

Sedgefield News

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

Stunning hat-trick for Sedgefield designer

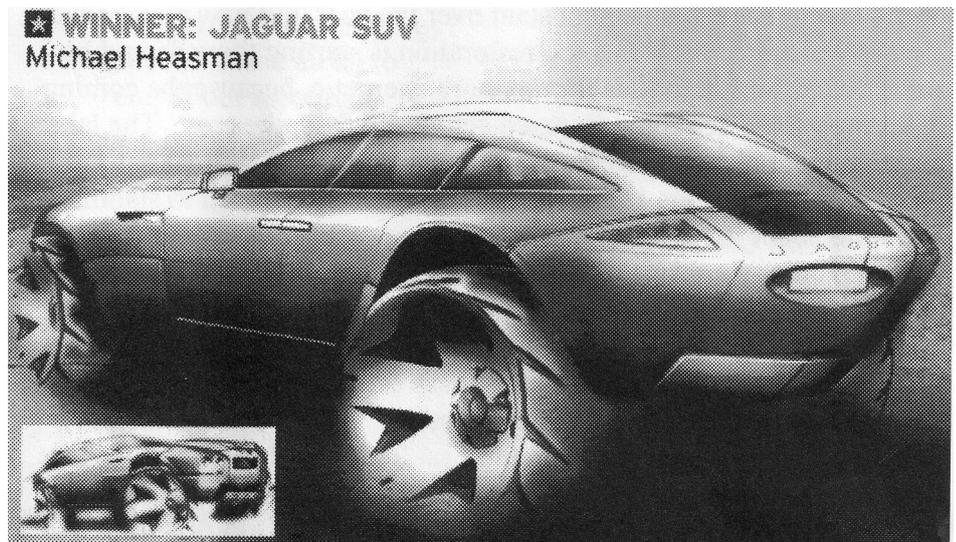
Friends of 24 year old Michael Heasman were thrilled when he e-mailed to say how excited he was at having won the Michelin Design Challenge.

This prestigious award was to be presented in Detroit and Michael was busy thinking about how he could raise enough money to go there early in the New Year, when a few days later, another e-mail arrived - he had been selected as a finalist in the MG world design competition and was invited to another ceremony, this time at Longbridge! You can just imagine his friends' and family's reaction - amazement and excitement all round.

Then came the astonishing hat-trick! Michael had won the Jaguar design competition and he would be going to London in November to collect his prize – a week's work experience at Jaguar.

Truly a remarkable talent!!!

We are considering starting a 'hatches, matches & dispatches' type column, for anyone who would like to share their news. Details next month, but it would probably run in similar fashion to other papers - a small charge per word, additional charge for a photograph. Some feedback about whether this would be welcome would be very helpful.



Girls in Sport National Award 2003

Sedgefield Community College pupils and staff have won yet another award, reflecting the growing standards of the school and the positive approach by all involved.

'Girls in Sport' - in partnership with Nike and the Youth Sport Trust - gave the college the award for 'Innovation in the Curriculum'.

The success was achieved by changing the curriculum to suit girls' interests, which meant moving away from more competitive team games to focus on more individual creative activities such as trampoline and sports aerobics.

As a result of these changes, the college can now boast 100% participation in girls P.E. and even when unable to participate physically, the girls always bring their kit and take the role of coach or official. Girls come to P.E. with a more positive attitude now and enjoy the subject much more.

There has also been an increase in the number of girls taking part in sport or other physical activities after school.

Congratulations to all concerned

Friends of Hardwick Annual Report

The Friends of Hardwick held their 5th Annual General Meeting on 3rd February, and the Officers were all re-elected, as follows;

President – Rt. Hon. Tony Blair **Vice-president** – Ken Manton

Chairman – Jack Glendinning **Vice-chairman** – Tom Stubbs

Hon. Secretary – John Fitzpatrick **Hon. Treasurer** – John Hannon

In the Chairman's report Jack Glendinning noted that work had started on the restoration of the landscape and buildings. This has triggered the Friends into working on their own contribution to the work, that is, raising the funds to replace the Statue of Neptune. Three estimates have already been received from sculptors and nearly £40,000 now has to be raised.

The Friends have continued their researches into the history of Hardwick Park and are still discovering important records and documents. A lot of information is available on the web site www.friendsofhardwick.gov.uk and a comprehensive archive is being set up.

