

# Sedgefield News



By the Villagers for the Villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon  
Issue 11 - March 2003

## Contrasting Moods on the Village Green

*Sedgefield Coalition Against War in Quiet Vigil*



A group of local people moved to demonstrate their concern about events on the international stage, have been meeting on Saturday mornings outside the lych gate at St. Edmund's Church.

We gathered photographs and thoughts from some of those attending.

*(see more on page 2).*

## Your National Health Service

### Introducing Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS)

The key aim of the Patient Advice and Liaison Service is to continually improve patients' experience of health care services. PALS are being introduced within every NHS Trust, including Primary Care Trusts. It is part of a wider move towards shifting the balance of power between patients and NHS and of involving patients and public in changing the way services are planned and delivered.

The PALS will provide information, help and advice to patients, carers and their families, providing a focal point to enable Trusts to learn from the patient's experience of using services.

As services are developed, PALS will seek to initiate action on the basis of a person's fundamental needs and rights; to treat the people they support with respect and dignity; to be proactive in addressing the needs of those individuals and groups that are most at risk of exclusion and least able to represent their own interests.

**Your Patient Advice and Liaison Service can be contacted via any GP Surgery or Hospital Premises.**

*Happy Times are Here Again!*



*A smiling start to an earlier game*

Newcomers to Sedgefield can be taken aback by events on Shrove Tuesday, so just in case there's anyone out there who doesn't quite know what to expect on March 4th, we've a little 'taster' for you.

Local lad Stephen Curry makes his living in photography these days and he now lives away from these parts, his heart will be in Sedgefield on Tuesday afternoon!

His photos and quirky quotes from past games are a very welcome addition to our magazine this month.

*(see page 8)*

## Pancakes in the Parish Hall

*10am - 12 noon*

*Shrove Tuesday 4th March*

*Fortify yourself for Lent -*

*or the Ball Game!*



*"Participation is the  
lifeblood of democracy"  
"The problem has been there for  
12 years - I can't  
understand the moral leap that  
demands action now"  
"We just felt we had to do  
something... and we're grateful for  
the leadership shown  
by Martin King"  
"In the last gulf war there were a  
hundred thousand Iraqi deaths -  
Just imagine if there were so many  
British deaths"*



## **The power of love vs. the love of power**

**War..** I have been steered into something by events and by others. I refer to being caught up in a worldwide movement for peace, and especially against the proposed war in Iraq.

I appreciate that the UN and NATO are in danger of being mere talking shops, but I cannot find it right to unleash on the civilians of that impoverished country the vast destruction proposed by the American administration, and backed by our MP, Tony Blair.

Figures released by the CIA and by UNESCO agree that 42% of Iraqis are under 15 years old and I read this week that children in Baghdad are already becoming traumatised. The bombing hasn't even started yet. It would be a war crime - a crime against humanity. Whatever the UN Security Council decides, I cannot see any justice at all in making things far worse for the Iraqi people than anything Saddam Hussein could do at his worst.

It seems to me to be totally disproportionate. In World War I, 90% of those killed in military conflict were in uniform. In the last decade or so the proportion was reversed - 90% were civilians. (Source: New Internationalist).

For the Americans to bad-mouth their allies for not being as bellicose as they, and then to threaten to punish them for their honesty and courage in standing up for what they believe, is also unacceptable. One begins to ask - who is the real rogue state round here? That

is the nub of my concern.

**...and love.** I write this on St Valentine's Day. What seems precious to me and worth passing on today is this: that somehow our human intimacy is a gift (well, that is obvious - you cannot make someone love you or earn their unprotected closeness). Also a learning tool, given by God, with which we can learn to discover and enjoy his intimacy with us. One of the most poignant moments in all the Bible is the day when Jesus appeared to his friends after his death and resurrection, and says to Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter has just denied even knowing Jesus and feels dreadful at the betrayal of his close friend and master. His reply is "Yes Lord, you know I care for you" (that is my best effort at getting the two different Greek words for "love" into English).

Peter cannot bring himself to think that the deep harmony he has so signally betrayed, is still on offer from Jesus or still there in his own broken heart. Jesus repeats the question and the same answer comes back.

