

# Sedgefield News

Logo in black

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

May 2007

## Bold New Look for Your Website!

April 2<sup>nd</sup> saw the re-launch of our community website [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk). Hopefully you have had a chance to view the new "look and feel" and found the many pages of information easy to access and useful. With the huge re-launch effort completed, it seemed like a good time to provide more information on the redevelopment of the site, its objectives, its funding, and most importantly, the ways in which the community can contribute to, and receive benefits from, the site.

In co-operation with Sedgefield Borough Council, and the Local Strategic Partnership, the SDT Trustees decided to take the opportunity to utilise a grant from the Community Engagement Fund in order to redevelop the site. The objective was to build on the extensive work of Tim Randall in creating and updating the site, to take further advantage of its potential both for community involvement and self-sustaining advertising.

A tender document was produced, and a number of website developers were consulted. Interestingly, the large size of the existing site put off many potential developers, who would much rather start with a clean sheet! Finally, an excellent proposal was received from Stephen Edgoose Computer Services and work started on the key tasks of creating the new site structure, installing the new format and transferring the many pages of data and links that were in place on the original site.

Many hours of work were required to complete these tasks but everything was in place for the planned launch

date of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we could all breathe a sigh of relief, particularly Ste Edgoose who had worked so hard and effectively on the project. I hope that you agree that the finished result was well worth the effort.

Having used the initial funding to re



*Mike Ashwell, SDT Board member who has overseen the re-launch of the website.*

-launch the site, it is important that we can continue to update the site to keep the content current and fully reflect the developments in our community. We plan to achieve this in two ways. Firstly, the new site has been designed to be readily updated by suitably trained volunteers, with limited computer expertise being required. Secondly,

by making the site even more popular and attractive, we can encourage advertisers to place paid advertisements on the site, with the objective of meeting the running costs of the site and therefore making it self-funding. We are currently seeking additional funding to "jump start" these activities.

So, how can you benefit from the site and what could you contribute? The site supports the community by presenting a wide range of useful and interesting information about the local area, including details of local events, businesses, crime issues, maps, and photographs, both current and historic. We are also seeking to attract input from the local schools. The site is a valuable local information resource, all available via a simple menu system, which will also reflect changes and new developments in the area.

Everyone can contribute to this in three key ways:-

- If you have information or views that you would like to add to the site, or new topics that you think should be covered, just let us know, and we will do our best to include your ideas.

- If you are a potential advertiser, or know of one who may be interested, contact us and we will be pleased to follow up the enquiry.

- If you would like to help to update the site, on a voluntary basis, and have basic computer skills, please let us know – training will be available for suitable applicants.

As a first step, why not have a look at [sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://sedgefieldweb.co.uk) and see what you think! We hope that you will agree that it is a valuable and worthwhile community resource.

## Thanks to all our advertisers

You have supported us so well in the last 12 months that we have decided to hold our rates at the same level for the next 12 months. The editorial team thank each and every one of you for your support.

## Walking the Wall

My name is Bethan Jones, I live in Sedgefield and attend Sedgefield Community College and I have just turned 16. In February 2005 I was diagnosed with ALL – Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. The chemotherapy treatment that I am currently undergoing lasts approximately two and half years and will finish in May this year. I have had to attend the R.V.I (Royal Victoria Infirmary) in Newcastle nearly every week and have regular hospital stays. Roughly 1 in 700 children will contract cancer before their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. I know two other children in Sedgefield that have recently had cancer.

In June I intend to walk Hadrian's Wall, which stretches for 84 miles, with my dog Toffee, a golden Labrador. Our aim is to raise money for the NECCR.

The North of England Children's cancer research charity (NECCR) is constantly searching for alternative methods and improvements to current cancer treatments. They endeavour to increase the number of children that are cured of cancer, to understand the causes and to make the treatment less distressing.

Being diagnosed with cancer is a life changing experience and definitely alters your priorities. I would like to raise money for this charity, so that perhaps in the future, other children who are diagnosed can benefit by receiving a shorter, more effective protocol of treatment and improve the relapse and survival rate.

My family will be fundraising in the village, so please support me. Your generosity will help benefit the lives of children from across the world.

Telephone 620893 if you would like to help.

Bethan Jones



## Sedgefield Show Schedules Now Available

Schedules for the 154<sup>th</sup> annual Sedgefield and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society Show are now available from Barclays Bank, the Post Office, the Public Library and local shops and businesses in Sedgefield, or by ringing the Show Secretary, Brian Woodward on 01740 620431. The show will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August at the Robert Brown Showfield, West Park, Sedgefield.