Membership has remained constant over the year, but new members are always welcome. Now that the restoration is starting there should be some "hands on" activities for the more energetic, because the coming of spring should see some frenzied activity in the Lake area. The lake bed will be excavated to remove the accumulation of silt that has built up over 200 plus years and the dam will be concrete faced to stabilise and waterproof it. After some more minor tree clearance, work is due to start on the rebuilding of the Temple of Minerva, the Gothic Seat and the Gothic Ruin. Also a rubble bridge and cascade will be constructed at the end of the Serpentine River where it meets the main Lake.

Also scheduled for the spring is the construction of the roundabout on the A177 and the new Car Park entrance.

Plans are being formed to divide the East Park into three sections. It is intended to graze Belted Galloway cattle in one section at a time, so that walkers have a cattle-free passage across the East Park. The conversion of arable land to pasture should happen in the autumn.

It is proposed to hold another public meeting in the village before the major work starts in the Park, to which all villagers will be invited.

John Fitzpatrick



A new vista opens up - the Gothic Ruin on a winter's morning

Sedgefield Village Welfare Working Party

At the first meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 10th February, chaired by Clr. Maxine Robinson, only 13 residents were in attendance.

It was decided that the meetings will be continued and will be held on a regular basis. The next one is scheduled for **Tuesday 6th April** at 7pm in the Parish hall. The name of the group is now "Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum" and everyone is invited to attend.

The issues raised at this meeting were basically **Road Safety** and **Disabled Access** and so the attendees were split into 2 groups to cover these issues. It is hoped that more people will attend future meetings to give strength to these committees and help to bring the Villagers' concerns to the attention of the Authorities.

Although the meeting was initially called by the Town Council, the ultimate aim is that it should be the **People's Forum**, run by **YOURSELVES**, so do please come to the next meeting and bring your ideas with you!

A wee chuckle

As a father was driving his young son home from school, they got behind an old car driven by an equally old lady.

The lady was driving very slowly and the father remarked on it.

The son replied that in his opinion the lady was lethargic.

"That's a good word" said the father "where did you hear it?"

"Well" said the son "it's here in my school bag - in my school report!"

Eric Benson: *to paraphrase the Romans, 'he came, he volunteered, he made a difference!'*

We have to say a fond farewell to Eric this month, but he will be leaving a terrific legacy behind, because Eric is a very important part of the team that launched Sedgefield News in May 2002.

It started with a good friend of his here in Sedgefield who quickly got him involved with Sedgefield Development Partnership. Not long after, when Sedgefield News started, Eric acted as editor, facilitator and project manager. He was invaluable in making contact with businesses and building up a good base of advertisers, without whom Sedgefield News could not survive. Lately his main responsibilities were organising the distribution and keeping the editorial team to order.

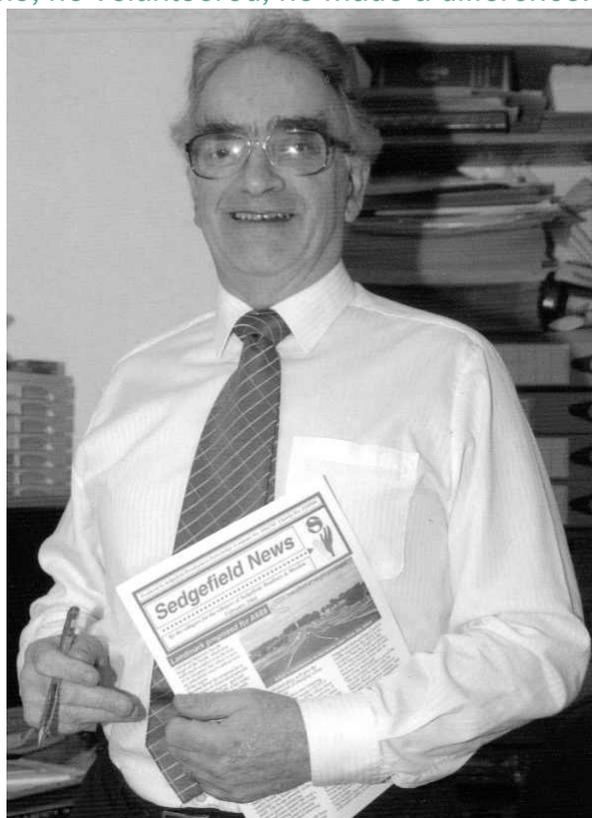
Eric says he will especially miss working with the team of local people on this community newspaper. They will miss him too - not just his energy and can-do attitude, but also his warmth and good nature.

