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Sedgfield News

Insert
logo

By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgfield, Bradbury & Mordon
June 2004

Welcome to SedgfieldWeb



The Community Website for Sedgfield, Bradbury and Mordon
in County Durham in the UK

You will find information for residents, visitors
and those considering moving to the area.

Please click to enter the
[Main Menu](#)

Sedgfield Development Partnership is delighted to announce the launch of your new community website, and to invite you to celebrate with us the birth of
www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk

SedgfieldWeb offers many benefits to the whole community; residents, organisations, societies, businesses and visitors too, providing a one stop shop for information on services, events and activities in the area. It provides a community notice-board, as well as a link to Sedgfield News and other sites (schools, local councils, etc). The message form can be used to post your news and views on local issues – that surely will be worth reading! (*Website administrator Tim will be alert to abusive or other problem postings and they will be filtered out*).

All local community and voluntary groups have a page dedicated to their group - a fantastic opportunity to reach a wider audience, increase membership, recruit new volunteers or simply raise your profile. Groups could have their own personalised page(s) added to SedgfieldWeb or linked from it. Any new events notified will automatically go into the community calendar, so if you want to know what's going on at any time it will just take a moment to find out. If you're organising an event you will want

to know if it might clash, simply check the calendar. Local business contact details will be posted free and if you want to say more about your products or services, a small charge will be made. It offers excellent value for money, advertising locally, nationally and globally. The Community Website is being launched with support from the Countryside Agency & Sedgfield Community Empowerment Network and run by Sedgfield Development Partnership who aim to make it a self sustaining community enterprise.

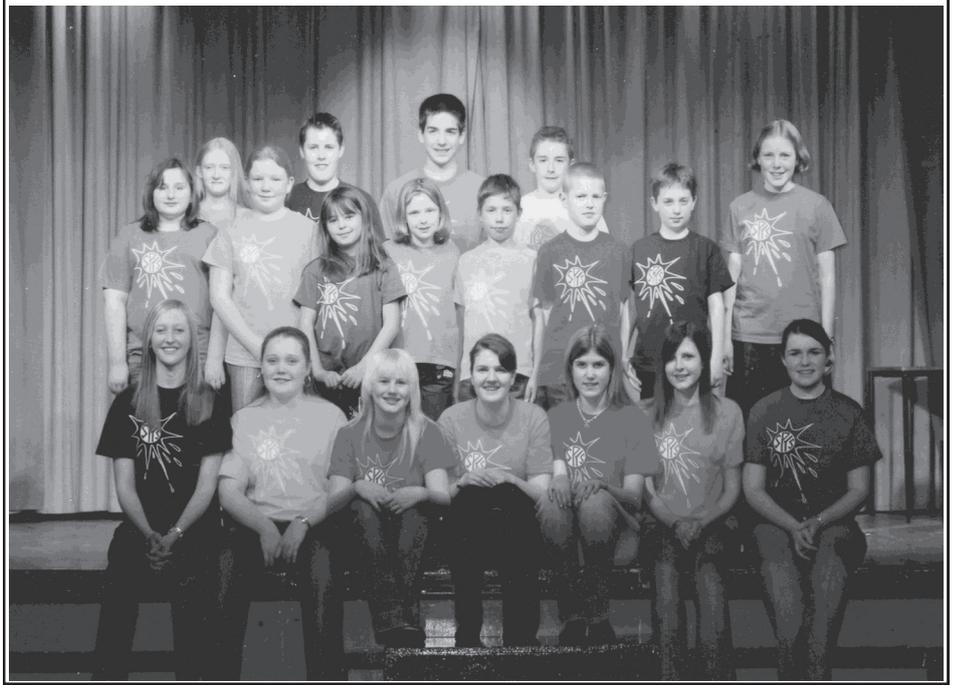
The Launch Party is on Tuesday 15th June from 7.30pm, at Ceddesfeld Hall
Please let us know if you would like to attend – we do need to know numbers.
Leave a message on 629011, drop a note to SDP at the Advice & Information Centre,
e-mail us or use the message form at www.sedgfieldweb.co.uk

Sedgefield Players enjoy success all round

The SPYS - Sedgefield Players' Youth Section - aged from 7 to 17, recently presented their LAMDA award winning pieces to an appreciative audience of family and friends, and reported one of the best set of exam results ever.