Ian Mason, Show Chairman, said, "This year's show will host many of the traditions that we have seen over the last 100 years, in addition to some new classes including a 'Build a Scarecrow Competition' where entrants will be required to base their 'design' on a famous person, a profession or somebody they know!"

There will also be a full range of competitions and displays including agricultural classes for cattle, sheep, horses, ponies, vintage tractors, small livestock and a dog show. This year we will also see the return of the heavy horse category.

There will also be several marquees with craft stalls, horticultural displays, home produce and handicrafts. New for this year there will also be a food hall with a range of local and regional delicacies on offer.

A large number of trade stands are also expected, selling products ranging from ride on lawn mowers, to jewellery and cars. In addition to the usual children's rides there will also be a miniature railway to give rides and the opportunity to sample the hands on experience of operating a mini digger.

This year will also see the hosting of the Sedgefield Harriers 10K off-road race, which is expecting to attract over 200 entrants.

Support from other organizations is always welcome and new ideas will always be considered. Without the continuing support of the many local businesses and individuals who take part each year, it would not be possible to hold a growing event of this size.

For further information, please contact Ian Mason, Sedgefield Show Chairman on 01740 621841 or e-mail [brantaone@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brantaone@hotmail.co.uk).

## Sedgefield Boys on course for Olympic Dream



South Durham boys amateur boxing club is a small gym at the heart of a big community, located in Fishburn and mainly attended by past and present pupils of Sedgefield Community Sports College. For such a small and emerging gym they boast an outstanding array of success. One of the main reasons for this is the gym's friendly with a family like atmosphere along with the boys' dedication and desire to succeed, "the lads see every training session as another step along the road, every contest as another obstacle to overcome and learn from". *Jeff Saunders snr Owner / Trainer* Leading the gym's palette of pugilists and current champions is Bradley Saunders, who as a current member of the Great British national boxing team, and current ABA Champion, will hopefully be representing Britain at the Beijing 2008 Olympics. His dedication and discipline to the sport has been and continues to be a huge inspiration to many other young locals boys including: Jack Turner and Terry Fox (North east champions for there age and weight), Mathew Tootill (British golden belt holder), Karl Thompson (two times boys club finalist), Jeff Saunders Jnr (British jnr Champion), Michael Watson (British school boy champion who will be representing Britain in the upcoming four nations).

"The lads all have proven pedigree and just need to maintain their enthusiasm then anyone or even all of them could be representing their country in London 2012" *Craig Ayre trainer.*

The boys will be competing against The East Scotland Boxing Team at the Hardwick Hall hotel on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

(Written by Jonathon Loizou, Year 10 student Sedgefield Community College Sedgefield)

## CHARITY EVENTS

**FREE PUBLICITY**  
Send details of your local  
Charity Events to  
[snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

### Who Likes Gardening?

Would you like to look after a pensioner's garden? Good soil for vegetables and the produce would be yours! If you are interested then call **620729**.

### Mediaeval Fayre Saturday 19th May

Parade, fancy dress, stalls on the green, displays on village greens and in Ceddesfeld Hall, food and refreshments in Ceddesfeld Hall. Collections start on Sun 13th May

### HCVS The Tyne Tees Run.

3rd June 2007 - Organised by the HCVS Northeast Area and Sponsored by GO-AHEAD  
The Tyne Tees Run starts from Teesside retail Park Cinema Complex at Stockton-on-Tees then winds its way to South Shields via **Sedgefield**, Coxhoe, Bowburn, Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Shiny Row, Sunderland, Roker, Seaburn and Whitburn before arriving at Bents Park South Shields.



**AEC Lorry at start of run**

## 101

### Support the Band!

As we said in last month's 'News', 101 is making a return to Sedgefield with a gig at The Black Lion on Sunday 13th May at 8.30pm. So make the most of this rare appearance and come along and support the band.

*The May gig list is on page 11.*





## COMMUNITY SAFETY Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



### Update from Neighbourhood Watch meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007:

Prior to the meeting being opened Councillor Maxine Robinson gave an update about the installed CCTV in response to members' request from the Feb. Panel meeting.

In summary the issue of costs does not arise, we have useable and effective cameras in place now, they are regularly used to assist in securing convictions and to detect crime, a trial of a wireless system is ongoing (no date for trial results is available), the Town Council are totally committed to the continued use of this valuable tool.

