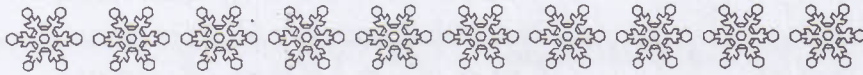
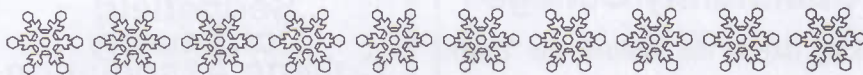


Sedgefield News

Produced by the Villagers for the Villagers.



An early but very sincere wish, to all our readers, for a Merry and Peaceful Christmas from the editor and production staff.



Issue 8. December 2002

Sedgefield News 'Talking Book'



Back Row - David Hillerby, Bob Harris.
Front Row - Peter Robinson, Dorothy Edmondson, Ken Saiger.

In April of this year, Sedgefield Development Partnership launched Sedgefield News! It was an instant success, so much so that Neighbourhood Watch thought that an Audio copy should be published, to allow anyone who was unable to enjoy the read, to listen. And so it began.

Sedgefield NHW Chairman, had experience of producing such a tape. He also had some equipment that would enable the "Talking Book" to be produced.

All we needed were Readers.

So we advertised in Sedgefield News, though with only a little success. So it was all ears to the telephones! The 9 readers were needed as we had included the

Sedgefield Extra as part of the book. Though we only had 1 customer we decided to go ahead anyway!

Thanks to our readers and particularly to Ken Saiger, last month we produced our first "Book" and issued it to our one customer. There were also copies to Sedgefield Library, the new Community Hospital and a third to Willowdene Nursing Home.

The word must have spread instantly; as within 3 days we had supplied a further seven copies to individuals. So we have orders already to produce 12 copies for next month's edition!

Is there anyone you know who needs one?

Home from Mexico in triumph and in pain!

Geoff Hughes and Peter Jones returned from their marathon cycle ride across Mexico after having been part of a huge fundraising effort in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

In total, twenty cyclists raised around £100,000 and of this, Peter and Geoff, with massive support from (sometimes long-suffering!) wives, families and friends raised over £8,000 in sponsorship.

It has been no easy ride, but despite insect bites, sleepless nights and other unmentionable afflictions resulting from the somewhat primitive conditions they endured, they are both looking fitter and leaner than they have for some time, and Dr Jones' facial hair has been remodelled, lending him a distinctly Mexican air!

They have a fund of stories to relate (a stranger-than-fiction campsite between a brothel and a scrap-yard, for one) and an enviable photograph album. They'll have to treasure it because both have been heard to say it was the experience of a lifetime, but never again! That's what they tell us now, at any rate.



A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from

*Fine Ales,
Quality Menu, Sky Sports,
Big Screen, Pool Table.*
The Black Lion
1 Front Street, Sedgefield
Tel: 01740 620587



*Pool Table,
Sky Sports, Big Screen, Real Ales,
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The Golden Lion
1 East End, Sedgefield
Tel: 01740 620371

Youth work success at Community College

Following on the hugely enjoyable kayaking day in the summer the **Youth Adventure Group** is now enjoying sessions on the Climbing Wall at Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

Running on Monday evenings, the 'Art of Noise' is a project for young people with an interest in writing, recording and performing Rock music. Using a Youth Development grant, they have already bought a PA system and are currently putting a bid together to purchase a digital recording desk. Watch this space for dates and details of recordings and performances.

Sedgefield Drama Crew is a group of girls who, with help from Ian Defty towards the end of the last academic year, produced a powerful piece of work on peer pressure and sex. They have won the Sedgefield area 'Youth Work That Works' award, in the face of quality competition from youth centres throughout the area.

Latest news concerns a possible Skate Park. It seems that funding for this venture will be pretty difficult to obtain, so with characteristic confidence, the young people have decided to make it a self-build venture! Obviously they will be more than happy to accept donations to help them in this exciting ambition.

Sedgefield Playgroup

For over 30 years the playgroup has operated in a very suitable and convenient suite of rooms at the Methodist Church on North End, and the present leadership has been in place for 25 of those years. In fact, the staff have had the gratifying experience of caring for the children of parents who themselves attended the playgroup in its early days!

The aims of the playgroup are to promote happiness in a safe, supportive environment; to encourage children to develop at their own rate; to extend knowledge and skills through structured activities and play, and to help children form friendships.

