster!



*...while the anxious watch from below*



The total sum raised is expected to exceed £2500, so a big "thank you" to everyone who played a part. The funds will be used to further enhance our childrens' education, whilst supporting that pillar of village life, St Edmund's Parish Church.

## Got a story to tell? Then tell your story!

"Telling Lives" offers the chance to learn how to write and record a script of your own, about whatever makes you passionate. It might even be broadcast on the BBC.

BBC Radio Cleveland is running three day workshops (one whole day, one half day and a one & a half hour session) where a diverse group of people can come together to learn new skills and produce a professional standard two minute piece on any subject they choose.

David Cairns, Telling Lives Producer at BBC Radio

Cleveland believes that everyone has a story to tell: some dramatic, some more everyday, but all uniquely personal.

**The next few workshop dates are:**

in Middlesbrough, week beginning July 12<sup>th</sup>

in Stockton, week beginning July 26<sup>th</sup>

in Hartlepool, week beginning August 9<sup>th</sup>

in County Durham, week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> August

If you are interested, contact David Cairns on **01642 340654** or ask the staff of the **BBC Bus**.

## The bands play on!

Still gigging as 101, as you will see from their busy calendar, the lads have now started a new band - a full tribute to Nirvana called "NIRVADA".

A warm up gig at The Hope Inn last month went really well and NIRVADA's next outing is on the 29<sup>th</sup> July at Old Liberty's in Middlesbrough, for which the band has hired a 6000watt PA system!

They say they would be eternally grateful to any regulars who make the trip to Middlesbrough, and promise you'll hear them at their best in a nice big venue.

## 101 gigs for July

**1st** The Gold Medal, Low Fell

**July 2nd**

**SEDFIELD RACECOURSE**

**9th** Colburn Lodge,  
Catterick Garrison

**10th** The Duke of Cumberland,  
Gateshead

**11th** The Spot, Hartlepool

**16th** The Daisy Hill, Sacriston

**17th** Princess Alice, M'brough

**18th BLACK LION, SEDGFIELD**

**23rd** The Cleveland, Redcar

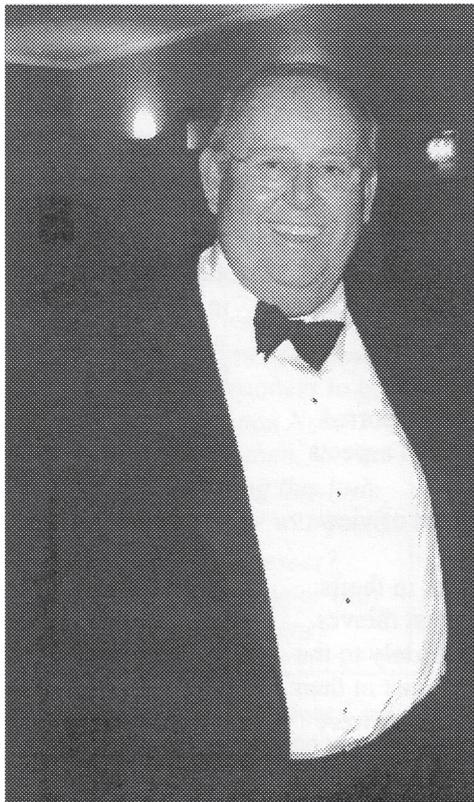
**24th** The Ox Inn, Stanley

**25th** The Normanby

**31st** Tut And Shive, B'p Auckland

## MBE for local business man

Michael Adamson, managing director of Ramside Estates, has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for his lifetime's work in tourism and services within the North East. Michael has been a major player in the Ramside group of hotels and catering businesses, from its inception over 40 years ago. For many years he lived at and managed Hardwick Hall Hotel, and this larger than life character was renowned for his bonhomie. In the early days of the company, he saw the importance of not standing still and developed the policy of ploughing a proportion of the profits back into the business to allow it to flourish. It's good to see a local character rewarded for his hard work.



## Northumbria in Bloom



**Summer judging is on  
Wednesday 21st July  
at 9.30am, so  
let's get busy!**

Please help us to impress the judges by ensuring that our beautiful town and your gardens are looking at their very best. Volunteers (everyone welcome) are needed prior to the judges' visit to help spruce Sedgefield up by litter-picking, etc.

If you can help in any way on Sat 10th, Sat 17th July, or early on the morning of the 21st July, please contact

**Dudley Waters 620607 or  
Maxine Robinson 620042**

Thank you!