Tutors Jean Hewling and Sarah Atkinson were full of praise for the standards achieved and said that the examiner from the London Academy of Music and Drama had been very impressed with the group, which gained honours & distinctions in all categories.

Society President Barry Jackson made the presentations and Mayor of Sedgefield, Linda Maddison was among the guests on one of her last official engagements before the end of her term of office. The young performers entertained a capacity audience with a selection of poetry, prose and drama ranging from comedy to tragedy, from Shakespeare to Shirley Valentine.



New trophy to Players' credit

Sedgefield Players returned from the Isle of Man Easter Drama Festival with the award for Ensemble Acting, won by Norma Neal, Jean Hewling and Viv Jacobs for their portrayal of three patients who shared their worries, secrets and hopes in "A Kiss on the Bottom", a comedy in the unlikely setting of a women's cancer ward. The award was given by Group Theatre London in memory of one of their young members who died suddenly last year. Chairman Norma Neal said, "The Players always pride themselves on their team work, so it was truly fitting that we should win this award as a tribute to the commitment and professionalism of the group." Four other nominations were received; Norma, for Best Actress as Marlene, the outspoken mother desperate to get out of hospital in time for her daughter's wedding; Sarah Atkinson for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Bev, the long-suffering nurse constantly rushed off her feet; Walter Howell for Best Director and the production for Best Comedy.



Sarah Atkinson, Jean Hewitt, Norma Neal and Viv Jacobs on fine form

First peep at new thriller

The Players are now in rehearsal for "Blood Money" by the Heather Brothers, and they were very pleased to secure performing rights for this play just before it goes on to the professional circuit. According to Productions Director Walter Howell it will be a thrill a minute and keep you guessing right to the final curtain. So come along, support your local award winning drama group and see this heart-stopping show before it hits the West End!

See "Blood Money" in the Parish Hall from June 23-25th.

Please note there is no Saturday performance due to cast holiday commitments.

Goodbye to Simon

Sedgefield Development Partnership was very sorry to see Simon Leadbeater leave at the end of April. He had been with the Partnership since 2002, first as an ITEC apprentice, then employed as the Office administrator.

During his time here he completed an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration and was in the process of completing level 3.

He was responsible for the day to day running of the office and in particular supporting the newsletter, compiling the latest community Directory and co-ordinating the database for Lifelong Learning.

We wish Simon the best of luck with his career, knowing that any future employer will be lucky to have such an enthusiastic and mature employee.

So what of the future?

The fact that Sedgefield Development Partnership has been unable to continue employing an office administrator is mainly due to a shortfall in funding. This is because the large room within the Advice and Information Centre, which we had been using for training, was withdrawn from us by the Town Council. A lack of available alternative premises in the centre of Sedgefield from which to deliver Lifelong Learning - in particular ICT sessions, combined with the subsequent loss of income, resulted in Simon's redundancy.

SDP is working on securing accommodation from which to deliver lifelong learning, which will hopefully generate income to enable the Partnership to re-employ an Office Administrator. Despite losing Simon, the office is still operational and is being covered by volunteers (if no one is in the SDP office, please slide any letters or notes under the SDP office door!).

Unfortunately for this community the situation has impacted on the Partnership's successful Lifelong Learning Project. SDP had to return £9,500 of a £10,000 grant from Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities and lost out on the offer of 10 free computers with printers, software, scanners, networking etc (valued at another £10,000) and until we have alternative premises, we are unable to secure income to deliver learning opportunities.

But SDP has proved with its previous work and current database of over 350 people who have registered an interest in courses, that there is a demand within the

community so in the mean time we continue to work closely with Bob Harris, now working for County Durham Education in the Community, to ensure that those registered on our database are contacted directly about the courses he arranges. (see below)

Lifelong Learning

Firstly, congratulations! Since November, nearly 200 learners have attended 31 different courses. Sedgefield is recognised as a centre for learning, but other communities are following in our footsteps so we must be on our toes.

Following requests for a digital camera course, one starts this month (phone for details). I also have had requests for a guitar course. If anyone knows of any prospective pupils or tutors, please contact me.

Courses running currently include Basic Spanish, Holiday Spanish, Dance, Basic Computing, Flower Arranging, Desktop Publishing and Plumbing.

I aim to use local people to conduct the courses and I can tell you that of the above courses 5 are run by locals. Thanks to Andrea, Lenny, Adam and Nigel; keep up the good work - it is appreciated.