In the past, Durham County Council carried out regular inspections and the playgroup always gave a good account of itself. This year the inspection was carried out by OFSTED and a very satisfactory day care report was received. The playgroup meets from Monday to Thursday (inclusive) from 9.15 am to 11.45 am, during term time only.

For further information, please contact:

Margaret Glass - tel. 621618

Sedgefield Community College Association

Sponsored Trampoline
JUMP!!

Saturday 21st December
Jumpers will be jumping
from **9am-9pm** to raise
money for new equipment

Do you have time to spare?
Are you **community
spirited?**

Do you have **skills** you would
like to pass on?

If the answer is
'YES'

we would be very
pleased to hear from you

For more information
contact

**Rana Coates or
Darren Langthorne**
on **621097**

A message from Martin King

Rector of Sedgefield

“Go, join the human race” - a word for Christmas.

Clergy need to be more mischievous. Much less pious. Not exactly “un-holier than thou”, but certainly feet-on-the-ground.

One of the great experiences of my student days was to go on a residential conference with several hundred other students. We struggled with mind blowing new ideas about theology, about the church in society, about missionary work in

Britain and overseas - all sorts of intoxicating things for eager young minds.

One speaker, a huge Canadian, had transformed a Leeds housing estate parish. Part of his strategy was to take Communion services in people’s houses before the early shift - so it might be 5 a.m., but the kitchen table would be ablaze with candles (and the curtains open so passers by could see something odd was going on).

It was a way of signalling that the Lord can and does come into your house - he’s not confined to the church building. I have often found

this myself in praying with sick or elderly people in their homes or in hospital.

He was concerned that when he spoke in the pulpit it often seemed as though a magic surplice had come over his words, smothering them with fog, and they failed to be heard by the people in the pews. His message didn’t connect inside the church building, let alone outside it. And one urgent piece of advice has stayed with me ever since:

“Go, join the human race!”

I recall this advice frequently. One reason I need to is that generally I am one of the last people in Sedgefield to hear of people’s troubles with their health, with their bodies, with their prayers or their spiritual battles, their addictions and anxieties at home or at work. And yet what else am I here for? Do people think I’m not really human, so I won’t understand?

As though there were three sexes, male, female and clergy?

“Go, join the human race”.

At Christmas we recall that the Creator joined the human race. No foggy surplice on him. In doing so he forged a strong connection with all aspects of our nature - what our fingers are doing, what goes on between our ears and between our legs. What goes on in our rages and our fears, as we spend our cash and when we can’t find how to meet our children’s expectations.

The birth of Jesus shows us that God is loving, not aloof. Committed to us, not complacent. Magnificent, but not wilful. And if clergy, like him, should in some way be “set apart”, it must be in the quality and depth of love, not in the alien style of our life.

**May you have a splendid
Christmas, connected with those
around you, with your deepest
self, and with the God of
all your nature.**

**May you notice him in your home
and relish his presence.**

Carols on the Green

Join in the singing again this year on the village green on **Friday 20th December** at 6.15 pm.

Organised jointly by the Rotary Club & Sedgefield Churches Together, this traditional event provides an enjoyable focus for us all at the beginning of the Festive Season.

At St Edmunds, Christmas services begin with the **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** on Sunday December 15th, 6.30 p.m.

The **Christingle Service** is at 4 p.m. on Sunday 22nd December and **Midnight Eucharist** on Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

On Christmas Day at 10.45 a.m. there is a Short Children’s service, followed by Holy Communion (children are welcome to bring a favourite toy and to leave after about 25 minutes.

New Year Fireworks are GO!

Yes, following our plea for a pyrotechnician last month, we are delighted to be able to tell you that Basil Watson will after all be giving us the sparkling display we have so looked forward to or the last 3 years.

Not only that, but as a bonus our advert has found *not one, but two* sorcerer’s apprentices! Peter Reeve and Michael King will assist this year and learn more about the magic art of fireworks from the Master!

So all we need now is a cloudless night and a massive turnout from you on the village green just before midnight. Come out and enjoy greeting friends and neighbours, and see the New Year in with a **Big Bang!**

Sedgefield Village Crime Watch Panel



Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel

Neighbourhood Watch

(ALL for ONE & ONE for ALL)



Sedgefield

Hello again, Neighbours! It's Xmas time. Peace & Goodwill to all men!

