

Sedgefield News

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

Green Shoots of Recovery at Bradbury

For some time past the Methodist Chapel at Bradbury has been at risk of closure due to the combination of a falling congregation and the need to carry out various repairs to the building. There are also the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act in respect, mainly, to access. Over recent weeks various meetings have been



held and a positive decision taken to move forward and to do all possible to keep the chapel open for the benefit of not only the current congregation but also for future generations.

The priority was to encourage new members to attend

and to renew the interest of those who had attended previously.

To this end a mail shot was undertaken to all the homes in the adjacent village of Mordon and to those in Bradbury where interest might be forthcoming, additionally the surrounding farms were contacted. The mail shot suggested that anyone interested in supporting the chapel should attend the normal service at 10.30 on a particular Sunday.

The day dawned after possibly the heaviest snowstorm in years, with the news that the heating in the chapel was not working and that there was a leak in the water supply. The communion service, however, went ahead as planned but in one of the member's houses, very much perhaps as in the days before the chapel was built in 1895, a cosy coal fire and a nice cup of tea or coffee giving a welcome opportunity to meet our new friends.

Successful applications have now been made to the local Methodist Circuit and the Sedgefield Relief in Need Charity resulting in £4000 of funding assistance being obtained towards the building work, with further applications in the pipeline.

Whilst there is still a long way to go, the green shoots appear to have taken hold and the future looks much brighter. Services take place every Sunday at 10.30, all are welcome. **John Burrows - Steward**

In the Merry, Merry Month of May...

There'll be all the usual
attractions on and around
the Village Green and
Ceddesfeld Hall on
Mediaeval Fayre Day
Saturday 15th

Let's hope for a sunny day
and lots of support for
Sedgefield Community
Association

St Edmund's Church
will be open all day for
music, tower trips and
refreshments

Later, if you're up for it,
Sedgefield rockers

'the switch' (see p.2)
will be giving it all they've
got at the Cricket Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Sedgefield News! We're 2 this month

We hope you find it
entertaining, useful, &
topical. Remember, it's
YOUR VOICE in the
community; you can use it
to comment on issues
you care about.

See David Hillerby's
Birthday Card on p. 2

Listen out for **the switch**

“They’ve systematically devoured the pub rock circuit, belched loudly and asked what’s for dessert!” so goes the colourful opinion of one reveller at The Switch’s recent triumphant concert at Sedgefield racecourse. “There are just no other bands around who match their passion and sheer enthusiasm - it’s as simple as that!” said another. The Switch formed in early 2003 and although they have only played 11 gigs since May last year, they already have a very healthy hardcore following.

“We intentionally set out to make each concert an occasion and it’s impossible to do that by playing the same places twice a month!” says David Pratt, the Sedgefield born singer/guitarist in the band. He added “You can quickly become like an old shoe; taken for granted and largely ignored by your audiences”

Being ignored is not something The Switch will ever have to suffer! Their brand of ultra fast and extremely loud rock is enough to make the average ear drum bleed.

A 400 strong audience at Seaton Carew in January is testament to their growing reputation and ‘home-coming’ gigs here in Sedgefield, (there’ll be no more



David Pratt - lead singer with ‘the switch’

than two in the remainder of 2004), promise to be packed to the rafters.

With an album ‘They Reckon’ under their belts and another planned for early next year, things are looking up for the lads.

Catch them live at the Cricket Club on 15th May at 7.30pm with special guests ‘This is’ - also Sedgefield based - in support.