So third time round Jesus says, "Peter, do you care for me?" - like, "Will you still do the right thing by me when I'm 64?" - something that could be just duty. As Peter hears his own, bleak word repeated to him and realises how much more Jesus is offering, he dares to speak out the intimate friendship that is so

vital to them both. That was the ground of his life thereafter - mercy even in the face of his worst sin. I know that feeling and I celebrate it, even in the teeth of proud, strutting men, especially on St. Valentine's Day - the day when Hans Blix presents his report to the UN Security Council.

The word we use in church circles is "grace". Because of the grace I have experienced, I feel sad for the greedy, impatient men on both sides of the dispute. They would create desolation and call it justice, so long as they have control, when all along there is a world of loving out there, with its arms wide open. Mr Blair seems to have painted himself into a corner. He needs our trust if he is going to persuade us. Although he must have detailed information not open to us, I would find it easier to trust him if I trusted his political friends in America.

And the Saturday morning vigils? My hope is that together with the other protests around the world it will give Tony Blair an exit strategy, which at present he seems to be without. My longing is for him to go to President Bush and say, "I cannot bring my people with me, and I cannot take my country to war with such a massive majority believing it is immoral."

*Martin King*

## We are Survivors

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbies and the Pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens: before dishwasher, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes.... and before man walked on the moon!

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins; sheltered accommodation' was where one waited for a bus!

We were before day centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' was nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word!

Before 1945 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did your exams, 'stud' was something you fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a bus to the terminus. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was what cows ate and 'coke' was kept in the coal-house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sunday and 'pot' something you cooked in.

'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was a brand of ice cream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more; while 'aids' just meant a beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble!

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch, when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today.... *but...by the grace of god, we have survived!*

## Become a Link Up Supporter Change Lives, Change Communities

Helping people improve their literacy and language skills can be one of the most rewarding and effective ways to invest some spare time. A little help with reading, writing or maths can go a long way toward changing people's lives for the better.

Volunteers are currently being sought in the Stockton area, to train as Link Up Supporters and join this new initiative provided by the Basic Skills Agency. For those coming forward there will be a variety of roles and choice of opportunities; help can be given both within and outside of a classroom situation.

Though the term 'volunteering' usually suggests giving help in your own time, Link Up offers the chance for people in employment to come forward. There are benefits to having an employee in regular contact with the public, trained in identifying the need for basic skills. Looking at this role in a wider context, there are an estimated 7 million people in the UK who require help. Surely, to provide every individual with the skills required for full participation in 21st century life, is central to our local communities.

Volunteers from all walks of life are invited to get involved, even if they have only a little time to offer. Training is cost free and available at various venues in Stockton or Middlesbrough.

Contact Diane West,  
Link Up Project Co-ordinator.  
Tel 01642 723108; e-mail [linkup@stocktonvda.org](mailto:linkup@stocktonvda.org) or see the full scope of the project at [www.linkup-supporters.org.uk](http://www.linkup-supporters.org.uk)

## Community Safety *with contributions from Sedgefield Police, Data-Link, Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch, Pub Watch, First Responders, the Home Office and the Disabled Drivers Motor Club*

### The Disabled Drivers' Motor Club

This excellent club was founded in 1922 by a small group of ex-servicemen who were concerned that disabled persons would not be allowed to drive motor vehicles.

It now has more than 15,000 members from all walks of life, and wants to increase its membership in order to develop still further facilities which can help disabled people to become independently mobile.

Benefits of membership include arrangements with specialist insurance brokers who can provide policies for almost any car driver; discounts on car spares and ferry travel, etc. All these topics, as well as others of interest to any disabled

person, are covered in the bi-monthly journal, 'The Disabled Driver', distributed to every member. There is an annual year book, free on joining.

Anyone can join, though if you are not actually disabled you become an Associate Member and unfortunately won't qualify for the discounts.

The subscription is **£10 single, £15 joint**, (easily saved by the 15% discount on most RAC subscriptions).