Well, I hope not. Peace & goodwill to most - but please stop short of Thieves, Robbers, Burglars and Con men. Why give them presents? If you don't take care, YOUR Xmas will be the one that is spoilt!

Don't make it easy for the thief. **Don't invite him in!** Try not to let him see what you have and as daylight fades, close your curtains & put a light on. If you go out leave a light on - or better still use a timer, so that the place is well lit.

If someone comes to the door **DON'T OPEN IT** unless you **KNOW** who it is. Beware of strange carol singers! Watch out for bogus Water Board Officials etc., and certainly **DON'T** buy at the door!

If you're in your car don't ride with your valuables on the seat and your doors **UNLOCKED**. **DON'T** leave **ANYTHING** in sight when you park your car - tuck it in the boot!

Watch out for muggers. When out walking at night, try not to use unlit or badly lit areas if you can help it. It need not be all **DOOM & GLOOM** so long as you take a few precautions!

So, have a **MERRY XMAS**, from all at Neighbourhood Watch!

John Fawcett retired as Treasurer at the last AGM. John had held the position for the past 12 years! He was able to direct & guide the newcomers to the Committee, as well as keeping a tight rein on our finances throughout the years. Well done, John and **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** from all of the members. John is still a member, by the way.

Smoke Detectors. Just a quick update on the position regarding this subject.

As stated in the November issue of Sedgefield News, NHW have been assisting the Fire Brigade to carry out the survey. Due to local Brigade changes, they were unable to commence fitting and so have had to rely on the Community Force Officer Tim Spearey to do the fitting. Tim is doing this along with his other commitments and so it is a slow process.

We hope you will bear with us through this difficult period.

P.C. Todd's Column.

We all give generously, at times, to our chosen charity or good cause. However, you may wish to think twice after hearing about an incident that occurred recently in the Dun Cow public house. It does however, relate to most of the hostelrys in the village!

One Saturday night a vigilant, local, police officer (PC Mike Davison) spoke to the driver of a vehicle, which was parked on the double yellow lines outside the Dun Cow. The driver appeared nervous and looked more than a little suspicious. Moments later a second male appeared from within the Dun Cow, clutching a charity box - again, he looked suspicious -

and so he should because after the police officer completed his checks, both were arrested! The driver for a variety of road traffic offences and the other for fraud! The man charged with fraud has for years been travelling the country, posing as a representative of a children's charity, going into pubs and asking customers to donate to charity! There is no such charity; therefore all the money collected was kept for him! He has Court bail conditions not to enter licensed premises in England and not to have any charity article in his possession.

I have been informed by licensees that he has been coming to Sedgefield for years - so you may

have contributed to his scam!!

Pub Watch.

At a recent meeting, members were informed of 2 related incidents taking place at different licensed premises. This has resulted in three males receiving bans from village pubs. The first male received ban of 1 year; the second six months and the third, one month!

Member of the Pub Watch wish to remind customers that they will not tolerate violence of any sort in the pubs and clubs of Sedgefield and will take positive action against offenders!

Bye for now, Keith.

Sedgefield Squash Club celebrates!

This year the club celebrated 25 years playing at the squash courts in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, and it was another successful year at all levels in the county leagues.

The first team finished at its highest ever position in the top division and boasts two British champions at senior level. There is also a very active junior section with several youngsters playing and training at county level.

The club is always on the lookout for new members, and coaching is arranged for those wishing to learn the sport. Anyone interested should contact **Chris Rowsby** on **621125**

Football in 'The Club'

In response to requests from members, the Social Club on Rectory Row has installed a large widescreen TV and bought a Sky package for the season.

"We rented this set to test the water and see how things go" said treasurer, Bob Gott. "And so far it's going very well. The members are showing their appreciation by attending and there's a fantastic atmosphere in the lounge on match nights".

Note: Sedgefield Social Club is a private members club and does not advertise. Members wishing to know which matches are being shown should read the club notice board.

Sedgefield Road Safety Committee

At the meeting of the above on Tuesday 12th November, the turnout was very disappointing, only two members of the public appeared! However, the Committee feel that they are making their voice heard and making progress on a number of issues.

As Chair, Linda Byrne indicated in her address, the Institute of Advanced Motorists visited Sedgefield in September and ten people were assessed - successfully! As a result of this, one person has decided to train for the Advanced Driving Test.

