

Sedgefield News

*At last, a really local newspaper!
Produced by the Villagers for the
Villagers.*



Issue 2. June 2002

We hope that everyone enjoyed reading last month's "First Edition" of the newsletter. It went to 2,200 addresses in our area. Hopefully everybody received a copy, if you didn't, please let us know.

So, here is the second issue. A little longer this time, thanks to the good response and welcome receipt of articles of news and information from many local sources.

Particularly interesting are the "letters to the editor", which proved that the newsletter had been read, making the effort of producing it well worth while.—More letters please.

Parish Hall Development Group

Volunteers are continuing to look at options for the location of a possible new hall as well as the possibility of rebuilding on the present site.

An important part of the process is to clarify the brief- the instructions to the professionals on what we want from the building uses, sizes, etc. You can play an important part. At the SDP Open Meeting, on the 24th June there will be an opportunity

to look at what has so far been suggested, to add your thoughts on the requirements and of course to comment.

That will be an important input into the feasibility stage.

It is hoped that a village appraisal, to be undertaken soon by Sedgefield Development Partnership, may help to clarify local needs and opinions, so that progress can be made towards a new hall for the new

millennium.

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir made a generous donation from it's recent concert.

Bill Hopps, Chairman of the Parish Hall Group, says "We are delighted to receive our first cheque towards this important new project. Let's hope that it's the first of many which will help us to achieve our fundraising target."

Real Ale in Sedgefield

Ceddesfeld Hall, home of Sedgefield Community Association has always had a Bar run for the benefit of its' members.

Despite initial advice that unpaid amateurs would not be able to keep cask-conditioned beer (Real Ale) properly, the Bar has now kept it for over ten years to a consistently high standard. Our standard has been recognised by being voted Durham

CAMRA Club of the Year for two years and North Eastern CAMRA Club of the Year for 2001. We are one of only two entries for Sedgefield in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for 2002. The Bar is open every evening so why not come and join us. Our annual Beer Festival, featuring 12 beers, will be held in Ceddesfeld Hall on the 5th, 6th and 7th July 2002.

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The Roman Settlement

In our first issue we told you how responsible detectorist Alan Luton's discoveries on the East Park site led to the Time Team's involvement. It transpires that we were the only newsheet to mention this vital first step. Not bad for starters! **Continued on page 3.**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent charitable organisation which offers clients free, confidential and impartial advice on all subjects through its fully trained advisers. Last year the CAB dealt with over 33,000 enquiries from the Borough's residents.

Most of the enquiries, 32%, were to do with Social Security enquiries - benefit payments. Advisers are able to sort out difficulties with claims, help fill in forms and check that people are receiving their full entitlement. They are also able to help clients with Money Advice.

Debt is a problem for millions of people struggling to make ends meet. The CAB say 'tackle it early, don't let bills pile up and seek help in drawing up a budget and realistic payment plans'. The CAB has a specialist Money Adviser, funded through the Community Fund, who can help negotiate with creditors. Last year 47% of enquiries were about Money Advice.

In addition Sedgefield & District CAB offers advice on Employment problems, Housing, Consumer and Legal matters. To get in touch simply call into any of the advice sessions below and an adviser will be please to help.

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre

Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Fishburn Youth & Community Centre

Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00am

Trimdon Village Hall

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Tuesday 10.00am - 4.00pm

Steve Wakefield, Citizens Advice Bureau

CAVOS COMMUNITY NETWORK MEETING

The first Community Network Meeting was held in the Ferryhill Leisure Centre on the 12th April, chaired by Anne Frizell - Community Network Coordinator.

Sedgefield, Fishburn and Trimdon Groups were represented by Anne Timothy, Colin Richmond, Kester Noble and George Elliur.

Working to a prepared agenda, a Chairperson, a Communication Sub Committee and a Finance / Assessment Panel were elected.

The network will meet again at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe at 6.00pm for a feedback from the Local Strategic Partnership Representatives.

SEDGEFIELD W.I.

The Annual Meeting in May was well attended. Elaine Thomson was elected as the President.

