

Sedgefield News

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By the Villagers for the Villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
November 2003

New Life for High Street Properties

You can't have failed to notice the substantial work currently under way on the High Street, so what is going on? Well, about 2 years ago the buildings were sold to Phil Smith, who you may know from his work at 'Number Four', his wife Linda's successful business. His idea was straightforward; to repair and refurbish them, consolidate retail areas and re-introduce residences to the upper floors. Plans were drawn up for nos. 8 and 9, to repair and extend the shop which was to be vacated by the Secret Garden. But having started work at no. 9, it soon became clear that parts of the building were structurally unsound. Renovation had turned to controlled demolition!



Meanwhile at no. 10, Booze Busters, a national company with hundreds of branches, went into liquidation. Phil's focus naturally moved to cleaning out that shop, expecting to re-let it. But nothing is ever straightforward with old property and yes, you guessed it, he found that it also was unsafe. Indeed, so bad was its condition that total collapse was distinctly possible. Remedial work had to start immediately. Not only were horrors such as walls without foundations discovered (did *you* spend time in there choosing a bottle?) but also some fascinating architectural features, and through them some of the building's possible 400 year history. was revealed.

At least things have now progressed on no. 10 and it is well on the way to being completely renewed. Structurally sound again, you can expect it to be leased to a new retailer soon. The first step in bringing life back to this part of the High Street will have been taken.

After 21 months, detailed plans for no. 8 are still

bogged down, and Phil hopes that work can now progress from no. 10, through the rear of no. 9 and end in no. 8 some time next year.

In the end there will be three shops, Reids Rains remaining as tenants of one, and four new dwellings above, with access to secluded gardens at the rear. This part of the High Street will be vibrant again and living space brought back to the town centre.

The whole development is expected to employ up to 10 people, as well as the three new jobs created in the reconstruction, and the all local team of specialist craftsmen who have

carried out the work.

So what kind of shops will they be? For the answer to that, we will all have to be patient a bit longer, but watch these pages to be first to find out!

Variety Concert for Mayor's Charities Fri. 28th Nov at Sedgefield Community College

Our Mayor, Cllr. Linda Maddison, is doing something a bit different this year to raise funds for Research into Alzheimer's Disease and The Elderly of Sedgefield. She has organised a concert by local performers, including choir and musicians from the Community College, a local duet taking a light-hearted look at music, several monologues and a short comedy sketch by members of Sedgefield Players.

There will be songs from popular musicals by 'Friends'- a group which includes members of the Mayor's own family, and the evening will conclude with a performance by Sedgefield Lyric Singers. There will also be a bottle raffle. Lots of enjoyment for 2 very good causes, and all for only £3, including a Pie and Pea Supper & a glass of wine!

Tickets are selling fast. Get yours NOW from A Cut Above, Post Office, Council Offices, or Selections.

Extract from 'Diary from Iraq'

From the report of Major Richard Taylor, The Life Guards, "D" Squadron, Household Cavalry regiment, in the Garden of Eden.

The Squadron had crossed into Iraq and completed a relief in place of 5th US Marines in the Ramalah oilfields. They were waiting in the dark to push north over the Al Hammar canal and break out of a bridgehead created by 3rd para. The plan was to scout northeast where the Iraqi 6 Armoured Division least expected us.

As 1st light appeared on 27th March, 2 troop led over the Al Hammar canal, which is over a kilometre wide. Pushing ahead of 3rd para we passed a number of abandoned Iraqi artillery and tank positions and cleared 17kms ahead to a holding area on the edge of a large irrigation ditch where we spent a surreal day.

At 5am on 28th March we advanced north, led by 3 troop. Later that afternoon, 2 troop was attacked out of the blue by 2 A-10 (American) aircraft. During the first aircraft run 4 of our men were injured. A smoke-screen was raised and the planes flew off.

On 1st April one of our AFV's (Armoured Fighting Vehicles) rolled over whilst crossing a 5-foot deep irrigation ditch. The commander and gunner were both trapped in the turret, which was sitting on the ditch bottom. After winching the vehicle over, both men were rescued. Both men were given CPR, but the gunner failed to respond and was pronounced dead when landed by helicopter at hospital. Despite two tragic accidents and intense artillery fire, the Squadron has destroyed a significant proportion of the 111 Corps Artillery and 6 Armoured Division tanks in the last seven days.

(By kind permission of The Life Guards Association)

Contributed by David Hillerby, who was himself in the Life Guards 50 years ago; 1953 - 1955

November to be Litter Awareness Month

The Town Council is coordinating litter awareness month, after a meeting with the Community College, County Council, the Borough Council and the Police, to explore how they can all work together to overcome Sedgefield's



litter problem. The Council will obtain extra litterbins for the centre of the town and hope to encourage young people to use them by introducing a 'voucher' scheme in partnership with the Community College.

