

# Sedgefield News

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

## The Town Council's Annual Meeting

was held on March 15th and the 40 or so citizens, councillors and officials who attended, participated in some vigorous exchanges.

Inspector Neill gave the police report, Cllr. Ken Manton reported for the County and Peter Hinde spoke for the New Parish Hall Development Group.

Several other reports were printed and handed out at the meeting - as had been requested at the previous year's meeting - but the effect was that people had little time to digest them so there was no discussion of them. The Annual Report and the Sedgefield Extra carried more information, but unfortunately arrived at many houses after the 15th. Nonetheless, those present found plenty to debate.

There were strong feelings about travellers and the road junction, but the main arguments focussed on the future of the Parish Hall.

Sedgefield News had already received comment about the Parish Hall before the meeting on the 15th

## Is the Parish Hall for sale to the highest bidder?

'The Town Council meets the people' meeting on March 15th would seem to indicate that it is. There were only a few members of the public who turned up to air the old hoary chestnuts of crime in Sedgefield, the dangers of the A689 junction and the gypsies.

The meeting should have been packed with people wanting to find out the fate of the Parish Hall. I had been patiently waiting to find out the results of the years of deliberation and investigation of the options to be formally presented to the village. After all, about 200 people had turned up to the meeting which set up the group to do this.

I ignored rumours, expecting to be presented with facts in due course. At Monday's meeting I found that

March - see p.12 - but the occasion prompted another letter to us, posing the question:

the group has been wound up - no formal report back to us prior to this - and the issue passed back to the Town Council. Matters had got as far as architects plans and a model for a site next to Ceddesfeld Hall but we have not seen these. How about a display in the library?

I asked a councillor why this had not been presented to the village and he said no decisions had been taken yet. However, the Town Council Annual Report Summary and the Mayor's Report, made available at that meeting which I had not read at this juncture, make it clear that the Town Council wishes to sell the Parish Hall site (which has lots of nearby parking) and build adjacent to Ceddesfeld Hall, reducing the car parking there and creating competition for that which is left.

*Whilst I am not against greater public usage of Ceddesfeld Hall and the grounds, I am against selling off yet another publicly owned site in Sedgefield.*

*This is short-sighted. Sedgefield will expand, whether we want it or not, and will need more public space, not less.*

Are we content to let our partly unelected Town Council do as they wish? Let us at least call for a reasoned presentation of their plans. If any-one wishes to let me know what they think about this, they can e-mail me at:

parishmatters@aol.com

**Helen Clifford-Brown**

**Peter Hinde**, last Chairman of the New Parish Hall Development Group, has given us an account of its workings. There is much more than we have space for here, but these brief notes may help. A fuller account will follow next month, with a discussion of the crucial matter of funding.

Two years ago the Town Council's work on renewing the Parish Hall had produced a recommendation that the Hall should be replaced on the present site. That was the result of the work of several professional teams and it was endorsed by public consultation.

Some time after the Public meeting in February 2002 the New Parish Hall Development Group (NPHDG) decided to commission work on an extension to Ceddesfeld Hall with a view to providing a comparable report to that already available on the Parish Hall, to enable them to see if it offered a better solution. So the same design team (architects, engineers & quantity surveyors) were commissioned, and to make the comparisons easier, they were asked to meet the same accommodation requirements. Last September they presented their conclusions in the form of plans and a model of a contemporary design intended to contrast with, but complement, Ceddesfeld Hall, built between the Hall and South View. **However they also had** continued bottom right, page 5

## Laura makes a start in Africa

*21 year-old Laura Barron, who has lived in Sedgefield all her life, is taking a year out to do voluntary work in Tanzania with Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW), a youth focused charity - running an 8 month Health Education and Community Resource programme, along with eight other volunteers from England working together with local partners.*

*Laura was a pupil at Carmel RC Technology College before going on to Northumbria University. Last year she gained a degree in Politics and Sociology. Laura wrote to Vera Thompson at the beginning of March and we thank Vera for sharing her letter with us.*

Dear Vera

Well I made it. I'm sitting on my doorstep at 6.30pm on a drizzly Tuesday after school. We finished training in Iringa (the Southern Highlands capital town) last week and moved to our villages last Monday, so we've been here a week now and I'm starting to feel a little more settled. I am also now in a better position to give you my first thoughts on what we all came to Tanzania to do.