The Switch are:

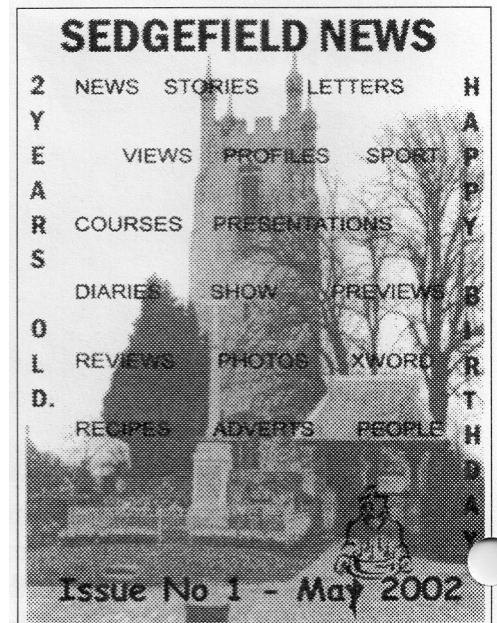
David Pratt: Lead vocals, Guitar:

Chris Bentley: Lead guitar and vocals:

Matthew Jones: Drums

Terry Matfin: Bass, vocals

Tim Skelton



Many thanks to David Hillerby

Would you be interested in trying to save the old Hospital Chapel in the Cemetery near Winterton Park?

The little Chapel is due to be demolished under the conditions of sale of the Winterton Hospital site to Miller Homes.

If anyone is interested in forming a working group to see if there is any way of saving the Chapel, or finding some use for it, please contact Sedgefield News or telephone me, Gloria Wills, on 623001

Donation to First Responders

After years of music-making, the Ringer Singers have decided it’s time to hang up their hats. Audiences have often been generous and the singers used to use any money they were given to replenish their music, but now they have decided that they would like what remains to go to a good cause.

Sedgefield First Responders, who assist the North East Ambulance service when requested, are the lucky recipients and they benefit to the tune of £100, which will be spent on replacing equipment.

The First Responders send a big thank you to Dorothy Ringer and the rest of the group.

Rail bridge safety on the Bradbury to Mordon road

Following the accident at Selby when a Land Rover left the road and ended up on the main line, Durham County Council have initiated a scheme to prevent errant vehicles leaving the road and getting onto the main East Coast link.

The bridge between Bradbury and Mordon is extremely vulnerable and work has started there, erecting barriers to prevent a repeat occurrence.

The road was closed on Saturday night 17th April to enable scaffolding to be erected adjacent to the line (there are no trains overnight during this period).

By midday Sunday the single line access over the bridge was in place and is being controlled with temporary traffic lights for the next 12 weeks.

The work includes the diversion of the 6 inch water main in the pavement over the bridge to allow civil work to be completed. Overnight closure will also be required on the 22nd May and the 10th July for relocation and removal of the scaffold.

Local residents are very pleased that the County have taken this action, as it was always considered to be an accident waiting to happen.

John Parkinson



Welcome to **Retro World Games** - a new column for younger readers

Hello readers! Let me introduce myself.

My name is Alan Wong and though most will associate me with the Overseas Takeaway, a minority will know me from the Retro World Games Shop, next to the Chinese.

We're pleased to have this opportunity to write about videogames, the latest news, rumours and maybe a cheat or two.

So let's press on with the latest news.

PS3 is it soon?

Quite a few people have asked about the release date for Playstation 3. If rumours are right it is unlikely to be any sooner than late 2006.

A recent official letter from Sony Entertainment warns about modified PS2 hardware being supplied to the High Street; "This product (PS2) has been modified & repacked without Sony's notification, authorisation or approval...Since the replacement plug is a third party product neither we nor Sony can vouch for the safety of the product". We are proud to say that all our Playstation 2 hardware is from the Official Sony Distributors.

Driv3r News

Having sold over 12 million copies worldwide, the Driver series is as big as games come, true to the current trend which wants games resembling large-

scale Hollywood productions. Driv3r, or Driver 3, has a movie actor cast, licensed soundtrack and three wide-open city environments: Miami, Florida; Nice, France; and Istanbul, Turkey: with Ridley Scott's company producing short movie-like teasers. Driv3r is expected in June 2004 for Xbox and PS2 with a PC version being released at a later date. We're currently taking pre-orders on this massive title. Leave a deposit and get Driv3r for £34.99 - member or non member.