Also, the local Junior and Infant Schools have been asked to take part in a Litter Poster Competition. The winning entries will be displayed throughout Sedgefield and £10 Gift Vouchers will be presented to winners by the Mayor, Cllr. Linda Maddison.

It is hoped that local food outlets will enter into the spirit of the scheme by either sponsoring or indeed purchasing extra litterbins for their locality.

The idea is that by working together, the amount of litter can be reduced significantly without having to resort to the services of the Borough Council Litter Enforcement Officer who can issue on the spot fines.

Lantern Workshop

Just a reminder that there are still places available for the lantern-making workshop on Saturday 1st November at 9.30am in Ceddesfeld Hall. Please register with your £1 at the Council Offices.

Sedgefield News Distribution

Our volunteers do a terrific job, out pounding the streets in all weathers, to get the news to you; but occasionally someone needs to take time out to catch cold, take a holiday - give birth to twins! You know, everyday stuff! At present we need people willing to help with the following 4 areas:

The Meadows, The Leas and Cragside:

Rosedale Close, Conifer Ave & Pine Ridge Avenue:

Naylor Rd, Thurlow Grange, Swift Close & Lyle

Gardens: The Miller Homes area of Winterton Park.

Please contact us on 629011 if you can help.

We try to get the copies to our distributors the weekend before the 1st of the month, giving a few days to get them out before the first event on the Diary page. There are obviously times when some are missed, but if yours is not delivered, please let us know. We want you to receive your copy in good time.

Cooks' Corner *The 1st in a series of recipes from the Farmers' Market - this month, **Burtree House Farm**. The cooking instructions may seem unusual, but this is because their birds are hung for 5-10 days, making the cooking time shorter and the meat tastier.*

Perfect Roast Chicken Dinner

Chicken - 2 kg or about 4 lbs, free range, naturally!

Salt & Pepper; 1 kg potatoes; Vegetables of choice.

Remove giblets and either cook them in a pan of water with a little salt & pepper to make fantastic stock for your gravy, or put them in the roasting pan along with the chicken.

Season the chicken in the cavity and place breast down in the roasting tin and season again, along the back.

Put peeled potatoes around the chicken to roast.

Place in oven at 180°C or equivalent. Don't cover the chicken with bacon or foil, as this steams rather than roasts it and prevents the skin from crisping.

After an hour, turn the chicken on to its back for another 15 mins. to allow breast skin to crisp. Your chicken is cooked when the juices run clear on piercing the inside of the thigh with a skewer.

Once cooked, take out of oven, allow to stand for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cook the veg and make gravy with giblet stock and the lovely juices from the roasting tin.

Hospital Open Day

An open day will be held at the new Sedgefield Community Hospital on Sunday 2nd November from 2 - 5pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments. Bring the family along and help celebrate the launch of Bob Abley's book on the history of Sedgefield Hospital. Signed copies of the book will be available at £9.99, making it a wonderful Christmas present.

Songs of Praise

After a hugely enjoyable first Songs of Praise at St Edmund's, the second such venture will be held on Sunday November 16th at 4.30pm.

You can sing some of your favourite hymns, listen to and join in worship with the children of the Sunday School, Lyrics Youth Choir and the TBC Youth Group.

Afterwards, stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake with friends old and new.

Hardwick pupils win sculpture prize

In a national competition to draw attention to recycling Yellow Pages, Sedgefield Hardwick School's entry in the sculpture category took 2nd prize.

A party of 10 pupils have been to London Zoo to receive an award from 'Yell' and have promised some pictures for next month, so we can show you both the sculpture and the award ceremony.

Meanwhile, congratulations to all concerned!

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The next market is on Sunday 9th November from 9:30am to 1:30pm

As this will be Remembrance Sunday, the Market will close at 11am for the duration of the service at the War Memorial.

Looking forward, the Market on December 14th will be in Dickensian Christmas style, complete with carol singing, holly & mistletoe, seasonal fare & much more.

Local traders always welcome. Please contact Bob Harris on 01740 621273 for details.

Community Safety *with contributions from Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Police, the Road Safety Group, Primary Care Trust*

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch Annual Report, year ending September 2003, presented by Panel Chairman Mr. Ken Saiger

EXECUTIVE: Continues to meet bi-monthly between Panel meetings.

Unfortunately we are still struggling with a regular, no cost and private venue. The Police Station, our favoured location has been unavailable for most of this year, due to operational constraints. We hope that this will become available early in 2004. At present we continue to hold meetings in a member's home.

CONSTITUTION: There are no proposals to amend the constitution this year.