In liaison with Neighbourhood Watch and Councillor John Robinson, the Committee is working hard to improve the accessibility around the village for disabled people, particularly on the subject of Dropped Kerbs for wheelchair access!

Community Force has been encouraged to bring their speed indicator into the village on a regular basis to discourage speeding.

Three of our members attend the Borough Council's Welfare Working Party, where all parties as far up As County Council Representatives can hear our voice. However, we are not complacent, there is a lot more to be done - and we will endeavour to do our utmost!

We also understand that there is no School Crossing Patrol on the Zebra Crossing in Front Street Volunteer required urgently!

Would anyone be prepared to offer their services, to ensure the children's safety as they go to & from school.

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 112-114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

Sedgefield Sports & Activities
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There's a world out there!
Swimming
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Sedgefield Development Partnership Ltd.



community regeneration for
Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon

This report on Sedgefield Development Partnership's progress is long, I know, but it is part of our effort to be accountable to the people who matter. As that's everyone living in the Sedgefield News area, this seems the ideal place to give some idea of what it's all about.

How we got started

At an Organisations Fair in autumn 2000, Maxine Robinson, as Mayor of Sedgefield, Julia Bowles from CAVOS and I set out reasons why there should be a 'partnership' for Sedgefield. Within a month we had enough volunteers to get the show on the road. First there was a public open 'forum' where speakers from Trimdon 2000 and Cornforth Partnership told us what they were managing to achieve. People were inspired by what they heard, and agreed on a few basic principles:

- The whole town should have the chance to speak its mind in an 'appraisal'.
- There should be better communications; maybe a web-site and/or a newsletter.
- Learning opportunities should be open to everyone.
- We needed an office and some resources.
- We should try to employ a development worker.
- We would respond to ideas suggested by other village organisations, and in particular, help with the Parish Hall, if asked by the Town Council.

So what have we been doing about all this?

Appraisal: We raised £7,500 through grants from various bodies, plus help in kind, and appointed a respected consultant, Chris Cox & Associates, to carry out the bulk of the work. A questionnaire was sent to every house, followed-up by numerous interviews. Walkabouts were held and volunteers were trained so that they could run focus groups which went ahead this autumn. The final report of the Sedgefield Community Appraisal is about to be published.

Newsletter & Web-site: We have launched Sedgefield News, delivered free to every household in Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Foxton (regrettably we can't yet reliably deliver to every farm). The newsletter is helped by grant aid of £2,700 and already generates useful income which helps keep it going. We are now working with the Town Council to develop the community web-site, www.sedgefield.net.

Lifelong Learning: A year ago we were awarded a grant of £6,000 to investigate local demand for lifelong learning, and employed Sandy Denney to carry that out. Her thorough, well researched report has led to further support from the Learning and Skills Council (this time of over £23,000) and Bob Harris has been recruited put the recommendations into practice. Sedgefield Community College is very much a partner in this.

Development Worker: So far we have not been able to raise funds to employ a development worker so everything achieved so far has been through voluntary effort. The work load is now very large though, so we must still work towards this.

Office & Resources: We have an office within the Advice & Information Centre, initially through a grant from the Town Council, and we have begun to build up the basic facilities of a Community Resource Centre. A number of organisations are already putting the equipment we have assembled to good use. The overhead projector has proved particularly welcome.

Other ideas and opportunities:

The first really big idea was that there should be a local First Responders Group. Within a very short time the first volunteers were training and we were negotiating for money to buy equipment. A year ago Sedgefield First Responders went 'live', well equipped and training regularly so they are ready to cope when the Ambulance Service rings.

The **Community Action Project** was one of the few facilities available to young people in Sedgefield and a wide area around it, but during the last year it became impossible to continue with the project. After much discussion the CAP merged with the Partnership, and in taking over their funds, assets and liabilities we have accepted a moral responsibility that they should be used to benefit young people. We hope to let you know what is proposed very soon.

We also agreed to carry on with 2 projects started by Sedgefield 2000. Working with Sedgefield Rotary Club we now run the annual **Citizen's Award**, and have agreed to keep the very useful **Organisations Directory** updated.

Sedgefield Parish Hall

This was identified as a priority at our first meeting, and the Partnership has re-stated its willingness to help if asked.

