

Sedgefield News

LOGO

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

July 2006

Making our *real* address legitimate could be part of Tony's legacy

Ask three different people if Sedgefield is in County Durham or Stockton or Cleveland and you may get three different answers.

The facts of the matter are these:

1. The county of Cleveland ceased to exist at midnight on March 31st 1996.
2. At the same time Stockton became a unitary authority, so is in neither Co. Durham nor Cleveland.
3. The Local Government Act 1972 left Sedgefield in Co. Durham.

Thus the answer to the question is that Sedgefield is and always has been in Co. Durham.

The confusion arose when the Post Office, for its own administrative convenience, decided to ignore the law and treat Sedgefield as a part of Stockton. This infuriated local residents and the Parish/Town Council, backed by unanimous votes at annual meetings attended by the villagers, fought for years to have the address changed back to Co. Durham. The Post Office refused to budge and the Town Council decided to comply with the law and the wishes of the electorate and left its letterhead reading 'Sedgefield, Co. Durham'. Residents continued the fight however and the recently formed Sedgefield Village Residents Forum asked Ian Hunter to see what he could do. As a seasoned campaigner in this battle Ian decided to call for artillery support and wrote to our MP and PM Tony Blair. Mr. Blair passed the correspondence to the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry who, in turn, passed it to the Royal Mail, asking them to reply to the PM direct.

In his response to the PM, the CEO of the Royal Mail, Mr. Adam Crozier robustly defended the Postcode Address File (PAF) system and pointed out "...the fact that public and private agencies use them for other purposes (than delivering mail) is an indication of how accurate and useful they can be". He continued "The county does not form part of any postal address on PAF as Royal Mail's sortation process does not rely on counties.

However, this does not prevent people from including a county on items of mail which should also include the correct Postcode".

Ian too has responded to the PM thanking him for the copy of Mr. Crozier's letter and stating "His point that the PAF is an accurate and useful tool to both public and private agencies for purposes other than the delivery of mail is valid - BUT ONLY FOR THE 92% OF CASES WHERE THE PAF COMPLIES WITH THE LAW AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES. For the remaining 8% it is inaccurate and inconvenient to say the least. Local businesses can cite cases of delayed deliveries and missed appointments due to people driving around Stockton looking for Sedgefield - according to the PAF, within its borough boundaries. Please convey to Mr Crozier that we Sedgefield residents also pay toward the postal service and we too would like to share in the benefits that an accurate PAF can bring.

In closing his letter Mr. Crozier states that we can include the county provided that we also use the correct Postcode. This we already do. Please advise him that if he will take one more small step and amend the PAF by deleting the legally improper reference to Stockton and substituting 'Co. Durham' everyone will be happy and the annoyance and confusion caused by the present PAF entry will cease.

Look to your hoes & hedge trimmers...

... because the judging date for Sedgefield in Bloom has been brought forward. It will now be on FRIDAY 14th JULY - not July 21st as originally publicised.

Judging takes place in the morning and residents are invited to take part in the competition. The judges always enjoy visiting Sedgefield with its neat and tidy gardens and lovely splashes of colour from well kept hanging baskets and troughs which enliven the scene.

Well maintained gardens and public spaces, absence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling all help in keeping the village in a pristine condition. As a past winner of our class on no less than 13 consecutive occasions, Sedgefield has a lot to live up to as it re-enters Northumbria in Bloom after a year's break.

The competition classes have changed, as have the strict judging criteria and everyone is asked to help in our efforts to bring the silver cup back home.

The Bloom Committee is a small group who steer our entry through the competition, do practical projects and run competitions for children, all aimed at improving our environment.

If you would like to help, call Maxine Robinson on 620042.

Recognise the face?

She left for a career in theatre management just a short time ago and has already scooped a major award. See p.7 for more.



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY MA’AM”



Over 60 local residents enjoyed a right royal knees up at Sedgefield Library when staff and borrowers got together to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday. Refreshments included English tea, cream cakes, scones and traditional cucumber sandwiches. A glass of sherry was provided for the more adventurous in spirit (no names mentioned!!)

A tombola and royal quiz added to the occasion and as one member of staff commented it was a nice opportunity to say thank you to all our regular borrowers and some new ones too.

All in all the event raised approximately £115 for Breast Cancer Research. Staff would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Let's Make Some Noise - at the *Library*?

It was a morning of BANG, THUMP, BOOM at Sedgefield Library when children took part in a fun filled music workshop (see below). The workshop took on a definite African flavour with the children making their own bongo drums. They had great fun beating out some exciting rhythms and also singing some African songs (with very strange sounding words!).