Contact DDMC at  
Cottingham Way, Thrapston,  
Northants, NN14 4PL

Or Tel: **01832 734724**  
Fax 01832 733816

### Your Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

*PC Todd* reported that crime in the Sedgefield Village area has not worsened, though as ever, that is not a reason for being complacent. 7 crimes were reported during December and 24 in January - 3 burglaries & 1 distraction burglary, 4 assaults, just 1 drug related crime & 7 anti social behaviour.

There were 2 vehicle break-ins, 1 vehicle (malicious) damage, 1 theft of motor cycle & 2 cases of bilking (petrol theft);

1 property damage, 1 malicious phone call, 5 false alarm 999 calls and 2 thefts from property.

### Domestic Violence

If you are threatened by someone you live with, or physically or sexually assaulted by them, you will know what it is to suffer from domestic violence.

Domestic violence is defined as controlling and aggressive behaviour and includes all kinds of physical, sexual and emotional abuse within all kinds of intimate relationships. Domestic violence is often used to maintain power and control over another person, and anyone can experience it. It happens for many reasons and in all kinds of relationship and is rarely a one-off event.

Individuals have an important part to play. For people experiencing violence, the support of a trusted friend can be invaluable. Breaking the chain is a job for everyone. We all have a vital part to play in supporting victims and helping law-enforcement and other agencies to stamp out this kind of behaviour.

It's important to remember that domestic violence is a crime, and

those who commit such crimes must answer for their behaviour.

We all have the right to live without the fear of violence and abuse. If you are hurt, scared and confused, or want to help, you can talk to your GP, or

**Refuge - 24 hour National  
Crisis Line on - 08705 995 443**

**Victim Support - 0845 30 30 900**

**Women's Aid - National 24 hour  
Domestic Violence Helpline  
08457 023 468**

**National Child Protection  
Helpline - 0808 800 5000**

**Darlington & District Domestic  
Violence Helpline - 01325 64486**

**Durham Domestic Violence  
Outreach - 0191 301 8421**

**Local Police - 620272**  
**In an emergency always call  
999**

*The Crime Prevention Officer* stated that in the Sedgefield Police area, crime has increased by 27%, mainly on the Winterton site and from the A689 road works. It is proposed to recruit householders on the Winterton site to join our NHW. Crime detection has improved from 31% to 38%, but there has been an increase in sneak-in/chance burglaries - so please keep your doors locked even when you are at home! Why not fit one of our door bars?

*NW Coordinator Sarah Norman* gave an interesting talk on the Nominated Neighbour scheme (NN). In vulnerable areas, a volunteer is nominated to represent their neighbours. They can direct strangers who request access to their home to the NN, and he or she will check credentials and advise accordingly.

For details ring Sarah on:-  
**01325 742755**

## Flask-In-the-Fridge: **DATA-LINK** "Message-in-a Bottle"

Data pots provide a simple but effective way of storing information in your own home, which can be easily accessed by the Emergency Services if they are called in the event of an accident or sudden illness.

Recognisable by the **GREEN CROSS** logo on the label, the pot or Flask contains all the personal and necessary medical details which the Services need, to give you urgent, effective and often life saving help.

*It is stored in your refrigerator.*

A small **GREEN CROSS** label is stuck on the outside of the fridge and a second one displayed near your front door

Available **free** to the elderly and anyone with a medical problem

*If you would like one, enquire at the **Library, Chemist,***

***Doctor's Surgery or the Parish Hall on Monday - Friday from 9am-12noon***

**If in doubt ring David Hillerby: 621343 or Ken Saiger: 621896 for advice**



## Neighbourhood Watch

*Other notes from the February meeting*

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of £535.37.

Unanimous support was given to Guide Dogs for the Blind for their "Regulate Fireworks" campaign.

It was agreed to support the Police in their approach to the Council to have drinking in the streets banned. The Secretary has written to the Chief Constable supporting his initiative and issuing an open invitation for him to attend one of our meetings.

A village wide raffle is proposed, to raise funds for NHW & First Responders ASAP.

Talking book now has 15 clients and we have purchased our own equipment thanks to a grant from CAVOS.

## First Responders

are looking for volunteers to learn to use a defibrillator and join the team. *Training is friendly & fun and gives you confidence to cope if called out by the Ambulance Service to help in cases of heart problems or breathing difficulties.*

*Call Mark for a chat about it, on 621739*

## PC Todd writes...

Hello! This month I'd like all the motorists in the village to pause for a moment and think about their driving skills. How fast do you drive through the village? I'm often told about people driving as if the roads are made for racing cars.

Attempts have been made to slow the traffic down, notably on Durham Road, and officers conducted a 'snap-shot' of traffic on Station Road recently, using a speed indicator borrowed from Community Force. I'm not at liberty to say who the offenders were, but I can reveal that they live in all corners of Sedgefield! Locals are not the only offenders - people from Trimdon, Darlington, Rotherham and even Norwich were found speeding and given verbal warnings. Next time they might not be so lucky!

On a happier note, I would like to reassure residents in the Durham Road area that we have not got a rapist or mugger in our midst! The recent incident, when there was a lot of Police activity, has now been resolved.

## Pub Watch

celebrates its 3rd birthday this month. It's proved a great success, so well done all!

At a recent meeting it was agreed that they should say thank you to their customers who had enjoyed a night out in our many Public Houses during the festive season.

It was the safest in many years, with no reports of crime being committed! See you next time, **Keith**



*The Pub Watch launch in March 2000*

## Great-Crested 'News' at Hardwick Country Park!

The start of the tree clearance programme at the park, due this month, has been delayed following the discovery of a small population of Great Crested Newts in the Bottle Pond.

There are seven species of Bat too, and because Bats and Great Crested Newts are protected by European legislation these findings have raised questions which English Nature says can only be answered by more extensive surveys. Tree felling requires a licence from the Forestry Commission, who in turn need formal agreement from English Nature. Clearly this licence will be withheld until the populations of these



protected species are investigated and their conservation is ensured.

All very good for the wildlife, and not too bad for those working on the restoration. It should be possible to gather the necessary information fairly quickly, in time for work on the trees to start in early September, fitting in with the programme to restore the Main Lake, create the new Car Park and return the East



Park to open parkland. Selective felling and re-planting will continue for many years, though on a much smaller scale than previously envisaged. As newly planted native hardwoods gradually replace the alien conifers, the park will slowly regain some of its original character. It is still expected that the work will be completed by April 2006.

While all this is happening, interpretive material and a completely new education programme will be developed, to complement the splendid new glass pavilion, which was the winning design for the Heritage Resource Centre to be built soon.

Visitors can currently watch archaeologists from Durham University investigating the remains of the Temple of Minerva, the Gothic Seat and the Gothic Ruin - but be quick. They will soon cover up their efforts!

### All this & Neptune too!

So it was an interesting AGM at the end of a very successful year for the Friends of Hardwick Park. Chairman, Jack Glendinning also commented on the Time Team dig in the East Park and the well attended public meeting in the Parish Hall which followed. Anyone old enough to remember Neptune in all his glory in the Serpentine Lake, will be pleased to hear that the Friends will soon be starting a fundraising campaign to put a replacement

statue back in his rightful place, providing a focal point to the view from the new Centre.

Tony Smith for Durham County Council attended the meeting and gave an overview of the projected sequence of events over the next few years. Following the Heritage Lottery Grant approval received last July, the team is working to a tight schedule to ensure that the Stage 2 submission is made in March. This should release funds earmarked for implementation of the project's first phase, and if it is submitted on time, a decision can be expected soon enabling work to start in early September.

Two new members were welcomed to the Management Committee - Maxine Crallan and Wyn Hannon. Geoff Rigden, retiring from the Committee, was thanked for his contribution to the success of the book 'The Reawakening of Hardwick Park', published last year.

## Selection of the Village Green to be restored

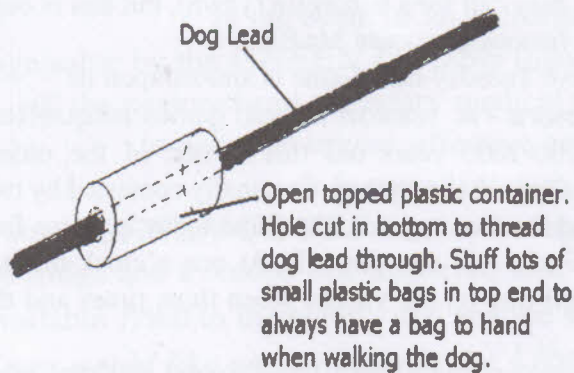
The Town Council has recently let a contract to have the small part of the village green which is outside Bell's store on North End, restored.

The grassed area was mysteriously taken away and replaced with tarmac some years ago and as a result, the mature red hawthorn tree which grew there was damaged and left to die.

Although it was unable to trace the culprits, the Town Council, has now decided to go ahead and re-instate the planting on that part of the green, which is in its ownership, along with the more obvious parts of the Green.

**The work should be completed during March.**

## It's a Dog's Life! Messy Business



For those of you who concern yourselves with cleaning up after your dog - sadly that's not the case with all dog owners - here's a simple tip for never being without that essential plastic bag for when your pooch decides to 'unload'.

Take a small plastic bottle (shampoo/yoghurt drink/kids bubble mixture) discard the lid.

Cut a slot or hole in the bottom sufficient to allow you to thread the dog lead through it.

Stuff it full of those small plastic bags you get for your vegetables from the supermarket.

**It weighs nothing, costs nothing & you don't have to go out with your pockets full of plastic bags!**

You don't even have to make the effort to remember it because it's on the lead already and it means you've always got a bag to hand so you can clean up easily after your dog.

**Then you can feel good about being a responsible dog owner who looks after the environment.**

*Our thanks to Joe Harte for sharing his invention - very relevant, as this was one of the 'hot topics' in your Appraisal Questionnaires answers!*

## The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

is asking the public for support in asking the Government to review fireworks legislation, in particular;

To require all public firework displays to be controlled by licensed pyrotechnicians.

To restrict the times of year when fireworks can be bought.

To restrict the times of day when fireworks can be let off.

To license all vendors of fireworks to meet strict safety criteria and to give Trading Standards the power to revoke the license of any vendor caught selling fireworks to underage children.

If you would like to offer your support, please contact your

**Neighbourhood Watch  
Co-ordinator**

### PET FOODS

Special Offers

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

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1kg Dog Food 1.99

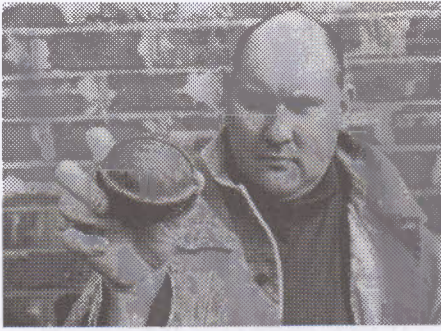
1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

1kg Dog Food 1.99

## The Lure of the Game



### The rhyme:

When with pancakes ye are sated  
 Come to the ring and ye'll be  
     mated  
 There this ball will be upcast  
 May this game be better  
     than the last



*Auditions for the new ballet were going well!*

The day is fast approaching where a day off work is booked - or maybe not! The boots and ceremonial dress leave the cupboard for their yearly airing. Scores may be settled on the one day you might possibly get away with it. Some may call for a ban again (yawn), but this is our tradition. It remains more famous than even Mr Blair.

Yes - the Shrove Tuesday Ball Game is almost upon us.

### For newcomers - A lesson in ball game etiquette & history

At between 700-1000 years old this is one of the oldest surviving traditions of its type in the country. Originally contested by two teams, the Tradesmen and the Countrymen, the game today is a free for all, though with the same aim - to win the ball! At one o'clock the ball is passed through the bull ring on the village green three times and thrown to the crowds.

It is kicked, thrown and chased until around 4.00pm, when someone attempts to win it, once and for all.

To win the ball you must get it into the one remaining alley, or goal, a stream at the south of the village. It's then back to the bull-ring, the ball being passed through to end the game and win the ball.

Sound easy? Though the game has mellowed over years, many injuries today occur from the curious notion that it is fun to head the ball!

In the past, the game has certainly had its moments. From a report in 1893 '...play was within confined limits and became rough and boisterous, the countrymen elated with the prospect of riot...' Common consensus is that in the 1880's it was a 'fairy's game' and nowhere near as rough as it used to be. If you consider how reporting has changed, there must have been near deaths during the game in years prior to this. The most bizarre report though, comes from the Northern Echo in March 1892.

'A hart getting up in one of the fields for a moment diverted the attentions of the players, and a general rush was made for poor pussy, but being troubled with the "slows," and after knocking a sheep on to its back, she made her escape.'

Quite what was going on in 1892 is anyone's guess, though the game used to roam for miles around the village and the ball was not thrown, so out in the fields anything could happen. I guess people were much fitter in those days.

You won't see many animals roaming the streets this Shrove Tuesday, though that may be a matter of opinion, but a fine game will be fought in the fairest and most just of ways with absolutely **no** disagreements, as of course it is every year!

Have fun - and maybe I'll see you next year.

*Stephen Curry*

### A Free Pint for Past Winners

Peter Hamilton of the Hardwick Arms plans a reunion of past ball game winners at 11am on the big day.

Those who bring their trophy ball will receive a free pint to get them in the mood again!



## Sedgefield Library Investors in Children

Are you between 9 and 16 years of age? Do you like to 'make a difference? Would you like to be involved in a new project to help improve your library?

*If the answer to any of these questions is YES then we need your help!*  
Please call in at Sedgefield Library or telephone 620103 and a member of staff will be happy to give you more details.

## More Library News

Did you know that Sedgefield Library now has **3 Public Access Computers**, all with Microsoft Applications and FREE access to the Internet and email. To use these facilities, all you need do is to become a Library Member and then book an appointment.

**'Memories of Sedgefield'**. We have copies of this Durham County Council publication on sale - an ideal gift at just £2.95.

**Come for coffee** on Monday and Friday afternoons between 2pm & 3.30pm. The Library Staff invite borrowers old & new to join them.

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## Just Joking!

The other day Eric was on his way to the airport. He'd called for a taxi and was soon on his way. He decided to stop for a paper so he tapped the driver on the shoulder and was shocked to be flung to the floor as the taxi came to an emergency stop!

'Please *don't* do that sir' said the driver  
'it's my first day on this job.'

### D HOLD THE KEY

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Secure & Easy To Use.

Storage for All Personal & Commercial Storage. On Sedgefield Industrial Estate. 01746 625000

### THE SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Services available including a new range of books in fiction, non-fiction, reference, children's, music, video, audio, and a new range of reference books. We also offer a range of services including photocopying, printing, scanning, and internet access. For more information please contact our staff on 01746 625000.

### DIANE GARR

9 St. Mary's Lane, Sedgefield, Co. Durham  
01746 625000

### Call into the gym

**ELAINE'S AEROBICS & BODY CONDITIONING**  
Every Monday  
10.00am - 12.00pm  
12.00pm - 2.00pm  
2.00pm - 4.00pm  
4.00pm - 6.00pm  
7.00pm - 9.00pm  
Body Conditioning - 12.00pm - 2.00pm  
Body Conditioning - 4.00pm - 6.00pm  
Body Conditioning - 7.00pm - 9.00pm  
125A Queen Street, Sedgefield  
01746 625000

**SEDGEFIELD**  
Election of  
Representatives  
to the  
Community Network  
to be held at  
PILSBURN  
**YOUTH AND COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**  
on Monday 21st March  
from 6pm to 7pm  
For information please  
contact  
Anna Firth at CAVOD  
Tel. 01746 625000

**L. PERKINS**  
Sedgefield  
01746 625000

**D.M. GALE**  
Sedgefield  
01746 625000

## Lifelong Learning News

Thinking of a change in career? Fed up with your working environment? Just want to do something different, more challenging, more satisfying?

These are questions we all ask ourselves at some point. In your working life you can count yourself lucky if you end up doing a job that meets all your needs.

Well, to coin a phrase I often use - strange I know but very true - 'things will stay the same unless they change'. So how can things change? I am afraid that is down to you! We can arrange opportunities for you to learn a new skill or to improve your existing skills, but first, I do need to know what it is that you need.

Perhaps you are not quite sure what you want to do. If you'd like to talk to someone you can bounce ideas off, or to see what options might be available, please feel free to pop in and see me at the Advice Centre, (next to the doctor's surgery) for a coffee and a chat. If I can't help you I could arrange for you to talk to a careers advisor or someone else who might be able to help.

The trouble is it's not always quite straightforward; you might want to try something out first before committing yourself to a life change; a lot of employers look for

experience. Isn't it amazing how many job adverts say experience preferred but how can you get the experience if you haven't done the job before? Well, one possible route is by giving up some of your time to gain that experience through the voluntary network. We have a person here every first and third Friday in the month who can give guidance on that. If you would like to arrange to see her, either call in person or give me a ring.

March is an exciting time for us with our Third session of First Aid courses starting on Monday afternoons or Tuesday evenings. If you haven't received your invitation yet please phone me.

The computer courses we are running at present are both full and there is still a demand for more, so new courses will be started once the existing ones are finished.

In the short term, thanks to the staff of Sedgefield Library I shall be at the library every Thursday Morning from the 6th March to help you with the Internet. You do need to be a member of the library and as resources are limited to only 3 computers, please book with the library for when you want to attend.

Happy Learning! *Bob Harris*

## Stage 2 Spanish

Would you like to brush up your Spanish?

Join us on **Monday** evenings from **7 - 9pm** at **Sedgefield**

**Community College** for stage 2 Spanish lessons in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

With expert tuition from a native speaker you're sure to learn quickly.

Don't worry - if you think you've forgotten everything. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

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## Sedgefield Family History Group

Mrs Carol McLee will speak on

*Scottish Family History Through Experience*

on **Monday 17th March** at 7.45pm

in **Ceddesfeld Hall**  
Visitors Welcome

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## Coffee Mornings

in aid of **Parish Hall**

Continue on Thursdays

Please do call in

between 9-30 and 12noon.

We are happy to announce that the fund to date stands at **£1350**, including **£477** from the Xmas raffle.

# March DIARY

Promote **your** events -  
Announcements are **free** to non-commercial organisations

## St Edmund's Church

is holding a

### "Songs of Praise"

style service, with readings,  
favourite hymns, and  
music from soloists,  
children & youth groups  
on **Sunday 2nd March**  
at **6.30pm**

## Sedgefield

### Garden Society

The next meeting is a talk by  
Dr Alan Pearson on  
**Rock Gardens**  
in Ceddesfeld Hall on  
**Tuesday 4th March**  
at **7.30pm**

*All welcome*

## Sedgefield WI

A Cookery

Demonstration

by Liz Wilkinson

**Wednesday 5th March**

at **7:15pm**

in the Parish Hall

You're Welcome to Join Us

## Please join us for a CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

in Ann & Mel Carr's home at  
**3 The Square, Sedgefield**  
(opposite the Co-op on the  
Green)

**Saturday 8th March**

from **10am-1pm**

Admission **£1.50**

inc. Refreshments & Goodies!

in aid of

**North East**

**Ambulance Service &**

**NE Children's Cancer**

**Research**

Supported by

Sedgefield Inner Wheel

& Rotary Clubs

## The Cricket Club Quiz

is on **Saturday 8th March**  
at **8pm**

All Welcome!

## The Positive Youth Project's Film Night in the Parish Hall

features

### 'Thunderpants'

On **Fri 14th March** at 6.30pm

Entrance **£1.50**

## Sedgefield in Bloom

is starting another year  
trying to retain the  
Northumbria in Bloom title  
as the best country town,  
for the 12th year in succession.  
We are holding our AGM on  
**Monday the 17th of March**  
at **7.30 in the**  
**Parish Hall Boardroom**  
and all interested are very  
welcome.