He also became a committed member of the Sedgefield First Responders team and always brought his cheerful sense of humour to training. From the Development Partnership point of view, Eric, as treasurer for two years, was a crucial part of that team.

He has enjoyed walking his daughter Lisa's dog Harry in Hardwick Park and his social life revolved around meeting friends in the Nag's Head or enjoying a meal with them in the Crosshill.

Eric and his wife Sheila moved to Sedgefield from his home town of Hartlepool four years ago, but they have now decided to move back to Hartlepool, where they have a large circle of friends and relatives.

They are hoping to buy a bungalow with a garden where Eric can pursue his hobbies of raising fuchsias (he is the



show secretary for the Hartlepool Horticultural Show) and enjoying using his digital camera. Sheila will enjoy living back at the coast and particularly, as a non-driver, not having to make a long bus journey to do her shopping in Hartlepool.

We offer our grateful thanks to Eric for all his hard work in the short time he has been in Sedgefield and wish them both well for the future.

Have you ever looked at an item on the Diary page and thought - Hm - I wonder what that's all about then?

Well this month, in the first of an occasional series we look at one of our featured societies -

Sedgefield Family History Group

We have had two very successful years since our formation in January 2002. The group is a section of the Sedgefield Community Association and is the Sedgefield Group of the Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham Family History Society

We meet in Ceddesfeld Hall at

7:45pm on the third Monday of each month to hear speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

Recent topics have included *Military Records of the Great War* and *Computers for Family Historians*.

Talks coming up soon include *The other lady with the lamp* and *The Londonderry family in 19th Century Wynyard*.

We also have occasional outings to places such as Beamish Museum or to Family History Fairs.

At every meeting we have various Family History Journals which are available for members to borrow, and we have on sale

the Cleveland Family History Society's inexpensive, wide-ranging and very helpful publications, such as "The 1901 Census and how to tackle it", and "Familysearch on the Internet".

We also hold occasional members' questions and queries in Sedgefield Library where members are always willing to give help to anyone trying to trace those elusive ancestors. If you have an interest in things genealogical, please come along and join our friendly group.

Editor's note: If any other groups or societies would like to feature in this way, do get in touch.

Community Safety *with contributions from Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Police and Sedgefield Primary Care Trust (see p.9 this issue)*

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

Minutes of Meeting held on 10th February

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of 9/12/03 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer informed members of balances of Current and Premier accounts.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary gave details of correspondence issued and received.

Issued were: Grant Application (Rent for Panel meetings) & a note to PC Todd from the Executive regarding Crime Figures (which was circulated to all present).

Received: CAVOS – various; Insurance: – Pennykidd: Area N/H/Watch Manager – latest from Sarah, it appears that we **are** insured via National N/H/Watch scheme; Town Council – various.

Representative Reports:

Community Force: Tim Spearey apologised for the lack of formal details. This was due to a problem with the Force's computer system. Tim, despite not covering Sedgefield at present, was able to talk about 3 recent issues and confirmed that the problem with Chestnut Rd. telephone box was still receiving attention.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Sarah gave her apologies via Neil, who then described the Ring Master message that Sarah had initiated earlier in the day for the benefit of those who do not receive them. He re-affirmed that no one should give out bank details (as had been asked for by the bogus BT caller to a Sedgefield resident) to anyone over the phone & urged anyone who may be contacted in this way to contact the Police immediately.

Crime Prevention Officer: Neil gave an update regarding the mobile CCTV van project, which may be decided within a week. There were several queries

PC Todd reports

Recently damage was caused on the same night to a number of vehicles and property in the village. 4 males between the ages of 16 & 18 years were caught in the act and arrested! The CCTV cameras played their part. Sadly, these youths are part of the Sedgefield community. I hope that they will now reflect on their behaviour. Drink may have played its part, but that is no excuse. They should feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The people of Sedgefield expect and deserve better behaviour from locals.

At a recent meeting of the Pub Watch, all members agreed that those youths who are 18 should serve a 12 month ban. A review of the situation will be carried out as & when the others reach the age of 18.