Cheat of the Month...

Prince of Persia: Sands of Time (PS2)

Original Prince of Persia Level 1 in 3D

Start a New Game and stay on Balcony.

Press L3 then press X, Square, Triangle, Circle, Triangle, X, Square, Circle.

Passwords:

KIEJSC Level 2; VNNNPC Level 3; IYVPTC Level 4; RSWWC Level 5; GONWUC Level 6; DEFNUC Level 7; SVZMSC Level 8; DBJRPC Level 9; MZFYSC Level 10; BRAYQC Level 11; UUGTPC Level 12; LRARUS Battle with Jafar

That's all for now, but we hope to be writing again in the future - you'll probably hear from my business partner Liam Connor next time.

If you have any questions please email me on

a.wong@retro-world.co.uk.

Community Safety *with contributions from the Police, Sedgefield NHW, the Sedgefield Charities and the Resident's Forum*

Sedgefield NHW & Crimewatch Panel

Minutes of Meeting held on 13th April 2004

Minutes of Previous Meeting (10/02/04) were approved.

Matters Arising: Clarification sought of the term, "legitimate vehicle" - this was provided.

Treasurer informed members of balances of the Panel's Current and Premier accounts.

Secretary Details were given of correspondence issued and received as follows:

Received: **Cavos** – various; **Mayor** – thanks for Panel's support for chosen charities; **Town Council** – Rent account, Grant award of £50 towards panel rent & Mayor's intention to fund Balance of Panel Rent; **Co Durham Foundation** – CO monitor funding; **Community Empowerment Network** – various, elections for Community Forum Groups (any member interested to contact Secretary after meeting); **Sarah Norman** – Insurance, now appears to be resolved

Issued: **Mayor** – charities, & thanks for funding award; **Town Council** – thanks for Grant award; **Co. Durham Foundation** – response re CO monitors application; **Help the Aged** – Handy Van Scheme; **Police** – Inspector Neill re use of Police Stn for Exec. Meetings (which he has actively supported); **Sarah Norman** – re Insurance (via e-mail); **Alan Smart C/man SARCA** – thanks to Ceddesfield Committee for their provision of an office to house Community Force Officer when on beat in Sedgefield & to facilitate direct contact with village residents.

Representative Reports:

Village Constable: Unable to attend; crime figures to be sought after meeting.

Crime Prevention Officer: Neil gave an overview of details regarding Dwelling Burglary in the Ward and our Area for the year. The majority of "work" is in the west of the Ward; Sedgefield continues to be a safe area. At the C/man's request he described how communications are now working in the re-organised divisions; pointing out that for Sedgefield, all calls go to the South Centre at Bishop Auckland. He described in detail the impressive new technology now in use and the huge potential it offers. Neil confirmed that Operators are now able to directly access cameras in Sedgefield.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Sarah raised the issue of Garden Crime, urging members & the public to be vigilant and act to prevent this seasonal crime. She advised that it is well worth taking the time to Post Code mark (or other form) property using UV pens and also take Photos of property - simple but most effective measures.

A member asked about "smart water" for marking & Neil responded in great detail describing the product, process, licensing (via Home Office), & cost (approx £20 per household if a whole street is involved - Pen @ 50pence each).

Community Force: C/man tendered Officer's apologies due to urgent personal commitments. C/man sought Panel's approval to seek a dedicated telephone for use by Officer (for benefit of residents) when in Ceddesfield; this was unanimously approved.

Alan Sowerby Good Citizenship Award: David Hillerby (Vice C/man) reported on the introduction of this award to the Community College (completing the schools in the village) with the handover of the Shield to Lynne Ackland Head

Teacher, and her support for the scheme. The school intends to award the trophy to their successful pupil at either the Hardwick Hall or the Riverside Stadium later in the year; Sarah will present the award on behalf of our Panel and it is understood that there will be an opportunity for a small number of Panel members to be present also.