I'm now working on the programme for September so please to contact me with suggestions.

I would like to hear from anyone interested in a 4 week Saturday morning (10am-1pm) computer course.

Bob Harris. Tel: 621097

Community Safety *with contributions from Police, Sedgefield NHW, Age Concern, and the Residents' Forum*

Sedgefield NHW & Crimewatch Panel

The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th June 2004 @ 7pm in the Fletcher Room. Everyone is welcome!

We would particularly like to invite any resident from the outlying villages of Mordon, Bradbury, Thorpe Larches or Wynyard Station to attend if they so require!

We would also like to follow on from PC Keith Todd's suggestion about garden ornaments that if you are working in your garden KEEP YOUR DOORS of the house locked, but DON'T LEAVE KEY IN LOCK. Opportunist thieves are about.

Car keys should not be left where they can be seen from outside and certainly not where they can be reached with a fishing rod!

The elderly should also be aware of doorstep visitors (distraction burglars) where one person keeps your attention whilst the 2nd takes your valuables. DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR TO ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW PERSONALLY.

Abseil Adventure

On a brighter note, one of our members, Sue Small will be abseiling down the church tower on Saturday 12th June, between 10 & 1030am, for charity. The Charities Sue has chosen are both Sedgefield based: Friends of Hardwick School and St Edmund's Church. Please support her for as much as you can! You can contact Sue on 622696

PC Todd reporting

Be aware! Garden furniture and ornaments are very attractive to thieves at this time of year. Already a number of flower displays in decorative pots have gone missing. A few moments of your time of an evening, securing them or putting them away will make your summer more enjoyable and frustrate the light fingered ones!

There were no incidents to report at the recent Pub Watch meeting.

Until next time, Keith.

Sedgefield Residents' Forum

At the meeting on Tuesday 4th May it was reported that Roy Smeaton has written to Durham County Council requesting a copy of their survey of the A689/Stockton Road junction as soon as it is available.

No progress has yet been made on the disability survey of the village shops, although Anne Stephenson did remark that Selections shop is the most wheelchair user friendly access in the village and the staff most helpful. The Beacon Lane Group

Village welcomes its new Beat Police Sergeant



First an apology. Last month we mentioned that Sergeant O'Connor was named Barry. Sorry, but he is **Brian** O'Connor. With that we would like to give him a very warm welcome to Sedgefield and hope that he is with us longer than his predecessors!

Brian is married with 3 children. He joined the Durham Force in 1984 and worked in Darlington for 12 years. In 1996 he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Newton Aycliffe. After working there for 2 years he transferred to Spennymoor Town, and then worked as the Ferryhill Section Sergeant for 3 years.

Sergeant O'Connor takes up the story.

"My last posting was as Communications Sergeant working from the newly formed Centralised Communications Centre in Bishop Auckland. I am looking forward to taking on the new challenge in my role as the Sedgefield beat Sergeant. I have already been shown around the village by our own PC Keith Todd. However you will be seeing much more of me in the near future."

Brian O'Connor, Sergeant 919.

was welcomed to the Forum and they expressed their views regarding the current visit of the Travellers to Beacon lane and the attitude of the Police.

We hope that Colin Richmond, our Representative on the Network Empowerment Panel, will be available to attend future meetings. Colin was re-elected unopposed at the election on May 12th.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st June @ 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.

Everyone welcome!

Listening to the voice of older people

Age Concern Sedgefield Locality is setting up a network of older people, to gather views, comments and recommendations on issues affecting older peoples' lives and well being.

Joining the Network costs nothing apart from time and interest in Age Concern's work on behalf of older people. Just your response to a simple questionnaire or telephone call would help Age Concern to gather the information they need in order to represent older people in the area. However, if anyone would like to attend, transport costs are covered and light refreshments provided at friendly, informal, bi-monthly meetings.

The next meeting of the **Age Concern Older Peoples' Network** is on **Tuesday 8th June** from 10am-12 noon.

The guest speaker is Kathleen Sheehan, Patient Advice and Liaison Service.

For more information about Age Concern's services and the Network please contact:

Kathleen Young or Louise Moss, Age Concern
Sedgefield Locality Office,
51 Church Street, Shildon, DL4 1TD.

Telephone 01388 770505

or e-mail sedgefield@ageconcern-durham.org.uk

Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures	Last month	This year to date
<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	6
<i>Theft of Motor Vehicles</i>	nil	5
<i>Taking & Driving Away</i>	nil	2
<i>Vehicle Interference</i>	nil	9
<i>Assaults</i>	nil	1
<i>Criminal damage</i>	1	22
<i>Theft</i>	4	16
TOTAL	7	76



Sewage system work in the pipeline

First constructed back in the 1950s, Sedgefield's Sewage Treatment Works need a considerable rebuild to bring them up 21st century standards. Requirements for river water purity and urban wastewater quality are, quite rightly, very demanding these days and despite the improvements made during the 1970s and 80s, Northumbrian Water is now preparing plans for a very thorough upgrade.

The works currently serve a domestic population of 5000. Although the new proposals allow for an additional 100 houses (based on estimated housing figures in the Local Plan) within the catchment to be served, much of the extra capacity will be taken up by Hardwick Park Heritage Resource Centre and Hardwick Hall Hotel.

In any case, the Local Plan is due for consultation and revision and the capacity envisaged certainly does not appear to allow for huge numbers of new houses. The extension proposed, over the by-pass south of Sedgefield, isn't large and is well screened by planting. Nearby houses should not be affected, apart from some increase in traffic during construction, which will be eased by the upgraded access junction. There will be no change to any existing right of way.

The proposals themselves verge on the poetic!

Picture a storm weir chamber; a storm pumping station; a *splitter* box and perhaps most evocative... a fine new wastewater *kiosk*! Wonderful language for a seemingly prosaic business; but such things make our lives comfortable and we can afford the luxury of giving them not a moment's thought, unless something nasty in the air has us pondering our drains.

We now think of the Victorian sewage system under the streets of London as a wonder of civilization.

Lucky for us the engineers can still think so deeply! **SC**

Tribute paid to Joan Smith

Joan was quite a character, there is no doubt about that! She died on April 23rd and the fact that it was St George's Day seems apt for a proud Londoner and a very *English* lady.

With husband Sam and daughter Roberta (Bobbie), Joan moved in the sixties from Hornchurch, where she had been a Councillor, to Durham. Joan was soon involved in the Labour Party in Newton Hall and after moving here she was instrumental in developing the Sedgefield Branch. Indeed she was soon active in many aspects of village life; SCA, church choir, Sedgefield Players, Friends of Hardwick and the Local History Society (of which she was Chairperson). A career in the legal profession had given her a vast knowledge of constitutional procedures; she was an excellent Chair - a real 'stickler' for the rules.

Joan was outspoken at times, if not downright rude, but her real friends recognised this was often out of frustration about her high expectations of standards in public and private life. She was often disappointed and hurt by people's attitudes, and by the general lack of respect and consideration for one another nowadays. She often spoke of her upbringing through difficult times in London, when her Mother had instilled a sense of self-pride, family values and good manners.

Loyalty was particularly important to Joan, in both friendship and politics, as born out by her dedication to the Labour Party for 66 years. But she never got over the insensitivity shown to her when she felt she could not support the war in Iraq, even though she was one of many Labour Party stalwarts who felt the same way.

Even at the age of 81 Joan was quick-witted, astute and a great conversationalist. She will be long remembered and sadly missed by her many friends. *Gloria Wills*



Eyecare update

Opening hours at Optometrist Liz Maw's practice have been extended to Thursday evenings and all day Saturday. Home visits can be arranged when required, for eye tests for those not well enough to visit the practice.

All major contact lens brands are now available, including coloured lenses and daily disposables; these can be paid for on a monthly basis. Thoroughness and accuracy of eye examinations and diagnosis of eye disease is further improved by the purchase of the latest equipment. Many well known designer brands are stocked and the practice is the sole distributor of Nikon frames in the Teesside area.

Upgraded training has been undertaken in the area of sports vision, with specialist frames & lenses stocked for fishing as well as a full range of highest quality lenses for all needs.

See Liz's advert on p.10 for contact details.

Taekwondo

It was really nice to see so many of you at the Medieval Fayre. We hope you enjoyed our display. If you would like to give Taekwondo a try, lessons are held at 6pm on Mondays in Sedgefield Parish Hall; Wednesdays & Thursdays in Fishburn Working Mens' Club.

The first lesson is free so what have you got to lose?

Taekwondo builds self-esteem and confidence which you will take with you into everyday life, at the same time as getting and *keeping* you fit.

Who knows, with practice, this time next year it could be you standing on the village green in white pyjamas!

Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control and Indomitable Spirit are the Tenets of Taekwondo and this is how we strive to live our lives. If you have any questions, come to a lesson and ask for Senior Instructor, Mike Roper, or myself, Master Mike Britton 5th Dan.

Roundabout Hardwick

Work proceeds apace on the new roundabout, with high hopes it will be finished by the beginning of July. The new sewerage system serving the hotel and Heritage Resource Centre is some months from completion, being held up by the discovery of running sand in the excavations.

It's really good to see visible evidence of Park restoration. The new cascade and footbridge at the end of the Serpentine River is well advanced, its facing stonework about to be fitted; and soil is being removed from the face of the Lake Dam ready for the concrete facing - a modern requirement which be hidden by the lake-water.

In the next major operation silt will be scooped out of the lake-bed, the spoil being used to landscape the new Car Park and other areas.

Work on the main buildings goes out to tender soon and should start during the summer. This will include consolidation work on the Bono Retiro.

Finally, thought is being given to how to separate public from animals in the East Park, but there will be a corridor round the edge so that the view from nearby houses is unimpeded.



"Action!"

Bradley Collins (12) wasn't pulling any punches!

Photography enthusiast, Tim Randall was busy at Mediaeval Fayre.

As website administrator he has posted dozens more photos of the day for you to view.

Enjoy them on-screen or order prints to purchase. See more at sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Games Bonanza by Liam Connor

Wow what a week! The world biggest games show E3 finally arrived in the States and the biggest news to break so far is Sony's PSP hand held Playstation, which should give some serious competition to Nintendo's Gameboy.

Nintendo already has a secret weapon under their handheld sleeves - Nintendo DS, but before parents get in a mad panic hiding their credit cards, there is no official release date in Europe yet - expect it some time next year.

There's finally some light at the end of the tunnel for the long waiting Gran Turismo players. It hit the shop on the 28th May and you can pre-order your copy now at Retro World Games. Prologue is limited edition, it contains over 60 cars, 5 different tracks bonus disc is included, featuring the 'making of GT4' movie GT4 trailer, behind the scenes movie and gallery. GT4 Prologue Signature Edition is a must have for fans and collectors of the series and will give drivers a chance to perfect their skills in preparation for the release of Gran Turismo 4 later this year.

On the X-Box we now have the official release date for the much anticipated and long overdue Halo 2. We have had a sneak peak and this game looks just as good as Halo and with a host of new vehicles and the added option to hijack passing enemy ghost Bike's its sure to be a massive seller, out in November just in time to put onto your Christmas list.

After our very successful Need for Speed Underground competition in February, where our Village Champion Tom Jones's walked with a Force Feedback Ferrari Steering wheel, and a Retro World Games T-Shirt! Well done Tom, but can he hold on to his crown as the Best gamer in the Village? This time we will be holding another competition which will capture the spirit of Euro 2004, using EA Sports Euro 2004. *Do you think you can become the new champion? Think you can beat Retro World Games very own Games Guru?* Places are limited so hurry - entries are £5 and must be paid in full on registration, a free mini Football to all entries and winner receives a Game cube! For further information visit our or see in store, posters, Retro World Games is open 6 days a week. Feel free to pop in and chat to staff about any gaming matters.

We now offer a new service - console repairs - all consoles old and new, with FREE estimates given before any work is undertaken, call at the shop for further information.

A Ghostly Story (or a Ghastly Tale)

My name is Albert Bateman and I was born in Sedgefield on August 6th 1897. My family lived in East parade, just Mam & Dad, my elder brother John and me, then along came brother Tom, followed by sisters, Alice and Edna. We were a happy family, very close. After school I got a job as an apprentice groom for the Ramsdens at Sands Hall.

Then came the Great War, the war to end all wars! "Your country needs you" ran the posters. Lord Kitchener seemed to be pointing at me. Shortly after my 19th birthday the recruiting Sergeant from the 5th Yorkshire Regiment (later The Green Howards) visited Sedgefield and made a fine speech. "Everyone is joining up" he shouted "are you going to be left out - a "white feather". He looked right at me when he said it. "Well now", I thought, "I don't really want to go". Then I saw my mates were filling in their forms. "Here's the King's Shilling" the sergeant shouted "what do you think of that". That decided me. That and the fact that Chris Ruddock shouted "Come on, Bert, let's do it". So I signed.

We marched down to Stockton, more a rabble than a troop of soldiers. But the Sergeant kept us in time and we boarded the train at Stockton Station bound for Catterick. "I haven't said goodbye to the family" I said. "Don't worry, lad. My men are calling at your homes to tell the folks you're men now" said the Sergeant.

So we arrived at Catterick Garrison and marched straight out to the barracks. We received a meal and a palliase and were taken to our barrack room. We were met by a Corporal who started shouting and calling us a lot of foul names (we soon got used to that). We were there for the next 6 weeks, square bashing; arms drill. Not that they gave us rifles - we used sticks, but we got the hang of it. We were allowed to write home once a week, but couldn't say where we were nor give any other information, just that we were alright and enjoying ourselves (I must say). At the end of

6 weeks we were issued with FSMO (Full Service Marching Order) and fitted with uniforms, issued with rifles and 10 rounds of ammunition. We were marched to the rifle range where we were shown how to load and fire our guns. We fired off the 10 rounds, cleared our weapons and with all empty cartridge cases accounted for, were marched back to barracks. Our platoon Officer came to see us to tell us we would be marching out next day to the railway station, where we would board a train for the south. We headed for Dover and shipped out to Calais. It took us 3 days. We then boarded a train and steamed east. We pulled into a station I don't know its name. The area was full of what we took for shell holes. We were right. Just then there were a number of bangs and the earth erupted. Then I heard a whistle and then...

That was 88 years ago. My name lives on, on Sedgefield War Memorial. But the lettering is very faded (I'm fifth down the list but you can't read it). The memorial is well kept, but the names are unreadable. Was this why I gave my tomorrow - for oblivion?

Albert Bateman was my wife Enid's Uncle, who she never knew. He's buried in Thiepval Cemetery, The Somme. He never even reached the battlefield!
David Hillerby

Volunteer Week: 1st to 7th June

To celebrate Volunteers Week, Sedgefield Borough Volunteer Bureau is organising a Volunteering Road show and will be in Sedgefield on Wednesday 2nd June between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. The bus will be parked outside the Hope Inn, so why not hop on board and find out about volunteering in your area.

For more information contact Sharon Vasey on 01325 313930

Sedgefield is moving into the technological age...

or at least the carpet shop is! We have just installed a display from Ulster Carpets called a Chameleon stand. It offers the chance to custom design your carpet pattern and colours in store - a revolution in this trade. No other manufacturer has integrated technology with their product so successfully.

Very few of these displays are available nationwide and despite tough competition I was successful in obtaining one. I would be only too pleased to give readers a demonstration of the unit's capabilities.

Alan Goddard, Carpets at Home

Calling all Ex National Service Personnel

Were you in the Canal Zone between the dates Oct 16th 1951 and Oct 19th October 1954. If you were there for a minimum of 30 days continuous service during this period then you qualify, after fifty odd years, for the General Service Medal with "Canal Zone" clasp. However you must apply for it by writing to the appropriate address below:-

*Royal Marines Medal Office
Room 038, Centurion Building
Grange Road, Gosport,
Hampshire, PO1 3XA*

*Royal Air Force Medal Office,
Room 6, Building 248A
RAF PMA, RAF Innsworth,
Gloucester, GI-3 1EZ*

*Army medal Office
Government Buildings,
Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa,
Worcestershire, WR9 8AU*

*Royal Naval Medal Office
Room 1068, Centurion Building,
Grange Road, Gosport,
Hampshire, PO1 3XA*

Veterans of the Canal Zone or relatives of those who have died should give details of full name, date of birth and service number. You will firstly receive a confirmation of receipt within a few days, but the award will be issued as quickly as possible.

NetPark link benefits youngsters

As a result of the growing links between our community, the NetPark and Durham University, a group of students from Sedgefield Community College have had a unique opportunity to check out state-of-the-art instrumentation for astronomy at the University of Durham Centre for Advanced Instrumentation. Patricia Higgins, Teacher of Science at Sedgefield Community College was delighted that her students were able to gain such a practical insight into the work which will be carried out at NetPark and the immense capabilities of adaptive optics



Community College student, Laura Goldsworth, observing from a roof top telescope in the Physics Department

Durham University is one of the UK's top 12 research universities with two campuses in the city of Durham and in Queen's Campus, Stockton-on-Tees.

Each year the University generates over 3000 high quality graduates in a broad range of disciplines and some 85% of the University's academic staff were recognised in the latest national research assessment exercise for conducting

The Transit of Venus

There's bound to be a lot of publicity about the transit of Venus on 8th June, when the 2nd planet from the Sun (Earth is the 3rd) passes between us and the Sun.

Venus will be seen as a small black dot passing across the face of the Sun.

However, many astronomical events are given a big build-up but end up disappointing those who try to watch. Will this be the same?

For astronomers it is a very special event - the last transit was in 1882; but it is unlikely to look really 'spectacular' unless you have a special interest in astronomy.

If you do want to see it though, there's just one thing I need to say, or rather, shout out loud!

Please don't look directly at the sun or with binoculars, telescope or camera.

You risk blindness, caused in a split-second before you have time to blink. Transit filters may be on sale (they look like aluminium foil) or you may have old eclipse filters left over from 1999. So long as they are not creased or scratched, they should be safe.

But the only totally safe way to view the sun is to use a pin-hole projector or eyepiece projection from a telescope or a pair of binoculars.

Instructions can be found at

www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/how2.html (there's an Internet connection in the library).

Also, most astronomy books should be helpful.

The transit begins at 06:20 BST and ends at 11:24, (exact time varies with location). If you miss it this time there's another in 2012 but after that, no more until 2117! Good and safe viewing! **Tim Randall**

The 'greening' of the A689

When Durham County Council undertook to build over two miles of dual carriageway between Sedgefield and Wynyard Station, it faced the challenge of integrating the new road into open countryside. Construction work meant removing much existing hedging and several mature trees. After early completion last autumn, Service Direct (contractors wholly owned by DCC), undertook the planting during the winter months.

The County Council has a pioneering policy of transplanting existing hedges where possible, though the task is more difficult with older hedges. A large tracked excavator took broad bites of hedge that were carefully placed into deep trenches on the line of the new highway boundary. Any failures will be cut out and replanted new during the next planting season.

Nearly 3½ miles of hawthorn and hazel hedging transplants went in, including 400 beech, ash, oak and

sycamore hedgerow trees, plus 2000 additional native species transplants to enrich the verges. Common oak, sessile oak, wild cherry, lime, alder, birch, holly, hazel, blackthorn, elder, dog rose and guelder rose will flourish under an extended establishment period of four growing seasons, as weeds and rabbits are kept at bay. Owners and tenants of the farms and other properties affected by the road were asked for their preferences, and 66 larger trees have been planted at farm entrances and in gardens to complement access accommodation works.

17 giant sequoias have been planted near the Wynyard to Station Town Cycle Way Bridge and on the Sedgefield Roundabout, which in time will create an impressive feature at each end of the scheme - although perhaps not many of us will be around in the 22nd century to see them in their magnificent mature glory!

June DIARY

Announcements on this page are free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 1st June

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Hanging Baskets

a demonstration by

Daphne Walton

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 2nd June

7.15pm in the Parish Hall

Peter Tate, on

Darlington Civic Theatre

Competition for members -

a short poem entitled

"My 15 minutes of fame"

New members always welcome

Old Beacon Lane Forum

Parish Hall - **Thursday 3rd June**

Everyone with an interest welcome

The Tyne-Tees Vehicle Run

Sunday 6th June, leaves

Stockton at 9.30am, via

Sedgefield to South Shields

Over 200 vehicles taking part

Local History Society

Monday June 7th

7.45 in Ceddesfeld Hall

Richard Annis will talk about

"The Roman Villa at

Ingleby Barwick"

Guests & new members welcome

Further details from Judith

Edgoose on 620244

The **"Merrie England"** evening

on Saturday June 19th

will be dedicated to our late

chairman, Joan Smith, who

worked tirelessly for our society.

She had planned and very much

looked forward to this

celebration..