Our first volunteer  
working party is at the  
Jubilee Gardens on The Lane  
on

**Saturday 1st of March.**  
meeting at **10am**

## Sedgefield Players

first production  
for 2003 is

### "My Mother Said I Never Should"

On **Thursday- Saturday**

**27th - 29th March**

at **7.30pm**

Tickets **£5** or **£4.50** concessions  
from **Selections**, Members of  
the Players or phone **621000**

## EVENTS AT HARDWICK HALL HOTEL

For more information contact reception on Tel: 01749 62053

### Friday 14th March - Spring Ball

Featuring the John Verry Band

Champagne Reception in the Bayou Suite (seats dress required)

Step back in time, dining and dancing to all your favourite 70s hits £25 per person

### Sunday 30th March - Mother's Day Luncheon

Celebrated in the Colonial Suite

A four course lunch served from midday, with a special gift presented to all guests

Table booking required at £17.50 per person.

### Tuesday 1st April - April Pool Party Towers Evening

A night of unlimited fun with Band, Salsa, Mixed, Pilly & the Night

A four course meal served at 8pm. Tickets priced at £20.95 per person

## Your Letters

### It's worth the trouble to cost your post carefully

On receiving cards from my son and his family recently, I was very surprised to find that I had to pay 86p to get them, of which 6p was underpaid postage and 80p was a 'handling charge'.

They had made the mistake of putting their card together with a homemade card from the grandchildren into one envelope and putting a first class stamp on, expecting it to cover the cost. I have since found that a lot of people have had the same experience.

So if a package could weigh more than 60gms it is better to get it weighed at the post office or the recipient could be in for a nasty surprise.

*Ann Oliver*

### Definitely Greens

Thank you for publishing my letter in last month's issue regarding 'green' electricity. I am not opposed to helping save the environment, just the way this particular project is being handled by electricity companies!

My wife and I have always tried to help improve our environment.

Since as far back as 1974 I have had dual-fuel systems fitted to my cars, both my own and Company cars. LPG is the cleanest form of road fuel available. The Company I worked for, the biggest LPG Company in the UK, was attempting to develop the use of LPG fuelled cars in this country throughout the middle sixties to the early nineties. Unfortunately it was not politically acceptable at that time. There was no road fuel tax on the price, but for various reasons it was impossible to have refuelling points introduced onto petrol

### Swimming - an undeserved award?

In a recent edition of 'Inform' it was reported that Sedgefield Borough Council had received a top award from the Amateur Swimming Association for its efforts in promoting swimming. Does the ASA know that a very large proportion of people in the Borough does not have access to a decent Swimming pool? How many more people of all ages would enjoy swimming and other activities if we, East of the A1(M) had a purpose built pool and sports centre. Not everybody has the wherewithall to go to Aycliffe, Spennymoor or Darlington and we certainly would not let our children go alone.

We are badly served and the council should return the award with apologies for the misrepresentation of its constituents.

*Lesley Dix*

station forecourts, so the attempt failed. Now that it is politically correct the government, petrol companies and car manufacturers are jumping on the bandwagon. I am not bitter about this. In fact I am ecstatic! NOT BEFORE TIME - more help should be available to expand this 'green system'.

I would also like to advertise the fact that we have 'solar panels' fitted to the roof of our house.

Our climate is not the most appropriate for this system, but one does not need the sun to produce water warm enough to wash, shower or bath all year round, without the use of fuelled water heaters. We have reduced our gas usage by 10% over the last five years. We won't recover the installation costs in our lifetime, but we feel that we are 'doing our bit'.

*David & Enid Hillerby*

### From the Editor

Do keep up the flow of news

Send your articles and information on forthcoming events

before March 15th please, to

[snews.sdp@sedgefield.net](mailto:snews.sdp@sedgefield.net)

or to

The Editor,

**Sedgefield News,**

Advice and Information Centre.

Front Street Sedgefield,

**TS21 3AS**

or

**Telephone 01740 629011**

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

*However we do thank all contributors and would like to thank our letter writers for their thought provoking and interesting material.*