C/man Ken Saiger thanked Maxine for her thoroughness and efforts with the Borough to obtain "the facts" and for taking the time to give her report in person.

The meeting was well attended by members and also full representation from our Police, N/H/Watch & Community Force regulars that helped make for a lively and interesting meeting.

**Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Sarah Norman** commented on misleading press reports regarding the "cut out" Policemen; they have proven to be very effective in the communities where they are used. Sarah asked members to take steps to guard against "garden" crime - keep equipment secure and locked away and out of sight, also have it marked (UV pen or similar); and to pass the message on to friends & neighbours in the village.

**Community Force Officer Tim Spearey** agreed with members that dog fouling is on the increase again, however he is actively pursuing those dog walkers in our village that disregard others. One member thanked Tim for the very real improvements he has achieved in her area of the village (in respect of dog fouling). Members informed Tim that the damage in Elm Avenue (recorded in Tim's report) is still happening when the schools are open. Tim will try to improve the children's behaviour in this area in term time.

Tim pointed out to members that it only takes a few minutes to install a shed alarm and make the shed secure; and that **all agencies** (including Community Force, Carelink, Handy Van) will assist in this respect if those in need of assistance request them.

**Village Constable Keith Todd** circulated copies of the Reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period **between 6<sup>th</sup> Feb & 10<sup>th</sup> April** this indicated there were **11 crimes** recorded, consisting of: - **1- Attempted Burglary; 7-Damage & 3-Thefts**. In addition there were probably 2 more (shed) burglaries that Keith would be investigating but had not made it on to the reporting system yet.

Keith gave details of a telephone call to the Police reporting a *possible* burglary in progress (from a village resident). As a result of this person's action a passing local CID officer apprehended a youth leaving the premises and a prosecution is pending; the youth's accomplice will also be prosecuted.

The message for **everyone is if in doubt ring the Police** - you might just help your neighbour from being a victim of crime.

A spate of (very) recent reported bin fires was also discussed.

Keith also reported of an ongoing prosecution arising from use of the CCTV -involving a drunken youth.

Members said it was very rewarding to learn of these positive results and thanked Keith for informing them; although there was concern that they had not all appeared in the crime report and that the wider public may not be aware of the good work being achieved by our local Police. Keith explained why some of these had not made it into his Crime report.

**Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne** added to Sarah's request regarding garden crime reminding members that this is a real headache for our Borough; this type of crime really increases each year and has a major impact on recorded crime.

Possible changes within Durham Police Force were discussed.

The Secretary then read out the questions put to Superintendent Summerbell at the Feb. PCC meeting and his public responses. These were already summarised in the April issue of Sedgefield News. From Supt. Summerbell's responses at the Feb. meeting the Secretary believes that the Panel should not see any detrimental change and that Neil, Sarah, Keith (& Dean) will be able to continue their service to our village.

Neil then demonstrated to members a very useful small alarm consisting of a wireless PIR and alarm unit, originally developed as a car alarm but useful in the home and certainly for garden sheds. The price of the unit is £27.00 anyone interested should contact Neil / Sarah for purchase.

No Cold Calling: C/man Ken Saiger reported that the result of the ballot had appeared in the April issue of Sedgefield News, and confirmed there had been a resounding 100% YES vote; and not one vote against; this was an extremely good basis for implementation. In respect of implementation he would meet Trading Standards responsible officer later in the month to discuss details of notices, stickers all of which are needed to enable implementation.

Members present reinforced the desire to have the words NO COLD CALLING on street signs to ensure the views of residents are clearly visible.

Implementation details will be announced in future issue(s) of Sedgefield News.

**A.O.B. No Alcohol in Street:** Julia Bowles reported that the Residents' Forum was still trying to achieve this for our village; this is an initiative that N/H/Watch have tried unsuccessfully to achieve over a number of years. The present position is that the Police have still not replied to the Forum's last correspondence.

**Crime Prevention in Sedgefield:** A member recorded that the minutes must reflect the excellent work being done by the Police, Crime Prevention and Community Force and how our village is benefiting from their presence (recently much more visible) with more effective detection and prosecution. All members present endorsed these views, slightly tempered in the knowledge that there are many (regular / repeat) problems and issues still unresolved.

## PC Todd reports

I have noticed recently that many residents have devoted their time and spent their money on colourful plants and garden ornaments. Thieves too have noticed, and consider them easy pickings. Recently this low life attempted to take a couple of expensive pots, only to discover that they had been anchored to the ground with wire. This simple but effective method thwarted their efforts.

Another good idea is to paint your postcode inside and on the bottom of the pot. This not only makes the sale of them difficult but may also result in their return and possible prosecution of the offender.

Anyone living in the Queens Drive area must have noticed the work being carried out in the street to lay a pipeline. The mini mechanical excavator used to dig up the footpath had not gone unnoticed by thieves. Last week this vehicle was taken away during daylight by a group of confident criminals. However, unknown to them a tracker device was fitted and later the same day the vehicle was located in and recovered from the Cleveland area. One male was arrested.

Other crimes reported to the police recently include:

in The Lane, number plates taken from a vehicle; Eden Drive, vehicle paintwork scratched; Salters Lane, underground BT cable cut; Rectory Row, school window smashed; Mill Close Walk, plants pulled from pots; Wellgarth Mews, alloy wheels stolen.

Until next month,  
*Keith*

## Pub Watch

This month's meeting was held at the Crosshills. No incidents were reported that warranted any further action by members.

Posters were handed out to remind customers that the NO SMOKING ban is drawing near. All member premises will be smoke free on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

Finally, on behalf of all members I would like to say farewell to Tracey and Darren, from the Crosshills, who have moved to another pub in Cleveland, and extend a warm welcome to the new licensees, Michael and Tracey Twist. We wish them all the best in their new ventures.

## Telephone Numbers

**Community Warden** Tim Spearey  
at Sedgefield 623654 or via Chilton  
Control Room: 01388 721351

**Local Police: 0845 6060365** -  
to report concerns, seek advice or  
pass on information to the Police  
*(it may be prudent to keep a note of  
details of any conversation & to obtain  
an incident number).*

For advice/assistance:  
**Crime Prevention Officer**  
Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714

**Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinator**  
Sarah Norman: 01325 742755

## Northumbria in Bloom Judging



*Northumbria in Bloom judges and their escorts on their spring visit admiring the flower bed near to the Bull Ring on the Village Green. The judges return on Wednesday 11th July for their summer visit.*

## Your Veterans Need You

Sedgefield Village Veterans  
next meeting  
Wednesday 2nd May 2007  
7pm in The Old Board Room,  
Parish Hall  
(What is a Veteran?)  
Everyone is a Veteran  
(of something)  
So **EVERYONE** Welcome!  
We will also have a stall  
(near Duck Pond)  
at Mediaeval Fayre,  
Saturday 19th May.

## Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum

The Forum had invited residents from Bishop Middleham to give information on the proposed extension to the Lafarge Quarry. The impact on this proposed 225 acre extension would be massive e.g. increased traffic, increased explosions, increased pollution from burning of waste, loss of agricultural land, loss of sites of special scientific interest, reduction in property values etc. etc. and it brings it all closer to Sedgefield. As neighbouring communities we need to be supporting each other so please register your objections at the planning department at Durham County Council.

The meeting reported that some members would be visiting Care Principles (they are proposing to build a secure unit to hold individuals held under the Mental Health Act on the grounds of the old community hospital) to see one of their establishments in Norfolk – it will be interesting to hear their report, it is a very different concept to what we were used to as Winterton Hospital.

It seems that our communities are being forced to have ongoing campaigns in an attempt to retain the way of life we have established and value. Of course there are those in favour and against all the issues but just think, we have agreed and proposed huge wind turbines, a secure unit, a huge quarry extensions and we have just been made aware that Bolams are appealing against the refusal of their proposed animal waste incinerator – this can have a real impact on the whole village so please do express your views (information is being circulated) don't rely on others to do it for you. The next Forum meeting (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) is our meeting to give everyone opportunity to meet and hear from those standing as Town and Borough Councillors it should be a very interesting and thought provoking session leading up to the May elections after which we will have a new Town Council.

The next ordinary Forum meeting will be on **May 28<sup>th</sup>**.

## Sports Update

with [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

### St. Edmund's Football Club Staffieri Cup Final

At last, the date has been set for the Staffieri Cup Final. The game will kick off at 7.30pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Archibald Stadium in Durham (home of Durham City FC). St. Edmund's will be facing Hetton Lyons who have already clinched the league championship, so it should be a good contest, as the team from Sedgefield are themselves lying third in the league.

At the time of writing this, six teams are in contention for the runners up spot in the league. St. Edmund's have two games left to play and will approach them with confidence, on the back of a 5-0 victory over Ferryhill. Another goal from Brian Fairhurst during that win means he continues to be top scorer for the Sedgefield outfit. All support will be welcome on 11<sup>th</sup> May and I know that the other football clubs in the village are planning to head to Durham and cheer on St. Edmund's. If you want directions to the Archibald Stadium, give Andrew Watson a call on 622151. Thanks to Andrew for the latest news from the club.