A Town Councillor Surgery

will take place in the

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on

June 7th at 6.30pm

with Cllrs. L Maddison,

J Robinson & D Waters

Tiny Steps

Wednesday June 9th

1.30pm in St Edmunds Church

Singing & Stories

for pre-school children

& their carers

All are welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 13th June

9.30am to 1.30pm

Local traders always welcome

Please contact Bob Harris on

07977 231815 for details

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

June 12th - Trip to Washington

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Thursday 24th June

Jonathan Elmer

(Sedgefield Countryside Officer)

& Deborah Ferguson lead a

Guided Walk at

Castle Eden Walkway

Meet 6.45pm, Parish Hall car park

Details: Anne Gladwin, 620811

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 15th June

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

"One thing leads to another"

with Diane Fair,

North East Area Demonstrator

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Home fixtures in June

A Division:

Sat 12th v. Shildon

Sat 26th v. Langley Park

B Division:

Sat 5th v. Ushaw Moor

Sun 20th v. Mainsforth

SedgefieldWeb.co.uk

Launch Party for the

new community website

at Ceddesfeld Hall on

Tuesday 15th June

See front page for details of

how you can attend

Family History Group

Monday 21st June

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Gordon Morris on

19th Century Wynyard

Are you interested in genealogy?

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Players

present

"Blood Money" - a thriller

by the Heather Brothers

Wednesday Thursday & Friday

23rd, 24th & 25th June

Please note, no Saturday show

The W.I. Market

Friday mornings as usual,

in the Parish Hall

Bush visit question revisited

I have waited patiently for a response to Mr Wragg's letter 'Where was the Mayor' (Jan 04). I should perhaps remind readers that it concerned the conspicuous absence of Sedgefield's mayor, Cllr. Linda Maddison, at the luncheon and surrounding activities, when Mr George Bush visited Sedgefield. As I have yet to see a response from the local Labour party, town council or other interested party, I feel compelled to resurrect the subject as it risks being overlooked, or more accurately brushed under the carpet.

The first issue is one of principle. I think people were proud of the excellent job the mayor was doing and would wish to be represented by her on such a momentous and highly visible occasion, with the eyes of the world's media turned on us. Cllr. Maddison should be commended for the dignified way she has risen above what seems to me to have been a disgraceful snub.

Secondly - money. I understand that the costs of this visit are being shouldered by residents of County Durham and that the extra policing alone cost almost £1 million, to be paid for out of our council tax. But I was led to believe such costs could only be charged to the citizens for a 'civic event'; the absence of an invitation for the mayor surely means that Mr Bush's visit was not such an event. So what is the justification for charging such

huge costs to local tax payers? Apart from the inconvenience caused to many residents, what did we gain from this expenditure in a community with well documented and often discussed community needs, like youth provision and public toilets. I hope this letter will prompt a response from someone in a position to clarify these issues. However I do not feel confident. *Name and address supplied*

Action for Bradbury safety

To address the concerns of residents (Letters, November '03) Durham County Council will shortly be undertaking works to enhance the Bradbury Village Gateway features.

Although hedges and verges have previously been attended to, residents are still concerned that the features are not prominent enough and tend to blend in with the surroundings.

So it has been decided to bring painting of the fencing forward in the maintenance programme. In line with residents' requests, a brighter paint colour than the standard treatment will be used - possibly yellow, which will make it both stand out and co-ordinate with the edge of the village nameplate. At the same time existing stakes in the verge will be painted and additional carriageway markings applied, adjacent to the feature. The works themselves will be carried out within the next 2 months.

Ken Manton

So speaking out can help! Ed

How do you rate your driving?

Good, bad or indifferent? Or are you the type who doesn't care? Most accidents are caused by bad drivers with bad habits! Whether you are driving a car, bus, HGV, white van or motor cycle, if you drive hard, fast and forceful, take short cuts, cut corners, cut across lanes on roundabouts then, in my opinion, you are a bad driver. A good driver progresses quickly but safely, by staying within their lane; by driving at a safe distance behind the guy in front; by assessing the situation long before you reach it. He has worked out the distance, speed and line of oncoming vehicles and taken the necessary action to combat any given situation, well in advance of any hazard. This equals "Defensive Driving". Do you know what is round the next corner? Do you use your powers of observation to pick out any clues? Shadows, hedgerows, tops of vehicles. These can all give you a clue. Do you check lines of parked cars for pedestrians stepping out in front of you? Can you stop? Are you going too fast for the conditions, aware of what approaching traffic is doing? You should be, if you consider yourself a good driver!

Name & address supplied

We hope to feature an occasional series by 'The Driver', author of this letter.

Copy for the July issue by June 15th please, to Sedgefield News, Advice & Information Centre, Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT
or to our new email address snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or telephone 629011

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