Communication Policy: deferred to a later meeting.

AOB: A member raised the subject of a discreet telephone number that could be used by all members of the public to contact Police when it was a non-urgent matter. After debate Neill offered to look into this & report back at a future meeting.

A member queried who you report vehicle license problems to; his personal experience (reporting to the Police) had not resulted in vehicle removal. Another member quoted his recent experience (via the Police) that was very successful, resulting in vehicle removal within some 5days.

Another member recommended the use of the national number (DVLA) **08000325202**

Neill reported on the very successful operation that is ongoing in the Borough where the Police with the DVLA spend a day each month targeting such vehicles with immediate action taken when owners either can't be located or do not pay on the spot.

Several members expressed great concern at the lack of presence of the Traffic Warden and the bad/dangerous parking in the village now.

Members were advised that Traffic Warden no longer exists; they have been replaced by Community Support Officers who not only carry out the Warden's duties but also have wider powers & are therefore more flexible. A dedicated Sergeant manages these officers. Members requested that the Panel Secretary write to the Sergeant requesting urgent action in the village to improve the situation, and also to contact the Town Council & Road Safety Committee of this action.

Raffle raised £17.00.

Next Meeting Tuesday 8th June, 7pm, Parish Hall.

PC Todd reporting

Now that I have recovered from my recent illness I look forward to seeing you all on the street again. Crime however never stops and this month there have been 3 burglaries in drinking establishments. One local youth, from outside the village, has been charged with one burglary. There is a possibility of other charges following.

Another area for concern is the play area to the rear of Station Road (the Kramer). Youths are gathering on an evening making a nuisance of themselves. To those involved let me say *you have been warned!* Finally at a recent Pub Watch meeting I was dismayed to hear of two middle aged men from the village behaving like jobs in a local pub. They both received written warning notice as to their future behaviour.

See you! Keith.

The Sedgefield Charities

The Trustees have available for short or long term loan, a

Discovery GLS Invalid Scooter

The loan can be made to a resident of the parishes of Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield or Trimdon.

For details contact Roy Smeaton, tel: 01740 620009

Sedgefield Police Division Crime Watch Team

will have a stall at the Mediaeval Fayre.

If you wish to talk to a policeman this could be your chance!

New Police Sergeant Barry O'Connor

took up his duties in Sedgefield on 19th April. We hope to profile him for next month's issue.

Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures	Last month	This year to date
<i>Youths Causing Annoyance</i>	nil	6
<i>Burglary Non Dwelling</i>	2	7
<i>Burglary Dwelling</i>	1	2
<i>Crime Drugs</i>	nil	nil
<i>Theft from Motor Vehicles</i>	1	4
<i>Theft of Motor Vehicles</i>	2	5
<i>Taking & Driving Away</i>	2	2
<i>Vehicle Interference</i>	1	9
<i>Assaults</i>	nil	1
<i>Criminal damage</i>	4	21
<i>Theft</i>	1	12
TOTAL	14	69

Clerk to the Town Council responds to War Memorial letter

The Town Council recently commissioned a full conservation study on the War Memorial and implemented all of their recommendations in consultation with English Heritage.

The overall cost of £3750 was met by a 50% grant from English Heritage War Memorials with the remaining 50% being paid by the Town Council.

No 40 mph limit at Hardwick Park

The idea of a permanent 40 mph speed limit on the A177 outside Hardwick Park has now been abandoned as the police will not agree to it.

This means when the roundabout is completed, the speed limit will revert to 60 mph. However the dangers arising from crossing the road to the Park entrance will be mitigated by the use of the underpass which should be available for use quite soon. Also, the roundabout should slow the traffic down, making it easier to cross.

Work continues apace in and around the Park. Most obvious is the preparatory work for the new roundabout.

A temporary hold-up occurred due to the discovery of a previously unknown water main very near to the surface. Northumbrian Water has belatedly agreed it belongs to them and a suitable scheme has been evolved to deal with it.