Mwajuma (my Tanzanian partner) and I spent the first few days acclimatising and setting up our Youth Development Centre (YDC). This is a room in the school grounds where there are 'youth friendly' resources and magazines, where the students can come and learn as well as talk to us about any problems or questions they may have. Itengule Secondary School is quite small with currently only about 300 students but the teachers keep telling me that there will be more as they haven't all arrived yet. I find this rather odd as the school year began in January but it's not uncommon for the children to remain at home with their families in order to help with the farming. In a way it's quite good because it eases us into the teaching more gently.

So we started teaching yesterday, after I had recovered from my first (hopefully not of many) stomach upsets - not recommended in the middle of a very dark night with no electricity and 'limited sanitation'. Fortunately it was nothing too bad and most of the other volunteers nearby have had it too so we think it is probably an adjustment to drinking muddy looking water! It certainly makes you appreciate what comes out of the tap in Sedgefield anyway.

Our first classes were Form One, which is about the same level as

Year 7 back home, though they're a bit older, around 14 to 16, as many of them have taken time off school to help at home. They were really well behaved and attentive and I was almost impressed with my wonderful teaching abilities - except that is for my inability to write on a blackboard legibly!

I'm finding the school day quite difficult at the moment. We start at 7.30 and go right through until 3.30pm with only a 20 minute break at 10.30. There isn't a lunch break which means that by 2pm I feel like I'm going to die after not being able to drag myself out of bed early enough to make some breakfast. Having said that, even if I did the only thing to cook is uji, which is a bit like porridge but made with flour and not exactly a local delicacy. Life here is very slow which I'm also finding it difficult to adjust to. Nobody takes much notice of time - things happen when they happen, which is actually really nice but terribly difficult to get used to, especially when there is only one bus a day out of the village and no one really knows what time it leaves.

The area is beautiful and so peaceful and all the people have been very friendly and welcoming. Obviously things are very different at the moment but I can see through it and I really think that once I get used to things and day to day life I'll be comfortable here and will hopefully make a difference.

Apart from general health education and the Aids Awareness Programme for young people my Headmaster and the local Catholic priest want us to get more involved with the parents of the children and the older young people (if that makes sense) in order to reinforce the work we're doing at the school so that the community as a whole have a better



understanding of the problems/dangers they face now and in the future. In addition there is a variety of awareness-raising activities including seminars and life based festivals. The first of these is International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, which isn't that far off and we haven't been told yet exactly what they want us to do - could be fun.

The work is so important down here. SPW has been working here for some ten years now and is really having an impact on the lives of young people in Tanzania and other rural communities throughout Africa. I can't tell you how grateful I am to everyone in Sedgefield who helped me to take part.

Thanks for everything and I'll write more after International Women's Day, providing it goes well of course.

Much love, Laura

**Students Partnership Worldwide** started work in Tanzania, one of the countries most affected by the HIV / AIDS crisis, in 1992. Now our largest African programme, it sends over 100 volunteers every year.

A lack of awareness amongst young people is compounded by gender imbalance in a society reluctant to discuss sensitive issues openly. Health Education & Community Resource volunteers work in primary and secondary schools as well as village communities, concentrating on health & environmental issues affecting the lives of young people in rural areas. Acting as role models and peer educators, they use a variety of non-formal techniques to present these issues to help young people develop life skills.



## Beavers, Brownies & Guides thinking on a world-wide scale

On 24th Feb over 90 Brownies and Guides from 1st Sedgefield companies and the Beaver pack, were joined by the Mayor of Sedgefield Cllr. Linda Maddison, to celebrate **World Thinking Day**. The children enjoyed crafts from Africa, Asia, Australasia and Europe. This was followed by a candle lighting ceremony when we wished other members world-wide, a happy birthday. The children wore national costumes and carried flags they had made. A short sketch performed by the guides depicted some ways in which other countries celebrate, including the Jewish festival Hannuka, Spanish Christmas - los Reyes and African Kwanaza.