The workshop was part of the half term activities for children planned by staff at the library. Earlier in the week children participated in craft activities making musical chimes and shakers (it is amazing what you can do with bits of recycled rubbish!) Great fun was had by all – staff and children alike.

Summer Holiday activities for the children start on 25th July and will follow a World Cultural theme. Events organised include craft, stories, workshops and entertainers. Look out at the library for more details because early booking is essential. This year we will also be running a photography competition for the children supported by the Town Council and Jessops. *More Library dates in our Diary on page 11*



The Bookworm

A reader recommends...

The Hungry Tide by Amitav Gosh

If you want a good story that's difficult to put down yet different from the run of the mill novel, try this one by Amitav Gosh.

You may have read his very successful "The Glass Palace" and there are some similarities between the two novels although this one is not nearly as long!

Both take modern characters and look at events in their lives from the past as the stories gradually evolve.

Set in the Bay of Bengal in the area where emerging rivers create a giant archipelago of islands called the Sunderbans, *The Hungry Tide* relates events that are closely tied in with the tendency of that area to suffer from cyclones, floods and other extremes of nature. In fact the climax of the book takes place during one such horrific cyclone.

A young woman of Indian ancestry, but American by upbringing, arrives to do some research into the Irawaddy dolphins and meets a Delhi businessman who is making a supposed brief return visit to his native area in the Sunderbans. Piya, the young woman, finds that as she investigates the Dolphins, (that in itself being fascinating reading) she finds out more and more about the people of the area and events of previous years that involved her new friend, the businessman.

The story is all based on actual events that happened when the people living in the many islands of the archipelago were ordered by the government to quit their homes to make way for a nature reserve; when some refuse to co-operate, tragedy ensues.

As one reviewer has put it, it is a tale of "history, folklore, ecology, migration, love and grief". It is beautifully written, has plenty of suspense and is certainly a book I read with real pleasure.

Alison Hodgson

To share your idea of a good read, email your review to
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk
or write to

Sedgefield News,
58 Front St, Sedgefield,
TS21 2AQ

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



At the June Neighbourhood Watch Panel meeting, Village Constable Keith Todd circulated copies of the reported crime in Sedgefield Village for the period between 12th April & 13th June. This showed that there were 13 recorded crimes consisting of: 4 thefts; 2 burglary; 6 damage (to property and vehicles); 1 animal (injured by shooting). Keith provided details relating to these crimes and discussed various issues arising. Keith also updated members regarding a reported (at April meeting) assault on a 17 year old. Follow-up by the Police had exposed this to be a fictitious report and whilst this has wasted Police time, it is good news for our village. Under the topic "Tapes for the Blind", acting C/man David Hillerby informed members that, following the grant awarded by our Town Council, we have replaced our tape recorder and microphone. This has exposed the need to replace tapes, however, following a most generous award from ex Mayor Maxine Robinson's local good causes fund, we have the money to do this.

Ring Master Messaging System: Members present confirmed their satisfaction with information presently being received from local Beat Bobby Keith Todd and thanked him for this. Keith advised he would continue as at present.

Relevant Phone Numbers

Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield ring: 623654.
or via Chilton Control Room ring: 01388 721351

To contact 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.

Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne and Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator Sarah Norman, for advice/assistance: 01388 742755

'Stay Safe' booklet for Sedgefield

Sedgefield residents can now take advantage of a useful free guide on how to stay safe in their community. The Stay Safe booklets have been produced by Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership and gives information on how to report crimes such as graffiti, vandalism and vehicle crime and how to take advantage of free fire safety checks and crime prevention advice.



Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership Chair, Glyn Hall, said: "Sedgefield Borough is already a safe place to live and work and our crime rate is 26 per cent lower than the average for England and Wales. However we want our residents to feel secure in the community and have a number of ongoing projects to help make further improvements".

Topics covered in the guide include: neighbourhood wardens, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, hate crime, drugs and alcohol and crime prevention.

The booklet also includes a list of useful contact numbers and it will be available from council offices, police stations, libraries and GP surgeries around the borough.

For more information or to order a free copy contact Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership on 01388 816166 or e-mail CDRP@sedgefield.gov.uk

PC Todd reports

Crime remains low again this month in Sedgefield. The only notable exceptions are the burglary of a licensed premises and theft from the building site in Neville Drive.

This is not to say that the nocturnal low life have given up their thieving ways - because they haven't! They are just waiting for their chances, an opportunity, a guard dropped for a moment, an easy target. This is reflected by the number of calls made to the police about prowlers or suspicious persons, mainly late at night or in the early hours.