At the end of the Serpentine River construction of a cascade and limestone bridge has required the closure of the paths to that end of the Serpentine, for health and safety reasons. Access will be restored later in the year.

The clearance of trees and scrub around the Temple building opens up the view to the west where the A1M motorway is clearly in view. When the Temple restoration is finished it will present a magnificent vista to the motorists on the motorway, almost rivalling the Angel of the North!

Work on the Lake bed will start this month, weather permitting, and reinstatement of the Lake edging will be ongoing during the summer. There will be a lot of activity to see and progress should be rapid.

Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

At the meeting held on Tuesday 6th April the following officials were nominated:

Chair: Maxine Robinson, Road safety Group Lead: Roy Smeaton, Disability Determination Group Lead: Anne Stephenson.

Road Safety

It was also decided that Roy Smeaton write to Durham County Council, Jeff Stephenson to thank him for his letter which indicated that a traffic flow investigation will be carried out by them after the Easter break. Various other aspects of road safety were noted and passed to the sub committee to follow up.

Disability Access

It was agreed that a village wide audit be carried out as soon as possible.

New website for the community

A new Community Website - www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk - is due to be launched on June 15 at Ceddesfeld Hall and Tim Randall (see photo) is already in place as administrator. He will be responsible for developing the website for Sedgefield Development Partnership who are providing the facility. Tim comes with a wealth of experience and expertise.



He was a science teacher at Haughton Comprehensive School for 28 years, and has also worked for as tutor information technology specialist with TRAC.

He then taught at Dagfa House School for three years, and has also worked freelance as a hardware engineer and software trainer.

His other interests include photography, (very useful for making an attractive website), astronomy, sea-angling, wildlife and winemaking.

Some of you may know Tim already. He has just finished running the twice weekly drop-in computer support sessions in Sedgefield Library and Ceddesfeld Hall, which those attending have found very helpful.

www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk is currently under construction.

Details of the public launch will appear in next month's issue.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

We need the help of drivers with a current MIDAS Certificate to collect and drop off people from the village who attend courses and events at Sedgefield Community College. This would be mainly in the evening, using the college's own minibus.

***Please contact Bob Harris on
07977 231815***

Christian Aid Week 9th - 15th May

Arrangements for this year's house to house collection should be well underway by the time you are reading this edition. Once again our dedicated collectors are giving freely of their time to call on you, so again we ask you to give as generously as you can. Christian Aid seeks to support some of the world's poorest people. Most of us have more than we need. Last year we collected almost £3,200 from Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon. The national total was over £14 million. It is worth noting that if you are a UK tax payer, the amount you give can be increased (at no extra cost to you) by simply completing the details on the envelope. Christian Aid can then reclaim the tax.

Remember the counter's prayer - "Please let not all the coins be copper or small." The larger denominations take so much less time to count! Thank you.

David and Margaret Glass

St. Luke's to be a Health Spa!

After being unused for many months, this Victorian Grade II listed, Gothic-style building which stands in Winterton Park may soon be put to good use again. Local woman, Chris Moore, has purchased the church and is hoping to create a Spa with Leisure and Fitness Facilities, whilst retaining as many original features as possible. Her market research has shown that this area lacks this type of feature and that there will be a great demand for this type of facility.

Chris was born and bred in Sedgefield and her new home actually looks out on the Church in Winterton Park. She was previously a primary teacher and ran a private nursery. She is interested in health and education and feels that her life has now come full circle, as her father Arthur Watts was the Wages Clerk at Winterton Hospital. He was also the local correspondent for the Evening Gazette and a County Cricket Umpire (Chris has fond memories of watching him umpire matches on Winterton cricket pitch)

She plans to incorporate treatment rooms for various therapies and doctors' referrals and is recruiting fully qualified and experienced staff. Equipment will be the very latest technology and will have built-in entertainment. There will be a variety of classes on the new mezzanine floor. A spa pool, steam room, & Haman (mud bath) feature are planned, and a club lounge for relaxation, providing light refreshments.