Cllr. Maddison told us a tale of how during her time as a Guide leader she went to camp on her birthday and was presented with a present of a cow pat wrapped in tin foil! Happily, this was soon followed by a real present of a pair of earrings. Maybe we should remember to stay away from camp on our birthdays! **Jackie Postgate, 1st Sedgefield Guider**



*Cllr. Linda Maddison with the Beavers in their African masks.  
Don't they look good?*

### 7 meet the Baden Powell Challenge

7 girls are off to London at the end of March - their challenge, to visit every square on the Monopoly board within a weekend.

Samantha Brennan, Zoë Elmer, Laura Etheridge, Kerry Hassal, Jenny Lowe, Hannah Pighills and Rachel Thompson have completed this challenge, as the culmination of 3-4 years' work within their guiding time.

To succeed in the challenge they have worked with Brownies, spent time working at Mahon house boarding kennels learning about animal welfare, attended Butterwick Children's Hospice, following their fundraising event for them.

They have been skiing, diving, Youth Hostelling, camping, and rock climbing; organised fashion shows, done sponsored swimming for asthma awareness and taken part in a leukaemia fun run.

Following the weekend the girls will be presented with their Baden Powell challenge badges. This is the highest award in the guiding section.



### Newly enrolled Brownies at '2nd Sedgefield'

with the Mayor, showing her commitment to the young, in her very busy schedule

### Countryside Group Revival

After some membership changes and the Secretary and Chairman leaving the village, the Sedgefield Countryside Group is to be re-launched. An Open Meeting is to be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm, in the Chetwynd Room upstairs at Ceddesfeld Hall. **Anyone with an interest in walking, cycling or riding on the Rights of Way around the village are welcome.**

The group, originally established in 1992, is also keen to re-establish its track-record in tree-planting, stile building and improving the environment.

At the meeting, as well as hoping to elect a new Chairman and Secretary, speaker Graham Clingham, former Countryside Officer for SBC - now with the Countryside Agency, will give a talk on the Sedgefield Countryside Group - past, present & future.

Everyone is welcome, so please do come along. **Geoff Hughes.**

*Last year, an award was presented to Sedgefield Countryside Group, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish Paths Partnership, "in recognition of their significant contribution to the maintenance, improvement and promotion of the Public Rights of Way network in County Durham, through the Parish Paths Partnership."*

# Community Safety *with contributions from the Police, Sedgefield NHWatch and Sedgefield Borough Environment Dept*

## **Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel**

### ***Appeal for readers for the tapes for the Visually Impaired***

We would like to appeal to anyone who is able to make themselves available, as and when required, to act as backup to our present team. The tapes are produced monthly and are read from the current issue of Sedgefield News. We also add any other items which we feel would be beneficial to our Listeners. You do not need a trained voice; anyone can do it.

If you are interested ring **Ken Saiger** on **621896** or **David Hillerby** **621343**

### ***Report of Training Session with Mary Osel-Cassidy***

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004 a training session was held in the Library (by kind permission of Judith Machin) in which the members of our team, Dorothy Edmondson, Sue Harris, Phyllis Hillerby, Peter Robinson and David Hillerby, were given a demonstration by Mary Osel-Cassidy and husband René on how to read a photograph, so that it will paint a picture for someone who is blind or has limited vision.

René described a photograph to Mary and Mary then explained to the team her interpretation of the picture. As Mary and René have been working together for sometime now they do have empathy with each other. We will be able to include the description of the photographs in Sedgefield News on our tapes in future. Anyone who would like to take advantage of some training of this kind, please contact **David Hillerby - 621343** for details.