The resolutions to be debated at the National Annual Meeting in Brighton, in June, were discussed W.I. Members from England and Wales will be voting on support for small abattoirs and the improvement of regulations governing the importation of food.

The quiz team of Alison Hodges, Barbara Hudson, Alice Nixon and Margaret Pegler were placed fourth in the county competition.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 5th June, at 7.15pm, in the Parish Hall, when we will learn more about Age Concern. The competition will be a piece of memorabilia from the Queen's Coronation.

Sedgefield Community Appraisal - progress report

In the May edition of Sedgefield News it was reported that Chris Cox and Associates have been appointed to carry out a Community Appraisal, covering Sedgefield, Mordon and Bradbury. The aim of the Appraisal, commissioned by Sedgefield Development Partnership is

- a) To develop a profile of the communities, covering such issues as the state of the environment, health conditions, crime rates, unemployment rates, housing trends and conditions, facilities and services available etc.
- b) To find out the views of local residents and other stakeholders about what are the key issues and opportunities in the community
- c) To review good practice elsewhere and funding opportunities
- d) To draw up a list of potential action that could improve the quality of life for local people

Action so far has included:

- a walkabout around the communities with local reps
- discussions with partnership members
- a series of interviews with local stakeholders, including local authority officers, councillors, local businessmen, school reps, voluntary organisations, community groups and individuals
- initiation of a household survey that hopefully all have now seen and will complete and return!

Some of the issues that are arising from this process to date include:

- Sedgefield has a weakening economy with less jobs, especially with the closure of the hospital which used to employ around 2000 people, now 80. New opportunities exist, however, through the development of the Netpark and making the most of tourist opportunities
- Services are reasonably stable at present and it is vital that this situation is carefully monitored
- The range and variety of local housing is good but improvements could be made especially in relation to an ageing population and the need to provide starter homes to encourage younger people to stay in the area
- Facilities and opportunities for young people are a priority, ranging from children's play areas, to youth facilities
- Transport issues including the need for traffic calming and improved parking in the town centre
- Pockets of 'hidden poverty' exist, especially amongst the elderly
- Generally maintaining the pleasant and clean environment is vital
- The future of the Parish Hall - a purpose built, sound-proofed, fully accessible building could supply a much wider range of groups and activities
- In Bradbury and Mordon there is a need to look at issues around through traffic and the need for traffic calming

All of these issues and others will be developed further via the analysis of the questionnaires and through focus groups that will follow in June.

The Roman Settlement

Continued from page 1.

We can now reveal that the Time Team has written to Alan. After thanking him, the letter goes on, "I'm sure that over time you will receive a huge amount of satisfaction in the knowledge that through your actions and good work an immensely exciting new site has been revealed. This will truly benefit the academic world. History books will have to be rewritten with the new knowledge that the Romans were making their luxury goods in Sedgefield, not importing them from afar. This implies that they occupied the North East, not just to use it as a military buffer zone, but also because they wanted to turn it into a fully functioning part of their great empire. This alteration of thought is quite a feather in your cap!"

Now the Time Team has proved that there was a well established Roman civilian settlement here, that settlement will have a name. Over to you, historians. What was the Roman name for it? What happened to the watercourse which would have been essential to it? We will be happy to report your findings.

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR - *Can be hired*

Sedgefield Development Partnership now have an overhead projector which can be hired by community groups for meetings, talks etc.

Just apply to the office for details: Tel. 629011.

SDP wish to support community groups by making our resources widely available.

Sedgefield Village Crime Watch Panel



Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel

Neighbourhood Watch

(ALL for ONE & ONE for ALL)



Sedgefield

The Chair

The warm summer days & evenings are here; we will be out in our gardens tidying up, planting out, and probably listening to the radio! Ideal! But out there is the **SNEAK THIEF** waiting for the opportunity to pay you a visit- so, **PLEASE LOCK YOUR DOOR** and engage the door chain or bar!! You haven't one? Well, a good bar can be purchased from the Pound shop in Stockton or Hartlepool.