Until next time, take care, **Keith.**

regarding who would own/use/pay for the vehicle, where would it be stored, would the Police end up using it, what are the benefits etc. Neil gave comprehensive answers to all of these.

C/man Ken Saiger then thanked Neil and asked for the Panel to confirm its support for this SPARC initiative, which was given unanimously.

Neil reported on Operation DARC.

Village Constable: Keith tendered Inspector Neal's apologies and then circulated members with copies of "Reported Crime in Sedgefield Village between 14/12/03 & 1/2/04". Summarised they are: - **Burglary 3, Vehicle related 15, Theft 14, Damage/Vandalism 10, & Assaults 6: making a Total of 48.**

Keith gave further details & explanations regarding issues raised by members present. Notable issues were:

"if a legitimate vehicle is left or abandoned on private property, the Police have no powers to remove it";

"if residents are not satisfied, in any circumstance with a telephone call to the Police, they should put their concern/complaint in writing, & it will be dealt with";

"some of the mindless vandalism has been caused by local youths, known to the Police".

Keith confirmed that the village CCTV had been used in some incidents reported above.

Panel members recorded strongly their feelings that they are often less than happy with the telephone operator's response when they phone with information or requests, and that this applies to both the Police & the Community Force.

The note from the Executive was accepted by Keith and will make the reporting more relevant to the village in the future. There was no other business. The **Raffle** held after the meeting raised £16.00.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th Apr. 7 pm - Parish Hall.

Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures	Last month	This year to date
Youths Causing Annoyance	nil	nil
Burglary Non Dwelling	3	3
Burglary Dwelling	nil	nil
Crime Drugs	nil	nil
Theft from Motor Vehicles	1	1
Theft of Motor Vehicles	1	1
Taking & Driving Away	nil	nil
Vehicle Interference	8	8
Assaults	nil	nil
Criminal damage	8	8
Theft	5	5
TOTAL	26	26

Two responses to last month's article "What price a life?"

Durham County Council asks people to look at the bigger picture, not solely at the Sedgefield /A689 junction.

The junction in question and the feeder roads into and around Sedgefield have been the subject of investigation for a number of weeks by county Highway Engineers with the intention of obtaining up to date information on traffic flows and speed - you may have noticed that a number of sites have already had the traffic measuring tubes in place. The outcome of the investigation and any proposals for change, have yet to be considered.

DCC have already spent a lot of money on the A689/Sedgefield junction: two protected right turns were installed last year, as well as one deceleration lane which gives access to the stopped-up section of Stockton Road. These works have been installed at considerable cost to the county's highway budget. I have said for many years - at great irritation to the 'no more houses' in Sedgefield village lobby - that the solution to a safe access into Sedgefield from the south, is to install a new entrance from the existing A689/A177 roundabout (adjacent to the hotel). Should this proposal go ahead it is inevitable, in my opinion that the land at the southern entrance into Sedgefield will eventually be opened up for residential development. In terms of community gain, the whole road could be included in the planning package for such a development. Arrangements like this are commonly included as part of planning agreements. What we are probably witnessing is the gathering of the forces of those resisting the prospect of further housing development in Sedgefield. Those with this

opinion are happy to repeat the mantra that 'something must be done' about the A689 junction, but are less happy to accept the consequences of any change.

Another note of caution about the proposals listed in your article. Should the proposals to ban the manoeuvres listed in the article be implemented, it is likely that the residents living along Station Road could be upset, for they will see a significant increase in traffic movements near to their homes. The Spring Lane/Station Road junction would, inevitably, become an increasing cause of concern.

(See letter on page 12)

Similarly, patrons of public transport would be disadvantaged (especially the elderly living in the Thurlow Road and Beacon Lane areas). Let us not forget there are a lot of people who still rely on public transport. They will see bus routes re-routed from Front Street and Stockton Road to Station Road, if a no right turn ban was introduced at the A689 junction, and there will be considerable inconvenience to the elderly and those with mobility difficulties who rely on gaining access to public transport as close to their homes as possible.

David Hillerby takes a different stand-point:

Ken Manton appears to be proud of the monument he is planning to erect at Old Acres. But a monument to what?

Perhaps he should consider these facts first.

The Administrative boundary of County Durham is already marked - by the bridge.

The geographical and ancient boundary is the Tees, and always will be, so far as we in Durham are concerned

There is already a bridge. I think it is the ultimate in bridges, in line with the Gateshead Jubilee Bridge although much smaller. It is also on the County boundary as the marker to the east indicates.

