

# Sedgefield News

*Produced by the Villagers for the Villagers.*

## Work starts soon - on Sedgefield's first Industrial Estate!

Following the recent good news of Heritage Lottery Fund money being earmarked for the much anticipated restoration of Hardwick Park, a public meeting was called to hear about the latest developments from Fiona Macdonald, Durham County Council's Archaeology Officer, and Tony Smith, Countryside Business Manager. Around 90 people attended to hear something of the archaeology of the 18th century park and plans for the next phase of the project.

Fiona described the continuing work in the West Park to establish details of John Burdon's parkland and follies, to enable the reconstruction to be as accurate as possible. This included the 17 acre lake, its dam and the cascade, as well as the possibility of discovering how the cascade worked when there was only a small water supply. Other investigations cover the Temple of Minerva and the Gothic Seat, which were designed to be enjoyed from focal points along the original walk, and which it is hoped will be reconstructed.

She went on to talk about Channel 4's Time Team investigations, describing the East Park, dated at roughly 150 AD, as Sedgefield's first Industrial Estate. The initial

discovery had been made from crop marks seen in aerial photographs but though the remains extend well outside the area that the Time Team looked at, no further excavation is planned.

Tony Smith outlined the work that will take place in the West Park, starting this autumn with the clearance of some trees to re-establish sight lines and vistas and being followed next autumn by work to clear the lakebed and rebuild the dam. The water supply to refill the lake is a problem and several ideas for augmenting it are being looked at.

As work proceeds the East Park will be returned to pasture, with grazing cattle to keep the grass short. Replanting of individual and clumps of trees is envisaged, with a low hedge to demarcate some of the boundaries. Residents whose properties border the Park were assured that they would be consulted.

The leader of Durham County Council, Ken Manton, thanked the speakers for what had been an enthralling and entertaining evening.



Issue 6. October 2002

**£200 Haircut!**



Here's a girl with a big heart! Corinne Errington has sacrificed her hair on behalf of the Butterwick Hospice, earning over £200 in sponsorship after she volunteered to have her head shaved to raise funds for the charity. She wants to thank everyone who supported her and we want to say "well done, Corinne". We think you're lovely with or without your hair!

### Adventures in prospect

Adventures in prospect During the summer holidays great fun was had at a Youth Kayak Day in Chester-le-Street, organised by Sedgefield Community College Association. Eight youngsters developed their confidence and skills in one-man kayaks and it was such a success that the Association hopes to start a Youth Adventure Group. Contact, Darren Langthorne, at SCCA. Tel: 621097



## Sedgefield News in Talking Book Form!

It is proposed to publish the Sedgefield News in "Talking Book" form, so that those people who are unable to read the book for themselves will be able to listen to it on tape. We will advertise on BBC Radio Cleveland & Radio Tees, to attract as many people as possible, but if you know someone who would benefit, please let them know.

To launch the initiative, an afternoon of reading will be held in the Library on Wednesday 2nd October, when the latest issue of Sedgefield News will be read

aloud to anyone who would like to register for a free issue of tapes. Although the Library normally closes on Wednesday afternoons, an exception will be made for this particular purpose.

Starting at 2pm, there will be a number of readings, registration and coffee & biscuits.

Please do come along if this will benefit you. If you need transport, or would like to register without attending, please contact David Hillerby tel. **621343** as soon as possible.

## Positive Youth Project

The Sedgefield Community Association Positive Youth Project has been organising film nights for young people in Sedgefield and Mordon, since May. There has been an excellent response to this new venture, though things were quiet over the summer holiday period.

Parents have often stayed with younger children and some have even come alone (parents that is!). Many have been surprised at the size of the screen, quality of production and have said that it is 'just like going to the cinema, only friendlier and better value for money'. It's only £1.50 entry!

Sedgefield Borough Council Leisure Dept provides the equipment. Andy, their 'film guy' and his partner are the proud owners of a bouncing 'film buff'. All the best for their future! The Parish Hall, Sedgefield

Community College and Bradbury & Mordon village hall have all hosted films in recent months; the trend is set to continue.

On Friday, October 4th, 'Scooby Doo' will be shown in the parish hall and will be repeated in Mordon the following evening!

By November, we hope that 'Ice Age' will have been released. Recent attempts to screen this were unsuccessful, as the release date was put back. 'Ice Age' should now be shown on Friday 15th November and in Mordon the following evening (see next issue). We are trying to find a venue to screen 'Spiderman, around the end of October - watch for posters around the village and a note from school for forthcoming film nights!

Thank you to all our supporters. Further details from John or Maxine Robinson **620042**

## Harmony in St Edmunds

On Saturday 14th September, members of the Friends of St Edmund's Church were entertained to an evening of nostalgic melodies from the 20th century. The Harmony Drifters Barbershop Singers took us through a medley of old and not so old, favourites. The audience was enraptured by the harmonious rendering of, among others, 'California here I come', 'I'll take you home again, Kathleen', 'Hello, Mary Lou' & 'When I'm Sixty Four'. My own favourite, 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic', was sung with such gusto, my eyes were watering by the end! After 25 melodies sung throughout the evening, the singers must have really enjoyed their pints on the way home! The evening was very good value for money at £5, especially with the added ingredient of the 'light' supper at the interval! Thank you, Friends.

## Parrot says Thanks

Mrs Stubbins and son Shane would like to thank everyone who responded to their pleas for help when the bird flew! The story had a happy ending.





## 2500-year-old Tai Chi celebrates 1st Birthday!

Tai Chi, or TaiJi in its modern translation, is an ancient Chinese art based on Taoist writings, dating back more than 2500 years. Though it is recognisable for its gentle, flowing postures it is in fact a subtle martial art which has yielding and neutralising as its central principles.

Because the art is so soft and gentle it causes practitioners to relax, allowing them to release muscle tension and concentrate on the postural alignment of the spine. For the mind, it deepens awareness and concentration, thus becoming a form of meditation in motion.

Ceddesfeld Hall has been the home of a TaiJi class since last year, run by Joe Harte, who moved to the North East at that time. So far things are going pretty well. Joe told us "We have a nice group of people training regularly, who are really starting to appreciate the subtlety of the art and are finding out the benefits of the practice for themselves".

Apart from regular weekly classes, Joe has run 2 one-day workshops, with people attending from as far as Derbyshire and West Cumbria. This month the group is going to a special workshop in Carlisle with Patrick Kelly, a teacher from New Zealand, who studied with the late Master Huang Sheng Shuan, the founder of this system.

Now Joe has decided the time has come to establish a class for beginners, and it starts this month at the Community College.

If you're interested in finding out for yourself about this fascinating activity, you'll find details on our 'What's On' page.

## Naked Slimmer opens class in Sedgefield

When lifelong slimmer Julie Woodcock shed three stones she decided to strip off and go naked on the back of dozens of north east buses! You may have glimpsed her in the famous 'Christine Keeler' pose. Julie and three friends, who between them had lost 14½ stones, decided to start a slimming company, and being thrilled with their own new slim figures, used their own images to advertise across the region, which is where the back of the buses came in. The response from the ads and the resulting press coverage has been huge, with many requests for classes and now Julie has decided to open a class here in Sedgefield.

The company is called 'Changes', and it promotes healthy eating, an easy to follow regime with normal foods (it even includes your favourite treats) and puts the emphasis on permanent weight loss rather than a quick fix. The classes, which take place in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, are upbeat and informative and very much in touch with the latest nutritional information. If you are tempted you can try one of Julie's classes at the Golden Lion (rear entrance) on Tuesday evenings at 6.00pm. For more details, tel. **01325 260060**

## Rock on, 101!



Formed last year, 101 (that's One-oh-One, for the terminally uncool!) are a rock outfit with big ambitions. The line up is Tim Lowe, vocals, lead guitar; Richard Coxon, bass guitar, vocals; and Robin Love, drums, vocals. Tim and Richard had an earlier incarnation, backing The Fenners. The band plays a wide range of rock music, from Travis, REM and Oasis through the punk era of The Clash and The Jam, to Thin Lizzy and Neil Young - all tastes provided for. In fact, Tim says they never decide on a gig's content until they see their audience, so if you go to see them, satisfaction is almost guaranteed! Also performing their own original material, 101 have

played numerous local venues since February 2001, including a triumphant appearance at the Fishburn bank holiday festival in May. Fans are enjoying gigs at the Hardwick Arms and the Bird In Hand. Booked up well into 2003, they are increasing the original material performed, hoping to attracting a recording contract. What more could they want? Well, they'd like to be known hereabouts, so here at the News we are looking to do a review of 101's act. If you like Rock music and can 'turn a phrase', go along to one of the venues listed here and try your hand as a music journalist. 101 play the Hardwick Arms next on November 10th, but you can hear them before then, on Oct. 4th at the Fishtank in Durham, or Oct 12th at the Towneley Arms in Stanley. Drop your jottings off at our office or email [sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)



Sedgefield Village Crime Watch Panel



# Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel Neighbourhood Watch

(ALL for ONE & ONE for ALL)



Sedgefield

## Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

Since last months report, the Panel has fitted approx. 50 more door bars, are well through the Smoke Detector survey and are hopeful that funding for the "Flask-in-the-Fridge" will be available within the next 2 weeks. This will enable us to place the order for the Flasks and start distributing early in November.

With the dark nights closing in on us, the following message from the police is relevant. "This is the time of year when we see an increase in house burglary. In November we will launch a police campaign to reduce this trend. Code-named "Operation Lancet", it will run until the end of February. Detectives will actively target known offenders and monitor criminals released from prison, when it is felt they may re-offend. We will be seeking the support of Neighbourhood watch schemes throughout Sedgefield Borough to help us drive forward this initiative".

Everyone can help by adopting a few simple measures. Have a light on in your home, particularly in the early evening; use a timer switch to ensure this happens! We firmly believe that a "house in darkness is a vulnerable one" and research into burglaries in this Borough supports that view. Exterior lighting also enhances home security, and helps to reduce the fear of crime. We recommend the use of low energy bulkhead lights, fitted with dawn to dusk sensors. Bulkhead lights and timer switches can be purchased through your NHW scheme (Ken Saiger 621896) or direct from the police, (Neil Langthorne 01325 742714). These lights switch themselves on at dusk and off at dawn and cost only 1p per night to run. House burglaries are relatively few in Sedgefield Village, but your security awareness will prevent you from becoming a victim this winter. Don't let your safety rely on good luck!

A **Phone Call Scam** is in operation in the area. A young lady, well dressed, knocks and asks to use your phone because her car has broken down (or some such story). She rings her husband, or so she has you think. In fact she has dialled an 0800 type number, where the cost is as high as £50 per minute. She says she has to hold on while her husband is brought to the telephone. She finally pretends to speak to him, replaces the phone, thanks you and leaves. She is then able to collect your (approx) £200 and knows she's had a good day! Be alert - don't get caught out! Only answer the door to people you KNOW, and if in doubt, phone the police on **Sedgefield 620272 or Aycliffe 01325 314401**.

It is with great pride, we are happy to announce that our Chairman, **Ken Saiger** has received a "**Highly Commended**" accolade from National Neighbourhood Watch, at their Annual Awards. This is in recognition of his work for the Panel since being thrown in at the deep end in January, this year, after the death of our previous Chairman, Alan Sowerby. Congratulations Ken, from all of the Panel.

## P.C. Todd's Column.

Burglars have recently entered 2 hotels in the village during the daytime. On both occasions staff challenged the thieves, but they still managed to make off with £300 cash from one, and bottles of spirits from the other. Two persons have been arrested.

The newly opened Community Hospital was also targeted. On consecutive nights, thieves forced open shutters and a cupboard in the small shop, to help themselves to confectionery and fizzy drinks. Again, 2 persons have been arrested

- (none of these four are residents of Sedgefield). Farms have also been targeted, with equipment and machinery being taken. Not content with this, thieves also stole a mobile kitchen from a worksite near Sands Hall roundabout. On another occasion a Portaloo was also stolen! Now that they have been fed and watered, they may be back, so please be vigilant and report anything suspicious, with as much detail as possible, to the Police. Finally, I would like to report that at a recent Pub Watch meeting, one

person was banned from all Village Pubs & Clubs for one year. He had wanted a drink after hours and was not pleased when he was refused! Two other persons have been issued with warning notices for their unacceptable behaviour in an unrelated incident. Amongst the crimes reported in August were 7 burglaries (non-dwelling), 14 thefts, 4 criminal damages, 4 motor vehicle related crimes and 2 assaults. Well, that's all for this month. See you next time.  
Keith.



## Sedgefield Road Safety Committee

Things have been quiet through the holiday period, although the diversion at the A689/Stockton Road junction took most people by surprise! I wonder how many people did a U turn on day 1, or how many missed their bus through lack of advanced warnings. The County Council do have some answering to do!

However, now that it is in place, what are your thoughts on the subject? Has it reduced traffic through the village, or has the through traffic just diverted along Station Road? Would it make the A689 junction safer, if the scheme became permanent?