COMMUNICATION: We continue to believe that the monthly articles (including our full minutes bi-monthly) in the Sedgefield News are the best means possible for us to communicate with the residents of Sedgefield.

Our Panel has established input to and communication with the following bodies and organisations:

Sedgefield Road Safety Committee; the Primary Care Trust; Carelink; Cavos; Town, Borough and County Councils; other Neighbourhood Watch groups throughout the country, sharing ideas and initiatives.

MEMBERSHIP: At 12th August 2003 membership stands at 260. There has been successful recruitment at the Winterton development, though we have not yet established a volunteer Area Co-ordinator from these members.

FLASK in the FRIDGE: Now firmly established in the village, this project has been handed over to Age Concern for ongoing support and continuity. Age Concern has overseen the roll-out of the scheme since our initiation in Sedgefield, from the Scottish borders down to the Yorkshire boundary.

FUNDING: An ongoing issue that this year has resulted in the (Panel approved) decision that the working members of the Panel are no longer able to continue with direct fund raising to support the existence of and activities undertaken by our Panel. In the absence of "new blood" able and willing to raise funds, the Panel will need to seek funding from other bodies or cease to exist when current funds run out. Reserves have increased this year primarily as a result of the most successful (one off) Village Raffle.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP & ALAN SOWERBY MEMORIAL AWARD: I am proud to report that these awards continue, issued to a most deserving youngster at each of the Junior schools in the village.

AUDIO TAPES FOR THE SIGHT IMPAIRED: We produce and distribute 15 copies of the Sedgefield News on cassette each month. The tapes have also included potentially beneficial details such as electoral matters, gas and other safety information. Tapes from other sources including retailers (Marks & Spencer, CO-OP etc), Durham County Council have been included and distributed to residents, the Library and Willowdene. I am pleased to say this is a most appreciated service, and amply serves to demonstrate the needs of some of our community.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: We have now fitted more than 400 door bars (at cost), and continue with marking property, testing microwaves for leakage & providing basic security information and smoke detector fitting.

We held a Security & Welfare Exhibition and a Drugs Awareness Evening this year. Both were extremely informative, but were very poorly attended. Finally on behalf of the Panel I wish to thank Sedgefield Town Council for their continued assistance and support; Sedgefield Borough Council for their cooperation and support; Carelink for their support; Community Force (notably Tim) for most invaluable assistance and support; Crime Prevention Officers Neil & Peter, Local Police Officers (notably Keith), and Sarah our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator all of whom have given endless support and assistance to our Panel and to our village. I also must thank the many local businesses for their "regular" support and all those that supported our Raffle. *Thank you all.*

PC Todd reports

Once again a conveniently open window led to a house burglary, this time in Eden drive. The burglar gained access during the night and helped himself to clothing, DVD's, credit cards and a bottle of spirits, amongst other things. The same evening, in The Meadows, a van was broken into and tools stolen. Also during the same night 2 males were disturbed trying to force entrance to a garage. They made off in a small, red car.

These opportunist thieves blight our lives. *DON'T BECOME A VICTIM!* Report any suspicious activities immediately.

Happily, at the latest Pub Watch meeting, no problems were reported, so well done everyone. Let's keep having a pint in Sedgefield the happy and relaxed occasion it should be!

Till next time, Keith.

Road Safety Group

Well, the Speed Indicator didn't last very long, did it? Only 2 weeks! But rest assured, it will be back shortly so keep your eyes peeled and your foot light on the throttle!

Now that we are well into Autumn, the sun is low on the horizon, so take extra care whether as motorist or pedestrian. Don't assume that you can see or be seen. Wait or back-off and you will complete your journey safely. Motorists should be sure to reduce speed if they suspect there is frost about.

The road sign in Stockton Road - "Dual carriageway ahead" - has not yet been re-instated. However, Durham County Council say that "it no longer complies with the regulations" (remember the 2 police officers and Middlesbrough Council). Let's hope DCC get a new sign before another death occurs.

On that sad subject, thank you for your letters (p.12). They are a welcome response to our article last month.

Sedgefield nurse takes on top role



Nurse Cate Woolley-Brown, from Sedgefield Community Hospital has recently been elected onto the Council for the Royal College of Nursing, and took up her post on 15 October.

Having worked as a district nurse for 25 years, Cate joined Sedgefield Primary Care Trust two years ago as a Disability Equipment Educator.

She will be one of the 29 high profile council members from the Royal College of Nursing representing well over 360,000 nurses on a countrywide basis in the world's biggest nursing union.

Cate says she is very excited to have been elected and looks forward to the challenge of representing nurses for the northern region. Nurses face very challenging times, with the Agenda for Change programme and Foundation hospitals coming up.

Light up and be safer - at very little cost!