While in the garden, have a look at the bushes. Could the thief hide behind one, to spy on YOU? Cut it back, or even remove it for better peace of mind. Always keep your grass cut. An uncut lawn suggests to the thief, that you may be away. Fit good locks to your shed door; screw a panel over your shed window. Put a chain around your lawn mower and padlock it to your bench leg. These are good tips to help foil thieving. Consider buying a shed alarm. **Neil Langthorne**, the Crime Prevention Officer @ Aycliffe Police can supply one cheaply.

Tel: - **01325 314401**

Keep an eye on your neighbour's garden and the back of their house while you are out there. More importantly, ring the Police if you see **ANYTHING** suspicious. They will check it out, and thank you, too.

Neighbourhood Watch covers 95% of Sedgefield! These are not peeping toms or busy bodies, just genuine people who care about the community and want to help to cut crime and make the Village a better place to live in.

Perhaps you would like to join us? **Give me a ring 01740 621896** - or come along to our next meeting in the **Parish Hall on Tuesday 11th June @ 7p.m.** (it costs you nothing, but you could gain "peace of mind").

Ken Saiger, Chairman, Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch.

P.C. Todd's Column.



Recently I was asked if I would be willing to contribute to the newly established Sedgefield News. With this in mind I thought it would be appropriate for me to briefly introduce myself and my role, to the residents of Sedgefield.

In future issues I will cover crime and incidents that have recently occurred!

My official title is "Community Beat Officer" or Village Bobby, as the older generation prefer to call me. This return to community

policing has become a high priority over recent years and I am proud to say that I have been part of it since my post was created, nearly 3 years ago!

My role is to focus on local community issues, whilst providing high visibility foot patrol in Sedgefield; and also in my other area of responsibility, Fishburn. This also includes the surrounding rural area.

I am grateful to Sedgefield Motor Co., for the donation of my Skoda motor vehicle, which most of you will have seen, in and around the Village.

If you would like to speak with me, regarding any police matters, or just a general chat, please just stop me in the street. Though, as a

Manchester United fan, the topic of why we failed to win a trophy this year, is not a subject for open discussion- you'll have to ask (Sir) Alec!

You can also contact me at **Sedgefield Police office:- Tel: 620272**

or at the newly opened, part-time Police office located in Alexander Developments, Butterwick Road, Fishburn- **Tel:- 621989.**

Finally, I would like to wish this newsletter every success and look forward to making my own contribution to it, each month. Please note, my sponsors will need to do their own advertising in future!

Minutes (Condensed) of Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th April 2002

Prior to meeting starting the Chair called for a minute's silence in memory of The Queen Mother!

- A presentation from Ritchie Austin, Officer with Sedgefield Borough Community Force was delivered before the start of the evening's agenda.
- Apologies received from Colin Bellwood, Joy Nolan, Sandra & Alan Coyle, Ann Oliver.
- Minutes of Previous meeting were accepted.

Matters Arising: Travellers Camp. No feedback had been received on this issue. Julia Bowles to follow up.

- Alan Sowerby Memorial Award: Chair reported on meetings with the Heads of both Primary Schools and their enthusiasm. It is intended that Joy Nolan (Hon Sec) will present both Trophies to the appropriate School, and introduce it to the Pupils!
- Accommodation for meetings of Exec. Committee is now available in the Police Station.
- First Responders: The cheque for £112 to be presented to the Spennymoor Croup is being withheld, as they are not fully operational yet.

Treasurers Report: Accepted.

Secretary's Report: There was nothing to report.

Village Constable: P.C. Todd circulated the Police Crime Report, as follows: -

March 2002. Total of 121 incidents were reported to Police during March.

41 Crimes (Recordable) include: -

4 Burglaries (dwelling); 5 Burglaries (other); 7 thefts:

12 Criminal damage; 2 Motor vehicles crimes;

5 Assaults; 4 Bilkings (failing to pay for petrol @ filling station)

Points of note: 7 damages @ The Gables, person arrested & charged.

23rd March- Bogus Dynarod Official (distraction) burglary @ Wykes Close.

4th March Cleveland Police pursued vehicle through Sedgefield from Stockton and police vehicle was rammed person arrested.

10th March- show homes @ Winterton broken into & white goods stolen.