### Sedgefield Harriers

Spring and summer are very busy times for road races and Sedgefield Harriers will be well represented in a lot of events between now and September.

The Summer Grand Prix Series kicked off on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April with the Hartlepool Marina 5 miles. Gary Hetherington was 7<sup>th</sup> overall and first for Sedgefield in a time of 27:31 with Andrea Gough the first woman in 39:46. On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April the club had its biggest turn out to date with 14 runners competing in the scenic North Tyneside 10k race between North Shields and St. Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay. Graeme Addison achieved his target for the year by running a sub-40 minute 10k, a significant target for a lot of runners. Graeme's watch showed 39:58 even though the official time cruelly gave him as 40:00! Graeme has promised to make sure the achievement is beyond doubt when he runs his next 10k. The first woman home for Sedgefield was Gail Bell in 46:25.

A number of runners including Gail

and Graeme have shown steady and significant improvement over the last year, encouraged by the club. Also making great progress are Matthew Jones, Marie Walker and Andrea Gough. Michelle Addison took up running with the club at Christmas and competed in the Hartlepool 5, the North Tyneside 10k a week later and looks forward to more races this year. Entering races provides a great focus for improving and keeping fit with the added bonuses that many are in nice places to visit and there is the encouragement of other runners from the club.

A lot of races have competitors with a wide range of abilities – no one from Sedgefield has come last yet! On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> April the club held an awards evening at the Nag's Head for the Winter Grand Prix Series and Winter Time Trial Series. Graeme Addison and Gail Bell were winners in the Grand Prix Series and Gary Hetherington and Rosie Sims were Time Trial winners.

The club will be staging its own race on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August to coincide with Sedgefield Show. The race is called the Sedgefield Serpentine and will be over approximately 7 miles on a route starting and finishing on the show field. It is an open race and competitors need not be a member of a club. Entry forms will be available soon and there will be more details in Sedgefield News in the coming months.

### Sedgefield District RUFC

Plans for the return of rugby union in the village are really starting to take shape. Around 20 adults are regularly turning up for training and a further 20 or so 'non players' are interested in getting involved in the club. The club has already played its first training game, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April. A team from the well established Stockton RUFC put the Sedgefield lads through their paces. The game was split into three separate 20 minutes sessions, allowing everyone who turned up from Sedgefield to get both a game...and a rest (for many of the Sedgefield team, this was their first game of rugby, so fitness levels are not yet up to the standard of regular players like those from Stockton who are into

the final stages of a full season). After some positional changes and substitutions, by the end of the game the Sedgefield pack was not only holding its own but getting turnover ball in the scrums. There were great moves from Neil Hetherington, Richie Wanless and especially Gordon Hirst, displaying real commitment and showing everyone else how to tackle.

A second game is being planned for the near future, against a team from Durham. This will be followed by training through the closed season, as the quest to get rugby in Sedgefield back on the map steps up a pace. The club is still keen to attract more players and supporters. If you want to find out more visit

[www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk),  
email [info@sedgefieldrugby.co.uk](mailto:info@sedgefieldrugby.co.uk)  
or call Richie Wanless on 01740 623058, Greg Dougall on 07815 818731 or John Wanless on 01740 623787.

That's all for this month. I'll bring you the result of the Staffieri Cup Final next time – good luck to St. Edmund's FC in that. I will also try to provide a full report and incisive in depth analysis of the Mediaeval Fayre tug-of-war competition. By the way, look out for Crosshills FC's ever popular football stall at the Fayre (in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall) – great prizes for anyone who scores a goal (there should be plenty left after the team's players have had a go).

As ever, send any sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).

## BOOKWORM

**If you have enjoyed a particularly good read, why not share it with the rest of us?**

**Send your review to Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ or email [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk).**

## Greening our lives

### Recycle usable items/materials

Roy Smeeton has discovered a network of groups whose members recycle machines, toys, you-name-it within a geographical area. An e-mail describing the item, wanted or offered, is promptly forwarded to members. Contact may be made:

uk.freecycle.org (note no www) then follow the pop-ups via United Kingdom to Durham/Co Durham.

You then have a choice of Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool, Stockton or Teesdale which you join via an e-mail. He "got rid of" an obsolete "all singing/ all dancing" printer within 3 hours.