### ***Community Force in Sedgefield***

As from the beginning of April, there will be a Community Force Officer based in Ceddesfeld Hall. This will ensure that the people of Sedgefield will get to know the officer and be able to contact someone they feel they can trust. He will have a daily surgery from 10am to 12noon in Ceddesfeld Hall on most weekdays. He will then patrol the village and make himself known. However, flexibility of the hours will be part of the service to cover "out-of-hours" problem times.

**Until further notice contact will be via the Community Force at the Chilton Headquarters, tel: 01388 721351**

## **Dog Fouling & Litter**

*by Andy Denholm, Environmental Protection Assistant at SBC*

Dog Fouling and Littering are offences under the **Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996** and the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**. When the Borough Council adopted the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 in 1999 the Borough Council took the opportunity to raise awareness about dog fouling and to have an amnesty against offenders. However the amnesty period is now over and the overwhelming majority of people realise that as well as being anti social, it is an offence to litter or to allow your dog to foul. My role is to clamp down on these offenders using fixed penalty fines of **£50** or where appropriate, reporting for summons to court where the offender could face a fine of up to **£2,500** - not including court costs. You may think this is a bit harsh, after all it's only dog muck, a sweet wrapper or a cigarette. **But a child who falls into or accidentally touches dog faeces could be at risk from a disease called Toxocariasis;** this is caught by people accidentally swallowing roundworm eggs found in dog faeces. The symptoms, which may persist for a year or longer, include headache, sore throat, abdominal pain, pneumonia, asthma or even blindness. Dog mess is also smelly, unsightly and not very pleasant when trod across your living room carpet.

Litter again is unsightly; attracts pests and vermin that again carry disease, such as Weil's disease found in the urine of infected rats causing flu -like symptoms, jaundice, renal failure and in severe cases death. **So how can you, the public and residents of Sedgefield Borough help?**

The easiest way is to phone the Environmental Health Department at the Council Offices, Spennymoor on (01388) 816166 and register a complaint, which we can investigate, by targeting the problem area; carrying out patrols we then can prosecute offenders. Your complaint is **totally confidential**. If you witnessed somebody committing an offence it is possible to still prosecute without the Enforcement Officer seeing anything. Take down the person's details: **Name, Address, Description (Person and or Dog)**. If seen with a vehicle, **vehicle type, colour & registration**. **Time, date and location of the offence**. **What you saw happen**.

Then contact me and either arrange to visit me at the Council Offices or I could visit you, to obtain an account of what happened. The alleged offender would then be invited to attend an interview where if they admit the offence they would be given the opportunity to accept a £50 fixed penalty fine instead of going to court. If the fixed penalty were not accepted then a formal statement would be required from you, which could lead to the possibility of a court appearance.

I would hope that if you felt strongly enough about complaining in the first place, that a possible court appearance would not deter you. After all you live in the Borough.



### Sedgefield News needs YOU!

We are looking for volunteer distributors to push Sedgefield News through letterboxes at Winterton Cottages and / or Belsay Court.

We also need standby distributors to cover holidays and sickness, so if you can spare up to an hour a month, please ring Simon on 629011.

### PC Todd reporting?

Unfortunately PC Keith Todd is off work sick this month. May I offer Keith the best wishes for a quick recovery and return to work, from the Village? Rather than miss out this month's article, the Police have offered the following information.

A new Sergeant, **Brian O'Connor**, has been appointed for the Village, who will take up his position shortly, when the replacement for his current job is available. We hope it won't be too long!

The **Anti-Social Behaviour Squad** is being transferred to Sedgefield Police Station shortly. They view the situation in the Village as serious and intend to take action.

Would the public please note that almost all calls being made to Sedgefield Police Office **620272** will be transferred to Bishop Auckland Police Office, where the new control room is based. Similarly, calls to the old Newton Aycliffe number **01325 314401** will automatically be diverted to Bishop Auckland Control Room so you don't need to use any other telephone number.

**Pub Watch.** The monthly meeting was cancelled, firstly, because Keith wasn't available and secondly, there was no business to attend to.

Everyone must be behaving themselves. Long may it be so! On behalf of Keith may I say "see you next month". David Hillerby

<b>Sedgefield NHW Monthly Crime Figures</b>	<b>Last month</b>	<b>This year to date</b>
<i>Youths Causing Annoyance</i>	6	6
<i>Burglary Non Dwelling</i>	2	5
<i>Burglary Dwelling</i>	1	1
<i>Crime Drugs</i>	nil	nil
<i>Theft from Motor Vehicles</i>	2	3
<i>Theft of Motor Vehicles</i>	2	3
<i>Taking &amp; Driving Away</i>	nil	nil
<i>Vehicle Interference</i>	nil	8
<i>Assaults</i>	1	1
<i>Criminal damage</i>	9	17
<i>Theft</i>	6	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>

### Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

The small group of seven members have met and chewed over some of the outstanding issues raised and tackled by the former Road Safety Committee. The issues causing most concern to residents at the present time, we think, are the A689-Stockton Road junction and speeding through the village. The preferred solutions to the junction have been well publicized and certainly do not include closing the junction. We agree that any solution should not result in an increase in traffic along either Station Road or Durham Road. Destroying the green wedge at Stockton Road entrance by building houses to the south of Thurlow Road/Eden Drive is not part of the SBC's (Sedgefield Borough Council) structure plan: at every public meeting to consider the structure plan the proposals to build in that area have been vehemently opposed by Sedgefield residents. Indeed this would result in a busy road through houses on its way to the existing roundabout. The preferred solution of a new roundabout does not seem so unreasonable when a round-about **can** be built to afford entrance to the Hardwick Park car park.

It is possible to borrow speed measuring devices to be used by interested residents. We understand that offenders flagrantly exceeding the speed limit (say 40 mph+) would receive a letter from the police – presumably a record of offenders would be kept.

A partial survey of cars dropping children at the Hawthorn Road schools exists – 130 cars in a 30 minute period along Cherry Tree Drive alone. A survey of all routes to these schools could be made in better weather. We understand that DCC has proposed "walking bus" routes, but for one reason or another, the proposals were abandoned.

**This is your committee** – please communicate with us and if at all possible, come to a meeting or two. The next meeting is on **6<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm** in the Parish Hall. If it is to be possible to carry out the surveys, we do need a few public spirited volunteers. You may reach us either via the Town Council Office on **621273** or for the time being, contact **Roy Smeeton** at **620009**; email [roy.smeeton@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.smeeton@btinternet.com), or even at home: 13 North Park Rd

*Cont'd from Page 1 - The Future of the Parish Hall*  
to report that after informal consultation with the Local Planning Authority, it seemed unlikely that planning permission would be granted. Amongst planners concerns were that:

- the proposals conflicted with the design of the Grade 2 listed Ceddesfeld Hall
- a number of mature trees would have to be destroyed in order to accommodate the new building
- car parking demand would increase but the number of spaces available would be reduced
- the capacity of the site was inadequate to accommodate the space needed to replace the Parish Hall.

Peter Hinde explained that after such a long period, the Town Council needed to show that progress was being made. This was why they had resumed responsibility for the scheme.

**Footnote: At the end of the Annual Town Meeting Councillor Jim Wayman (chairman) gave an undertaking on behalf of the Town Council that the alternative schemes would be brought back to a future Public Meeting.**

## More of **Your Letters:** *Three new contributions to the A689 Junction debate*

### **The March Sedgefield News**

had a number of comments about banning cross-flow traffic at the Stockton Road A177/A689 junction and I agree that that this would exacerbate traffic problems on Station Road. In addition, it would divert some traffic from the A689 along Butterwick Road as it did when the A689 was 'dualled'. Apart from extra wear and tear on a winding country lane too narrow for cars to pass without driving on the verge, that would increase traffic at the junction of East End and The Lane. This is already a bottleneck when children spill off the narrow pavements on their way to and from the Community College. The whole argument strengthens Durham County Council's case that the solution to safe access is a new entrance joining Stockton road to the roundabout.

However, when safety is an issue, why does Durham County Council policy continue to hinge on holding the local community to ransom until a trade off from developers pays for improvements? Why was a new entrance not constructed as part of the A689 modifications, saving money in the process. While the various parties shilly-shally over development, Durham County Council should immediately place warning signs on the A689 approaching the junction from both directions, cut A689 traffic to one lane each way at the junction and consider imposing a camera monitored speed limit as at Thorpe Thewles.

Most of that needs only a few bits of steel and plastic, a pot of paint and a bit of ingenuity.

At least that might be some help in preventing more accidents.

**Sam Edgoose**

*Todd's House Farm*

### **Advanced Motorists' view**

Firstly, the new junction and its markings are an improvement on the previous arrangement. Unfortunately, motorists leaving Sedgefield and joining or crossing the dual carriage-way have to make difficult judgements. Because there is no reduction in speed on the A689 they have to decide how fast oncoming cars are moving so that they can safely cross. The legal limit is 70mph but this is sometimes exceeded. Any error of judgement can result in a major crash due to the speed. In addition, there is no stop line on the edge of the A689 so any motorist can legally make a judgement on whether to proceed while still moving - a very dangerous situation. As Chairman of the Darlington Branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, I help drivers to gain the skills they need to pass their IAM test. In my opinion the fewer judgemental decisions the motorist has to make the fewer accidents there will be.

The Greatham village junction with the A689 is a much safer option which would be suitable for Sedgefield. There are traffic lights and a speed reduction to 50mph for vehicles on the

A689. No judgements to be made - just simple, clear traffic instructions to be followed. No structural changes to the Sedgefield junction would be necessary. The lights would remain green for the A689 except when motorists wished to exit from Sedgefield or the road opposite.

**Colin Richmond**

**We strongly agree** with David Hillerby and the better way of spending £55,000! Two young people have lost their lives to the new junction. I'm sure their families would rather see an improvement to the junction than a monument, which in time will be vandalised.

A small round-about could be the best solution, keeping the ability of traffic turning right, and making visibility and understanding of the junction easier for road users.

We also agree, why wait for the coroner's inquest to reach its conclusion, which could take a considerable length of time, during which more accidents could occur! If money is available for a monument, why not start work on the junction immediately, which may save lives.

**Jan & Steve Welsh**

*Spring Lane*

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## **Ex-editor replies to last month's appreciation**

Last month's Sedgefield News had a very kind article about me and my activities in Sedgefield over the past four years. Very kind, but not the whole truth - which is that nothing much is achieved without team effort. The newsletter is a good example, with its editorial team of 6-8 volunteers collecting news & deciding how best to present it; and its hard worked producer and putting it into a computer in a format suitable for the printer. There are proof-readers too, as well as the 20-30 volunteers delivering the newsletter in all weathers to 2500 addresses in Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon, Butterwick & Thorpe Larches. **Time given free, & freely given.** None of it could be done without the backing of Sedgefield Development Partnership and the funding bodies who help finance the project. I find that the number of Sedgefield volunteer workers, the time they give and the things they achieve, is quite staggering for such a small town. Long may it continue. **Eric Benson**

## ***Friends of Hardwick to hold another Public Meeting***

Activity has increased over recent weeks and a Public Meeting has been arranged (see page 10 for details).

Friends of Hardwick and some of the Project Team from Durham County Council will be present. Tony Smith, Countryside Group Manager of Durham County Council has written a fascinating introduction to the evening, a small part of which follows below.

In 1996 Dr. Peter Jones stumbled across the ruined remains of the Bath House in Hardwick. He entreated Cllr. Ken Manton to ask the County Council to do something about it. This was the catalyst for a sequence of events, now poised to revive the park. As it is reborn, it is expected that the local economy will benefit from new visitors drawn in to sample its transformation. Restoration work began in September '03 and will last for a further three years, concentrating on the main park lying to the west of the A177. This first phase will progressively restore many of the park's features and provide a new car park and Heritage Resource Centre. Major vegetation has already been cleared, opening up both vistas and other spaces which were part of the original design. The first phase of the new car park is also largely finished, although its final surface will not be applied until the Resource Centre is opened in 2006. Until then, the existing parking facilities will continue to be used, although the new roundabout entrance is scheduled to be complete by August.