Elections 2004 - Be the voice for your community!

The Community Empowerment Network will be holding elections across Sedgefield Borough in May, to find community members to be the voice for their area and speak up about what matters in their local community. It is your community, your choice; you are the experts so have your say!

Nomination forms, posters and information about the Community Empowerment Network are available from
01325 307219

Anne Frizell
(Network Coordinator)
Joanne Scott
(Development Worker)
Sylvia Rochester (Administrator)

**The election for
Sedgefield is on
Wednesday 12th May
at Sedgefield Parish Hall
from 6 - 7.30 pm**

50+ Your Health Road Show

NHS Primary Care Trust invites all 50+pluses to
**Sedgefield Parish Hall on
Thursday 6th May,
9.30am - 1pm**

Information on medicine management, healthy cooking, energy, gentle exercise & community safety. Free health, diabetes & cholesterol checks, free home security items, energy saving light-bulb & a free healthy lunch!

**Book early to avoid
disappointment.**

Call Gill MacNab on
01325 321234

Cook's Corner

Crispy Nut Roast

Ingredients for 2 (approx)

1 1/2 tablespoons cooking oil
2 cloves of garlic
1/2 teaspoon each of curry powder, cumin & fennel seeds
Chop the following group of ingredients finely together
1 onion, 1 small carrot
1 stick celery, 4 mushrooms
1/4 of green or red pepper
2 tblsps unsalted peanuts
1 tblsp each of chick peas, (pre-soaked & cooked) & tinned red kidney beans
Salt to taste

Topping:

Two slices of brown bread
Two tablespoons cornflakes
1/4 teaspoon of curry powder

Method:

In a frying pan, warm oil on low heat. Add spices & garlic. Stir gently for 3 minutes (don't allow oil to burn)
Add vegetables and pulses to pan and continue to cook on low heat for further 10 mins.
Put contents of frying pan into an oven dish. Add topping (pre-crumbled in blender).
Spoon one tablesp cooking oil over topping and firm down.
Cook in oven for approx. 20 minutes on medium heat until topping is crisp.

(from the Durham FWI Millennium Recipe Book)

A safer route to school -

Hardwick Primary School wins support

Hardwick Primary School has been included in the Safer Routes to School Programme, an initiative that forms an important part of Durham County Council's Local Transport Plan. The aim is to encourage more children to walk, cycle or take public transport to school.

The main benefits will be to improve safety, reduce traffic pollution and improve children's health. It should also encourage their independence at the same time as benefiting the environment and the local community.

Each school draws up its own School Travel Plan to suit circumstances. Such schemes have already been successful in other parts of the County, where footpaths, street lighting and public transport have been improved.

Ideas to draw on include cycle routes, cycling proficiency and secure cycle parking;

walking buses and walk to school weeks; car sharing, traffic calming, road safety and personal safety as well as reviewing speed limits.

Ms Gillian Coulson, Head Teacher at Hardwick, says that their travel plan will be put into action from this term, starting with the 'walking school bus'.

Anyone for Tennis?

Sedgefield Tennis Club is based at Sedgefield Community College, where we have 3 floodlit acrylic courts and a Clubhouse with changing facilities, which we share with the College.

The College has the use of the courts during term times, but they are free for our use in the evenings, at the weekend and during school holidays.

The courts are kept locked and access is via a key for the door padlock. Keys are issued to members upon payment of appropriate Membership Fees (see below)

We try to run Turn-up-and-Play social periods, principally on Thursday evenings, Sunday afternoons and Sunday evenings, although these are dictated by the weather.

For the more competitive, we currently run three Men's teams, a Ladies' team and a Boys' 13-and-under team, all in the Cleveland League. For the less energetic, we hold social events such as barbecues, quiz nights, etc.

The Membership year runs from April.