Instead of a monumental folly, why not spend the £55,000 making the junction completely safe, as a monument to the two young lives that have been lost. It is too late for the dead, but there is still time to save the lives of those who may yet follow, by altering the junction NOW and not waiting until the coroner's inquest reaches its conclusions. It would be beneficial to everyone and it would truly be a lasting testament to *successful road building!*

Benefits for over 60's from Help the Aged

A presentation by Susan Ledger of Help the Aged given to the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch Panel will interest the over 60's.

Susan described a most beneficial scheme being run in County Durham known as the **Help the Aged - Handy Van Scheme.**

It encourages residents (60+) to contact to "Help the Aged" to have a security check carried out on their premises; this check will cover doors, windows and smoke detectors.

If new or additional features are required the owner can have these provided and fitted totally free by the nominated provider from Help the Aged, subject to that resident being 60+ years old and having savings less than £16,000.

All the resident (or their nominee) needs to do is to complete a simple form (Name, address, phone number, date of birth etc.)

The form is available from Susan Ledger on 0191 3842785.

Community Empowerment Network (Sedgefield Borough) Representative's report

For those who don't know about the Network and its latest developments, here is an update and some explanation of how it works.

There are 20 elected volunteer committee members, four from each of the five Borough areas. There are also ten representatives from voluntary organisations. Part of the group is a grants committee which assesses applications for grants from the Community Empowerment Fund and makes recommendations to the full committee. The grants committee also review grant recommendations for the Neighbourhood Renewal Community unit and the Community Learning Chest. The last two of these grants are carried out in conjunction with the County Durham Foundation. The criteria for these three grants can be obtained from Anne Frizell, Community Network Co-ordinator on 01325 307219.

Each area organises community forums, to which residents and organisations are invited, where they can raise issues which are important to them. The network representative may then become involved and bring it to the attention of the relevant policy group of the Local Strategic Partnership. Some Network members are also members of the policy groups. There is a Communication policy in place which ensures that the flow of information reaches the appropriate persons or organisations.

The Network has a term of reference document which details the purpose of the organisation. To see the document, phone Anne Frizell.

The Network operates within a 'responsible body structure' which is CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations of Sedgefield). Members of the community may be assured of the over-all non-political structure of the network; the local Strategic Partnership and the Policy Groups are all working for the benefit of the community.

The latest government involvement means that between now and April 2005 a single community programme involving three funds and a neighbourhood management body will all be the responsibility of the network. Within this time period the CEN is to identify a future responsible body approved by the Government office, to be legally responsible to government for the disbursement of funding. This is currently being implemented by the CEN.

Discussions have taken place with CAVOS and the County Durham Foundation. Sedgefield community has been requested by Government North East to comment to Anne Frizell on this latest situation.

The future of this new arrangement after April 2006 has not yet been decided by the Government Office for the North East.

Colin Richmond, Sedgefield CEN Representative.

Community Empowerment Network needs your voice to make changes happen!

We are an independent, voluntary organisation working with local people. To make a difference in the local area that you live in, we need you to come to your Community Forum to raise awareness of local issues. Any local issues that you bring to the Community Forum will be listened to by the Network Rep for your area; they then will take issues to the appropriate authority and make sure your views are heard. So come along and have your say; it's your Community - you are the experts!

Your Community needs you!



First Responder Group seeks new volunteers

Sedgefield First Responders group, which provides assistance to the North East Ambulance Service in attending emergency calls, has gone through a few changes in the last few months. Some of the trained volunteer responders have had to leave, for either work or health reasons, so the group finds itself unable to offer the kind of cover to which it aspires.

**Ideally, there would be someone
at the end of the phone
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
But for this to happen, they must
substantially increase the number
of volunteers on the rota.**

You really don't have to be an 'exceptional person' to do your bit. It's all a matter of confidence in your training; so take heart. Almost everyone who has succeeded with the training so far has had no medical or first aid background. It is amazing how the training can develop confidence in the most unlikely candidate. Also, volunteers are almost always on call in pairs - a rule that the group chose, to increase personal safety. **So if you could help, please get in touch with anyone you know in the local group, or contact Bob on 07977 231815**

Let Sedgefield Players give you a kiss on the bottom!