Crime Prevention Officer's Report: Neil Langthorne apologised for the problems with the "ring-around" system, as members had not received warnings of crimes in the area, and explained the new arrangements to ensure that there was facility to "ring-around" to cover most situations. He also submitted a map of the Village, detailing the 50 street contacts- stating that coverage appeared fairly even at first inspection.

Neil then advised members that it was hoped the new Co-ordinator would be at our next meeting.

He also advised that the next "crime wave" would probably be "shed" burglary. He recommended that good quality locks, window screens etc. be fitted and kept in position and locked.

Bogus Callers (Distraction Burglary) is still a big problem. Residents must be on their guard- and check credentials.

Constitution: The Chair advised the meeting that there were a number of amendments to be made, before the Document could be submitted to the members, probably at the next meeting.

Any Other Business: The Chair advised members that the initial cost of printing the first Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter was too high, but would be reviewed urgently.

A raffle was held. a bottle of wine & two glasses. This raised £21 from the members.

The winner was Mr Alan Bilinge.

- Chair reported that our place at Sedgefield show, on Saturday 10th August had been booked. He also reminded the members that the show is our principle means of fund raising, and asked for assistance to provide Tombola prizes; also help on the "day".
- Roy Smeaton raised the issue of the white Peugeot car, dumped on the A177. It had been there for more than 3 weeks! P.C.Todd explained the Police position regarding the law. It was agreed to follow this issue up at the next meeting

NEXT MEETING 11th June 2002. 7p.m.

Sedgefield Road Safety Committee

The Second meeting of the above Panel will be held in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on MONDAY 10th June 2002 starting at 7-30p.m.

If you have any issues you would like to raise, any problems for which you would like help, then please come along!

Even if you only want to know what is going on, we will be pleased to see you.

The more people who show an

interest, the more strength to our elbow. We need YOU- much more than you need us- so please, do come along. We will be pleased to welcome you.

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (Darlington Branch) are prepared to come along to Sedgefield (Car Park) and give people an assessment drive!

This takes the form of a 20-25 minute assessment in your own car and a report on your standard of driving. They hope that some

people will then go forward to take the advanced test but it is not compulsory. The assessment is free, but donations will be gladly accepted.

If you feel that you would like to take part, (they will only come, providing there is sufficient interest) please contact either:-

Linda Byrne . Tel:- 622647 or

David Hillerby:- 621343

A.S.A.P.

The aim is to hold the event in September.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

Congratulations on your newsletter. I hope it can be used to voice opinions of readers/villagers.

I live in Mordon and it is with anger that I find the Parish Council has taken it upon themselves to remove our bus shelter.

The people of the village were not asked about it. Where are people to wait if they have a bus trip, or children have to wait in the rain for a school bus?

I think the people who took the shelter down have no kids, or have cars.

Please put back the shelter. My Poll Tax pays for it!

- A concerned Mordon villager.

Dear Sir,

The Sedgefield Development Partnership seems to talk a lot about what they are going to do for us. Why don't they get us a swimming pool?

With over 6000 people living and working in the village surely there are enough people to support it.

So why don't they splash out? Or maybe reply as to why not!

Miranda.

Walking School Bus Sedgefield Girl Guide Rangers

A group of young girls, belonging to the above, are involved in the Square Mile Project, organised by Durham Agency Against Crime and sponsored by Northumberland Water. Their project is to start up a Walking School Bus in Sedgefield.

The Walking School Bus is a method of safely delivering your child to school. Starting and finishing at an agreed spot, an adult will accompany the children at all times, collecting or dropping off children at strategic points along the way.

The benefits to your child are numerous. The main points are:-

- The children are ready to learn earlier than a child who rides to school in a car;
- It is healthier. Research into benefits of regular exercise, in the form of walking, are well documented;
- It is a safe way to get your child to school;
- The benefits to the environment are evident in fewer car journeys to school.
- The local residents suffer less disturbance;
- The concept, if implemented, would be supported by the school.

Would you be interested?

Write in with your comments to the editor via the Council Offices.

Thank you!

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Sedgefield Girl Guide Rangers
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Thank you!