# Community Safety *with contributions from Police, Sedgefield NHW, the Driver, the Residents' Forum and our Mordon correspondent*

## Sedgefield NHW & Crimewatch Panel

Minutes of Previous Meeting (13/04/2004) approved.

**Matters Arising:** There were none.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer was unable to attend at short notice and so no report was available for the meeting; this will be appended to minutes for next meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Details of correspondence issued and received. **Received;** from **Town Council** – Rent account (paid), List of Councillors linked to our N/H/Watch, ex Mayor's invitation to award presentation; from **South West Durham Credit Union** – unrelated correspondence. from **Sedgefield PCT** – invitation to "Health Roadshow"; from **Durham Police Authority** – Invitation to Local Consultative Meetings; from **Local Strategic Partnership** – various workshops; from **Co. Durham Foundation** – CO monitors grant details; from **Cavos** – various; from **A&C Audio Visual** – Invoice for erasing machine, used to produce Tapes for Blind (paid).

**Resignations** from Executive Committee; John Crawford & Linda Byrne; from Panel; Stan Moyle, to whom C/man is to write personally.

**Issued:** to ex Mayor, Councillor Maddison; thanks for £100 awarded to Panel; to **Police** Inspector Neill, re parking safety issues (April meeting minute 7.3). C/man David Hillerby recorded the Panel's thanks to Councillor Maddison (in attendance) for the generous award, but most especially for her work for the benefit of residents during her term in office; a spontaneous round of applause served to emphasise members' feelings.

### Representative Reports:

**Village Constable:** Keith circulated copies of reported crime (5<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> June) and discussed various aspects with those present. Key points included –

**Valuables should not be left in cars**, even out of view. Thieves will still attempt break in.

**Hot weather** – Open Doors = Increased sneak in thefts; please lock or restrain doors against opportunist thieves. Please **report** any suspicious activity **immediately** to the Police. You could prevent a crime or better, assist in their arrest **e.g.** recently two persons (known criminals) were arrested at Hardwick Park (having already broken in to vehicles) as a result of immediate Police action following a phone call from a concerned member of the public. Recorded Crime had not increased whilst Travellers here. This was **disputed** by members present who said that there was evidence (known to the Police) that not all calls are recorded or even actioned and that as a result of Police barriers to callers, many members of the public have given up reporting problems to them.

C/man informed members that at an earlier meeting with some residents Sergeant O'Connor had requested the public to ask for himself or PC Keith Todd personally if not satisfied with a response or action they will follow up personally (if not available please leave a message).

Keith then reported back to Panel regarding Secretary's letter on Traffic issues. He gave good news as regards Warden, now Community Support Officer, presence and emphasised the need for members of the public to contact him or the Police where there is an issue that needs reporting. He **will** deal with it. He advised that parking on a Zebra crossing (zig-zags) is an automatic £60 fine + 3 points on Licence.

Concerns of some residents were expressed, about having to live with "vandalism, rowdy behaviour, broken glass" at weekends as a result of village popularity with drinkers (examples were provided to Keith of damage to property etc). The majority of members present corroborated these views and it was pointed out that many culprits are local. Keith spoke of the Pub Watch initiative to only serve drinks in plastic glasses.

C/man endorsed the members view that Police need to demonstrate their support for residents by having a meaningful presence in the village at peak times.

**Crime Prevention Officer:** Sarah gave Neil's apologies and provided feedback on issues from last meeting (H/Q group looking at communications in general).

**Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Sarah reminded members of the need to avoid leaving doors open/unlocked during the warm weather and of the need to remove keys from doors and place them out of sight of the door – to prevent criminals "fishing" them and gaining entry. There has been an upsurge of this method in the west of the county; as Sarah pointed out, we don't want to see them move here.

**Community Force:** Apologies - work related meeting.

**Communication Policy:** Again deferred to later meeting

**AOB:** Members signed a card for Ken Saiger, wishing him well and hoping to see him back on his feet v. soon.

**Raffle** Held after the meeting raised £13

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm, Parish Hall**

<b>Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures</b>	<b>Last month</b>	<b>This year to date</b>
<i>Youths Causing Annoyance</i>	nil	6
<i>Burglary Non Dwelling</i>	nil	7
<i>Burglary Dwelling</i>	nil	2
<i>Crime Drugs</i>	nil	nil
<i>Theft from Motor Vehicles</i>	2	8
<i>Theft of Motor Vehicles</i>	nil	5
<i>Taking &amp; Driving Away</i>	nil	2
<i>Vehicle Interference</i>	3	12
<i>Assaults</i>	nil	1
<i>Criminal damage</i>	4	26
<i>Theft</i>	3	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>88</b>

## **PC Todd reporting**

Damage has been reported recently to windows at the Parish hall, Methodist Church and old telephone exchange. Vehicles have also been damaged in The Orchard and Boynston Grove.