Don't miss the chance to see your local award winning drama company in their latest production before they take it to the prestigious Isle of Man Drama Festival at Easter.

"A Kiss on the Bottom", appearing at Sedgefield Parish Hall on March 25-27th, is a heartfelt and bittersweet comedy in the unlikely setting of a hospital ward. The women who are spending time there for cancer treatment find their own ways of coping with life, the uncertainties of their health and the secrets and half truths maintained by family and nursing staff. Somehow, the atmosphere remains cheery, and lives become inextricably linked and altered as patients and staff support, annoy and care for each other by turns.

Sedgefield Players have gained numerous awards over the years in the Isle of Man Festival, including last year's touching and evocative production of "My Mother Said I Never Should ..."

Award winning actresses from that play, Norma Neal, Jean Hewling, Viv Jacobs and Sarah Atkinson will be reunited under the guidance of director Walter Howell and hope to repeat the success they enjoyed in 2003. Joined on stage by Rosemary Jones, Dorothy Tate and Annette Lawson, with backstage support coming from

husband and wife team Richie and Sheri Parry, the Players are delighted to have 15 year old Michelle Cooper operating the lights for them, both at home and in the Isle of Man.

Chairman Norma Neal said, "We are very proud of our success rate at the Isle of Man Festival where we will be performing in the magnificent Gaiety Theatre. Don't miss out – come and see us at home first. We guarantee you an excellent night's theatre with "A Kiss on the Bottom"!

Sedgefield Cricket Club Junior Coaching Sessions

The weekly coaching sessions will recommence on Saturday 3rd April at 9 am, catering for age groups from Under 9's up to Under 15's.

Any new residents in the village requiring further information please ring our

**Youth Development Officer,
Malcolm Dawes, on 620514.**

Malcolm would also welcome a call from any parent who can spare an hour or two on a Saturday morning to assist him with these sessions.

Sedgefield Slayers

This club was set up after the success of last summer's Bitesize sessions, run with Gamesworkshop of Middlesborough on the Lord of The Rings fantasy war game.

We meet on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. During the session we challenge all the forces of the Dark Lord Sauron - Goblins, Urak Hai, Wargs, Trolls, etc. But Tolkein's creations are not the only inspiration; we also battle against imperial high elves of Warhammer 40K.

It's not just fighting these games develop imagination, strategic thinking, even languages. They use a wide range of practical and artistic skills such as modelling and painting. The club has already visited the local Gamesworkshop for a modelling day where we learnt to model trees, stone walls and rock formations.

The Sedgefield club is part of a larger network of clubs set up to attract all ages of games enthusiasts. If you would like to find out what it's all about, feel free to call into Ceddesfeld Hall any Sunday. *New members & new sponsors are always welcome.*

Part-time Job Vacancy

The Sedgefield Slayers Games Club needs YOU!

If you like working with young people, have good organisation skills & are available on Sundays from 1pm - 4pm, you may be interested in helping to run our club. We're looking for someone to help young people use their imagination & learn new skills.

If you are interested, please contact us on 629011.

Pay is based on Auxiliary Youth Work rates and you'll be part of County Durham Youth Work team, subject to successful checks.

Which way for local government under a Regional Assembly?

A meeting held in the Parish Hall on 16th February aired alternative ideas on the structure of local government following the adoption of a Regional Assembly for the North East. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister thinks this will bring decision making nearer to the people. In line with this thinking, a consultation period started last June and now the stage has been reached where draft proposals will be considered by the Boundary Commission.

The idea is to replace the current three tiers - County, Borough and Town Councils with just two tiers of local government below the Regional Assembly. There are no plans to alter the Town or Parish Council, but a choice has to be made about the middle layer.

The first option is known as a **single unitary authority** - in effect **Durham County Council**, which would have a council of about 100 elected members to administer the whole area. The second, favoured by Sedgefield Borough, is a **three unitary authority** splitting the region into roughly equal sized areas, population wise; **East Durham**

(Durham City & Easington), **North Durham** (Chester-le-Street & Derwentside districts) and **South Durham (Sedgefield, Teesdale & Wear Valley districts)**.

Councillor Ken Manton was invited to comment for Durham County Council and Councillor Bob Fleming for the Borough. The County Durham case was presented by their constitutional expert, and Bob Fleming chose to present the South Durham option himself.

