

Sedgefield News

logo in black

Produced by volunteers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon

May 2006

Music & mulled wine get new Heritage Trail off to a stylish start



Thomas Guppy and Alex Watson wield the scissors to officially open the trail

Alex Watson of Tyne Tees Television was delighted to accept the invitation to open the new Sedgefield Heritage Trail on April 6th. Along with Ruth Smart and Thomas Guppy from Sedgefield Rectory Row School, she cut the ribbon surrounding our newly refurbished village pump as a camera filmed the occasion for the local news that evening. A band made up of pupils from all three Sedgefield schools provided a musical introduction to the event and a magnificent cluster of green and yellow balloons soared in to the sky to mark the occasion. Refreshments in the form of biscuits and fruit were generously provided by our two supermarkets, while The Black Lion provided mulled wine, much enjoyed by many on such a chilly day. The trail leaflets are now available to buy from the library, town council offices and from many of the local shops.

Volunteer for the Zone Sedgefield Development Trust needs

'Man/Woman Friday'

to help co-ordinate other volunteers, organise cover for drop-in sessions and help arrange courses for the excellent IT suite / learning area;

If you can offer a little time on a fairly regular basis, please contact sdt@sedgefieldweb, telephone 629011 or write to SDT, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ

Drop in Sessions for

13 - 19 year olds

with youth worker

Ellen Barker

Tuesdays 3.30 - 5pm

at the Zone

**58 Front Street
(beside fish shop)**

**Chill out, chat, catch up
on homework...**

Bradbury Cleans up

As part of the Environment Agency Action Earth 2006, some residents of Bradbury Village undertook to clean up and litter pick around the Bradbury Services and adjoining woodland. So for a few hours on Saturday 1st April, they set about cleaning up the area. You can see by the number of bags collected it was indeed a worthwhile job well done; the difference was amazing. We have been supported by Mr P Wilkes, owner of Bradbury Services, and this exercise will qualify for a small grant, which will be spent on floral displays to our entry in this year's Northumbria in Bloom. We were very encouraged by the turnout and this will encourage us to plan more events to really show how the parish can look. *Dave Sayers*



Pictured: John Burrows, Richard Atkinson, Alan & Yvonne Therbeck.

The Bookworm

A reader recommends...

If you can relate to being 'hands on' in the mountains, you'll be gripped by this account of two young men struggling to grow up in the shadow of one of the greatest climbers of the 20th century, and of two women - their mothers - very differently affected by their love for the man who became a legend.

Simon Mawer's **The Fall** is fiction of course, but it feels very real; it's easy to fall under the spell of his fluent and bitter-sweet storytelling. Published in paperback by Abacus, and with a resolution so startling that I was already turning back to page 1 as I reached the end, 'The Fall' is my best read of the year so far. *SJC*

To share your idea of a good read, send your review to snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or **Sedgefield News**, 58 Front St, S'field, TS21 2AQ

The fun of the Fayre at Sedgefield Primary



As featured in last month's edition, Sedgefield Primary School PTFA was preparing for the Spring Fayre, which took place on the 1st of April. It was a huge success. Highlights included face painting, the 'ice your own biscuit' stall and the well stocked bottle stall. The Key Stage 2 children came up with some great stalls too, enjoyed by visitors young and old . The PTFA raised £1254 in total and would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped organise and run the stalls and events, and also those who donated, contributed and turned up on the day. The money will be used towards ongoing projects such as the junior swimming and the infant play area, and new ideas for spending the money are always welcome. Thanks again and see you at Medieval Fayre!
Sedgefield Primary School Parent, Teacher and Friends Association - Register of Charity no. 1100765

April saw the BBC bus making another appearance to promote lifelong learning, just up the street from Sedgefield's well equipped IT facility & classroom - the Zone at 58 Front Street



An open letter to past & present members, leaders and helpers of 1st SEDGEFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Dear Friend,

We have great pleasure in inviting you to a celebration of 40 years of Scouting in Sedgefield.

In the year that England won the football World Cup for the first (and hopefully not last) time, an event just as significant occurred closer to home with the birth of a Scout Group in the village.

1st Sedgefield Scout Group started life on the old army camp, then moved to Rectory Row Primary School before finally settling down in its own Scout Hall on West End. As youthful and vibrant as ever today, the Group certainly isn't showing its age (the same cannot necessarily be said for some former members and leaders!).

To celebrate this milestone, the Group is planning a series of events to take place from Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July. Based on a farm along the road to Foxton (Spring Lane), the Scout Group will be holding a camp for the weekend and hosting a special get together on the evening of Saturday 1st July. Along with a barbeque, the evening will include a traditional camp fire and various forms of entertainment (watch this space!). There will be a nominal fee charged for attendance so that we can cover costs and further details about the weekend will be published over the next few months.