Fees for 2004 are: Family £55, Adult £33, Age 14-18 £22, Age Under 14 £11, Social (non-playing) £11.

This represents superb value compared to other clubs in the area. Look out for one of our Open Days, advertised in the village, where members and non-members alike are welcome.

To join, contact Membership Secretary Chris Edson on 620143. For more information, contact Chris Hancock on 621143

Classes at Sedgefield Community College

Sundays: Dance 8 – 10pm

Mondays: Basic Spanish 1pm – 3pm,

Basic Computing 6.30 – 8.30pm and

Flower Arranging 7 – 9pm

Tuesdays: Excel Spreadsheets 6 – 7.30pm,

PowerPoint Presentations 6.30 – 8.30pm,

Basic Art 6.30 – 8.30pm

Wednesdays: Holiday Spanish 6.30 – 8.30pm

Thursdays: Desktop Publishing 6.30 – 8.30pm,

Household Plumbing 6.30 – 8.30pm

It's not too late to enrol - phone 621097

featuring

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

With a membership of 60 plus, the club holds meetings in Sedgefield Parish Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Meetings commence at 7-30pm and demonstrators from throughout the country entertain us with their flower arranging and stories of their travels around the world.

Many famous flower arrangers have visited us in Sedgefield. In April we had Andrew Griswood from York; his title being "Flowers are Nature's Jewels". Our next open meeting takes place in November when we will be entertained by Lyn Constable from Preston; her demonstration will be entitled "Flowers for Xmas". (see p.11 for May details)

We don't meet in August as most people choose this time to go on holiday with their families.

If you would like a nice evening just relaxing and watching the demonstrators show their skills, then JOIN US. All arrangements are raffled afterwards and YOU could be the lucky winner and go home with a lovely flower arrangement!

Perhaps you might like to come to a meeting as a visitor. You would be most welcome and we guarantee you will enjoy your night of relaxation!

May DIARY

Announcements on this page are free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre

Flower Queen Disco

for under 11s

Saturday 1st May

from 7-9pm

at Ceddesfeld Hall

Entry £1

Tiny Steps

Wednesday May 5th

at 1.30pm in St Edmunds Church

**Singing & Stories
for pre-school children
& their carers**

All are welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday May 5th

at 7.15pm in Parish Hall

Annual Meeting & Resolutions

Competition for members is a dressed wooden spoon

*New members are
always welcome*

Sedgefield Primary School

Saturday May 8th

at 7pm in Parish Hall

Family Ceilidh

*For further details see posters in
village or ring 622839*

Local History Society

Monday May 10th

at 7.45 pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

A speaker from the

North Yorkshire Moors

National Park Authority

*Guests and new members
are welcome*

Further details on 620244

Town Councillor Surgeries

will take place in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on

May 10th at 6.30pm

with Cllrs. T Jeanes, V Lonie
& GK Wells

& June 7th at 6.30pm

with Cllrs. L Maddison,
J Robinson & D Waters

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The next market is on

Sat 15th May

from 9.30am to 1.30pm

Local traders always welcome

Please contact Bob Harris on

07977 231815 for details

Sedgefield Civic Trust AGM

Thursday 13th May

at 7-30pm

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Everyone welcome to help with the Floral Awards Competition

and to comment on Planning Applications

Sedgefield Library

No program yet published for Spring Bank Holiday, but the Library is planning one,

Watch the library notice board for details.

We'll have our usual stall at **Mediaeval Fayre on 15th May**

Family History Group

Monday 17th May

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Speakers

Cooper & Margaret Harding

"Tragedy at Manor House"

Are you interested in genealogy?