Questions from the floor, raised the issue why should we have a debate about the new proposals, when it depends upon the electorate choosing a Regional Assembly in the first place? If the proposals are rejected there would be no need for any change.

The answer at this meeting seemed to be "this is what the government decreed!" But by the time of the vote in October, we are entitled to have an idea of how we will be governed if we say yes to a regional assembly. The Boundary Commission must be in a position to advise the government which option should

be preferred.

There was certainly strong disagreement between the County and the Borough; naturally so, as one of them stands to be dismantled in the event of a yes vote. However, there will be representatives elected either way, so surely the real question is which will be best for the people?

To sum up the meeting in Sedgefield, it all seemed to boil down to either 'big is beautiful' - the single option offering more clout in the fight for funding, though possibly with more remote access to the Council, (the County would disagree here as they plan to set up local forums to enable easy contact with them) or the three authority approach, which it is suggested would keep us closer to the decision makers. The extent of disruption to our services under any new authority is also something to think about (at present the County provides around 86% of services).

The consultation period is now over and despite coverage in the press there seems to have been considerable apathy about one of the big questions of the day.



A drop-in session in progress at Sedgefield Library

Attendance at the training sessions is picking up as people realise that it is available.

One of the tutors, Tim Randall gives us an idea of how the idea of learning how to use a computer can blossom, once somebody takes the plunge:

One couple arrived on Tuesday because of the advert, and a third person arrived, I think to collect his wife, and then asked for help when he realised what I was there for.

SDP Lifelong Learning Computer Training

Drop-in sessions for March are as follows:

Every Tuesday 1pm to 3pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

(no internet connection available)

Every Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm at Sedgefield Library

(with internet connection)

Informal advice and help available at all sessions

The following Thursday the husband from the Tuesday couple came (as planned) to get an introduction to the Internet, and stayed for 2 hours.

A woman arrived to check her banking online and, since I had explained what I was there for, began to ask about how to use the Internet to find things other than her bank acc.

I had with me a four page introduction to the Internet, which I had written in preparation for the planned session, and both learners took a copy to help them in future. I expect all the people I helped this week to return for further support.

This month, a **Cook's Corner 'Bonanza'** courtesy of the Durham FWI Millennium Cook Book

Trout with bacon stuffing

Ingredients

- 4 trout (cleaned and gutted)
- 40g (1 and a half oz) butter
- 4 finely chopped streaky bacon rashers
- 1 finely chopped small onion
- 100 g (4oz) finely chopped mushrooms
- Salt and pepper
- 50g (2oz) fresh brown breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon rind
- 1 egg

Cook the bacon, onion and mushrooms in the butter, over a low heat until soft and golden

Remove from the heat and mix with the breadcrumbs, parsley, lemon rind, seasoning and beaten egg

Stuff the fish with the mixture and secure with wooden cocktail sticks

Arrange in a well buttered ovenproof dish in a single layer and bake for approx 20 minutes at 180 degreesC(350 degrees F)/Gas 4

Ginger Grundy

Ingredients

- Half pint of double cream
- 2 & a half ounce butter
- 8 ounce crushed ginger biscuits
- 12 ounce tin of crushed pineapple, drained
- 5 level tablespoons of ginger conserve or preserve
- one and a half teaspoons ground ginger

Method

Melt butter and add most of the biscuit crumbs

Press into a 7" or 8" flan dish

Whip the cream very stiffly, then add to it the pineapples, ground ginger and conserve; stir well

Spoon onto the base and sprinkle the remaining crumbs over the top

Chill well before serving

March DIARY

Announcements on this page are **free** to non-commercial organisations

Town Councillor Surgeries

will take place in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on

March 1st at 6.30pm

with Cllrs. A Goddard, L Goddard & D Waters

& April 5th at 6.30pm

with Cllrs. S. Green, S. Hannon & J Wayman

Local History Society

Monday 1st March

at 7.45 pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Speaker Tom Robson on

“The History of Boy Service in the Royal Navy”

Further details from

Judith Edgoose on 620244

Guests & new members welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday March 2nd

at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

“Gardeners’ Question Time”

with Val French

Bring your questions and problems

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday March 3rd

at 7pm in Parish Hall

Speaker is Mr David Raeburn

“China -The Country”

Competition for members is a small piece of Decorative China.

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 6th March

Starts at 8pm

All Welcome

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting is on

Tuesday 13th April at 7.00 p.m.

in the Fletcher Room

Parish Hall.