***Send more of your green, or even sceptical, thoughts to [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk) - or write to***

***Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ.***

## New Dental Surgeons Welcomed by "Chris Edmonds & Associates"

Chris Edmonds & Associates are very pleased to announce the arrival of Dental Surgeons Mrs Nina Wilson BDS and Mr Trevor Finlay BDS to our Dental Practice in Sedgefield. Both Mrs Wilson and Mr Finlay are accepting new private patients.

Mrs Wilson and Mr Finlay trained at The Dental Hospital Newcastle Upon Tyne and each have over 10 years experience working in family oriented general practice in the North East of England. Mrs Wilson has assisted in training new dental graduates as a Dental Practitioner Vocational Trainer. New patients can contact the practice on 01740 621040/623102.

## North East Children's Cancer Research

Most people like to buy charity cards at Christmas - here is an opportunity to buy general greetings cards and gift wrap and support the North East Children's Cancer Research charity fund at the same time.

Alison Etheridge is holding an all day card sale on Monday 21st May between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm. She will be selling a large variety of Phoenix Trading products: cards to suit all occasions as well as gift wrap and other stationary items. All the proceeds from the day will go to NECCR.

You will be welcome at 1 The Orchard, Sedgefield at any time on the 21st.

If you would like to support the charity but can't make that day please call On 622839 for a brochure.



## Ladies Day by Sedgefield Players

Sedgefield audiences experienced a theatrical treat at the end of March when Sedgefield Players brought their outstanding production of "Ladies Day" to Sedgefield Parish Hall. Written by Amanda Whittington and first performed in 2005 by the renowned Hull Truck Theatre Company, the play tells the heart-warming tale of four workmates at a fish packing plant. To mark her retirement, Pearl treats her mates Jan, Shelley and Linda to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Royal Ascot the year it came to York. A superb transformation scene to the tune of Amarillo saw the girls change before our eyes in to fancy frocks, high heels and glamorous hats. Once at the racecourse, they have the chance to hit the jackpot in more ways than one, and all their lives are changed by Pearl's "rainy day money".

Rosemary Jones, Viv Jacobs, Jean Hewling and Sarah Jones played the four workmates with just the right mixture of comedy and pathos, moving the audience to laughter and tears along the way.

Geoff Clifford-Brown displayed an expert TV manner in the role of the racing commentator and tic tac man, while Jason Legender brilliantly evoked the excitement and frustration of the job as Irish jockey Patrick. Terry West was a very convincing drunken punter at the racetrack, as well as bringing humour and depth to his portrayal of Joe, the factory supervisor. Paul Baguley was a distinctly shifty ticket tout and also won the audiences' approval for his expert scene shifting. He brought great tenderness and poignancy to his main role of Barry, Pearl's secret love, reunited with her towards the end of the play.

With a simple set, clear lighting and judicious use of sound effects and music, coupled with excellent acting and skilled direction, the Players brought together all the theatrical elements in a triumphant success. Norma Neal, Chairman of the Players, said, "After over 30 years of acting, this was my first time as director and I could not have wished for a better team or a more perfect play. Amanda Whittington, the writer, was delighted to hear how well her play was received in Sedgefield and has wished us well for our trip to the Isle of Man Drama Festival at Easter."

The Players will be performing on the stage of the beautiful Gaiety Theatre in Douglas on Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> and hope to be as successful on their trip as the

girls were on their day at Ascot. We bet it's a racing certainty they'll do themselves proud !

And the "Stop Press" news is that Viv Jacob won the award for Comedy and Jason Legender won the Best Supporting Actor trophy. Ladies Day was nominated in four other categories!

*Haydn Neal (Secretary Sedgefield Players)*



## The Emperor and the Nightingale

On the evening of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March family and friends gathered at Sedgefield Library to watch the Junior Reading Group perform the traditional tale, 'The Emperor and the Nightingale'. The library was transformed into an oriental garden (imagination please!) and the children, under the careful direction of actress and storyteller Eileen Glenton and Senior Library assistant Jayne Owens, brought the story to life. The reading group meets on Monday evenings and since its formation the children have enjoyed a range of activities at the library, from talking about books, to meeting a Knight from the Round Table! This term the children were given the opportunity to have a go at putting on a dramatic play. The children took up the challenge with gusto, costumes were found, lines were learnt and within five short sessions eight stars were born. Tutor, Eileen Glenton was really impressed with the children and commented on their dedication and enthusiasm in helping to make the show such a success.