*A message to all householders from
Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch panel.*

Unlit property invites the criminal in, but Crime Prevention Officer, Neil Langthorne and NHW Manager, Sarah Norman can provide Light Timers at a cost of just £1.50 each. They also have a supply of low cost, energy efficient light-bulbs.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity and deter criminals at the same time, ring Sarah on **01325 742755**

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch Monthly Crime figures

	Last year 10/9- 10/10	10/9 - 10/10 2003	2003 to Date
Youths Causing Annoyance	nil	nil	5
Burglary Non Dwelling	6	1	10
Burglary Dwelling	1	2	9
Crime Drugs	1	nil	3
Theft from Motor Vehicles	2	3	4
Theft of Motor Vehicles	3	nil	4
Taking & Driving Away	nil	nil	nil
Vehicle Interference	nil	2	4
Assaults	1	1	8
Criminal damage	4	3	16
Theft	7	4	22
TOTAL	25	16	85

Local people help compile new Mental Health Directory

On October 10th, World Mental Health Day, local carers and users of mental health services helped Sedgefield PCT launch a comprehensive guide for people living and working in Sedgefield Borough on how to access mental health services.

It provides information on services for people needing advocacy; support for carers; community services; specialist services such as hospitals and community mental health teams; local services such as GP practices, health centres, pharmacists and the voluntary sector. The guide also includes local maps to help people find out where services are situated.

Charles McCaughey, Director of Primary Care and former Mental Health Project Manager for Sedgefield PCT, said: "The Mental Health Directory will give local people a simple and clear guide to accessing help about mental health - not just medical help, but also local community support such as education and training, advice on housing, substance misuse and the new Patient Advice and Liaison Service.

Peter Corey, a user of mental health services from Sedgefield said: "I have been very much involved in the production of this directory, from discussions about services to recommendations about layout and language. World Mental Health Day is about challenging stigma and discrimination, putting users and carers at the centre. I have really appreciated the opportunity to attend training and education courses. They have helped me to become more confident and independent and because of this I am now actively involved in training courses for other users of mental health services."

Copies of the Mental Health Directory for Sedgefield Borough are available from Charles McCaughey at Sedgefield PCT on 0191 3013820. If you would like further information, please contact Tina Young on 0191 333 3382.

Hardwick Country Park - a 2 page feature

Garden Trusts study day

At the end of September the Parish Hall was the venue for a study day organised by The Association of Gardens Trusts. The Trust's aim is to help protect, conserve, restore or create garden land in the UK for the education and enjoyment of the public. The day was hosted by Durham County Council and the Friends of Hardwick. 27 members of the Trust attended the event, many having travelled from the south of England. The theme was Hardwick Country Park and the morning was spent exploring various aspects of the park. Tony Smith, Countryside Group Manager for Durham County Council set the scene, then Fiona MacDonald talked about the archaeological discoveries; both the Roman finds in the East Park and the ongoing work to discover more about John Burden's gardens and follies. The morning ended with Martin Roberts of English Heritage highlighting architect John Paine's varied collection of buildings in the park and the afternoon was taken up by a detailed visit, following the route of the old Circuit Walk which will be opened up to visitors during the first phase of work.

Friends of Hardwick website is 'Pick of the Month!'

www.friendsofhardwick.org.uk

has been chosen by
Communicate's
for their monthly award

The site was featured on the
home page of Communicate
(North East) throughout October.

*The prize that comes with this
award is a pair of binoculars
which also takes
digital photographs -
very useful indeed!*

Note this date!! October 30th - Hallowe'en Family Event

The Countryside Rangers challenge all *genuine* Witches, Warlocks, Elves and Goblins to practice their haunting skills in the Country Park.

Even as this challenge is being penned, the Countryside staff are working hard to ensure conditions will be as *hauntingly favourable* as possible - even to the extent of inviting **Humans large and small** to be present as potential victims - so come if you dare!