We want to track down and invite as many people as possible who, over the years, have been involved in 1st Sedgefield Scouts. If you would like to attend and/or know of others who might be interested, please contact us through one of the following channels:

*Have you got
anything like the
bits and bobs in
this photo?
If so, let 1st
Sedgefield Scout
Group know*

*(see below for
contacts)*



**Gary Hetherington on 621214 or at 40 Spring Lane
Chris Lines on 623090 or 07971 868329
or at 41 Whitehouse Drive; e-mail: sedgescouts40th@aol.com.**

We would like to have an idea of provisional numbers by **Thursday 1st June** so please get in touch as soon as you can.

Looking further ahead, next year will see Scouting celebrate the centenary anniversary of Lord Baden-Powell's famous first camp for Boy Scouts on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. To mark this historic occasion, 1st Sedgefield Scouts would like to produce a commemorative display booklet about Scouting in the village. To achieve that, we need your help. Please jot down your own personal memories of Scouting and get them to us using the routes listed above.

We also need photos and memorabilia so again, please contact us if you can lend us photos to scan/copy or have something (old uniforms, camp trophies etc) that we could photograph to include in the booklet. All help will be greatly appreciated and should contribute to a fitting record of the history to date of 1st Sedgefield Scout Group, which over the years has been consistently supported by the local community and has in turn contributed a huge amount to the lives of many young people in the village and the surrounding area.

We look forward to hearing from loads of old Cubs, Scouts and Leaders in the near future and hope to see many of you in July.

Yours in Scouting,

1st Sedgefield Scout Group

Chatterbox Challenge at Sedgefield Library

On Wednesday 22nd March young children at Sedgefield Library helped to make their regular Rhyme Time session extra special.

Children (and parents) participated in a CHATTERBOX CHALLENGE aimed at raising money for the charity ICAN that helps children with communication problems. The theme for the morning was 'under the sea' and the children were encouraged to learn 5 rhymes and to collect sponsors for a sponsored sing-a-long.

Everyone who came along that morning entered into the spirit of things and had great fun joining in with the songs and rhymes. Approximately £50 was raised towards this very good cause and staff at the library would like to extend their thanks to everyone who has supported this special event.

Rhyme Time meets on Wednesday mornings on a fortnightly basis – new members are always welcome!



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



At the April Panel meeting Village Constable Keith Todd circulated copies of reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period between 15th Feb. & 11th April showing 14 recorded crimes, consisting of 3 Thefts; 1 Burglary; 7 Damage (to Property & Vehicle); 1 Assault & Robbery, 2 Arson.

Keith provided details relating to these crimes and discussed various issues arising, and highlighted four disturbing crimes not common to Sedgefield.

Theft following a Bogus Official/Distracted Burglary to an elderly lady. Assault & Robbery to a 17yr old, near the bus stop adjacent West Park Lane/ Durham Road on a Sat. evening (11.15pm).

Indecent Exposure to a young girl in a lane leading to a local school.

Arson(2) – refuse bins deliberately set alight adjacent Doctors surgery (only luck minimised damage).

All four crimes were despicable and gave Keith serious concern.

Questioned about crime in general in our village, Keith confirmed that regularly crimes are alcohol related. Following extensive discussions the Secretary was actioned to write to the Town Council asking them to introduce the appropriate by law to prohibit consumption of alcohol in public within Sedgefield. Members felt this could be achieved without excluding Black Lion corner (& other designated areas & special events like Medieval Fayre etc.).

Under the topic **Tapes for the Blind** the Secretary was happy to inform members that following an initial request to our Town Council, they had very promptly replied and had issued the Panel with a cheque for £50 to be used to replace our (now) unreliable recording equipment used to produce the monthly Tapes. Secretary stated this is a most generous gesture and one that emphasises the Town Council's commitment to put **our** residents first. In accepting the letter of thanks already issued, members recorded their appreciation to the Town Council.

Ring Master Messaging System: The Secretary reported that he had just issued a letter to Inspector Ball passing on the Panel's appreciation for PC Brian Hall's message on the 19th March and general appreciation for continued use of ringmaster by our Police. The correspondence however made the point yet again that there are several cases where it has not been possible to get a message sent out on Ringmaster.

Members yet again recorded their difficulties from telephone operators answering their calls (unhelpful, off hand, dismissive) when using the 0845 60 60 365 number to contact local Police. C/man Ken Saiger reiterated the need for everyone to phone in, not to be put off and to encourage members of the public to do so too; he reminded everyone that without records of calls, the Police will certainly not be available to Sedgefield residents.