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Racecourse May Fixtures

May 19th: *First race 6.15pm*

May 25th: *First race 6.35pm*

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th May, 7-30pm

in the Parish Hall

Miss Sasha Pugh,

North East Area Demonstrator

"Journey into the Unknown"

The W.I. Market

Fridays in the Parish Hall

Enjoy a coffee with friends,
and some good

local produce on sale

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 27th May

Guided Walk with

the Warden, round

Cowpen Bewley Country Park

Meet at the Parish Hall Car Park
at 6.45pm

More details on this and
the proposed trip to

Washington Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

on June 12th,

from Anne Gladwin on 620811

Computer Drop-in Sessions

Congratulations are due to the Sedgefield Development Partnership. Having identified the need for some computer training in the village they did something about it & got everything right.

Bearing in mind the varying levels of existing knowledge & expertise, the informal drop-in format was exactly what was required, as was the split between normal computer work & specific internet & e-mail training.

The village centre locations chosen were ideal for the purpose & convenient for all. Where SDP really excelled was in appointing Tim Randall as tutor. They didn't just select an expert who has been around since 'computer' was spelt 'abacus', they also chose a trained teacher with decades of experience & a compelling desire to be as helpful as possible.

It is a great pity therefore that financial constraints have brought these much appreciated sessions to a close. Hopefully, as we enter a new financial year SDP will be able to secure sufficient funding to resume what was always helpful but is now fast becoming essential, training for the modern world. *I Hunter*

Facilities for travellers

There is a rumour abounding that Durham County Council is planning to provide mobile toilets and waste bins in Old Beacon Lane for the use of 'Travellers'.

At the meeting on April 14th in the Board Room of the Parish Hall, their representative could neither confirm nor deny the rumour.

If it is a fact, then in my opinion it will confirm that Durham County Council intend to discriminate against the people of Sedgefield. They will be making it an official stop for 'travellers' to use a public highway as a camp site, to block the road, to leave waste and rubbish and to park for free!

And who would be paying for it? We would! Not the Council - they are our taxes; not the 'Travellers' - the chances are they don't pay taxes. And what constitutes a 'Traveller'? Again the County's representative was unable to define one. All one has to do is call yourself one and you will receive special treatment as an ethnic minority citizen. But try parking YOUR caravan in Old Beacon Lane as an ordinary citizen and find out what happens. Perhaps we should?

David Hillerby

War Memorial plea

I keep reading about the Town Council praising themselves for the "completed" work on the War Memorial in the village.

Six years ago I first wrote to the council requesting that the names on the memorial were re-painted as they were fading badly. The reply I got was that they would try to get the repainting done in time for that year's Remembrance Sunday.

As anyone can see, whilst some remedial work has been carried out, the names are now almost unreadable and in desperate need of painting. From the little research I have undertaken into some of the names, men from Sedgefield fell in some of the worst battles of the First World War such as the Somme, where Sedgefield men are remembered on the Thiepval Memorial along with the names of 73,000 men who have no known grave; and on the Menin Gate at Ypres alongside 53,000 men with no known grave, as well as countless other cemeteries.

In the Second World War Large numbers of men died serving in the RAF Bomber squadrons, as well as ground forces in many well known battles.

These men should be remembered and I think it is a disgrace that the council after six years have not done anything to help remember men from the village who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Please get in touch with the council and persuade them to do some work that has real meaning.

William Robinson

Lesley Swinbank replies for the Town Council on p.5

Bowling a Googly!

We write regarding the March 9th meeting to dissolve the Parish Hall Development Group, who gave all their time and energy voluntarily. With no more money now to be used to redevelop or rebuild the Parish Hall, the Town Council apparently now wishes to proceed with extending the building at Ceddesfeld Hall (to our amazement). How is this possible?

For a number of years we, the bowling section of the SCA, were given numerous sites to apply to for permission to have a outdoor bowling green, Ceddesfeld Hall grounds being top of the list. Plans were drawn up at a price and after many meetings with the town and county councils we were refused permission because Ceddesfeld Hall is a listed building and therefore Planning Permission was quite impossible. We pointed out the squash court building and we were told by the planning officer that two wrongs do not make a right. We wait to see the result of their application for planning permission.

Disgusted OAPs. *L & O Franklin*

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