Please don't become their next victim. Think security, and keep reporting anyone acting in a suspicious manner.

Until next time,
Keith

Brian's final sponsorship appeal

Brian Hunter has been an energetic Charity Fundraiser for 25 years, organizing and leading some imposing events like the Made in Sedgefield Charity Run for the North Tees Women's Cancer Appeal; the Sugarlump Shuffle; 5 traverses of 270 miles of Pennine Way, one of which was a double traverse of 540 miles in 23 days (Brian is the only insulin dependent diabetic to complete this traverse); 5 Coast to Coast relay runs, for which he organised & led teams on continuous relay, three of these teams being insulin dependent diabetics and the first diabetic swimming championships at Gateshead. He climbed 3 Italian volcanoes in 5 days (Vulcano, Stromboli and Mt. Etna) and celebrated his 65th birthday on the summit crater of Etna.

Brian has decided that his last fund-raising effort will be this year's Great North Walk, raising funds for the Durham Society for the Blind and Partially-sighted.

He asks for support through sponsorship/donations for this last challenge, in his 72nd year.

Despite suffering partial sight through age related Macular Degeneration, he is confident of completing the event.

Donations please to 24 Eden Drive, Sedgefield, Co Durham TS21 2DX (sponsorship forms are also available from this address).

Thank you.

Jottings from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

Another full and interesting meeting was held on 22nd May. Correspondence had been received from the Minister responsible for the Post Office regarding resident's issue with Sedgefield's official address and postcode. The letter stated that the Post Office will accept the use of the geographical County and current post code - Sedgefield, Co Durham TS21 etc. So it's official; you don't need to include Stockton-on-Tees and the non-existent Cleveland, but don't hold your breath on all those computers recognising that we are not part of Stockton and Cleveland no longer exists. Discussion again took place on drinking in the village and the associated anti-social behaviour and broken glass. There is an opportunity for Sedgefield village to be a trial area in the Borough for an order controlling drinking in some public areas (some areas would be recognised as acceptable for drinking outside). The Forum has written to the Town Council urging them, as a matter of urgency to take the appropriate action for the village to be a 'pilot' area.

Many ongoing issues were discussed – information can be found in the minutes available from Town Council Offices, village web sites or directly to you by email if you leave your contact email with the Town Council. We've also put a notice with info on meetings on the new notice board outside the library. Have you noticed the notice board has two additional legs now, to keep it upright. Who designed it we wonder?

At each meeting there is an update on the illegal encampment issue in Old Beacon Lane. Whilst the following information was not available for the May meeting and will be discussed at the June meeting this seems an opportune time to briefly update everyone.

The residents complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman was "that Durham County Councils (DCC) practice of tolerating unauthorised encampments on Old Beacon Lane, discriminates against the local residents who feel, at times, effectively excluded from the area and subject to unacceptable nuisance"

The Ombudsman has now given her findings within her powers (too lengthy to explain here) but basically **she found the residents concerns to be justified and that the expectations of residents are fair and reasonable**. She did not however go as far as immediate gating of the area but must offer DCC the chance to manage any illegal encampment in line with strict criteria, which she has laid down. She emphasised that it is essential that ANY INCIDENTS OF CONCERN in Beacon Lane should be reported- please do so. This can be done directly to the Police (get an incident number) to the Town Council to David Hillerby on 01740 621343 or Julia Bowles on 01740 620409.

The Ombudsman recognised that residents will still be asking for immediate gating and to this end we are arranging a meeting with DCC to progress this and clarify their position and interpretation of the Ombudsman's report.

Still no response on this issue from our MP despite his promise to get back to us in September 2005 and the Constituency Office chooses to ignore all contact and reminders – wonder if this will change as elections approach?

As always everyone is welcome to Forum meetings – it's often better than the tele! Don't forget meetings are the 4th Monday in the month in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm. Everyone is welcome – do come along.

Annual SPONSORED ABSEIL succeeds again

On Saturday 10th June, Robert Young (right) was amongst the 13 brave souls who raised over £1000, which will be shared between Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and the Friends of St Edmunds.

They achieved this feat by abseiling down St Edmund's Church Tower - the second highest in the County. Robert, aged 10, was the youngest participant in the charity abseil challenge. He clearly enjoyed the experience!

Photograph courtesy of Alison Etheridge.

Another happy event in Hardwick Park, but let's make sure it stays happy! Remember last year's advice and **don't feed dry bread** to the cygnets. It swells in their crops and can kill them.



Ian Hunter's picture is one of a series on www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk



Sports Update with chrisjlines@aol.com

For various reasons, this month's sports update is pretty brief. I've managed to drag myself away from World Cup TV coverage only to report yet more football news!