Community Warden Tim Spearey asked for the public to assist him with regard to dog fouling, which continues to be a problem in the village. Tim wants any member of the public concerned to ring in and provide him with accurate times of when problem persons walk their dog(s) and where. This will enable him to be more productive for our benefit; he is willing to start at any time of the day to enforce good standards.

To contact Tim at Sedgefield ring **623654**;

or via Chilton Control Room ring **01388 721**

To contact our Local Police to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information, telephone: **0845 6060365**

NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation.

Unwanted vehicles

More than 200 cars were removed and disposed of properly during the Community Safety Partnership's year-long amnesty. They hope to continue the good work in the coming months. Anyone wanting to dispose of an unwanted vehicle should contact the Streetsafe Team, operated by SBC's Neighbourhood Wardens. They will arrange for removal. Owners who abandon their vehicles should remember they face a fine of up to £250. To arrange for a vehicle to be removed, contact **01388 816166 ext 8851**

PC Todd reports

This month I am appealing for information regarding an Arson which took place on the evening of either Sunday 9th or Monday 10th April.

We believe a small group of youths has entered the secluded area where the wheelie bins are stored beside the Parish Hall. Evidence found included empty wine bottles, indicating they had probably been drinking before setting fire to the bins. The fire not only destroyed the bins but also caused serious damage to a nearby wooden fence. By sheer good fortune the fire did not spread to the building itself, which was only feet away.

We are currently looking at CCTV from the shops to identify who had purchased the alcohol.

If you have any information regarding this crime please either contact the police on 0845 60 60 365 and leave me a message, or call in to Sedgefield police office.

Bye for now, *Keith*

Other crimes committed during the month to 10th April are itemised in the Neighbourhood Watch report.

A birthday verse

Four years ago, on the 1st of May
Sedgefield News first came our way
8 pages only at the start
Now up to 12 - we took it to heart.

The Village news is recorded there
Sport, travel, crime, Mediaeval Fayre
Advertise or display your views
It's all within the Sedgefield News

Readers letters, the best of wine
Views are published, yours and mine
Sedgefield's Citizen of the Year -
A training course? It's all in here

Produced by volunteers all this time
The journalism's really very fine
Sedgefield, Mordon, Bradbury issues
All appear in Sedgefield News

Neighbourhood Watch,
Keith Todd's report

Chrislines with all the sport
Residents Forum, don't forget DOVE
Whats that? "Defend Our Village
Environment", love!

Four years of Journalistic thumping
Has made this paper really something
So thanks again, we all say
Sedgefield News, HAPPY 4th BIRTHDAY!

From David & Enid Hillerby

Jottings from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

Some new faces at this month's meeting; it's good to see the Forum is beginning to be somewhere residents can bring concerns to be discussed and hopefully resolved. Unfortunately no one from Durham County Council would attend to update and answer questions on the A689/Stockton Road junction; a brief note sent by DCC left many unanswered queries. We will try to have someone from DCC attend the April Forum meeting.

Other road safety issues were discussed; the existing zebra crossing could be made safer by being upgraded to a 'pelican' or 'puffin' crossing and it was agreed that a safe crossing over North End Road (Black Lion corner to other side) is needed. The forum will progress these issues.

No further updates on the proposed animal incinerator at Bolams. DCC are still compiling information and will write to people who have expressed concern when they have considered all the data.

Sedgefield Borough Council is implementing an initiative to licence private landlords in certain

areas of the borough to tackle antisocial behaviour issues. Whilst we do not have huge problems the Forum and the Town Council will look at ways private lets can be efficiently managed.

The new build of houses and flats beside the Community Hospital is under way. It appears this the highest density housing application ever approved by SBC – should we be pleased about this? Maybe this fact should have been highlighted to residents for comments before approval was given; the village cannot support much more traffic. Good news is that we should soon, finally, have notice boards near the library this will make it much easier for everyone to keep up to date and aware of what is happening in the village.

Do come along to a Forum meeting. You don't have to have a particular issue to raise but everyone's opinions are valued. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month; the next is May 22nd at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Minutes are available on both village websites and in the Library.

The end of an era at Winterton

The League of Friends & St Vincent-de-Paul Brothers were invited to Hardwick Hall Hotel for lunch, at the leaving of Sandy Taylor, the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Priority Services N. H. Trust.

It was a gesture of thanks for voluntary work they have done for patients at Winterton for the past 39 years.

The St Vincent-de-Paul Brothers from St John Fisher Church in Sedgefield entertained patients every other Monday night at the hospital.