Sedgefield Farmers’ Market

The next market is on

Sunday 14th March

from 9:30am to 1:30pm

Local traders always welcome

Please contact Bob Harris on

07977 231815 for details

Family History Group

Monday March 15th

at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Speaker Mr Norman Kelly on

“The Old Grocery Shop”

Are you interested in genealogy?

Why not come along to one of our meetings?

New members & guests are always welcome

Sedgefield Village Annual Assembly

will be held in the Parish Hall on

Monday 15th March

at 7.30pm

DO PLEASE ATTEND

It’s in your interests

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 16th March

at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Rosalind Bridge,

area demonstrator and teacher

will give a demonstration entitled

“Viva Italia”

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Racecourse March Fixtures

February 16th: 1st race 2.15pm

February 30th: 1st race 2pm

Sedgefield Tennis Club

AGM

Wednesday 17th March

at 7.30pm in

Sedgefield Community College

Everyone Welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 25th March

at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall

AGM, Faith Supper and Quiz

For information call 620811

Sedgefield Players

“A kiss on the bottom”

A comedy drama by Frank Vickery

on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th

& Saturday 27th March

at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Tickets **£5** Concessions **£4.50**

from Selections, members of the Players or phone 620 091

By kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

The W.I. Market

Fridays in the Parish Hall

from 9.30-11am

Cakes, pastries, preserves, handmade cards, crafts, EE Eggs, plants and garden produce.

Tea & Coffee served

We would love to see YOU!

Your Letters

The A689 Junction debate

We read with interest the article on the suggested solutions to accidents at the A689 junction with Stockton Road. At the risk of being called NIMBYS, we, as residents of Station Road, would be against abolishing the straight over crossing, or closing the junction, if this would mean diverting traffic down West End and Station Road.

On this stretch of road there are 7 road junctions, including Queens Drive and the dangerous junction with Spring Lane where there is limited visibility, over 40 driveways and the Nags Head corner. In addition there are concerns relating to traffic speeds – particularly down Station Road.

We experienced an extensive “trial” of this proposed solution whilst the work on the A689 was being carried out and the junction closed. During this period it became very difficult for residents to enter or exit their driveways, particularly at peak times increasing the potential for

accidents. For pedestrians, who already have to cope with the high speeds, there was the additional difficulty of coping with increased traffic levels.

The aim of the article was to suggest solutions to minimise the accident rate at the A689 junction. In our opinion closing the junction completely or closing it to traffic turning from Sedgefield and diverting along West End and Station Road would increase the potential for accidents in a residential area where, in addition to increased risks for motorists, there would be increased risks to pedestrians crossing the road including those children who need to cross to get to school.

Whilst all Sedgefield residents surely welcome a safer environment, solving a problem for motorists in one area by increasing problems for residents and pedestrians as well as car drivers in another is not the answer.

Ed and Jackie Kent

Researching First Aid for the visually impaired

Dear fellow readers & listeners. I am a mature student at college in Durham, completing my second year of teacher trainer certificate of education. Part of the course involves producing a research project and for this reason I would be grateful if you could spare a short time to complete a questionnaire for me.

The questionnaire is available in different colours, so if you wish a special colour feel free to ring me on 01740 621956. You can also get a copy from the library.

My research is somewhat different as I intend to use the information to create a real certificated First Aid course for the visually impaired. At present there is no course designed for this section of our community.

I am a qualified First Aid trainer with the British Red Cross and I am also registered blind, so I have the sympathy to produce this course.

I understand that you may not be interested in doing a First Aid course but the data that I will collect from this questionnaire will be strictly confidential and only used by me for this project.

I thank you all in advance and also the reader of this tape.

Mary Osel-Cassidy

Letter writers please note!

We are unable to publish correspondence unless it is accompanied by a contact phone number or address, so that we can be sure that the letter is from a genuine source.

This month we received a letter which we should like to publish, but unfortunately there is no contact information included.

If Ms Victoria Garesfield would like to provide us with an address or phone number, we would be very happy to print her letter in the April edition. We think the topic will still be valid.

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.



The deadline for copy for inclusion in the April issue is

March 15th

Send to Sedgefield News, Advice & Information Centre, Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT or to snews.sdp@sedgefield.net or telephone Simon on 629011

We wish to make it clear that views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher.