

Sedgefield News

Produced by the Villagers for the Villagers.

EMERGENCY - Fire Prevention

With the Firefighters' strike looking more certain, and the likelihood of cover from the Army being stretched, it is essential that Citizens take as many precautions as possible.

In an interview with Sedgefield's new Fire Station Commander, Paul Mathews, it was emphasised that people must take the initiative and form their own first line of defence.

Each household should formulate their own plan so that in the event of a fire, everyone, including the youngest members of the family, knows what they should do. Every situation is different, but with a few ground rules most situations can be handled. Any plan should cover the basics; here are a few tips from Paul

- Ensure that no electrical socket is overloaded
- Remove all plugs from sockets EVERY night, where possible
- Be extra vigilant when using chip pans. Ideally a deep fat fryer is the best, as they have safety devices inbuilt
- Keep smoking and fire lighting materials out of the reach of children
- Take care not to fall asleep when smoking
- Keep all internal doors closed (to act as fire doors)
- Formulate an escape plan

Escape Plan

- Ensure that all members of the family know that in the event of a fire, they should evacuate the building, then arrange for the Emergency Services to be contacted.
- The eldest member present should be made responsible for identifying that all members are accounted for, including any pets.
- Be sure to emphasise that under no circumstance should ANYONE re-enter the building!
- In the event that people may be trapped, they should crawl along the floor (smoke rises and any oxygen will remain at floor level). Should anyone be trapped in a room, they should close the door and push blankets or any other handy material around it to seal the gaps; open a window wide and lean out to breathe as much fresh air as possible and shout as loudly as possible to attract the attention of the Emergency Service.

If you practice the above & ensure that your whole household does the same, you should be all right.

Remember, there are a lot of heroes - but most of them are dead!!
Think calmly and stay alive.



Issue 7. November 2002

'One Dead Ref and a Box of Kippers'

Seventy two men born in the Borough of Sedgefield played in the Football League between the Second World War and the millennium. Some of them were born in the village of Sedgefield itself and one or two still live here - I'm sure you know who they are.

'One Dead Ref and a Box of Kippers' traces the careers of these men and tells us what became of them. Most have been interviewed and many have some interesting tales to tell (hence the title) and opinions to offer on the game. The author, Steven Chaytor has pulled it all together along with some of his own 'Mad Ramblings' about the national game.

The book will be available from 25th November directly from the author, priced £9.99 plus £1.50 post and packaging (if you see him in person you can save on the p and p!). If you want to order a copy please contact Steven Chaytor, 30 Spring Lane or ring 621737. It will also be available from local branches of Ottakers and WH Smiths.

A New Face at the Partnership

Hi everyone. My name is Robert Harris but everyone knows me as Bob. I have just been appointed as Lifelong Learning Project Coordinator with Sedgefield Development Partnership for Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon, an initiative supported by the Learning & Skills Council.

The aim of this role is to build links between Learning Providers and the community to help coordinate the provision of learning opportunities. This will help the local community to increase skills and employability. Over the coming months I will be working closely with local colleges, businesses and training providers to try and find courses to match what the people in the community want to learn. This is taken from the results of a survey conducted previously. Do not worry if you did not take part in this survey - there is a contact number at the bottom of the article for you to contact me if you want to enquire about courses you would like to attend, or information on what is available.

Businesses today need to compete with others in the market place; they have to adapt and change to market forces. This means that their personnel also have to adapt and change by learning new skills. I shall be talking to local businesses



to find out what they need to succeed and how to provide information on learning for staff to increase their skills.

This is an exciting time, with the development of the new Netpark on the outskirts of Sedgefield; it will be an ideal opportunity to discuss what skills are needed locally and if there are opportunities in the area to develop them. The aim is to equip local people with the skills required, not just for work but for pleasure as well.

I feel also that we are a community that has a wealth of experience and knowledge within its people and I would like to tap into this, to pass on to others. So if you feel you have a skill that you would like to pass on to others who may be interested, I would like to hear from you.

Bob Harris - Lifelong Learning Project Coordinator.

Contact Number:

07905734169

Office Number: **629011**

SMOKE ALARMS

Neighbourhood Watch has carried out a survey in parts of the village recently, to see which households do not have smoke alarms.

Due to a number of reasons, few have yet been fitted!

If you haven't got one, then please consider purchasing and fitting one, as the likelihood of the STRIKE makes it probable that very few will be fitted prior to the start - 29th October!