The League of Friends were involved in many events, and in December had a dinner for patients, staff, the St Vincent-de-Paul Brothers and League of Friends members, Father Caden and the Reverend Martin King. Each patient received a gift of night attire before they left to return to Earl's House. Some members have paid them a visit in their new home.

Betty Amlin

It's that time of year when the football season draws to an end and cricket comes to the fore. Of course, with the World Cup due to kick off on 9th June, football will continue to dominate the back page headlines, but at a local level the focus certainly shifts. Next issue, I will look back on the seasons of Sedgefield's various Sunday league football teams and will hopefully have some early news from the cricket club. For the moment, I'm going to get a little jumpy.

Trampolining

Sedgefield Springers trampoline club has been bouncing to success all over the place recently. In the National Schools finals in March, Springers Gareth Lee and Beth Wayman both performed brilliantly in their categories. Competing in the Under 15 Closed class for Sedgefield Community College, Gareth came first in the country. He spends about 14 hours a week training, which showed in his performance, and he also helps the younger club members learn their own routines, making him a huge asset to the Springers.

Beth competed in the under 13's for Tudhoe Grange Comprehensive School and came 3rd. However, it should be noted that at one stage Beth's participation in the competition was in great doubt, when she discovered she had suffered a stress fracture to a shin. Despite this, Beth was determined to take part, so missed a few training sessions and then bounced through the pain. She will now take a break from training for a minimum of two months to allow the shin to fully recover. Her coach believes that if Beth had not been hampered by the injury, she would have had a very good chance of winning. Nevertheless, congratulations to both Beth and Gareth for excellent results.

Later the same month, Gareth was in competition again with five other Sedgefield Springers at a regional event in Lightfoot Leisure Centre in Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne. Gareth was second in the grade 4 under 17's competition, while other members also achieved some great results, (see below). Everyone performed very well and Harry Bell deserves special mention as this was his first competition. If you are interested in finding out more about Sedgefield Springers contact Kevin Young on 07855 810817.

More Results

Charlotte Blythman:

Under 9's Grade 6 - 1st

Harry Bell:

Under 11's Grade 6 - 1st

Natalie Walker:

Under 15's Grade 6 - 1st

Amy Kelsey:

Under 15's Grade 6 - 2nd

Angela Tenby:

Over 17's Grade 6 - 1st

Pictured right;

Successful 'Springers' at Lightfoot Leisure Centre in Newcastle upon Tyne



Pictured left; Gareth Lee and Beth Wayman, at Cockmoor Leisure Centre Birmingham after the schools National finals
 Visit your community website www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk for more event reports, sporting & otherwise.

Racquet Sports

A reminder that if you are interested in joining the badminton, squash or tennis clubs in Sedgefield, you should call the following numbers:

Badminton: Stan Smith, 621883

Tennis: 620367 or 620143

Squash: James Larcombe, 620717 or Chris Rowsby, 621125

Durham Riverside

awarded West Indies Test

Finally this month, some disappointment as Durham County Cricket Club has confirmed that its bid to host an Ashes Test Match in 2009 has been unsuccessful. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has informed the Club that Sophia Gardens, Cardiff was the successful bidder. Overwhelming financial backing from the Welsh Assembly was the major factor in their favour.

The silver lining to this particular cloud is the fact that the ECB has restated its support for cricket in the North East and has allocated the Riverside a Test Match between England and the West Indies in 2007, with matches for the following years to be confirmed at a later date. Durham County Cricket Club will also have the opportunity to bid for the Ashes in 2013.

Durham County Cricket Club Chairman Clive Leach CBE said, "Obviously we are hugely disappointed at the outcome of the decision, especially after such a fantastic response from throughout the region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our bid, which was highly commended by the ECB. "The Club put forward a strong case and we are committed to securing the backing that will enable us to develop the stadium as planned and that will allow us to compete with the other UK regions. We will look forward to welcoming the West Indies to the Riverside in 2007 and demonstrating to a global audience our ability to successfully host major Test Matches at the Riverside."

Echoing Mr. Leach's words, we look forward to witnessing Durham CCC making the West Indies Test yet another fantastic occasion at the Riverside. This should prove once again that the ground is more than capable of hosting an Ashes Test and deserves to be given the opportunity in 2013.

Community Association

We feel that the references to Sedgefield Arts and Community Association (SCA) and Ceddesfeld Hall in Ms Will's letter in the last edition of Sedgefield News were both misleading and mischievous. We would, therefore, like to set the record straight.