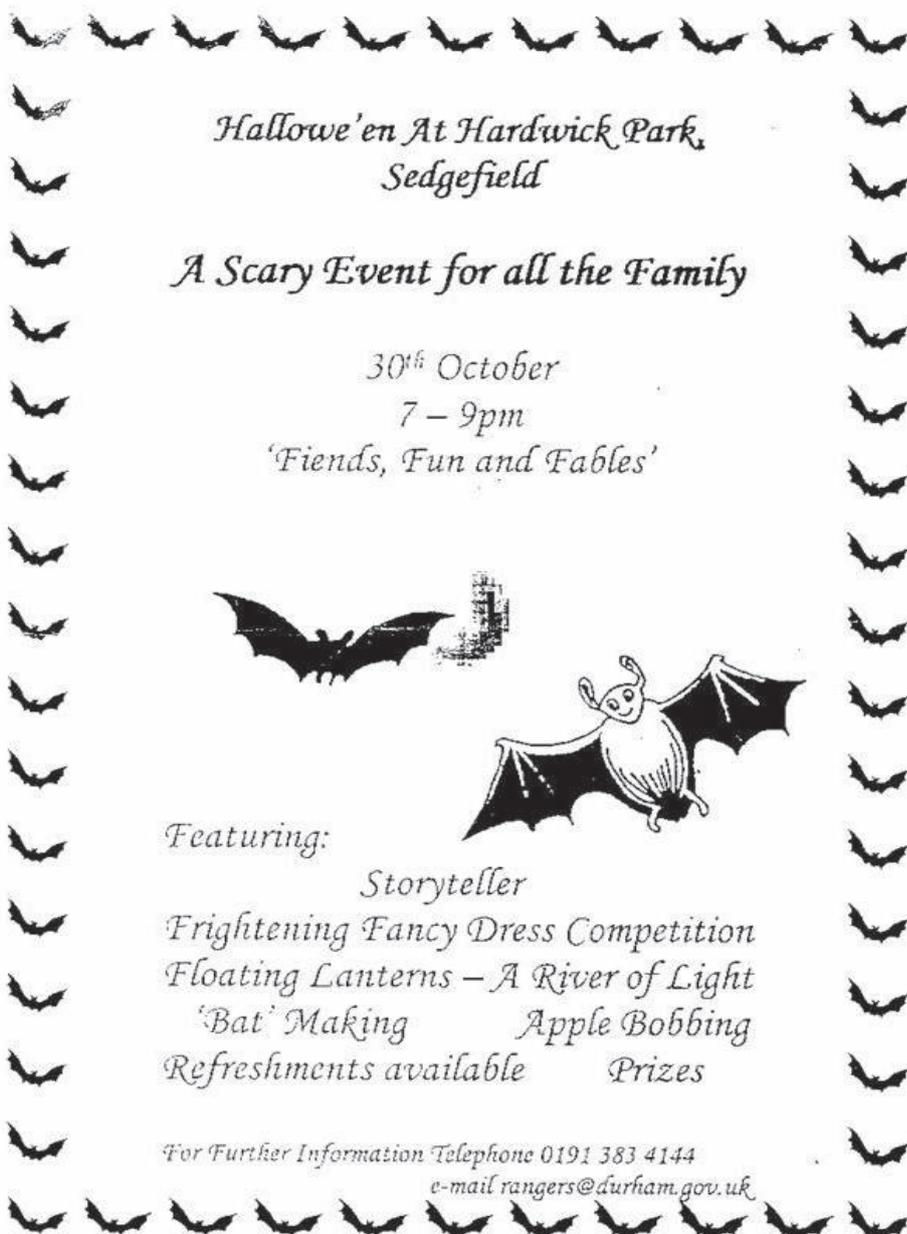
But be warned! Large humans are recommended to bring a small human to hold their hand just in case!

And in case the Witches, Warlocks etc don't 'bottle out' we will be in need of some strong human support, so even if no one is turned into a frog, we look forward to providing an enjoyable evening for young and old.

Your support for the Hardwick Country Park Summer Family event made it the most successful in the County to date.

Please help us to build on that success by joining us on **October 30th between 7pm & 9pm.**

For further information
phone 0191 383 4144 or
e-mail rangers@durham.gov.uk



*Hallowe'en At Hardwick Park,
Sedgefield*

A Scary Event for all the Family

*30th October
7 - 9pm
'Fiends, Fun and Fables'*




Featuring:

*Storyteller
Frightening Fancy Dress Competition
Floating Lanterns - A River of Light
'Bat' Making Apple Bobbing
Refreshments available Prizes*

*For Further Information Telephone 0191 383 4144
e-mail rangers@durham.gov.uk*

Temporary speed limit

Since the £4m Heritage Lottery Grant was confirmed, rapid progress has been made in Hardwick Park and the earth-moving next to the southern entrance is the first sign of progress.

Here, a large area of ground is being levelled for the new car park. Drainage will be installed and a landscaping mound added.

During the work a 40 mph speed restriction will be placed on the A177 from the Racecourse roundabout 100 metres past the park entrance.

Tree removal is taking place in the Fen Carr, opening up the full area of the Lake and the Boardwalk been closed, whilst being cut to allow access for the machinery. Conifers and some beech trees are being removed from in front of the Gothic Ruin causing a temporary diversion of the path to behind the toilet block.



Seven Swans a-Swimming...



An idyllic and serene scene. 7 cygnets and their long-suffering parents seem not to mind the uproar of change one little bit!

And now you can “Bus it” right into the Park!

As it gets a bit muddy underfoot over the fields, don't forget that you can use the Village bus to get you to the park for your daily exercise.

At present the bus goes into the old 3rd parking area, which now has a turning circle, so you can be delivered safely into our very own haven and picked up again later!

There's a timetable right there, as you can see, but it is also available in booklet form from the usual outlets, including the Library and the Advice & Information Centre.

New play area takes shape

Those of you who are regular visitors to the Park will have seen the slow metamorphosis of the area next to the toilet block into a children's play area. Provided thanks to a generous grant from the National Grid, it includes two sets of swings, one for toddlers, the other for older children. There is also a slide with a climbing net, some very tempting bars at different heights and finally, a little train.

All the equipment is surrounded by a deep, wood-chip surface for safety, and tables and seats are provided for waiting grown-ups. Progress was slow but it *is* now ready for use at Halloween and for many years to come.



Lifelong Learning

In case you're getting bored with the same old format, this month's article is a bit different. I thought instead I'd pass on my recent and ongoing experience of learning. It's not about a wonderful College course, or some motivational seminar nor even a talk on a brand new product guaranteed to change my life for the better.



This story is about Meg, who has changed my outlook on the things happening around me.

Last month, my wife and I took a dog on trial from the NCDL complex at Sadberge. Meg is a cross Labrador bitch, about 10 months old, who had been

mistreated and abandoned by her owners. She was probably a cute Christmas present now grown too big. When we first saw her at the back of the kennel, looking very sad, it was love at first sight. After being vetted as suitable owners, we were allowed to take her home. This was when our learning started. We suddenly realised that we had a dog with a few problems. She had to learn how to socialise with people and with other dogs, and the saddest part was, she had to learn how to play. We also had to learn how to be responsible owners and to recognise the signals she was giving us. Our lives had to be adapted to take in her needs. Out walking Meg for the first time, we realised firstly that it was more a case of Meg taking us for a walk than us taking her! But the bigger shock was to realise the potential hazards we were facing. On her first walk she managed to find some discarded chip papers. Eating what she thought was food, she got a chip fork which got stuck in her throat. We managed to force open her mouth and remove it, but she was very sore. Some care we were providing to a dog who had already suffered in her early life.

But it made me realise that there were many more potential hazards in Sedgefield for Meg. We encountered danger walking at night to Bells for milk. When we got home I noticed a red mark on the floor where Meg was sitting licking herself. I thought nothing of it at first, until more marks appeared. Then I realised that Meg's paw was cut by a piece of glass. On retracing my steps in daylight, I noticed all the tiny pieces of glass on the footpaths. They may be no bother to you and me, wearing shoes with hard soles, but it was a problem to Meg. I felt that she had put her trust in me and I had let her down.

We have found that owning a dog is more than just having a companion. It's about taking responsibility and being considerate to others, clearing up the mess she deposits, to prevent other dogs and children being affected through diseases; making sure she is well trained when walking to prevent road and other accidents.

We have learnt during our walks where the danger areas are and it has made us more aware of our surroundings.

Perhaps we don't think of others as much as we should; about the consequences of our actions on other people and animals.

As responsible citizens, maybe we should think about why some places are in this dangerous condition and make sure we don't add to the hazards faced by both people and their pets.

Have fun, Bob & Meg

STOCKTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Bishopton Road West Stockton on Tees TS19 0QD

Open Evening

Thursday 13th November

6.30 – 8.30 pm

An opportunity to meet staff and students and find out more about what we have to offer

Tel: 01642 612611

Or visit our website: www.stocktonsf.ac.uk

“Supporting Student Success”

Citizen of the Year

It is still not too late to nominate someone for this award.

If you wish to put someone forward, pick up a Nomination Form from the Advice & Information Centre, or phone

629011 to have one sent to you.

Sedgefield Community College: Join in & be part of our Sporting Success Story

Peter Beardsley MBE was amongst the guests and pupils at the recent 'Celebration of Success' who were enthused by the great work being undertaken by both Sedgefield Community College and Sedgefield Community College Association to develop sporting opportunities.

The day was a celebration of Specialist Sports College Status and the achievement of Sportsmark Gold, as well as the opening of the tennis courts, supported by the LTA, and the Artificial Pitch and Pavilion, supported by Sports Lottery Fund. Also highlighted were the commencement of Sedgefield School sport Co-ordinator Partnership and the opening of the Gymtastic Fitness and ICT Suites, supported by Foundation for Sport and the Arts. You can access all these great opportunities – there's something for everyone, but in particular come and try out 'Gymtastic' the new Fitness Suite. Full details from Rana Coates, tel. **621097**

New Project - Focus on Gymnastics

As part of its role as a Specialist Sports College, Sedgefield Community College is spreading its support to other schools across the Borough. This is part of a new project called Sedgefield School Sport Co-ordinators which will be managed by Diane Snowsill – a new appointment to the College staff.