It is believed that youths are responsible in most cases and a hammer was left behind at one location. (I would like to hear from any parent missing a hammer!)

### **Pub watch**

Sgt. O'Connor addressing Licensees at the recent meeting, spoke about the increasing problem of customers walking from pub to pub carrying alcoholic drinks in either bottles or glasses.

This is against the law and potentially dangerous!

All members agreed that action must be taken now to prevent any incidents during the summer months. From now on all drinks to be consumed outside the pubs will be served in plastic containers. Licensees have a responsibility for the safety of their customers and will endeavour to comply with this ruling. However, in the interests of us all, I would ask customers wanting to drink outside to ask for it to be served in a plastic glass. The Police will be monitoring the situation.

*Until next time, Keith.*

## **Sedgefield Residents' Forum**

14 people attended the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June in the Fletcher Room.

**A689/Stockton Road junction:** It was noted that there had been another accident at the junction. Cllr Manton stated that Durham County Council were awaiting the result of the Coroner's Inquest, but were monitoring the situation. (As SN went to press it was reported that there had been another accident between 2 cars at or near the junction. Thankfully, there were no injuries.) Roy Smeeton told the meeting that he had emailed the relevant sub-group with information and had also brought up the problem of horses being ridden on footpaths around the village.

**Beacon Lane.** Julia Bowles informed members that a meeting of the Residents' Group would be held in the Parish Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, to nominate 2 representatives to attend the meeting which the Town Council is facilitating with other involved authorities. She also stated that this meeting had not been widely advertised as it had only come to the fore the previous weekend. The Forum expressed great concern for the ongoing situation.

Cllr Maxine Robinson, Chair, said that she was encouraged by the increasing numbers of people attending the meetings. In particular in order to access funding it will be necessary to have a formal Constitution and it was agreed that Cllr John Robinson would obtain a model Residents' Forum Constitution for the next meeting, to be held after the summer recess; on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** (details in September issue)

## **The Driver**

Last month I asked if you were a good driver. This month I am asking "Are you a considerate driver"?

Do you allow other vehicles precedence at hold-ups, after considering the whole of the situation?

Do you only overtake when it will not interfere with the other driver's progress?

By this I mean would you overtake, knowing that in a short distance you will be turning right and if held up you will also hold-up the overtaken?

Do you allow a 2 second gap between you and the vehicle in front? If you do, do you maintain that gap when someone overtakes you and slips into that gap - in other words - do you back off?

Do you drive to the hazard signs, gently easing off until you have assessed the severity of a double bend, or approaching the brow of a hill, until you can see that the road in the dip is clear of stationary vehicles and that there are not 2 vehicles side by side coming towards you? Do you position car on the road as you approach a bend so that you can see as far round the bend as possible - without actually straying over the white line whilst tackling a left hand bend?

Do you **avoid** parking on yellow lines, dropped kerbs, near school entrances (even to drop your kids off) or anywhere it will cause interference or annoyance to others.

When someone allows you precedence before them, do you smile and wave an acknowledgement?

Would you consider taking the Institute of Advanced Motorists assessment? Drop your name and contact details, into the Sedgefield News office (see back of SN for details) if interested.

If you can **HONESTLY** say "YES" to all this and to last month's questions, then you are on your way to being a **GOOD DRIVER**. Keep up the good work!

## **Accident at Mordon blackspot**

The road between Mordon and Bradbury was closed for 6 hours, between 3 and 9pm on June 10<sup>th</sup>, to clear a serious accident involving a crop spraying vehicle and a van, and it is a timely reminder of how careful we must be at this busy period for the farming community.

The incident occurred on the notorious bend on the Mordon side of the old school, and both drivers were air lifted to the James Cook Hospital by helicopter.

The police closed the road at the bend in the village of Mordon, which caused a lot of frustration for car drivers, as when they were stopped, they had to back-track to the Bread and Beer House junction in order to divert onto the road past the Race Course to Sedgefield.

Local people are well aware of the need to stay within the white lines on our country roads in order to cater for the increasing number of drivers who cut the corners on bends with no sight of the road ahead. It's important to remember that farm vehicles have no choice but to travel on the roads between fields and farm.

*John Parkinson*

## DEFEND OUR VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

DOVE reports a very successful public meeting held on 3rd June about Old Beacon Lane and the Durham County Council proposals for 'Zones of Acceptance' and 'Temporary Areas'.



At this meeting a vote of no confidence in Councillor Ken Manton on his refusal to represent the wishes of Sedgefield residents in this matter was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that:

- A petition would be organised
- Publicity about these issues would be raised
- A fighting fund would be set up
- Old Beacon Lane should be 'gated' with immediate effect

The petition has been prepared and will shortly be going around the village and will also be in local shops. Please make sure you sign it if you support us.

Articles have appeared in local papers and Mike Gibson was interviewed live on BBC Radio Cleveland.

Two of our representatives will attend the meeting being organised by Sedgefield Town Council with other interested parties on 14 July. Details of this meeting and progress on other issues will be fed back at a public meeting which is being organised for the end of July. Please look out for details of this meeting and make sure that you attend.

**The implications are important for the whole of Sedgefield.**

*Coincidentally, Councillor Manton addresses some of the questions around this issue on pages 8 & 9.*

## Sedgefield Primary School rewarded for overall quality

*The logo of the Basic Skills Agency  
A source of pride at any school which earns the right to display it*



Sedgefield Primary School was delighted to learn recently that it has been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

The award recognises the commitment and dedication of both teaching *and* non-teaching staff to provide the very best standards in Numeracy and Literacy. It demonstrates that the school has measures in place to assess, support and provide for **all** pupils' needs, across the full curriculum.

## *SedgefieldWeb Launched - almost without a hitch!*

*In these days of hair-tearing technology it's a good thing Tim Randall has turned out to be one of the coolest, calmest and perpetually 'smiliest' of people! A glitch in the new email address gave us a few nervous moments here at Sedgefield News, (we're still not absolutely sure we got everything you sent in for this issue - do let us know) but Tim said he'll sort it and we believe him!*

*With good wishes from the Mayor, Cllr. Jim Wayman and a letter from the Prime Minister's Agent - "Tony...sends his congratulations to everyone connected with the venture. The website will be a great asset to all members and organisations throughout the community" - there's a feeling that the real work is now underway. It's now up to us all to get the most out of it.*

*Post the information that YOU want to get across. Advertise your wares to an expanding market. Send messages to your members and recruit more. Amuse us with your reflections on life, the universe and everything! Oh yes - and look out for the dinkiest little business card we've ever come across, to send to all your friends and relations.*

*There's a blessing of sorts, too from Sedgefield's very own blogger, whose pages we've just discovered. Quote;*

*"Well well well, SDP have launched a website for the village - and about time too" (there follows a diatribe about other websites which we're too polite to publish) "I particularly like the way our webmeister has introduced a parochial look and feel to the site, no modern clean uncluttered appearance here, oh no, just good mid 90's graphics and design, reflecting the parochial look and feel of the village. Nice."*

*Is that a compliment? Not so sure about that one, but never mind - look! He's doing our job for us:*

*"so, what else is to be found here on the village's new pages? Advertising, that's what. Exclusive advertising mind, limited to those establishments trading in the village only, and free too for one insertion. If a business wants more, talk to the management, something will be arranged."*

*His quirky outlook on the life and times of Sedgefield sometimes verges on the bizarre. In full flow about the numerous groups you can already find on the pages of SedgefieldWeb (he promises details of the Learning Latvian group very soon!) he reveals that his most interesting find so far "is the meet-a-mum group. I personally have seen some of the mums in the village, and as soon as the contact details have been posted, I will be joining. Or have I got the wrong end of the stick here?" Who IS this guy?*

*Well it's always good to have someone on the sidelines poking fun at our sensibilities and we welcome the blogger's - and anyone else's for that matter - attention to our new-born sibling. SedgefieldWeb is going to have the kind of immediacy that we at Sedgefield News can only dream of with our long lead-time and print deadlines. We hope that you find the best of both worlds, in the pages of both publications.*

*If you feel nervous about the internet, fear not!  
The drop-in IT sessions will be starting again soon.*

### **Situation Vacant?**

If you need to advertise urgently and can't afford to wait for Sedgefield News to come out, why not pop your advert on to the internet.

Contact

tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

### **Job Vacancies**

#### **4 Experienced Packers**

required for temporary to permanent work in **Sedgefield**.

Rotational shifts 7am-3pm,  
11pm-7am Mon- Fri, or 4 on 4 off.  
£5 p/h + holiday pay.

**Call Kinetic - 01642 245556**  
(24 hr Emp. bus)

### **Cook's Corner**

*With the long summer holidays ahead, here's a delicious and healthy idea for outdoor living*

#### **Barbecued Sardines** (serves 4 as a starter)

8 x 30g (1oz) sardines,  
fresh or defrosted, cleaned

#### **Marinade**

2 x 15ml spoon (2 tablespoons)  
fresh chopped parsley  
Juice and rind of one lemon  
2 x 15ml spoon  
(2 tablespoons) olive oil  
Salt and black pepper  
Thyme and Rosemary  
sprigs to garnish

#### **Method**

Preheat the barbecue or grill  
Lay the fish in a shallow dish.  
Mix together the parsley, lemon  
rind & juice, olive oil &  
seasoning  
Pour the mixture over the fish  
and coat well  
Arrange thyme & rosemary  
sprigs over barbecue grid and  
lay fish on top

Cook for 3-4 minutes on each  
side, brushing occasionally with  
any remaining lemon and herb  
mixture. Serve hot with lime  
and lemon wedges

*The recent presence of families camped illegally in Old Beacon Lane, coupled with the deposit there of large amounts of 'green' waste, have raised questions from residents about the responsibilities of various agencies, and how the difficulties often associated with such encampments can be tackled. Here, Durham County Council Leader Ken Manton responds to some frequently asked questions.*

**When families arrive and set up illegal encampments, why can't you evict or move them on immediately?**

It depends on where the illegal encampment has been set up. Private landowners have different options open to them than local authorities. Local authorities have a legal duty to carry out a number of checks relating to the welfare of the families illegally encamped - health, accommodation, education and any other issues relating to the general welfare of the families involved. If these checks are not carried out, local authorities cannot legally attempt to take action to move or evict the illegal encampment. It generally takes two to three weeks to properly assess and meet the welfare needs of an encampment. Any decision to move an encampment may be challenged in court.

**What powers do local authorities have to move families living on unauthorised encampments?**

A local authority has main powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. It can obtain a possession order in the civil courts requiring the removal of trespassers from property, including land. This must be issued by the County Court in whose jurisdiction the property or land is situated.

Alternatively, the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives local authorities powers to make directions to leave land used by itinerant groups. Use of either power is dependent upon a welfare assessment of the families' needs being carried out.

**How long does it take to exercise these powers?**

The welfare checks can take two or three weeks to carry out, or even longer, depending on the size of the encampment. If the use of the powers available to Local Authorities is challenged in court, the process can take much longer and if Local Authorities have failed to take into account welfare needs then the powers available to them may not be exercised at all. In such circumstances the encampment can remain until its welfare needs have been met.

**Do the police have powers to move illegally encamped families?**

The police have discretionary powers under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, to direct trespassers to leave land if reasonable steps have been taken by or on behalf of the occupier to ask them to leave, and there are two or more people intending to reside on the land. Also one of three further conditions must be met. Any one of those persons cause damage to the land or to property on the land; Use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour towards the occupier, his family or an employee or agent of his; Those persons have six or more vehicles on the land.

*Section 61 cannot be used on land which is a highway.*

**Why do so many families use Beacon Lane for unauthorised encampments?**

The Lane is close to local amenities without being in the village centre and it is a safe environment for families as it is far enough removed from busy roads and the risk of road traffic accidents. Beacon Lane has been a traditional stopping place for many years and it is likely that were it to become unavailable, the families who use it would simply camp somewhere else in the village.

**Why doesn't Durham County Council provide authorised encampments for families?**

Durham County Council provides six authorised encampments with 113 pitches in total, making up approx 38% of provision in the North East. Unfortunately, because of a shortage of pitches nationally, estimated at between 2,000 and 2,500, many families have nowhere to camp officially and have to camp where it is safe for them to do so. Legally, these people are officially homeless and it becomes the responsibility of the local housing provider to provide suitable accommodation. The local housing providers within county Durham are the District and Borough Councils.

**It is alleged that some families who regularly visit Sedgefield are not homeless, but homeowners who use their caravans for weekends, just as we might go camping? For them it cannot be the local housing provider's responsibility to provide suitable accommodation, which is the issue that seems to bring into play the necessity of a welfare assessment?**

While it is true that some families who camp at Beacon Lane may also have houses to live in, it would be wrong to compare them with caravanners who go to a campsite for the weekend. Firstly, these families belong to a recognised ethnic minority (Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2002), and it is part of their culture to live a nomadic lifestyle for at least some of the year. Secondly, many families may only live in a house for some of the year because of the national shortage of suitable accommodation on authorised sites. Thirdly, the only way to confirm whether these families have housing to go back to, is to carry out a welfare assessment. The whole point of a welfare assessment is to find out the welfare needs of the families, and this assessment is not confined to housing matters. The recent stopover included a heavily pregnant woman who required the attention of a midwife. In such circumstances it would not be appropriate to seek to have the family move on without the required attention being provided. This would apply to any family, regardless of their housing status.

**Why are families who camp on unauthorised sites allowed to make so much mess, when it is illegal for people in houses to do so?**

Most families who camp on unauthorised sites leave them clean and tidy. Only a small minority of encampments leave large amounts of waste. The county has a far bigger problem with fly tipping caused by businesses and permanent households than it has with the waste from unauthorised encampments.

**What does the County Council intend to do prevent such encampments occurring in the future?**

The County Council recognises that unauthorised encampments are bound to occur due to the scale of the lack of authorised sites and pitches at a national level. At present, the County Council is looking at what it can do at a local level to deal with this national problem. It is trying to balance the needs of the families who are forced to camp on unauthorised sites and the needs of those who live in houses. This isn't easy and it requires both communities to understand the problems faced by each other. Until the problem is solved nationally, the County Council will have to try to find local solutions that satisfy both communities as far as it possibly can.

**Is there any increase in crime locally when there are families encamped?**

Though the general perception is that crime increases during a stopover, the police have stated clearly that this is not the case. The vast majority of families are law abiding.

**Does the perception that the problem is un-resolvable, influence the approach taken by the Police Authority? Furthermore, do all the authorities tend to minimise the issue, for fear of being accused of harassing a minority?**

It is a mistake to view the issue as un-resolvable. The main

**RetroWorldGames - this month's news from Alan Wong****eBay Alert**

Here's a cautionary tale. Beware the world-wide wonder that is eBay. A recent auction caught out a few people and should remind us all to pay attention and read the small print. The item on offer was "a limited edition Crystal Xbox with a starting bid of only a penny". At first glance, this would appear to be the bargain of a lifetime, but on close inspection of the item description it turns out that the lot was in fact simply the empty box in which the Xbox was packaged. The seller never actually lied, though describing a bit of cardboard as "the must-have accessory for gamers" was pushing the bounds of credibility a little! Clearly there was intentional deception in this auction, so my advice to all 'eBayers' is don't let your enthusiasm for an item get the better of you and make sure you know exactly what you're buying before you click that mouse. As a matter of interest, the auction for a piece of folded cardboard closed at £115! Here endeth the lesson.

**Game of the Month**

I am often asked in the shop to recommend a game has really taken my breath away recently. Right now, I would definitely suggest Far Cry for the PC by Ubisoft. It is a First Person Shooting Game (FPS) which takes FPS to a whole new level with incredible visual effects – parts of it are like nothing I have ever seen before. If you're familiar with gaming you will understand that to be good, a game

needs more than just eye candy visuals. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Far Cry is incredible - characters react as if the situations are real (well, as real as you can get in the comfort of your home, at a computer desk with refreshments to hand etc etc) and the monsters... oh my... they really run up and jump at you.

Unfortunately, to get this game to run the way it should, you will need nothing less than a behemoth rig (PC), but there is good news. 'Far Cry Instincts' is coming out on the Xbox in November. Judging by the press released pictures it looks even better than the PC version, you lucky Xbox owners. But remember, if this tempts you to invest in an Xbox, be very careful if you go the eBay route to get it!

**Cheat of the Month** MEDAL OF HONOR: RISING SUN

**CHEAT CODES** Go to the options menu and select passwords.

**PASSWORD MODE**

PUFFER	Always sniper
TANG	Bullet Shield
TRIGGER	Invisible Soldiers
HOGFISH	Perfectionist Mode
DAMSEL	Rubber Grenades
GARIBALDI	All Replay Items
SPINEFOOT	Everyone has big arms
SEAHORSE	Men with Hats
TILEFISH	Silver Bullet mode
GOBI	Unlimited Ammunition
BUTTERFLY	Unlock all Missions
MANDARIN	Achilles Head

**EFFECT**

All Weapons are zoomed-in
Bullets can't harm you
Only Weapon and helmet are visible
One shot kills the player
Grenades bounce for long distance
Start with Entrenching tool & Machete
can't be turned off unless you reset PS2
Enemies have all kinds of bizarre headgear
one shot kills an enemy
Never run out of bullets
Select any mission from the main menu
Enemies can only be killed with headshots

Visit 'www.retro-world.co.uk' for all the latest products, news and cheats from Retro World Games, and have a great gaming summer.

*Have you noticed how it's becoming a point of honour amongst photographers to get a mention on Look North? Congratulations then, to Tim Randall on getting this little charmer on to their web page.*

*Any other successes? We'd like to share your best local wildlife scenes.*



difficulty experienced by families who camp in Beacon Lane is the lack of suitable safe accommodation, whether it is an official site or some other safe stopping place. Durham County Council is currently looking at how it meets these accommodation needs. Meanwhile, County Council, police and all responsible bodies have a duty to acknowledge that simply resorting to eviction is no solution; it only moves the problem somewhere else. There is no question of the authorities minimising the issue for fear of being accused of harassing a minority. These families have to stay somewhere, whether they live in houses and only travel some of the time, or live on the road on a permanent basis. Those who believe that the solution is to be found by immediately moving these families on are the people who trivialise and minimise the issue.

**Whose is responsible for clearing up any deposits of waste, rubbish or litter created on illegal encampments?**

In general, unless it is hazardous waste or is deposited in a water course, the responsibility for removal rests with the district

council or the Environment Agency. On private land, it is the landowner's responsibility.

**Can fines be imposed for depositing waste material?**

Yes, but this is the responsibility of the Borough Council and/or the Environment Agency.

**Does local business suffer during encampment?**

Businesses have been questioned about this and confirm that their takings increase during the period of the stopovers. The families encamped are more likely to spend their money locally than to go further afield for their shopping.

*The County Council will be asking Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership for its views on tackling issues which arose as a result of the most recent encampment. The Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership is a multi-agency body comprising local representatives from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations including local authorities, the police, health, education, social care and health (formerly social services), and the courts.*

**Sedgefield Lyric Singers**  
celebrate their  
**30th birthday** with  
"A String of Pearls"  
in the Parish Hall  
**Fri & Sat 2nd & 3rd July**  
at 7.30pm  
Also appearing -  
**Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir**  
**Tickets £4 Concessions £3**  
from 'Selections' or  
Audrey Lofthouse, tel: **620625**

**A Town Councillor Surgery**  
will take place in the  
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall  
on **Monday July 5th**  
at 6.30pm  
with Cllrs. E Robinson,  
M Robinson & J Wayman

**Local History Society**  
**Monday July 5th**  
Gordon Morris on  
"Cromwellian Durham"  
*Guests & new members welcome*

Also, in collaboration with  
**Sedgefield Community College**  
Humanities Department  
following their visit to Belgium  
earlier this year:

**Weekend Exhibition on**  
**the First World War**  
**Saturday & Sunday,**  
**July 10th -11th.**  
**in Ceddesfeld Hall**  
Further details from  
Judith Edgoose on 620244

**Sedgefield Garden Society**  
**Tuesday 6th July**  
7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall  
a talk on  
**Fuchsias -**  
by Norman Welton  
*All welcome*

**Sedgefield W.I.**  
**Wednesday 7th July**  
7.15pm in the Parish Hall  
**Janet Thackray**  
**"Photography is Fun!"**  
Competition for members -  
a photograph of Sedgefield  
(taken by yourself)  
*New members always welcome*

**Sedgefield Old Folks' Darts**  
**& Dominoes League**  
**Senior Citizens'**  
**Outing to Redcar**  
**Wednesday 7th July**  
Meet at Parish Hall at 12.15  
*If you wish to attend,*  
*please register your name*  
*at the Post Office*

**Tiny Steps**  
**Wednesday July 7th**  
1.30pm in St Edmund's Church  
**Singing & Stories**  
for pre-school children & carers  
*All are welcome*  
**Please note; no August meeting**

**Sedgefield Farmers' Market**  
**Sunday 11th July**  
9.30am to 1.30pm  
*Local traders always welcome*  
Please contact Bob Harris on  
**07977 231815** for details

**Sedgefield Wildlife Group**  
**Thursday 15th July**  
Guided Walk round  
**Low Barnes Nature Reserve**  
Cars leave Parish Hall  
Car Park at 6.45pm  
*Details from Anne Gladwin,*  
*Tel: 620811*

**Ferryhill, Sedgefield**  
**& District Flower Club**  
Members' Evening  
**Tuesday 20th July**  
7.30pm in the Parish Hall  
*Everyone welcome*

**Sedgefield Cricket Club**  
Home fixtures in July  
**A Division:**  
Sat 3rd v. Kimblesworth  
Sun 11th v. Esh Winning  
Sat 24th v. Crook  
**B Division:**  
Sat 10th v. Evenwood  
Sat 17th v. Etherley  
Sat 31st v. Brandon

**Sedgefield Races**  
Next meeting - **Monday**  
**26th July:**  
First race at 2.30pm

**The W.I. Market**  
Friday mornings  
in the Parish Hall  
*Meet friends for coffee*  
*and buy high quality*  
*local produce*

**Sedgefield Library**  
**Junior Craft Activities**  
at the library will run during the  
**Summer Holidays**  
so watch out for details.  
*For more information or*  
*to book a session, please*  
*telephone the library*  
*on 620103*

**Sedgefield Out of**  
**School Fun Club**  
has spaces for the  
summer holidays!!  
We provide childcare  
from **8am-6pm** for  
school children up to the  
age of **14**  
Situated on the grounds of  
Sedgefield Primary School  
in Rectory Row, we have a fun  
packed summer program of  
activities and outings and  
welcome new faces!  
**Please phone for details and**  
**availability - 623565**

## Tea for you or you for tea?

*A message from last year's Mayor, Cllr. Linda Maddison*

Last year the Mayor's Charity raised money for the Elderly in Sedgefield and now we are delighted to announce our Summer Afternoon Tea for the Senior Citizens of Sedgefield.

The tea is to be held in Ceddesfeld Hall and you can choose to come on either Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Forms are available in the Post Office and should be returned to the Post Office no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. Numbers are limited so make sure you book your place!!

## Christian Aid thanks Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon

This year's Christian Aid week house to house collection raised a total of £3439.55, an increase of almost £250 over the sum raised last year.

Thank you to all who contributed to this substantial amount, which will be used to help improve the lives of poor people around the world.

Thanks also to our team of dedicated collectors who gave their time and effort to this worthwhile cause.

*David & Margaret Glass*

## Drunks damage garden

The Town Council asks us to keep our gardens looking good for the various competitions.

I am a 77 year old widow and I created my garden in memory of my late husband. I have been recommended twice for my front garden, in 2000 & 2002.

On Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> between midnight and 1am, some drunken jobs running amok, going home to the Station Road area, fell on to my well established Rock Rose and flattened it to the ground.

It gives no pleasure when I see this sort of thing happening.

I have lived in Sedgefield all my life and it makes me wonder how these people are being brought up.

*Mrs Mary Hodgson,  
West End, Sedgefield*

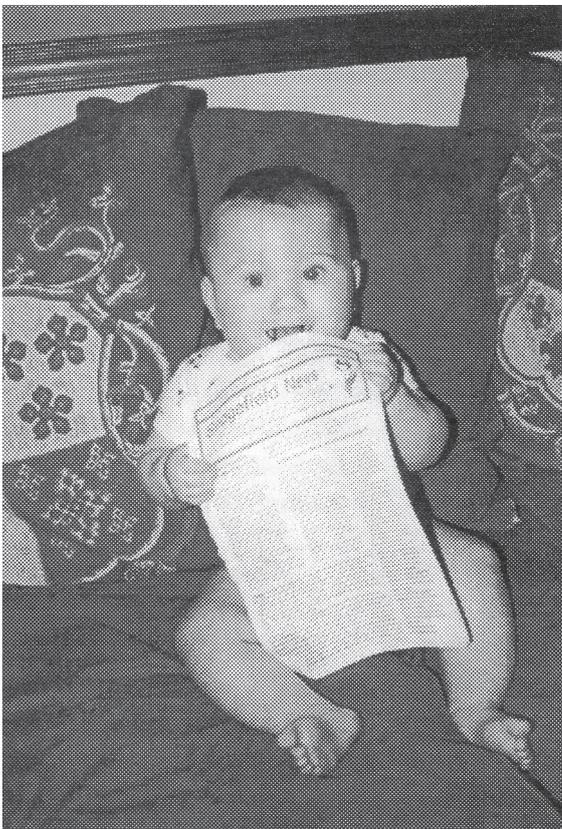
## News team signs up younger generation

Sedgefield News is delighted to welcome Chris Lines to the Editorial Team, not only for his skills in English and marketing but also for the fact that his participation brings down the average age of the team somewhat. The obvious relish of baby Ciaran for the job bodes even better for the future!

With Chris refreshing the team producing the newspaper and Marcus Rowe on board with the distribution team, we're confident that we can continue to meet our deadlines and get the finished product out to you.

Anyone else who feels that they have something to contribute will meet with a warm welcome. Just get in touch, as below.

*Ciaran digests the news while getting to grips with the new job!*



**Copy for the August issue by July 15th please, to**

**Sedgefield News,  
Advice & Information Centre,  
Front St, Sedgefield,  
TS21 3AT**

**to our new email address  
[tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)  
or telephone 629011**

Views expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial and independent.

*Sedgefield News is grateful for the support of the  
Community Empowerment Fund & the County Durham Foundation.  
Sedgefield Development Partnership is a member of the  
Development Trusts Association.*