In the very early 1970s Sedgefield Town Council (STC) purchased Ceddesfeld Hall (the old Rectory) from the Church Commissioners and the SCA was established in that building. A full repairing and maintenance lease was entered into. Initially rent levels covered much of the repayment of the mortgage that STC had taken out to purchase the building; this mortgage no longer exists. The rent agreement is reviewed every three years and may be increased only by agreement of both parties. Rent rises normally take account of increased costs e.g. salaries, energy (heating and lighting), insurance, repairs and maintenance. This would account for the increase in rents to e.g. users of the Parish Hall. However, for the past 30 plus years, the SCA has paid, in full, the cost of all of the above (£24,000 in 2005). This money has been raised by the efforts of members of the SCA both past and present. Ceddesfeld Hall has also been carefully looked after and maintained, such that it is now a much more valuable asset to the people of Sedgefield. It provides

More Letters

facilities for over twenty groups catering for all age groups. In addition over the years members of SCA have been responsible for setting up and running regular items in the village calendar. The Mediaeval Fayre in May, which has been running for over 30 years, is still organised entirely by SCA members but benefits many other community groups and businesses in the area; Proms in the Park was started in 2002 as a 'one-off' to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and has continued by popular demand; this July sees the 13th Ceddesfeld Beer Festival, attended by real ale drinkers from all over the County. Groups also hold their own events for the benefit of all members of the community.

For over thirty years the many members of SCA have been and still are net financial and social contributors to the village. All the money raised and all the organisation is done by volunteers; our only employees are the cleaners. So far we have not required any financial subsidy from local taxpayers. Our members already pay for any increases in costs and should be congratulated for being self sufficient.
Peter Hinde Chairman, and Wendy Gill Vice-Chairman, SCA
PS We always need and welcome volunteers to help run our events and help out in the bar.

Traffic calming

There have been a number of letters objecting to the traffic calming measures at Durham Road. All correspondents seem to have forgotten that the "chicanes" were installed to protect the school crossing - both children and crossing keeper. The complaints come because of the actions of the bully boys: do the writers intend that the aggressive shall win? Your recent correspondent, a fireman, implies that all or most drivers fail to give way to a fire-tender. My experience is that most drivers are considerate - often, for example, waving vehicles out of Hardwick Road. On the other had there are those, at both ends of the calmed section, who sit in the "Keep Clear" section and prevent righting turning traffic clearing the road. As an aside, it would be well nigh impossible for ambulance or fire-tender to reach either of the schools on Hawthorn Road at the beginning and end of the junior school day.

Roy Smeeton

Christian Aid Week 14th - 20th May

The arrangements for this year's Christian Aid Week annual house to house collection should be well under way by the time you are reading this edition of Sedgefield News. Once again our dedicated collectors are giving freely of their time to call upon you, and once 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 just under £3,200 from Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. The national total was almost 15 million pounds.

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

We hope the recent need to double up our letters page indicates your confidence in Sedgefield News after our 4 year (& continuing) learning curve. A big thank you to all our correspondents for being willing to express a point of view on topics which concern us all. Editor

Open Church

Did you know that St. Edmunds Church is open for several hours on most weekdays from Easter to Harvest time? About 400 visitors come in each year, some having seen the welcome board by the gate; others may have made a special journey hoping to find the church open.

Volunteers in attendance give a regular hour or so to offer a friendly service to all comers and especially the local community; so when the welcome board is by the gate please come in. Offers of help are always welcome; this year it is especially needed for Monday mornings and Thursday and Friday afternoons. Anyone interested please call in and have a word with those in attendance.

Come to meet friends and have a cuppa. Continue to bring baby in after baptism, let toddlers enjoy the space and discover the toy box.

Come and find someone to talk to, or just to find a quiet place and enjoy a peaceful moment as many have done for centuries. *Joan Unsworth*

Sedgefield Racecourse

Unfortunately we were without the main Pavilion Bar during our busiest ever week, with 2 fixtures during Easter Bank Holiday week.

The bar will be closed to race goers for the five remaining fixtures of the season, as recent Health & Safety regulations have limited the numbers in the stand until more Emergency Exits are added to the ground floor bar area. However there is a marquee and additional outdoor bars, so there are plenty of outlets to obtain a drink from. It is an inconvenience at the busiest time of the year, but we stress that public safety must come first.

The Manager, Sedgefield Racecourse

Celebrations

Betty and Jimmy Amlin of Rectory Row, married at St John Fisher Church in 1946 by the late Father Lucy, celebrated their **Diamond Wedding** on April 13th.

Betty was born in Sedgefield and Jimmy (a farmer) was born in Ontario. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, in the D Day Landings and in Bomber Command at Middleton St George (where they met on Christmas Eve 1944). Jimmy returned to Canada and Betty followed six months later, remaining there for 6 years. Later, they settled in Sedgefield, where they have been very active in voluntary work at Winterton and the Community Hospital; also representing the RCAF on many occasions - Jimmy being a Standard Bearer.