Development of the Organisation

We started by drawing up a simple constitution but with grant aid from the Scarman Trust, we have succeeded in becoming a company limited by guarantee, which gives the partnership much more scope to be really useful. The law requires that a company must have a Board of Directors supported by co-opted executive members, and 'memorandums and articles' instead of a constitution. These have all been fulfilled and we have moved on to apply for charitable status. We hope soon to have fully satisfied the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Dealing with public finance

We have taken care to build up a track record as a reliable partner organisation which can be trusted with public, charitable and other monies. We have reported on how grant money is used and projects are undertaken. Also we have joined the Development Trusts Association, the national organisation for partnerships like ours. From the outset we knew that we must have this kind of official 'structure' if we were going to be able to access significant funding and be useful to the community. We have been told by independent observers that what we have done so far has typically taken similar organisations 3 years or more to accomplish.

Volunteers & Members

This progress is all due to the time and effort contributed by individual members and supporters and those who have taken on the responsibilities of the Board and Executive. Above all it is a team achievement and I would like to thank all of them for their work and support.

The Future

Although we have come a long way since the first meeting there is still a lot to do. An independent, not-for-profit organisation like this can add significantly to the community's resources, but if we are to continue being of value we must focus on what is most wanted and needed by the community.

Membership of SDP is open to any individual or organisation with willing to commit themselves to our aims. If Sedgefield Development Partnership can continue to be of value, I know it has a bright future.

Roger Clubley, Chairman.

Market Charter Found...

Like most of us, the Town Council believed we had a Market Charter granted long before anyone could remember, but where was it, what did it say, was it just myth? Well, the Council asked Helen Clifford-Brown to do some historical research and this is what she found. Sedgefield was granted a market charter in November 1312 by Bishop Kellaw, the Prince Bishop of Durham. The Market was held every Friday and once a year a five day fair was held in November, around the feast of St. Edmund. The charter was confirmed by Bishop Bury in 1330 and Helen found references to the market throughout the 15th and 16th centuries. By the end of the 18th century it was held in the "large square" at the centre of the town, presumably the green. The market obviously had its ups and downs but in 1827 it was "well supplied with corn, poultry, butter etc." However it failed in 1873. In 1918 the market was revived by the WI as part of the 'waste not want not scheme' and is still held on Fridays, now in the Parish Hall.

Helen found the original document from the year 1312 in the Public Records Office in London. You can read her full report. Copies are in the Library and the Advice and Information Centre.

...a Farmer's Market for Sedgefield?

Recently many market towns, in the North East, have successfully established Farmers' Markets, and people have been wondering whether Sedgefield could run one. They are useful in helping local farmers and food producers sell direct to the public, giving them an alternative outlet to the supermarkets. They give their customers access to good, local and distinctively regional foods.

The Town Council now wants to discuss the possibility seriously and will explore the idea at a conference in January. If you but would like to take part, contact Lesley Swinbank on **621273**.

Lifelong Learning

Wow! Has it been a month already since I last wrote an article for the News?

During the last month I have been involved in talking to people about the learning opportunities within the area and what we can do to help. I spent a very pleasurable evening as a guest speaker for the Rotary Club discussing lifelong learning in the community.

During my time with them I learned a lot about the way they generated funds for good causes within the area and abroad, and was especially impressed with their efforts to eradicate Polio throughout the world for which they have nearly met their objective. This goes to show how working together and sharing expertise can help to improve people's lives.

Further courses scheduled for this month are various Holistic Therapy taster sessions. These will introduce everyone who attends to complementary therapies such as Reiki,

Aromatherapy, Crystal Healing, Reflexology.

If you are interested in attending these courses please let me know by December 6th as they will start week commencing December 9th.

In the New Year I shall be looking to put together a schedule of events and courses for anyone who wishes to take up a learning opportunity. I am still looking for people with skills that they would like to share with the community, in particular Arts and Crafts, so if you would like to volunteer or to know more, please feel free to contact me or pop in and see me at the Advice and Information Centre.

Let me wish you Seasons Greetings and a Happy and Prosperous New Year and I look forward to meeting you all in the coming year.

Bob Harris
Lifelong Learning

Sedgefield in Bloom Sunflower Competition



Jemimah and Olivia Coates

Congratulations to sisters, Olivia and Jemimah Coates, of Cragside, winners of this years competition.

Their exhibit was a gigantic 2.95 metres high, (or in old money, 9feet, 8 & one eighth inches approximately).