Football

St. Edmund's F.C.'s season has finally been completed. The team finished joint fourth in the Durham and District Premier League, which is an excellent performance from the strongest and most consistent club in the village. Brian Fairhurst was St. Edmund's leading goalscorer, Eddie Johnson was crowned player of the year and player's player of the year, and Ryan Tinkler named best young player.

Following success on the pitch, the club has been awarded Football Association charter standard status. F.A. Charter Standard recognises that St. Edmund's meets certain quality criteria set by the F.A., covering topics such as first aid, insurance, equality policy, code of conduct and provision for an A.G.M. As a result of this status, the club receives a number of benefits, including three match balls, a first aid box, plaque and certificate, and being kept updated by the F.A. about forthcoming training events for the club and individual players. To gain recognition like this, a good club secretary is also essential and St. Edmund's is fortunate that Phil Shann does a great job for the club, which has now been up and running since 1965. If any other clubs are interested in applying for charter standard status details can be found at www.durhamfa.com.

Crosshills F.C. now plays in the Stepys Coaches Durham & District Sunday League. They start pre-season training on Sunday 2nd July on pitch No 4 at the Community College. If you are interested in joining the club, these sessions start at 10.30am and will continue every Sunday until the start of the new season.

Racquet Sports

Another reminder that if you are interested in joining the badminton, squash or tennis clubs in Sedgefield, you should call the following numbers: Badminton - Stan Smith on 621883

Tennis - 620367 or 620143

Squash - James Larcombe on 620717 or Chris Rowsby on 621125.

I'm afraid that's all for this month, but next month I really will bring you some cricket news!

As ever, if you have any sports news for the newsletter please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Newcastle United Football in the Community

Summer Holiday Courses at Sedgefield Community College

Two courses for boys and girls aged 5-14 years.
Certificates and gift for every participant, plus the chance to win medals and trophies.

**The 4 day courses run from
31st July - 3rd August & from 28th August - 1st September
For further details and application forms ring: 0191 263 6585**

Building Schools for the Future

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to update you on the progress of Building Schools for the Future. As you would expect there are many stages to go through before 'as proposed' we get an almost entirely new school in Sedgefield. The work is due to begin in early 2008. Don't get too excited though, as the process is still ongoing through the proposal stage, and the final decisions on which schools are to be *fully rebuilt* and which externally refurbished is still to be made.

We do know that we will get a fantastic new facility for Education and for the Sedgefield, Trimdons and surrounding community. As an already successful school, new premises will help increase our achievement even more.

Please contact me if you have any comments on our current proposals, which include:

- Incorporating a central learning centre with flexible spaces to be used for large groups, individuals and seminars. The learning centre would be a library and 'state of the art' ICT facility, open to the community.
- A new catering concept with a variety of food 'outlets' providing a variety of foods meeting the new nutritional standards.
- Drama and dance facilities with excellent sound and lighting.
- State of the art classrooms for the future with superb ICT facilities.

We shall be truly a 'School for the Future'. We are looking forward to working with the community we serve and hope you will take part in shaping the new facility. I will update you again when we have further information.

*Lynne Ackland, Head Teacher,
Sedgefield Community College*



**Meet the latest 101 line up - Richard Coxon - bass & vocals,
Tim Lowe - guitar & vocals, and Scott Fenner - drums
For their July gig list, see the Diary on page 11**

continued from front page

Nicola Wass

is the name to put to the face on page 1. She has been named as the first ever Rupert Rhymes Bursary winner. The £2000 has taken her to the New York Summer Play Festival to spend a month observing and researching the process of taking a play from initial script editing to final production. Nic, 24, and currently working for the Bush Theatre, hopes to pursue a career as a literary manager.

Roman Gladiators, 18th century gents and Countryside Rangers will soon be bringing to life 'Hardwick Park through the ages'.

**The Hardwick Park
Discovery Day takes place
on Saturday 22nd July
from 10am to 4pm -**

entry is free and all are welcome. It has been jointly organised by Durham County Council's Archaeologists and Countryside Rangers, assisted by the Friends of Hardwick.

In the east park, the focus is on the archaeology of the site. Roman re-enactors, Roma Antiqua will be there, so you will be able to see Roman soldiers, their families and their weapons. There will be tours around the excavation site and any archaeological finds will be on display.

In the main park, guides will take you to see parts of the site which have been restored to their former glory days of the 18th century. You can view the newly filled lake, as well as the temple, follies and grotto. Countryside Rangers will bring you bang up-to-date, showing how important the park is for plants and animals. They will run a variety of activities for the whole family. So come along and discover what this historic parkland has to offer. For details contact 0191 383 4212.