In the late 50s Betty organised the visit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the Canadian Air Force Cemetery at Harrogate and years later, had 12 maple trees replanted in Harrogate cemetery.

In 1994, Betty brought to fruition the plaque on our war memorial, dedicated to the RCAF plane crash near Sedgefield. She also brought to light Amy Mynkeski's story which resulted in a wonderful statue at Durham/Tees Valley Airport.

Mrs. Edith Young of Mordon celebrated her 90th birthday at Hardwick Hall Hotel on March 29th. Born in Sunderland where her sister Nora still lives, Edith enlisted in the land army in 1941, and after a year's posting to Little Tew, Oxfordshire she found herself at Howe Hills, where she worked until the end of the war. Life changed when one day Harry Young arrived with the steam traction engine and threshing machine. The Youngs were well known at that time, and continued threshing until the advent of the combine harvester. Married in 1944, Edith and Harry lived in a cottage in Mordon before moving to their current home. Edith gave up work at Collingwood the Jewellers in Stockton after 9 years employment and took over the accounting and administration for Harry's fencing business, which replaced threshing and continued until 1998.

Edith was treasurer of Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Association for years and her delicious cakes were first to be snapped up at Bring and Buy Sales to raise funds, first to build and maintain the original village hall, then to build the new hall in 1996. Edith has never retired!

Friends and relations joined them for a meal made even more enjoyable by the tinkling of the hotel's resident pianist. Thanks to Lynda Charlton for organising a truly memorable occasion. *JP Below: Edith - a very youthful 90!*

Amongst many cards and bouquets on Betty and Jimmy's big day there were cards from the Queen, Tony Blair and Bill Edgar of the Canadian High Commission. From Cold Lake, Alberta came a lovely picture of 419 Squadron. The Mayor and Town Council called in and there was Open House for their many friends. Betty and Jimmy have one son and two grandchildren, Jennifer and Michael. They entertained family and friends to lunch at the St George Hotel at the airport, before leaving for a holiday.



A new start for Spring,

as Hardwick Park comes to life again after the quiet of the winter months. Regular visitors will have seen the Lake fill up, only to see it fall again after a few days. Drainage works for the Hotel and the re-construction of a "Duck Decoy" are to blame for this. Historically, the Duck Decoy provided an important source of fresh meat for the Hall during the winter months as large numbers of wild ducks would be caught using either tame ducks or dogs to entice the ducks into the trap. It is being restored as near as possible to its original form.

The next stage of restoration has begun and with some £900,000 secured to enable the Heritage Resource Centre to be started, it has now gone out to tender. Landscaping works include restoration of the Grand Terrace and Circuit Walk as well as the Round Pond and Serpentine River. Neptune's plinth will be refurbished ready for the new statue, due in the autumn. There will also be some modifications to the stones round the Island and to the Rustic Bridge to improve their safety. The stone and brick facing of the main Cascade will also be constructed

The Jackdaw

Oh! What a miserable life I've got
Sat upon this chimney pot
Each day's the same, I sit up here
Winter, summer, all the year
My spouse and I (we mate for life)
Spend most of the year in marital strife
Our nest site is the best one here
We've had no fire in the grate for years
It takes some defending, I tell you
My mates know it's the best one too
It gets quite nasty in the spring
With fights and squabbles on the wing
But when the fledglings leave the nest
It all seems worth the toil and stress
It's been hard work and quite a strain
Then it's back to my chimney pot again
(JP - the poet of Mordon!)

during the summer, and the Lake level controlled to allow this to happen. Several areas will have their final grass surface laid. A grant has been received from County Durham Environmental Trust for works to increase the biodiversity of the site including the provision of a string of small shallow ponds suitable for newts and the provision of two otter holts, one on the Lake island and one in the Fen Carr.

All change at Bradbury

Even in this small parish many changes have taken place during Robert Elders' 31 year term of office as Chairman of Bradbury Parish Meeting. In taking his leave Robert, who has always championed the needs of the village, thanked the various Parish Clerks, others who had helped him, and all who had contributed to the life of the village. The position of Chairman passed to John Burrows, who thanked Robert for his service and commitment, on behalf of the people of Bradbury and the isles. Peter Brewis also stood down as Parish Clerk after 4 years and John thanked him, and welcomed Ken Pallister as his replacement. With the village accepted as an entrant to Northumbria in Bloom for 2006, regular working parties are taking place, initially to remove litter. Extra litter bins are being provided, new tubs at the village entrances and holly trees planted to replace old trees in front of the chapel. Even more bulbs were planted last autumn. Sponsorship has been gratefully received from P Wilks & Son, the Rotary Club of Sedgefield and B&Q. This all adds to our community spirit whilst improving the environment for residents and visitors alike.

May Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Garden Society
Tuesday 2nd May
Visit to Ravensworth Nurseries
 Meet at Ceddesfeld Hall, 6.15 pm
All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.
 AGM and Resolutions
Wednesday 3rd May
 7.15pm Parish Hall
 Members' competition -
 a tea light burner

Round Table
1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays
 Sporting, social and charitable
 events - new members welcome
Contact Rob on 629079

Mediaeval Fayre
Flower Queen Disco
 Ceddesfeld Hall
Saturday 6th May 7 - 9pm
 11 years and under - Entry £1
 A draw will take place to choose
 the Flower Queen and attendants
 Adult bar open and children's
 refreshments on sale

Wynyard Planetarium
 Sundays 7th & 21st May at 3pm
 A one hour show -
Wonders of the Universe
 Adults £3.50, Children £2
 Family ticket £7

Local History Society
Monday 8th May
 David Butler
Impressions of the Roman Wall
 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Library
Rhyme Time for under 5s
 10 - 11 am on
Wednesdays 3rd & 17th May
 and
Book Circle
 'Perfume' by Patrick Suskind
Wednesday 17th May
 at 2pm

Sedgefield Farmers' Market
Sunday 14th May
 from 9.30am - 1.30pm

Family History Group
 (A branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 15th May
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7:45pm
"Women in a Port Town"
 Rosalin Barker from Whitby
 If you are interested in
 tracing your family tree
 please come along
New members always welcome

**Ferryhill, Sedgefield &
 District Flower Club**
Tuesday 16th May
 7.30pm Parish Hall
 The Flower Club celebrates its 20th
 Anniversary with a demonstration -
 "Congratulations"
 by John Dalton of Carlisle
All Welcome

Mediaeval Fayre
Saturday 20th May
 10am until late afternoon
 Themed competitions, craft sales,
 knights & more...
 Children's tableau leaves Rectory
 Row School at 9.55am
 Come in costume, enter the
 children's fancy dress or challenge
 another tug of war team
House to house collections
Sun 14th - Thurs 18th May
 Your generosity ensures the
 future of the SCA - thank you

Residents' Forum
Monday 22nd May
 7pm in the Parish Hall

Neighbourhood Watch
Executive Meeting
Thursday 22nd May 1.30pm
 in Council Office

101 Gigs in May
 03 - The Tap & Spile, Guisborough
 05 - Mag Rally, Nunthorpe
 06 - Washington Football Club
 11 - The Clarendon, Redcar
 12 - The Jolly Farmers, Thornaby
 13 - Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough.
 19 - Acklam Garden City (Party)
 20 - Whitworth Hall, (Wedding)
 21 - The Normanby, Normanby
 24 - The Lord Nelson, Stockton
 26 - The Daisy Hill, Sacriston
 27 - The Office, South Shields
 31 - The Fox & Hounds, Trimdon

Sedgefield Wildlife Group
Thursday 25th May
 Leave Parish Hall Car Park at 6pm.
Northern Kites
in Gateshead Derwent Valley
 For more information
 call 620559

Music Night
 (In aid of the Mayor's Charities)
Friday 26th May
 "The Masonnaires"
 Parish Hall from 7 - 9.30pm
Tickets £5 (inc. pie & pea supper)
 available from the
 Town Council Offices
All welcome

Country Market (WI)
Fridays in the Parish Hall
 Great value home baking, eggs,
 garden produce and crafts

St Edmund's Church
 Baptisms & Weddings can be
 booked in Church on Thursday
 evenings from 6.30 to 7.30pm

Coming up
in June...

Sedgefield Garden Society
Tuesday 6th June
 Outing to Beamish Cottage Gardens
 Details TBA

Proms in the Park
 Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds
Saturday 10th June
 from 3.30 - 11 pm
 Tickets £15 on sale now - limited
 availability (under 5s free)
 Must book in advance,
 no entry on door

Vintage Car Rally
 in aid of Butterwick Hospice
 Sedgefield Village Green
Tuesday 20th June

Cook's Corner - Turkey Pie

Ingredients for 4: 250g (½ lb) turkey pieces
 1 large onion and 3 large carrots
 125g (5oz) mushrooms
 400g (15oz) can tomato soup
 500g (1 lb) potatoes

Method: Peel and chop onion and carrots,
 Wash and slice mushrooms and potatoes
 Cut turkey into small pieces.