Sedgefield Library wishes to thank the parents and children for their continued support.





# MAY Diary

*Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations*

## Sedgefield Garden Society

**Tuesday 1st May**

Visit to Beamish Clematis Nursery  
Cost £2

01429 882250 to book place  
Meet Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30 pm

## Sedgefield W.I.

**AGM and Resolutions**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Parish Hall, 7.15 pm**

Members' competition – a Chiffon  
Headscarf containing colour green  
Visitors welcome (fee £1.50)

## Sedgefield Village Veterans

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm**

The Old Board Room, Parish Hall

## May at Sedgefield Library

*Not a member?*

*Don't worry, it's free to join and  
all new members receive a free  
bag when they borrow 3 books or  
more on their first visit.*

**Call 01740 620103**

### Rhyme Time

Songs, stories, rhymes for the under 5's  
Wednesday 2nd 10-11am

### Pewter Work Course

Wednesdays 9th (16th & 23rd)  
1.30-3.30pm

### Toy Library Stay & Play

Wednesday 3rd 10-11am

### Book Circle

Wednesday 16th from 2pm

**Tickle Time:** songs & rhymes  
for babies & their carers

Monday 14th 10-11am

### Rhyme Time

Wednesday 16th 10-11am

### Book circle

Wednesday 16th 2-3pm

### Mediaeval Fayre

Stories & crafts on the Green  
Saturday 19th 10am-3.30pm.

### Toy Library

Wednesday 23rd 5-6pm.

### Summer half Term

#### \*Childrens' Crafts

Tuesday 29th & Thursday 31st  
10-11am.

*Bookings from Monday 7th*

*\*All children's holiday activities  
require a £1 non-refundable ad-  
vance booking fee. Places are lim-  
ited so please book early. All chil-  
dren under 8 years must be ac-  
companied by an adult.*

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

**Sunday 13th May**

on the Village Green

## Sedgefield Civic Trust

The next meeting will be held on

**Thursday 10th May**

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

*Everyone welcome*

## Mobile Movies

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Sedgefield Parish Hall

6.30pm start. Entry £1.50

All ages welcome

## Local History Society

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

**Monday 14th May**

David Butler

"Servants at Croxdale Hall"

## Sedgefield Town Council

**Monday 14th May** at 7pm

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

**District Flower Club**

**Tuesday 15th May** at 7.30 pm

Open Meeting in the Parish Hall

Helen Tomlinson

Northumberland & Durham

Demonstrator

**"For Your Pleasure"**

*All welcome*

## Art Exhibition & Sale

**Saturday 19th May**

10am-3pm in the Parish Hall

## Annual Town Meeting

**Monday 21st May at 7.30 pm**

In the Parish Hall

## Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.45pm**

**"How can you use Oral History?"**

Julie Hawthorn

Ceddesfeld Hall

**Followed by Cleveland FHS AGM**

New members always welcome

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

**Thursday 24th May**

Evening outing. Meet on Parish Hall  
car park, to leave at 6.30pm

More details from Steve on 620559

*Everybody welcome*

## Residents' Forum

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

## 101 Gigs in May

01/05 - Mohans, Middlesbrough

03/05 - Vic, Saltburn

05/05 - (Wedding)

06/05 - The Frigate, Marske

11/05 - The Station Hotel, Redcar

12/05 - Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough

13/05 - The Black Lion, Sedgefield

18/05 - The Garricks Head, N Shlds

19/05 - The Office, South Shields

20/05 - The Normanby, Normanby

24/05 - The Clarendon, Redcar

25/05 - The Black Bull, Ferryhill

31/05 - The Grange, Sunderland

## Sunshine Corner

Bible stories & fun for pre-school  
children. **Fridays 10am – 11am**

## Round Table

**1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays**

Sporting, social and charitable  
events - new members welcome

**Contact Rob on 629079**

## Country Market

Friday mornings

in the Parish Hall

## St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings in  
church on

Thursdays from 6.30 -7.30pm

## ... and in June ...

### Bingo at Ceddesfeld

Saturday 2nd & 30th June

### Local History Society

Monday 4th June

Tony Nicholson

"Secrets of the Attic"

## Sedgefield Garden Society

**Tues June 5**

Visit to Botanical Gardens at  
Durham

Meet Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30 pm.

### Proms in the Park

**Saturday 9th June, 5:30-11pm**

Featuring Peter Donegan Band, Mambo

Jambo and many others.