What's on in June

This page is open to anyone wishing to announce future events

Hand bell Ringers

1st Monday in June &
subsequent Wednesdays
7.45
Ceddesfeld Hall

Cricket Club Fixtures

Home to:

Langley Park 1st June
Mainsforth 8th
Shildon 16th
Etherley 29th
All matches start at 2.00 pm

Sedgefield Road Safety Committee

Monday 10th June 2002
@ 7.30pm in the
Fletcher Room
Parish Hall
EVERYONE WELCOME

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Summer Concert
Together with Fishburn
Brass Band
Friday 5th July & Saturday
6th July at 7.30pm at the
Parish Hall

Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel Neighbourhood Watch

Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th June
2002
@ 7.30pm in the Fletcher Room
Parish Hall
EVERYONE WELCOME

SCA JUBILEE CONCERT

On Saturday 1st July 2002
Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield W.I.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, 5th June, at
7.15pm, in the Parish Hall.

St. Edmunds Church Sponsored Walk

The Church is organising a sponsored
walk on Saturday 8th June.
It will be a circular ten mile walk
around Kildale, proceeds in aid of
Church funds.

More walkers and sponsors are needed
to make this event a great success.
Sponsor forms can be obtained from the
church and for further details contact:-
Judy Evans Tel: 621706

Sedgefield Players Little Women

27th, 28th & 29th June 2002
the Parish Hall
7.30pm.

Sedgefield Development Partnership

Open Meeting
24th June 2002
Ceddesfeld Hall
8.00pm.

Sunshine Corner

Activities for under 5's
Non-Denominational

Every Friday 10-11 am
in the Methodist Hall

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

31st May
Jubilee Discos
6.30. pm
Ceddesfeld Hall

1st June
Proms in the Park
Ceddesfeld Grounds

2nd June
Ecumenical Service
12.00 noon
Ceddesfeld Hall

3rd June
Family Fun Day
Ceddesfeld Hall
and grounds

Elderly Residents
Cream Teas
2.00 pm

Not to be missed. Much of the programme free or at low cost.

W HOLD THE KEY

Commercial Storage - Dr. S. J. P. ...

01740 629023

FLOORCOVERINGS

BLINDS & CURTAINS

01740 629023

After the Time Team

The Time Team have gone from the East Park, what now? Fiona Macdonald, the Durham County Archaeologist says that further excavations are not envisaged, at least not in the near future. What people may see during the next few months are people wandering over the Park with geophysics equipment. The geophysics tests before and during filming were incomplete and the full extent of the Roman settlement has still to be determined. Also, any further tree planting will require archaeological work to ensure that no buried

remains are damaged.

The Time Team have gone away to work on the material discovered during the dig and will return to Durham County Council early next year with a dossier of their findings. After that, many of the artefacts discovered on the site will be gathered together and put on display in the village. The Friends of Hardwick are hopeful that a permanent exhibition area will be included in the proposed Visitor Centre in the West Park, which forms part of the Heritage Lottery bid.

John Fitzpatrick

Help to make this Newsletter a success. We welcome contributions of:

- Local news articles
- Information
- Stories
- Letters to the editor
- Notification of forthcoming events, etc.....

Please send your contributions to:

**The editor,
Sedgefield News
C/o The Advice & Information Centre,
Sedgefield
TS21 3AS.**

News from Bradbury and Mordon

The social functions in the villages of Bradbury and Mordon are organised by the Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Committee, which looks after the new village hall, which was rebuilt in 1996 on the same site as the old wooden huts, which had been in use since the end of the war.

The new hall benefited from a grant from the Lottery to install a professional theatrical light and sound system, including facilities for the disabled, and has been used to good effect in the pantomimes, plays, and social functions organised by the committee since its opening. They have decided to organise a Golden Jubilee Celebration on the village green outside the hall

on Monday 3rd. June, and as with all outside events, are praying for the weather to be fine and warm. The afternoon will start with games and competitions, for both children and adults, followed by afternoon tea (everyone bringing something to share), with a small charge to cover prizes and expenses.

In the evening, the hall will be the venue for an evening of "Professional Entertainment", starting at 7.30pm, and tickets are available from Fiona Avery in Mordon and Dave Sayers in Bradbury.

If you are coming, please let them know by the 28th. May.

John Parkinson

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