Do you know that as this paper

goes to Press, a 'Walk to School Week' is in progress from 30th September? Are your children walking to school? Would you send them via a 'Walking School Bus' if one operated in your area? Please write to our secretary, Brenda Cain, 7 Whitehouse Drive, Sedgefield, with your views on these or any other Road Safety issues.

### Road Traffic Accidents

According to the Police Report for August, there were no Injury Accidents, 1 Hit & Run and 3 damage only Accidents.

## In memoriam: Fred Risler

The death has recently been announced of Mr. Fred Risler, who, as his pupils will remember affectionately, taught at Rectory Row school for the best part of 30 years and was headmaster from 1966-78.

After wartime service with the armed forces, Fred Risler did a short training course as a teacher, then started his career at Sedgefield in 1948. Sometime towards the early sixties he moved to Hurworth, where he taught until the vacancy of Head at Rectory Row was available. He applied and was successful.

Mr Risler was a shy man, and a gentleman. However, shyness was put aside where children were concerned; he could not do enough for them and his office was always full of children, asking and receiving the help they needed.

He died on the 24th August 2002, but his death was not announced until after the funeral, at his request. A memorial service is being held by the Rev Robert Cooper at St Andrews Church, Sadberge, on Tuesday 8th October at 7-30pm.

God bless you, Fred Risler. Rest in peace!

**Coffee mornings** in aid of the Parish Hall rebuilding fund are progressing quite well - the total collected to date (7th Sept) is £467. However, we would like more, so do drop in on Thursday mornings, 9.30 till Noon - the scones are delicious and the raffle prizes extraordinary! The only blip was when we had to close for 2 weeks after Judy broke her arm and, of course, Josie was due her holiday. Thanks to all who have helped, particularly Edith, who has helped Josie throughout Judy's absence. Well done!

**Autumn Quiz Nights**  
at Sedgefield Cricket Club  
Begin on **Saturday 12th October**  
All are welcome

## Memories of Sedgefield in Pictures

Sedgefield Library has just published a book of photographs supplied by villagers, showing various aspects of village life throughout the 20th century. Changing fashions, transport and even the ball game are all shown. According to some of the older people, the ball game is no longer what it was - in their day the ball didn't disappear out of the village for long periods! Transport has progressed from mainly horse-drawn, to powerful mechanical, vehicles. And fashion? Well, you'll need to discuss this with the ladies! The book is on sale at the Library at £2.95 - a first-class buy.

## Scurrs of Stillington

A new history of a local country bus operator from its early beginnings in the 1920s until the final sale of the business to Trimdon Motor Services in 1966 is now complete. The author, Peter Cardno, a retired Stockton teacher, along with David Hillerby, organised the Wilkinson's Motor Services exhibition in Sedgefield Library last year. There are many links between the Scurr's business and Sedgefield. Tom Wilkinson & Jack Scurr were great friends; and Reg Thompson & George Pipe, both having worked for Wilkies, later bought Scurrs. The book is expected from the printers in early October and will be on sale, initially from the author, priced £6 plus 50p post & packing. Contact Peter Cardno, 22 Welldale Cres., Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7HU

## Haunt Your Local Library!

Haunt Your Local Library!

This half term holiday, come along to Sedgefield Library and take part in some really **Creepy** activities!

Monday 28th October - **Sorting Hats & Wacky Wands.**

Tuesday 29th - **Witches and Wizards** - face painting with Kay.

Thursday 31st - **Halloween Makeovers** - make your witch or wizard costume.

Friday 1st November - **Spellbinding Stories** with Eileen Glenton - a spectacular professional storyteller.

There will be activities and competitions for all ages, including a "Dare you put your hand in this box" competition, taking place on Tuesday 22nd.

All activities start at 10am and finish around 11-30am, and

**booking is essential.** Phone **620103** to reserve your place.

**No adults unless accompanied by at least one child!**

Don't miss out! Come and join in the magic and mayhem created by your library staff. **WE DARE YOU NOT TO BE THERE.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Peter Hannant of Lane Electrics can now be contacted on **01642 676752**

## Who is your Citizen of the Year?

Following the recent success of this annual award, it is now time to invite nominations for Sedgefield's Citizen Award 2002. If you know of someone who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to this community and you wish to put them forward, you can obtain a nomination form from the Advice & Information Centre, or ring **629011** to have one sent to you.