The first project local schools will benefit from will focus on gymnastics. A new gymnastics session will be provided at the Community College with support from South Durham Gymnastics Club on Thursdays from 4-5pm, after half term.

For more details please contact Diane Snowsill, tel. **625300**

Physical Activity Co-ordinator

A new job is being created by the Community College, supported by Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

From January 2004 a Physical Activity Co-ordinator will be employed to work in the Fishburn and Elmfield (Newton Aycliffe) communities to develop physical activity opportunities for young people and support local people to gain sporting qualifications. Interested? Job details and application forms from Diane Snowsill, as above.

Notice of the AGM of Sedgefield Development Partnership Ltd

On Tuesday 18th November at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall, anyone from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon who is interested in having a say in running this community enterprise, is invited to attend the AGM of the company.

It is an opportunity to join the Partnership or renew membership either as a member (individual, family, group or business) or as a Director. The meeting will receive company reports and vote on the appointment of half of the Board of Directors. Only members of the Partnership may vote, but membership is open to all.

You might decide to get involved in the organisation which brings you Sedgefield News and other projects like First Responders and Lifelong Learning.

There will be refreshments after the meeting and a chance to talk informally to the Directors. So put the date in your diary and we will look forward to seeing you on the 18th.

Please note that any nominations for directors, or any proposals for special or general resolutions, must be with the Company at its registered office no later than noon on Friday 14th November.

Sedgefield Development Partnership is a company limited by guarantee: Company number 4312745. The Company's registered office is at the Advice and Information Centre, Sedgefield, Co Durham, TS21 3AT.

PTFA News from Sedgefield Community College

The PTFA is an active fund-raising group, committed to providing students with extra facilities. We organise activities that the whole community can share, not just SCC parents. Two events are planned for November.

Virgin Vie Cosmetics Evening; Thurs 13th at 7pm.

Premium quality cosmetics, but less expensive than many other brands. Come and try Richard Branson's make-up - you could end up looking like a millionaire! It takes place in the crèche - entry via the main entrance to the College. Tickets £1.50 at the door, and there's a free glass of wine.

Annual Outing to York; Saturday 29th November.

A fantastic return trip by luxury coach, departing about 8.30 am, with various pick up points in Trimdon, Fishburn and Sedgefield. Try breakfast at the famous Betty's tearoom, meander round the Minster, do your Christmas shopping in the Shambles. Return about 5pm. The trip costs £6 per person or £20 for a Family ticket (4 people) and only 49 seats are available, so if you fancy a jaunt, hurry to book your ticket from Sharon on 623963!

Memorial to Mr John Wilson. The college recently announced a fund to purchase a memorial to Mr Wilson and thanks to the generosity of friends, colleagues and past & present pupils, a beautiful Hornbeam tree has been purchased and planted near the main entrance to the grounds of the College. A commemorative plaque will soon be added. Thanks to all concerned.

PTFA meeting The next meeting is on November 6th at 6.30pm in the Sports Pavilion, and is open to all teachers, parents and friends. Look out for more news next month.

November DIARY

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

Bonfire Night Firework Display

in Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds on
Saturday 1st November
at 6:30 pm
Tickets; Adults £1, Children 50p
available from Council Offices,
Post Office & Local Schools

The Lantern Parade
will take place prior to the
firework display.

Sedgefield Cricket Club

2 Quiz Nights this month!
**Saturday 1st &
Saturday 29th November**
starting at 8pm
All welcome

Sedgefield Community Hospital

Open Day (see p.2)
from 2pm - 5pm On
Sunday 2nd November
Refreshments and book launch

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 4th November
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
**House Plants - a talk by
Tony Milan**
Guests welcome

Local History Society

Monday November 3rd
at 7.45 pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Grocer **Norman Kelly** will
talk about

"The Old Grocer's Shop"
Prepare to be entertained!!
Further details from

Judith Edgoose on 620244
Guests and new members welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday November 5th
at 7:15pm in the Parish Hall
Melita Butterell presents
**A Personal Approach to
Embroidery**
Competition for members is
a small piece of embroidery
Visitors Welcome: Entrance £1

Spys Showcase

Sedgefield Players Youth Section
present an evening of drama,
dance and song
Friday 14th & Saturday 15th
November, 7pm in
Sedgefield Parish Hall
Tickets £5 Concessions £4.50
from Selections, members
or ring 620091

Sedgefield Twinning Association

Pie and Pea Supper
at Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm
on **Saturday November 15th**
Tickets £5 inc. glass of wine,
from committee members or
Keith & Nancy Wells, 620467
Entertainment included.