My English Rose

by Ian Ceddes

An English Rose, to smell 'tis said
Is really such a treat
My English Rose, my sweetheart true,
Does surely smell as sweet
My Durham Lass from time gone past
She really is the best
Our sweetest love o'er many years
Has surely stood the test
My Sedgfield girl, through
thick and thin
Is always at my side
So many years have passed us by
Since first she was my Bride
Our life together in this land
Has been the perfect time
If it should last a hundred years
It will surely be sublime.

Thanks to Ian for wearing his heart on his sleeve! Sedgfield News is keen to encourage new talent, so if you would like to contribute to Sedgfield News we would love to hear from you. We're all amateurs here and know how it feels to make the first move. Don't be shy!

Discovering Hardwick: Past, Present & Future - from the bottom up!

Below: the clay model of Neptune in production, taken during a recent visit to the studio of our sculptor, Keith Maddison



Dig dig dig ... you too can get stuck in!

If you want to get your hands dirty, why not get involved in the community excavation? Already running, the dig continues until July 21st, 7 days a week from 9.30am – 4pm.

It is open to all, though children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. No experience is necessary but you must be prepared to commit to at least one full day.

Spaces are limited, so if you want to come, call 0191 383 4212 or e-mail archaeology@durham.gov.uk

Referendum consultation process - Trust issues disclaimer

On the information sheet enclosed with the referendum papers it is explicitly stated that the Town Council worked with various groups including the Sedgfield Development Trust, to bring forward the options and the summary of their implications in the information sheet.

Whilst representatives of SDT did work with the group, we wish to make it absolutely clear that the options were chosen by the Council and no debate was allowed. The Trust believes that they do not reflect the real choices, which should revolve around the cost of the schemes when carried out in different ways.

Discussion of the implications of each scheme is not properly reflected in the information sheet. Despite the recommendations of the consultation group, the Town Council met on 22nd May and significantly re-wrote the information in 46% of the boxes. The Trust disclaims responsibility for the information given to the electorate.

John Fitzpatrick, Company Secretary, Sedgfield Development Trust

Cooks' Corner

This month's recipe is taken from "What's for Tea Tonight?"

- a collection of favourite recipes from Sedgefield Rectory Row Primary School. All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will be used by the PTFA to enrich the school lives of all the pupils at Sedgefield Primary.

For further information ring Alison Etheridge on 01740 62839

Tiramisu

Easy to make and goes very well with fresh fruit salad

Ingredients

2x250g pots mascarpone cheese

¼ pint/150ml double cream

1 packet sponge fingers

Cocoa powder

¼ pint hot strong coffee or heaped tablespoon coffee granules with water

400g tin condensed milk

3 tablespoons brandy

2 Cadbury's flake bars (crushed) or grated chocolate

This pudding consists of repeated layers of sponge fingers soaked in coffee, followed by the sprinkling of chocolate with cream cheese above

Method

Make the coffee and add the brandy.

Soak a few sponge fingers at a time with the coffee.

Place a layer of these in the base of a trifle bowl.

Sprinkle over with some chocolate.

Whisk together the cheese, condensed milk and cream until even, and add a layer on top of the sponge and chocolate.

Continue with the layers, ending up with the cream mixture on the top.

You may find that you run out of coffee, so you may need to make more, especially if you want a strong flavour.

Decorate with grated chocolate and a sprinkling of cocoa powder.

Editor's note: ENJOY HUGELY - I WILL!

July Jottings

"If the first of July be rainy weather, it will rain, more or less, for four weeks together"

English Proverb

This is the 7th month of the year according to the Gregorian calendar, which is used almost all over the world today.

However, in the early calendar of the ancient Romans it was the 5th month and the Romans called it Quintilis, meaning fifth.

Later, when they moved the beginning of the year to January 1st, they didn't change the names of the months.

Julius Caesar was born during this month. In 46 BC, Caesar gave Quintilis 31 days and the Senate renamed the month Julius in his honour.

In the United States, Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 and in France, a similar holiday, Bastille Day, occurs on July 14.

Several other countries celebrate national independence in July, including Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, Belgium, and Peru.

If you know anything interesting about August, let us know at snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Last year's '1st' for Sedgefield Show - and for Dorothy

Sedgefield Show is fast approaching and this year it will be held on Saturday 12th August, on what the organizers hope will be a fine, sunny day.



Exhibitors will come from near and far to compete and there are always a few new classes to enter.

If you haven't got a schedule you will find one in the library, post office or Barclay's bank.

Last year history was made, when for the first time a lady entered the decorated stick classes.