# What's on in October

This page is open to anyone wishing to announce future events

## Sedgefield Community College Association

Look for that special gift at our

### Craft Fair

**Sunday 6th October**

Doors open 10am

Refreshments available

### Makeover Evening

**Thursday 19th October**

7pm to 10pm

Hair and Beauty with  
'Evolution Salon'

Style and Colour Consultants  
'Image-On'

Latest Fashions from  
'Verge' of Durham

**Tickets £4** including  
glass of wine, from SCCA or  
featured outlets. For more  
information contact

**Rana Coates on 621097**

A 20 week course in

### Tai Chi

for beginners at

**Sedgefield**

**Community College**

**starts Monday 7th October**

**7pm - 8.30pm**

for details, contact Joe Harte:

*Tel: 01740 629452 (Evenings)*

*Mobile: 0772 0839621*

*Email: hartejoe@hotmail.com*

### Sedgefield Family History Group

**Alex Simpson** will speak on

**"Oddities & Co-incidences  
in Family Research"**

in Ceddesfeld Hall

on Monday 21st October

at 7.45pm

Please come along to our meetings  
if you are interested in tracing your  
family tree or hearing associated talks.

### Tiny Steps

Next meets on **Wed 2nd Oct**

@ new time of 1.30pm

Welcome Room

@ **St. Edmunds**

All carers of pre school  
children welcome to join in the  
fun, songs, activities and chat

### Sedgefield Development Partnership

will hold its first

Annual General Meeting

at 8.15pm on

**Wednesday 30th October  
2002**

in **Ceddesfeld Hall.**

The meeting will be followed  
by refreshments. More  
information will be circulated  
to members nearer the time  
and available via posters

## Sedgefield Junior Football Team

Since the team was last mentioned in Sedgefield News, the Sedgefield Business Community has responded very well to our request for sponsorship. The team would like to thank Cumbrian Construction for the purchase of home and away strips, Sedgefield Fisheries for team jackets, and Wendy at the Golden Lion for the purchase of tracksuits. Thanks also to John at the Hardwick Arms for holding a 'Race Night' which raised over £200 for the purchase of training equipment and to Sedgefield Town Council, who have given financial support.

The club is still interested in hearing from other parents or young people who may be interested in running teams at other age levels; also from anyone who may be keen to set up a girl's team, or to run coaching sessions. We are also keen to see more players at under 15 level, so if there are any budding football stars out there, they should contact me on Sedgefield 623118

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Cain

## A Question of law!

By now you will have had the annual Electoral Registration Form delivered through your letterbox, and it says, correctly, that you are required to complete the form in accordance with law. Note that phrase; because highlighted in blue print in the declaration box are the words 'It is an offence to give false information in completing this form'. You are asked to sign the box to the effect that the information given is true and accurate.

For most people this year, that is all they have to do. The Borough Council, in an honest endeavour to save us a chore and get more forms returned, has completed the form for us. The problem in Sedgefield is that the information given on our forms is wrong! Sedgefield does not lie, as they infer in the address box, within the borough boundaries of Stockton on Tees. *In accordance with law*, Sedgefield is in County Durham. We are all aware that the address given is the one preferred by the Post Office, but the Post Office only has the right to determine postcodes. In accordance with law it has no right or authority to move local government boundaries or to deprive us of our County heritage, and the sooner it realises that the better.

Meanwhile, to be right in accordance with law, you should delete 'Stockton on Tees from box 1. You could leave it at that (there is only one Sedgefield in the UK), or you could add with pride, 'Co. Durham'.  
Ian Hunter

## In praise of Mordon

When I mention that I live in Mordon I am usually met with "Oh, the village with no shops or pub". Well yes, that is correct, but it is also the village with a beautiful village green, a registered one at that, and stunning views; where seasons come into their own - summer like a picture postcard and winter like a Christmas card scene; where hundreds of swallows visit for the summer, where children can play safely and a friendly neighbour is never far away. And it's the village where you can watch glorious sunsets over rolling fields, then wake up each morning to a view that most folk can only wish for. Yes, we have no shops or pub, no gas or public transport, but would we live anywhere else? No way!

Suzanne Burkill and family,  
Mordon Village

## From the Editor,

Thanks to your support, the news letter continues and we are finding it easy to fill eight pages.

Please keep the news and information coming. The deadline for the next issue is the 15th October. Articles and information on forthcoming events to:-

**sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

or  
The Editor,  
Sedgefield News,  
The Advice and Information  
Centre,  
Front Street,  
Sedgefield.  
TS21 3AS  
**Tel: 01740 629011**

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