Songs of Praise

at St Edmund's Church
Sunday 16th November,
at 4.30pm. *See p.3*

101 are at

The Golden Lion, Sedgefield
on **16th November**

Family History Group

Monday 17th November
at 7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Mr Mick Butler

**"Military Records of
the Great War"**

Bring along photographs, medals
etc. to do with the 1st World War
New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th November
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Open Meeting

"Bleak Midwinters"

A demonstration
by Philidia C Irving
(Northumberland & Durham
Area Demonstrator)
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Racecourse

Racing fixtures for the month are
11th Nov - 1st race at 12.50pm
25th Nov - 1st race at 1pm

Sedgefield Development Partnership AGM

Tuesday 18th November
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
All welcome: details on p 8

1st Sedgefield Scout Group Christmas Fayre

Saturday 22nd November
from 10am until 12.30 pm
in the Parish Hall

*Attractions include
Santa's Grotto, Cakes, Tins,
Grand Prize Draw,
White Elephant Stall, Books,
Refreshments,*

Tombola, Toys & Games

Please note that we will call at
households in Sedgefield on
Sunday 16th November
to collect anything that you may
wish to donate.

*In the event that we miss you,
we would be pleased to
receive your donations
at the Scout Hall,
which will be open on Monday,
Tuesday and Friday evenings,
during the week commencing
17th November*

Variety Concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity

Sedgefield Community College
on **Friday November 28th**
**£3 inc Pie & Peas supper
& a glass of wine.**

Tickets from the Council Offices,
A Cut Above, the Post Office
& Selections

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

Road Safety - 2 responses

Sadly, on October 1st, as a result of the accident referred to last month, the male rider of the motorbike involved in the accident with the minibus, died. It has made me put pen to paper and suggest two options that will hopefully make the junction of Stockton Road & the A689 safer than it is at present. They are as follows. Option 1 involves installing traffic lights with speed cameras where the A689 meets Stockton Road.

Option 2 would involve installing a roundabout where the A689 meets Stockton Road. I am convinced either option would make the junction safer and the two young people involved in the recent tragic accident will not have died in vain.

Harry Smith

It was sad to read of the first death on the newly rebuilt sections of the A689. As always on these occasions there is a tendency to seek someone to blame but usually the truth is a combination of factors. The difficulty is trying to identify the contributory elements before accidents occur. We are so often told that speed is the main cause of many accidents and yet ironically we all want to get around faster.

In Bradbury, the residents have been campaigning, to a greater or lesser degree, for over 20 years to have some form of speed reduction through our small village. We have been told that the village isn't long enough for a

speed limit of any sort and we have requested signs warning of the use of farm machinery all to no avail.

A couple of years ago we finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel; Durham County Council decided that our little community was to be granted a "village gateway"! This consists of a few yellow lines painted across the road and a short section of timber fencing at each side of the carriageway, at right angles to kerb line. One mustn't forget the half dozen or so red reflectors. We were thrilled as well to receive a new blue village name sign.

At first the gateway seemed to be effective, even though within a week of painting the lines on the road it was resurfaced and we had to fight to convince the Highways Department that yellow lines had ever existed. The problem now is that the unpainted timber fence has become dirty; the green tinted preservative has turned the fencing the same colour as the background of grass, bushes and trees when seen from a moving vehicle.

The Parish Clerk wrote to the Highways department expressing our concerns and offering to paint the fence white, on the front side only, at no expense to the County Council. Sadly the mandarins categorically refused for the most spurious and in truth downright silly technical reason that, in their opinion, the paint wouldn't stick to the timber. A recent letter to County Hall resulted in an acknowledgement and nothing more. The purpose of this letter is, first to ask your readers to think

about the residents of small villages when tearing about in cars and second, to advise anyone trying to get serious responses from DCC's Highway Department to be prepared for a generation of correspondence and few if any intelligent replies.

John Burrows.

Reason to be grateful

On Thursday 3rd October I had cause to dial 999. This followed a heart attack which I had sustained 2 weeks previously, wherein I had arrested. This time however, it was a panic attack in the middle of the night, at 2-45am. First to arrive were First Responders Mark & Cathy, after only 8 minutes. Perhaps they were just waiting for *my* call! Only 2 minutes later the Durham County Ambulance arrived from Newton Aycliffe. An absolutely marvellous service from both, deserving praise of the highest order. My thanks to you all!

Phyllis M. Hillerby

Cemetery Praised

It was very pleasing to note a vast improvement in the appearance of the cemetery today, 5th Oct, particularly in attention to detail; in fact the best the cemetery has looked for a long time. Credit where credit is due. I hope this improvement can be maintained, as it does make a difference to the overall appearance.

Joan C Wilson

From the Editor:

For inclusion in the December issue, send copy before November 15th please to

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net
or to **Sedgefield News,**

Advice and Information Centre,
Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 3AS, or
telephone **629011**

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

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