To her delight not only did she get a first prize, but her "otters" gained her the cup for the best exhibit in the stick classes

Sedgefield Community Association Art Section

Do you enjoy painting and drawing? The Art Section of the SCA is looking for new members.

We are a small and friendly group, meeting in Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield every Thursday morning from 10am - noon.

Our abilities range from complete beginners to the more experienced who are more than willing to share their expertise with others.

So why not come along one morning and meet us - we don't bite!

What would YOU like to learn this Autumn?

The Zone at 58 Front Street has a well equipped room with IT equipment for a class of 12

The room can be used for other subjects too. Let's talk!

Contact Dan on 622456

Waiting for the Reaper?

As I walked along Front Street the other day, I espied a gentleman who, waiting for the Co-op Funeral Parlour to open, was rolling-his-own (cigarette). As I approached he commenced to light it. I could not resist exclaiming "You've picked the most appropriate spot to smoke your fag".

He just smiled. *David Hillerby*

Undue influence concerns readers *More Letters*

Given that the format of the referendum on the Parish Hall is more complex than the usual voting system, I was pleased to see that the Town Council had provided a sample for information.

I was amazed, however, when I examined the example, to see that it include the real options and showed a voting pattern that appeared to match the Town Council's preferences!

Several residents have indicated to me that they are confused by the process so will "just fill it in like the example". Surely the overview by Electoral Reform Services should have prevented the real options being matched against the Town Council preferences in the guise of a sample sheet.

Name & address supplied

Dear Sir

The sample ballot paper sent out with the referendum papers seems to be a blatant attempt by the Town Council to influence the result, showing as it does the responses they would like to see - in other words their plan to extend Ceddesfeld Hall, the number 1 choice, etc.

Do they have no respect for the electorate? Do they think we can't see through them? Does this community deserve to be treated as no-brainers? I think not.

I will be voting for *my* choice of outcome, regardless of their 'auto-suggestions'.

This is Sedgefield after all, not the Kremlin. Although hang on - I am a bit uneasy about giving my name!

Name & address supplied

Don't miss the chance to vote

In its wish to be impartial in the matter of the referendum on the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld Hall, the Town Council appears to have fallen foul of the regulations for the use of the electoral roll.

Last year when we filled in our electoral roll returns some of us ticked the box which indicated that we do not wish to have our names released on the 'edited' version of the electoral roll (which the district council sells to commercial and other organisations) - so that we would not be pestered with junk mail. However, as a result we appear to have been deprived of automatic inclusion in the mailing list for the referendum; unless we have taken note of recent notices in the village and requested a form (at the cost of having to phone ERS at our own expense) we cannot take part.

The Electoral Commission website states:

"The full register has the names and addresses of everyone registered to vote and is updated every month. Anyone can look at it, but copies can only be supplied for certain purposes, such as elections and law enforcement. Credit reference agencies are also allowed to use the full register, but only to check your name and address if you are applying for credit, and to help stop 'money laundering'. Anyone who has a copy of the register will be committing a criminal offence if they unlawfully pass on information from it. You do not have a choice about your name and address being on this register."

Having read that, one might ask, did the Town Council take advice on their decision to hold a referendum and from whom did they get any such advice, as it may well be that the referendum in question is just such a 'certain purpose'.

Electoral Reform services being the accredited national experts check whether this referendum could be classified as a 'certain purpose' as described by the electoral commission and if not why not? And did they advise the Town Council of the problems? Councillors who have access to the full electoral roll would well be able to establish the scale of this problem.

Electoral Reform Services is the leading administrator of ballots and elections in the UK, are part of the Electoral Reform Society and as such are recognised as a professional organisation. It is extremely difficult to understand that they allow such a referendum as we are having, where such a potentially high proportion of the electorate may be disenfranchised due to no fault of their own.

We may well hope that this issue will be referred to both the Electoral Commission and the ERS and their responses published.

Name & address supplied

In fact Sedgefield News has learned that a total of 722 electors could be excluded from the referendum unless they apply to the ERS. However there is still time to act if you wish to take part.

Referendum confusion

I received my referendum papers in this morning's post and was surprised at what I read. The letter from Sedgefield Development Trust in June's Sedgefield News had lead me to believe that Option 2:

Complete rebuild, would be the cheapest and best option. The Referendum papers indicate that it will be the most expensive for the Council Tax payer. I am confused!

Mel Brown

Sedgefield Development Trust replies

When the letter was written, it was assumed that the information sheet would indicate that Option 2 was for the transfer to and financing through Sedgefield Development Trust at **little or no cost** to the Council Tax payer.

The Town Council, however, at the last minute changed the wording on the information sheet to effectively cut out the SDT from this option entirely.

As the Town Council does not have the same access to funding as a development trust, a large part of the cost would devolve onto the Council Tax payer.

Sedgefield Development Trust is still willing to take on the task of raising the funding to rebuild the Parish Hall.

*John Fitzpatrick,
Company Secretary, SDT*

On the topic of the referendum, Sedgefield Development Trust has felt the need to issue a disclaimer. It is published on page 7.

And finally...

Has anyone any idea what the 'Single Transferable Vote' method means?

I assume that regular voters and political activists are clued up on this method, but what about all of the people who are not, and have no idea what impact this will have on the final result.

Perhaps some thought should have been given to including a short explanation of this in with the Ballot Papers.

Clearly, from the Example Ballot Paper, thought had been given to guidance as to where to mark your options in the appropriate boxes.

Gloria Wills

These are my personal views and not those of any other organisation

July Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Summer Concert

"Sing & Dance"

with the Lyric Singers, Lirica & Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir

Friday 30th June &

Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall

Tickets £5 / £4 concessions
at the door

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 1st July

Doors open 7pm -

Eyes Down 7.45pm

Cash Prizes, Bar open

Everyone welcome

Wynyard Planetarium

Sundays 2nd July at 3pm

The Stars from Down Under

Sundays 16th and 30th July

Wonders of the Universe

Adults £3.50, Children £2

Family ticket £7

Local History Society

Monday 3rd July

Sheila Forster

Recording Oral History - with special reference to coal mining

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

All welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 4th July

Outing to

Northdale Horticulture

Meet Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30pm

Darts and Domino League

Old Folks Trip to Redcar

takes place on

Wednesday 5th July 2006

Bus leaves

Thurlow Grange 12 noon

and Parish Hall 12.15

Names to Bill Cooper (620057)

Mary Hodgson at the Pop-in Centre
or the Post Office

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 5th July

7.15pm Parish Hall

Mavis Datta

Complementary Therapy, Indian Head Massage & Reflexology

Members' competition -

A home-made hair decoration

New Members Welcome

Ceddesfeld Hall

Beer Festival

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th July

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th July

from 9.30am - 1.30pm

Senior Citizens' Trip to

Harrogate/Skipton

Wednesday 12th July

Leaving the Parish hall 9am

Tickets from Town Council Offices,

£7 each

Sedgefield Library

Rhyme Time for under 5s

Wednesday 12th July

from 10 - 11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 19th July

2 - 3pm

Family History Group

(A branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 17th July

Visit to the Green Howards'

Regimental Museum in

Richmond

To book ring Sylvia Hall 620367

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th July

7.30 pm Parish Hall

Members' evening

Continental Market

15 stalls on Village Green

Thursday 20th July

- 9am to 5pm

Hardwick Park

Discovery Day

Saturday 22nd July

10am - 4pm

see page 7 for details

Residents' Forum

Monday 24th July

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 27th July

Outing to

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Nature Reserve

Portrack Marsh, Stockton

Meet at 6 pm in

Parish Hall Car Park

to car share

For more information

call 620559

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Fridays in the Parish Hall

Great value home baking, eggs,
garden produce and crafts

St Edmund's Church

Baptisms & Weddings can be
booked in Church on Thursday
evenings from 6.30 to 7.30pm

101 Gigs in July

New line-up pictured on p.7

1st - Wedding, Redworth Hall

8th - O'Neills, Durham

9th - The Vic, Saltburn

14th - The Wooden Doll, N. Shields

15th - The Ox Inn, Stanley

16th - The Normanby, Normanby

21st - Wedding, Marton

22nd - The Princess Alice, M'bro

28th - Manhattans, Stockton

29th - The Station Hotel, Redcar

Coming up in August

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 5th August

Sedgefield Garden Society

No meeting in August.

Sedgefield Racecourse

Fixtures on

11th & 29th August

Folk Festival

"Trimdon Comes to Sedgefield"

Friday evening 8th September

Concert in Ceddesfeld Hall,

with Scratchband, Flossie &

Bernard Wrigley

Saturday 9th September at 2pm

Hope Inn Rafters Bar

Spoons Championship hosted by

Scratchband - Junior & Adult

Classes, with Singaround

Saturday 9th September

Concert in Ceddesfeld Hall with the

John Wrightson Band, George

Welch & Real Time

Tickets for concerts are limited

They are available at £8 from

Sedgefield Town Council Office or

telephone 01740 621347

Other events are free

To advertise in Sedgefield News or
online at SedgefieldWeb, call
01740 629011 or e mail
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Dear Sedgefield

As many of you will have noticed, the Village Pantry (formerly Katie's Kitchen) has now closed down. The decision to do so was not taken lightly. A combination of family and financial reasons was instrumental in making this decision.