These girls are nothing if not persistent. This is their 3rd year of entry and second success.

Last year they were 3rd, but improved by two places this year to win the cup!

Well done, girls !!

What's on in December

This page is open to anyone wishing to announce future events

Burns Night Supper

In aid of the Mayor's Charity -
Children of Sedgefield
Organisations.

Saturday 25th January 2003

Tickets on sale from
1st December from
John & Maxine Robinson
or the Council Offices,
@ **£10 each**

Sedgefield Lyric Singers & Youth Choir

**Together for Christmas
in Sedgefield Parish Hall**

Fri 6th & Sat 7th December
at 7.30 pm

Tickets **£4 & £3** concessions
from 'Selections' and
Choir members

Sedgefield Players Xmas Pantomime

In the Parish Hall

Fri 28th to Mon 30th Dec
All performances commence at
7pm plus a matinee on
Saturday 29th at 2pm

Tickets **£5** & concessions **£4.50**
From Selections or members
of the Players

Eric Thompson's Christmas Art Exhibition

Ceddesfeld Hall

Sat & Sun December 7th & 8th
10am - 4pm

Watercolours and
Limited Edition Prints
of Sedgefield and local area
Featured subjects include the
Ball Game and Sedgefield Hunt.

The Princess Royal Trust Sedgefield Locality Carers Centre

Meet fortnightly on Tuesdays at
**Sedgefield Community
Hospital Conference Room**
1-30pm to 3-30pm

**Are you caring for or looking
after someone?**

We can help- give us a ring on:
01325 313123

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch's

Bi-monthly meeting will take
place in the Fletcher Room,
Parish Hall on

Tuesday 3rd December
@ 7pm

Refreshments & Raffle!

**Merry Xmas & Happy
New Year**

Methodist Medic

Let me share the story of one of the young men of the village... George Simpson. Brought up here, attending the local schools, and also a member of our Methodist Sunday School and Youth Fellowship, he has just begun his 5th year as a medical student at Dundee University. This summer as part of his training, he opted to work for 8 weeks at the Maya Methodist Mission Hospital in Kenya. Thanks to the magnificent sum of £850 raised at our church coffee morning in May, along with gifts from family and friends, he was able to take a supply of much needed medical equipment. He also presented a wonderful donation of £1,320 to the hospital, via the Methodist Mission House. George is now working in Stranraer with local GPs in the hospital there.

Of course we are all delighted with George's success. He is a keen student with a lively Christian faith and a love for the Bible. A few weeks before leaving for Kenya he was baptised at a memorable service into full membership of our Methodist Church. - **Jim Hall**

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust

This is the organisation which has responsibility for local health services such as Nurses and GPs. It is literally your local NHS. Managed by a Chief Executive and advised by a committee of clinicians, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) Board currently has 10 members, most of whom are non-executive. This means the Board is mainly drawn from our local communities.

A reasonable question at this point might be 'What difference will this make, if any?' Well, here a just one or two examples:

Many outdated local health centres will be replaced - planning is already underway.

New approaches to delivery of health care will mean even more services being locally provided, reducing long waits for many hospital appointments.

In addition, your PCT is committed to improving its services to you year on year.

One important issue I have not mentioned is your responsibility to help us. Although staffed by dedicated people, health delivery is a kind of business; it has to be paid for!

Take the use of emergency services. Out of hours services are relatively expensive and take a disproportionate amount of time and resources to deliver. Remember your doctor is not the only expert out there. All clinical staff, nurses, pharmacists, etc. are highly trained and can offer basic health advice, especially important over the winter period.

Please do contact me if you have any comments about the Primary Care Trust in Sedgefield. I will try to keep you up-dated through these pages.

May I wish you the very best of health.

Ray Pattison.

Non-executive Director, Sedgefield Primary Care Trust.

Tel. 01388 824006. Fax. 01388 824007.

Website www.sedgefield-pct.nhs.uk

From the Editor

Merry Christmas to you all. Please keep the news and information coming. The deadline for the next issue is the 7th December.

Articles and information on forthcoming events to:-

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net

or

The Editor, Sedgefield News,
Advice and Information Centre.

Front Street.

Sedgefield.

TS21 3AS

Tel: 01740 629011

Sedgefield Women's Institute

Wednesday 4th December
@ the Parish Hall

An evening of
Line Dancing
with Pat Parker

There will be a
Faith Supper