Tickets £16 (limited availability) from Town  
Council Offices and Selections

No ticket sales on the day, once sold,  
no returns/non refundable.

## Sedgefield Show Meeting

Thursday 14th June, 8.00pm

Nag's Head

All those interested welcome.

## Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory

Starts again in September

Tel: 01642 365119

## Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm**

in the Parish Hall, ALL Welcome

### A Remarkable NHS Experience

During the past year I have been with three generations of my family in need of fairly urgent attention at four hospitals and two GP surgeries, and I want to acknowledge the quality of care we have experienced. As an example, I'll single out the Cardiology Unit at James Cook University Hospital.

After my husband's bypass surgery, as I sat beside him with my daughter in the CIT Unit, fear and anxiety were replaced of course by relief that he'd come through it, but also, unexpectedly, by stunned amazement at the bright, calm atmosphere. In this huge ward full of technology and efficiency and numerous nurses caring for people going through possibly the most traumatic event of their lives, there was a friendly insistence that our presence was welcome, not an intrusion. Roger's dedicated (both senses of the word) nurse patiently answered our every question and explained everything that was being done for him; the surgeon took time to reassure us, before going on to perform his next (apologies to religious readers) miracle; there was humour too, and genuine interest in our well-being as well as the patient's. I think I will remember their faces for a very long time.

This quality of care continued throughout his stay, which as a result, was quite short. Recovery is still a hard road, but if any of our friends or family had this to face, we wouldn't fear for their safety in the care of JCUH.

I read and hear a lot of glib, ill-informed criticism of the NHS; some even insist that the government is ruining it. Our experience says a different thing and here I go back to my opening comment. It's not just cardiology. Everywhere I've been with my family recently - clinics, local surgeries, hospitals - it's the same story. We are very, very fortunate.  
*Sandy Clubley*

## Your Letters

### Christian Aid Week 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May

The arrangements for this year's Christian Aid Week, annual house-to-house collection, should be well underway 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 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 over £4,000 from Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. The national total was over £15m. It is worth noting that if you are a UK taxpayer, 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* ps. the "Churches Together" collection on Good Friday for Christian Aid raised £153.70

### Help wanted

I am a member of the Thrapston Family History Society and relatively recently started trying to trace my maternal grandmother's family. I managed to get my gran's birth certificate which shows she was born at Swan Carr House, Bradbury. Her maiden name was Mary Clapham Cooke and her parents were William and Mary Cooke (nee Clapham). My great grandfather was a farm labourer and I wondered if you could tell me anything about Swan Carr House/Farm. I have found the location of Swan Carr Farm on both an old ordinance survey map and more recently on Google Earth. My gran was born in 1866. She was put into service at a very young age, but unfortunately I don't know the name of the family or property. It would have been large enough to warrant at least 3 female servants

as well as an estate carpenter and joiner (my grandfather) as that was where they met. Would you know of any such estate or large manor that may qualify. My late mum did once tell me the name of the family, but unfortunately I cannot remember. It may even have been Swan Carr Farm. Would it be possible to find out the name of the farm owner at that time.

I hope you don't mind me asking you all these questions, but I really would like to try and find out more. Thank you, *Dorothy Keys*

**(Editors note: Please contact the "News" if you can help)**

### Disgusting!

As a resident of Sedgefield for the past twenty years I feel it is my duty to bring to your attention the dreadful state of the toilet facilities provided in Hardwick Park. The smell was disgusting and there was an abundance of dead flies on the toilet seats and overflowing bins. Sadly lacking were sanitary bins, toilet tissue, hand washing facilities including water, soap and paper towels. My husband and I often walk around the park, fortunately we do not have to use the conveniences very often but on the occasion that we have needed them we found them in this disgraceful state. Can I ask when the facilities will be improved or closed down altogether as they are obviously a very dangerous health hazard.

*Alison Stoddart (nee Huitson)*

### A thoroughly enjoyable night

After seeing your article about the play "Ladies Day" we thought we would go as we like to support our local theatre groups. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a splendid performance from all the cast. This was a very "modern" play some can be quite heavy going but this was excellent and we couldn't stop laughing all evening. We thought the direction was superb and we thought some of the scene changes were really clever, you had to be there to see how they did it. So good luck to the players in the Isle of Man competition.

*Dave Sayers Bradbury*



DEVELOPMENT  
TRUSTS  
ASSOCIATION

the community-based regeneration network

**Copy for the June issue of Sedgefield News by  
May 15th please to 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ:  
phone 01740 629011 or [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk)**

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