As some of you may already know I have always offered an excellent catering service ranging from luxury picnics for two, birthday and christening buffets to a wonderful range of main courses and beautiful desserts, and I will still be offering the same quality service. Since I started work for Katie's Kitchen in September 2001 I have made an amazing number of friends and met some of the most interesting people whom I will miss greatly. Even though I have lived in Sedgefield for most of my life I had never quite realized how busy our village was with all of its groups, societies and clubs. As guardian of the St Edmund's key I soon came to realize how many residents took time out to volunteer to maintain and support our village church. I have enjoyed every minute of shop life from helping people find weird and wonderful ingredients for cooking experiments to tracking down the unusual beans that Dr Gillian McKeith said that we should all be eating. So if you find yourself looking for that special ingredient why not try Julie at Selections who is expanding her dried food range. I shall miss being part of village life every day but I am sure that I will be out and about and hope to see some of the many people who have made the last five years happy ones. *Carrie Ashton (07855 432 595) cmekins@hotmail.co.uk*

A word of thanks ...

The doctors and staff of Dr Jones and Partners would like to thank to Mr and Mrs J Amlin who, following their recent 60th wedding anniversary, purchased and kindly donated a nebuliser to Sedgefield Surgery. Donations such as this are always gratefully received and are used to directly benefit the patients within the local community. Congratulations to you both, and many thanks once again for your generosity.

Doctors & Staff, Sedgefield Surgery



Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association

Your Letters

Keep hitting me!

In 2004, when SedgefieldWeb (www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk) first went live, the intention was to create a valuable resource for our community in Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. By August 2005 the site was recording about 300 hits each day from visitors on the Internet. **We are now experiencing an average of about 1000 hits per day.**

If you are not one of our visitors, why not? SedgefieldWeb can offer an awful lot to you, like, over 280 pages of community information; nearly 900 photographs and graphics illustrating local events and enhancing pages; online versions of more than 30 documents like Sedgefield News and its supplements; a calendar providing information about events in the coming months (over 60 events listed during the month of June); information about over 120 clubs, groups and organisations in and around Sedgefield; news from and about your community and much, much more.

So if you live in the Sedgefield area, SedgefieldWeb is for you - and if you want family and friends to know about your town or village, SedgefieldWeb is for them. Visit www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk as soon as possible. Add the SedgefieldWeb to your favourites or bookmarks and call in regularly; it is updated every few days - every day at busy times.

If you don't know how to use the Internet, that's no excuse. Just call into The Zone (58 Front Street - next to the fish and chip shop) on a Monday morning between 9:30 and 11:30 and ask for Tim. No excuse either if you don't own a computer, because The Zone has computers you can use (see above) and so does Sedgefield Library.

So please keep hitting me; not me personally you understand, but SedgefieldWeb. *Tim Randall*

More letters on page 9

Pre-school gets family's vote of thanks

I would like to say a big heartfelt thank-you to Barbara, Helen, Christine and Sue, who do a fantastic job of running Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-school. I first met these wonderful ladies back in 1996 when my eldest child Laura joined pre-school. It was clear to see what a safe, comfortable, loving environment they provided. My son James was born in 1999 and after a year of heartache and trauma he had the major heart defect he was born with corrected. I was very protective and always worrying about James but once we were given the news by the Freeman Hospital that his operation had been a success, I rang Barbara Hobson and placed his name on the waiting list. James started in 2001 and I felt at ease walking home, knowing he was happy and enjoying himself.

My youngest child, Kate has been attending pre-school since September 2004 and again I have had the opportunity to witness first hand what a professional and efficient job the ladies do. Each child is looked after to the highest possible standard, so I will be very sad on July 21st when my daughter has her last day. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Barbara, Helen, Christine, Sandy and Sue (for whom I will always have the greatest respect) for the support and dedication they have shown over the last 10 years. I hope the pre-school continues growing from strength to strength. *Michelle Wilkes and family*

A muddy read?

I was most impressed with the splendid new village notice board recently erected outside the library. However, passing it during one of our frequent spells of inclement weather, I was disappointed to have to stand on a sloping, muddy grassed surround in order to read the posted notices. Did the money run out and should we have a whip round for the cost of a paving slab or two? "Ships" and "hap'orth of tar" come to mind!

Name and address supplied

Please send your copy for the August edition of Sedgefield News by the 15th July to 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011 or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

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please include your contact details in all correspondence

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