1st Sedgefield Scout Group Christmas Fayre

Saturday 23rd November 2002
in the parish Hall
10.00a.m. until 12.30p.m.
Collections Sun 17th Nov

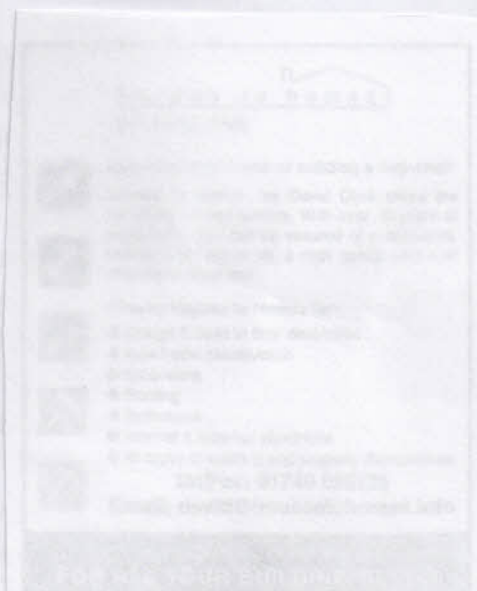
Pyrotechnician Needed!

Revellers expecting fireworks at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve could be disappointed this year, if the Town Council cannot find a replacement for Basil Watson, to run the display.

Sedgefield has enjoyed and thoroughly appreciated Basil's efforts for the last 3 years but he's not available for this year end festivities.

There is probably just time for a new volunteer to get health and safety training and certification, so if you think you have the right kind of skills, come forward now - your public needs you! You will of course have to be willing to stay sober until you get down from the tower, job done, but we daresay you won't be short of a noggin after that!

Town Clerk,
Lesley Swinbank awaits your call,
with baited breath and
sparklers at hand!
Tel: **621273**



The Changing Hospital Scene Father John Caden's view

In 1966 when I came to Sedgefield as Parish Priest and full-time Hospitals Chaplain, there were 2000 patients in Winterton Psychiatric Hospital and 300 in Sedgefield General. In those days the main 'industry' in Sedgefield was hospitals - remember, in 1966 the population of the village was only 1000!

Then in the early 1970s the Northern Regional Health Authority unveiled plans to close Sedgefield General Hospital, to clear the site and re-locate all acute facilities in the new, purpose-built North Tees Hospital in Stockton. In the ensuing consultations, I joined with an old friend, Councillor Micky Terrans, to form a local Action Plan Committee, supported by councillors Terry Ward and John Burton, to put strong pressure on the Health Authority to avoid closure.

Our plan was to retain and re-vamp most of the buildings on the old site and provide a Community Hospital. This was a new and very popular concept at the time, and with invaluable support from Consultant Geriatrician Fred Gibbons, Sedgefield

GPs Keith Beveridge and Elisabeth Sutherland, and Consultant Radiologist Dr. Manners, the successful Sedgefield Community Hospital was born. It contained x-ray and physiotherapy facilities, Day Hospital and Occupational Therapy, as well as GP beds and space for outpatient clinics. For the next 25 years we enjoyed this boon to the local community.

But by then the fabric of the old buildings was crumbling rapidly. Through the 1990's Dr. Peter Jones and his colleagues, along with Sedgefield Town Council, had kept up their pleas to replace the ageing Community Hospital with a super-duper new version.

The NHS Trusts in Hartlepool, Stockton, Darlington and Bishop Auckland were already engaged in fierce infighting about their future status.

However, the concept of Community Hospitals was already a proven success in the health service and an 8 million replacement in the Prime Minister's own constituency was a

very realistic dream. With the help of the PFI (Private Finance Initiative), the money was immediately available and the hospital planned and completed within 12 months.

The new hospital has surpassed our wildest dreams! Barbara Fletcher, our very experienced x-ray Manager from Sedgefield General days, now boasts her own ultrasound facility in a brand-new Imaging Department. The excellent new Physiotherapy Department, the two Day Hospitals and Cath Baker's Occupational Therapy Department are an added bonus. The vastly experienced psychiatric team from the Josephine Rutter Department continue their excellent assessment of the elderly mentally infirm, under the auspices of the Durham and Darlington Priority Services Trust; and our District Nurses have found a new home there too. We wish Kath Vasey and her team a very successful future.

I'm sure Monica Cunningham must be smiling from her heavenly home!!

Successful Season for Sedgefield Tennis Club.

Well done the men's 1st and 2nd teams, who won divisions 2 and 4 respectively of the Cleveland League. The ladies team narrowly missed out on promotion, ending up third in their division and for the first time ever we entered a team in the boys and girls under 13 League. There were encouraging performances from both young teams with a healthy mix of enjoyment and competitive spirit. The experience will stand them in good stead for next year.