Place in a large casserole dish with onions, mushrooms and carrots.
 our over tomato soup and arrange potato slices on top
 Cover with a lid or foil and bake for 1 - 1½ hours, Gas Reg 4, 180 deg. C,
 350 deg. F, until veg are tender. Serve with lightly cooked green veg
1-2 portions of vegetables per serving
(Five a day programme - Co. Durham and Darlington)

Home of the Ballgame... At what cost?

In reply to the letter from the gentleman from Winterton Avenue regarding the ballgames and asking for suggestions, I agree that children should be able to play outside in the fresh air. I also agree to children being involved in outdoor sporting activity in the company of their friends.

However at what cost?

I do recall finding out that I had somewhere to report my problems a great help. I did not receive any unwanted or poisonous letters and the problems I had have been dealt with. Since then I have contacted Neighbourhood Watch and have found them most helpful. Can I suggest that the gentleman who wrote the letter attends the Youth Forum? He may be able to help out with some ideas there.

E.B. Winterton Avenue

Thank you Neighbourhood Watch team

The ball games that were causing a lot of residents problems seem to have stopped. Thank you also to all the parents that have listened to our concerns.

Consideration is a wonderful thing.

Mr D Davey

More messages of thanks

Melissa Hill and Allison MacNab would like to say a huge thank you to all those who kindly sponsored us for running the Hartlepool Marina 5 mile road race on 2 April. Thanks to everybody's generosity we managed to raise just over £500 for Cancer Research UK.

Melissa Hill

I would like to thank everyone who came to buy cards and partook of coffee and cakes at the open day I held in April. Between us we raised £100 for the North of England Children's Cancer Research

Alison Etheridge

Sedgefield Cricket Club

would like to thank everyone who helped to make the 2005/06 Quiz Nights one of our best supported seasons. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 7th October for the start of our new Quiz Season.



**DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS
ASSOCIATION**

the community-based regeneration network

Your Letters

Durham Road traffic calming

Regarding the criticism of the traffic calming measures on Durham Road, I'm a big supporter of all traffic calming measures. Remember the number of cars in the village has increased three fold in the last thirty years with little or no increase in the amount of traffic restrictions: we still have only one pedestrian crossing in the village in spite of the increase in the number of vehicles in the village.

With the new housing development close to the Community Hospital the number of vehicles using this road will increase. Also it can be reasonably stated that 10% of the vehicles using Durham Road are exceeding the speed limit.

Personally I would like to see humps every hundred yards on Durham Road. People can avoid the possibility of accidents by driving sensibly.

I would also point out that more traffic calming measures are wanted by some people in the village and certainly not less. Also it would appear to be County Council policy to increase traffic calming measures on new estates: Winterton estate is fully calmed. Let's have this extended to the rest of the village.

David G Mitchell

More on this topic on page 7...

Counting our blessings...

Congratulations to the Town Council for attempting to make our environs so pretty with the spring and summer floral displays; and to everyone who phoned to secure the funding for the improvements to Ceddesfield Grounds.

Congratulations also to those concerned with the new "Heritage Trail" and the entertaining presentation of the conservation area with its diversity of form, involving both adults and children. Thanks to the County and the Friends of Hardwick for the continuing restoration of Hardwick Country Park to once more be a place of great beauty.

Thanks for the provision of the monthly Farmers Market and the access it affords to small rural producers to a buying public. Thanks also for the establishment of NetPark here, placing our town at the cutting edge, with the promise of more employment in the future.

With all these "Jewels" we have much to celebrate in our past and future. No doubt these attractions will bring many visitors to our locality. Let us welcome them with open arms for the pleasing notoriety and prosperity they will surely bring. I just hope they find easy parking and don't need a public toilet!

Name and address supplied

More letters on page 7

Do you know anything about Roman Remains in Sedgefield?

About 35 years ago, some Roman remains were discovered while the houses in Hardwick Road were being built; they seemed to be what was left of a Roman hypocaust system which could have indicated the presence of a Roman Villa. Unfortunately, the building of the houses continued without further investigation. As a follow up to the archaeological dig which took place in East Park last year and as a precursor to this year's dig, information is being sought by Durham Archaeologists as to where exactly these remains might have been. If you know anything at all about these finds or any other apparent roman finds, I would be delighted if you could contact me.

Alison Hodgson: 620912 (Sedgefield Local History Society)

And another question....

Exactly where was the original zebra (sorry, Belisha!) crossing sited in Sedgefield? We know it was on North End near the present bakery shop, but could anyone pin it down precisely on a map?

David Hillerby

**Copy for the June issue by May 15th please to
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or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk**

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