The high standard of play in the under 13 Boys Tournament on September 7th was equally encouraging. Eight boys took part; Andrew Beamson, Ben Chowns-Smith, Joe Donlon, Robbie Hancock, Andrew McCann, Stephen Rowsby, Jack Smith and Nat Stephenson. The competition consisted of a Group stage followed by a Knockout stage, resulting in many close-fought matches throughout the morning.

Andrew Beamson emerged as the winner, beating Stephen Rowsby

in the final. Organiser Keith Charlton commented: "This was my first chance to see all the boys together and I am very impressed. The future of the club looks to be in safe hands".

The excellent facilities are shared with the Community College and Community Association. There are 3 floodlit, acrylic courts and a new shared clubhouse. Both competitive and social tennis are on offer, with coaching available for all levels.

For more information, contact Ian Taylor on 623687.



Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel

Neighbourhood Watch

(ALL for ONE & ONE for ALL)



Sedgefield

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

At the meeting held on Tuesday 1st October Sarah Norman, Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator, produced a map of Sedgefield showing red markers where NHW co-ordinators and contacts are in place. However we do need contacts to cover a number of areas. So would anyone like to volunteer? C P O, Neil Langthorne reported on Operation Lancet, which was targeting crime hotspots in 5 police areas!

Neil still has one steering lock unsold. So if anyone requires one, contact Neil on 01325 742714

Sedgefield Show. £229 was raised on the Tombola stall. Thanks go to all who helped on the day and also to all those people who provided tombola prizes

Flask-in-the-Fridge. We have now purchased a video from Cambridgeshire Police, showing how the scheme works. It is available to anyone who wishes to see it. Contact Ken Saiger, tel: 621896 or David Hillerby tel: 621343.

Door Bars. More door bars have been fitted. Unfortunately we are coming to the end of our current supply. Any new orders taken after 15th October will be at the new price of £2 each- sorry but the price to us has increased. All outstanding orders will be completed at the original price.

The AGM followed the above, and the following appointments were approved by the meeting:- Chair, Ken Saiger, Secretary, Joe McKenna, Treasurer, Cassie Wilson, Vice Chair, David Hillerby.

An amendment was also made to the Constitution to enable the carrying out of Neighbourhood Watch activities, as well as Crime Prevention.

Next meeting was set for Tuesday 3rd December 2002

P.C. Todd's Column.

Now that the winter nights are almost upon us, it still hasn't deterred the most determined of thieves!

Take the incidents of theft from St Edmund's Green and Ceddesfeld Hall for instance.

Standing proud at the entrance to St Edmund's Green for a number of years have been a pair of stone lions, mounted on a wall.

One night in September they had a

visitor who took a liking to them. Unfortunately for him, in his attempt to prise one of them from the wall, the thief only managed to break the lion, leaving the feet firmly embedded, but he still took the top half although he didn't bother to touch the other lion! The very next night more visitors (possibly the same) spent time at Ceddesfeld Hall, where they stole three stone urns from outside the

main entrance.

However, on a positive note, two professional burglars have been caught in the act, at a country house, near the racecourse! Three police forces, supported by local officers, were able to follow these men to their chosen target, and when they came out of the premises carrying their loot, they were apprehended. Lets hope they spend many years behind bars!!

The Plight of the Lonely Soldier



We are all acutely aware of the relevance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each

year. It is the time that we set aside to remember the 'fallen' of two World Wars and other more recent conflicts. Many people observe two minutes silence on the day itself, or at services held in churches throughout the land on Remembrance Sunday, when local losses are recalled.

In November of this year, spare a thought for soldier Pieter L Vermote of the 7th Linier Regiment, who died in Winterton Hospital of wounds

sustained in his service of his beloved Belgium on the 18th of January 1918. He is laid to rest, on his own, in the graveyard of the old hospital Chapel on the right hand side of the road between Sedgefield and Fishburn.

So next time you pass the cemetery with its old red brick building, think of the gallant Belgian soldier buried so far away from his native land.

Harry Buxton

Sedgefield Road Safety Committee

Our request for your views on the access road onto the A689 brought a few letters in reply, and all indicated that the stopping of the right turn from Stockton Road onto the dual carriageway was not the long term answer, for a number of reasons.

We also received complaints about the setting of the roadworks; how no regard is being given to safety by the contractors where work is being carried out. This was particularly highlighted when the contra-flow system was suddenly changed, where traffic leaving the roundabout and heading towards Wynyard had difficulty in

following the line of progress. The Panel have also received a number of concerns from people using wheel chairs, that vehicles are being parked on areas where there are "dropped kerbs". These are specifically for the use and convenience of wheelchair users and it is an offence to obstruct them! PLEASE BE WARNED - this Panel will request that the Police & the appropriate local authority take action against anyone violating this law. If you would like your say on these, or any other Road Safety issues, why not come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 12th November in the Parish Hall.

Good News for Sedgefield Motorists

Thanks to a reasonably good summer and early autumn the A689 alterations are running to schedule and are expected to be completed next April, winter permitting.

Sedgefield News Talking Book

Although only one person attended the launch of the Talking Book, it was still felt to be worthwhile.

We now have a number of Readers ready to record our first edition, (this one), and we now have 3 more clients, so we are ready to go ahead!

From Christmas Turkey to Spring Chicken!

Since Julie Templeton took over the Slimming World class at Hardwick School, members are achieving far more than she had imagined possible - 51 stones between them since May - following the Food Optimising System. Alison Banks from Fishburn, recently voted class Woman of the Year has lost 3 stones 3 lbs., more than her 5-year-old daughter weighs, in just under 7 months! It was after having her baby that Alison's weight problems began. She felt uncomfortable and embarrassed about her size and hid in baggy t-shirts. Realising that she wasn't going to succeed without support, she decided to take the plunge and join the class. "I was really worried about going - I didn't want people staring at me and knowing my weight", said Alison, "but if I'd known how easy it would be I'd have joined sooner." With Christmas only a few weeks away now could be the perfect time to embark upon a new eating plan for life. The system fits into any lifestyle and everyone is welcome, including men, so don't be shy!

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No Pain No Gain!

Hardwick Park Faces Drastic Surgery

Last month we reported on the progress of the restoration plans and though there are still hurdles to be negotiated, the work relating to trees could begin as early as December. But be warned! The process will not be pretty. Expect scenes of utter devastation in some parts of the park. Views will change alarmingly. Access to some paths will be restricted temporarily as trees are felled and removed. But it is all for a very good reason. What will emerge, as the grass begins to grow and new trees and colourful shrubs are planted in their originally intended positions, will be a park to delight the eye. The area open to the public will increase from 50 to over 200 acres.

18th century parklands were often conceived as a complicated series of inter-related vistas, with trees usually the dominant feature. Hardwick is no exception, but over the years many other trees have sprung up, either through natural regeneration or through commercial and amenity planting, mostly ignoring the original design concept and blocking vistas. The first stage will be to try to open up the original views and to clear some of the fen carr in preparation for the restoration of the Main Lake. Some areas of conifer will be felled and replaced by hardwoods, gradually restoring the woodlands to their former character.

Clearing the fen carr is undoubtedly controversial and some compromise has been necessary. The heritage interest requires the lake to be restored to its pure 18th century state - meadowland meeting open water along a clean edge, unfettered by rushes, shrubs or trees. Whereas the nature conservation lobby seeks protection of all the habitats which have developed since the lake was drained. It is impossible to fully satisfy either camp, but the ecological value of the fen has been recognised and agreement seems to have been reached to allow parts of the fen carr to fringe the lake.

Our forebears experienced similar pain as landscapes were altered in the search for new ideas. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown regularly destroyed the more intricate work of earlier designers, some as renowned as Sir John Vanbrugh, to make way for his own creations of sweeping landform, wide waters, and high woods. But today the best known of these parklands are highly cherished and there is just a hint that Brown's hand may have played a part in the design of our park, a possibility being researched by the Friends of Hardwick. Is it wishful thinking, or does the 'rumour' have substance?

These proposals don't pursue a new idea, rather a return to the 'golden age' of landscape. It is hoped that people who know and love the park 'just as it is' will have the foresight to appreciate that what will emerge will be far, far better. Think of it as a heart patient in need of a triple bypass operation - effectively the state of Hardwick today. It may be quite a while 'in theatre', but this patient is confidently expected to survive and to go on rejuvenated for another 250 years at least!

Next full meeting of the Friends of Hardwick 26th Nov, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgefield Borough Council Area 3 Meeting

Wednesday 6th November
7.00pm
***In Mordon & Bradbury
Village Hall***

Sedgefield Community College PTFA agreed at the recent AGM to support the fund for a new mini-bus which would increase the scope for educational visits etc. This comes after a rewarding year in which they raised over £1500.00 to help the Sports College Bid. Planned so far are a Christmas Shopping Trip to York Sat 23rd Nov, (Tickets from College); a fashion event and a year 7 Christmas disco. ***Details next issue***

What's on in November

This page is open to anyone wishing to announce future events

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Quiz Nights

Sat 2nd & 23rd November
At 8.00 pm
All are welcome

Presentation Evening With Entertainment

At Hardwick Hall Hotel
Friday 18th November
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Film Show Spiderman

In Sedgefield Parish Hall
Friday 15th November
@ 6.30pm
Entry £1.50
Children under 12 must be
accompanied by an adult

Sedgefield Wildlife Group 'Seals'

Mike Leakey from
English Nature on the
stunning Wildlife of
Teasmouth
National Nature Reserve
7.45 pm Thurs 28th Nov
Parish Hall
£1.00 inc. refreshments
Tel: Anne Gladwin: 620811

Sedgefield Family History Group

Gordon Morris will speak
On "Eden and Calvert -
an 18th
Century Alliance"

at 7:45 pm on
Monday 18th Nov
in Ceddesfeld Hall
Please come along if you are
interested in tracing your
family tree or hearing
associated talks

Women's Institute

Wed 6th November in the
Parish Hall @ 7.15 pm

'Flowers for Christmas'
With Val Walker
Competition - a homemade
Christmas Table Decoration
on a saucer

Firework Display

Saturday 2nd November
Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds
Adults £1.00 Children .50p
From Post Office &
Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Players

SPYS Show
Drama, Songs and Dances

Fri & Sat 8th & 9th Nov
7.00pm at the Parish Hall

Tickets from Selections or
Members of the Players.

Coffee Mornings

In aid of the
Parish Hall Fund
Every Thursday
9.30 - 12.00
Meet friends and help the
village!
Refreshments & Raffle

Sedgefield Show Dinner Dance

Saturday 23 rd November
at 7.00 pm

Ferryhill Masonic Hall
Dancing to the
'George Rowell Band'
Tickets £13.50
Tel: 620330

EVENTS AT HARDWICK HALL HOTEL

For more information contact Reception on Tel: 01749 610233

Great Night Extravaganza

Tuesday 16th November 8.00pm to 11.00pm

Christmas Cabaret Nights

Like the old days with music of the 1940s & 50s.

Four evening entertainment nights of light entertaining including the traditional pantomime, Christmas Shows and many more.

The Christmas Dinner Dances will be a night of music, magic and merriment. Monday & Tuesday Times. Tickets available on the night at events or contact reception on Tel: 01749 610233

Christmas Day Lunch Festive Dinner with gifts for children and long drinks for adults.

New Years Eve Gala Dinner with a 20 piece band, festive drinks and champagne afterwards.

From our Mordon Correspondent

The film shows organised by John and Maxine Robinson are gaining in popularity, with increased audiences at each showing. Many thanks to them for their persistence. The next date is with Spiderman, (see below).

Work is moving apace on the renovation of the barns at Mordon North, by Harlequin Developments. Demolition work in the areas designated on the planning application is well under way, and the buildings which remain will be re-used.

Looking back over the last few weeks, we had a successful Home Produce Show, with classes for adults and children in a multitude of crafts. They were judged by Karen Raine and the winner of this year's Terry Blackie Memorial Plate for the team with the most points overall were Bett and John Parkinson (see photo of Bett being presented with the award by Dave Sayers). Mavis Elders was first runner up, followed by Ann Elders. The Robinson Cup for under 16s went to Robin Humphrey; first runner up - Jody Elders, 2nd runner up - Adam Elders. Respect your elders, people of Mordon!

Sedgefield Lyric Singers gave a wonderful performance in the village hall, very much enjoyed by everyone; and the village had a visit from former Parish Chairman Bill Blackie. He married in St Edmund's Church five years ago then went to live in Australia with his bride. He was here to surprise lifelong friend (and best man at Bill's previous marriage) on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding, and he certainly did surprise them when he made his unexpected entrance. Bill made some cultural visits while he was here - to the Baltic, the 'Blinking Eye' Bridge and Ikea, of which he had only heard from afar!



Spiderman

In **Mordon Village Hall** on
Saturday 16th November
@ 5.00pm

Entry £1.50

All children under 12 must be
accompanied by an adult.

From the Editor

Please keep the news and information coming. The deadline for the next issue is the 15th November.

Articles and information on forthcoming events to:-

snews.sdp@sedgefield.net

or

The Editor, Sedgefield News,
Advice and Information Centre.

Front Street.

Sedgefield.

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Advertisement for a local business, likely related to the window/door services mentioned in the adjacent block.