**Over the next 12 months the Temple of Minerva, the Gothic Seat and the tower of the Gothic Ruin will be restored to their original designs.** The main lake will emerge from the arable field and fen carr. Two to three acres of the former 17 acre lake will be retained as fen carr, with re-vamped board walk. The original dam,

which contains many fascinating water management features within its structure, will be retained. There will be further archaeological investigation and consolidation of the Bono Retiro and the restoration of the entire east park to conservation pasture. Other vital elements which will be returned to full working order include the Circuit Walk, Grand Terrace, Serpentine Lake, Circular Pond and Temple Field's ha-has. Hardwick Hall Hotel will also play its part, and intend to restore the Tuscan Alcove, Walled Gardens, the eastern ha-has and the Ice House.

### **Do you remember TMS?...**

or Trimdon Motor Services, to give its full name. Well, following on the success of his book, "Wilkinsons of Sedgefield",

author Peter Cardno is interested in writing a new book on TMS. If you worked for them, travelled with them or have



memorabilia photos, or information, would you please contact Peter on 01642 582947 or his collaborator, David



## Newcastle Utd FC Football in Community Scheme

Another football course will run in the first week of the Easter holidays for boys and girls aged between four and fourteen, at Sedgefield Community College from Monday to Thursday 5th - 8th April in the afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing as many on this course as there have been on previous ones.

As usual there will be many prizes including trophies, medals to be won. The idea of the courses is to offer children the opportunity to play football in an enjoyable, friendly and safe environment.

**George Shipley** *NUFC Football in Community*

## Red House School calls on ex-pupils to celebrate

This independent day school in the pleasant village of Norton, celebrates its **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in September, and the occasion will be marked over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Sept. The parent Governors want to share the occasion with as many past and present pupils, staff and friends as possible so they have written to many past pupils, staff and friends, but they urge any friends who have not received any communication to contact them on 01642 553370, or write to 36 The Green, Norton, Stockton on Tees, TS20 1DX.

Events will include Open Day Exhibitions, BBQ with music and

entertainment, an Anniversary Ball and Church Service.

Red House School was founded in September 1929 after a group of parents realised the lack of a good fee-paying kindergarten and junior school for boys and girls in the area. Parents spent the summer of 1929 fund-raising to lease Ragworth Hall in Norton, the hall giving the school its original name. It first opened its doors as an independent co-educational school in September 1929 with 28 pupils and a governing body consisting entirely of parents, a unique tradition still maintained.

Mr Bertram Surtees-Raine, first headmaster of school, saw the school rapidly expand in numbers and go through many changes during his 35 years in the job. In the early 1930's the school moved from Ragworth Hall to the present main site and was re-named Red House in 1936, but the start of World War II saw most of the school evacuated to Barnard Castle and subsequently to Whorlton Hall, leaving only the kindergarten at Norton. At the end of the war, pupils returned to the present main site and facilities and numbers expanded steadily until the early 1980s, when the Vicarage was purchased as the home of the junior school, where it remains today. Since 1929, the school has had only five headmasters and continues to follow the guiding principles laid down by its founders.

## Sedgefield Library

The program for the Easter holiday has not been finalised as we go to press, but check with the Library on **Sedgefield 620103** for details.

Or you could call in and talk to our friendly staff, who will be only too pleased to help you with any information you may need.

## More Easter Activities

### Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

has places for the Easter School Holidays  
New faces welcome!  
We are open 8am-6pm & have lots of Easter activities planned  
**£14/day £8 any 5 hours**  
Please phone **623565** for details

### Ceilidh provides Family Fun!

Sedgefield Primary School PTFA are holding a family ceilidh in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 7 – 11pm.** Dancing to Compass Rose – a lively young band from the north-east.  
If you have never tried a ceilidh, this is your chance.  
The caller tells you what to do, which makes a change from the wife... and it should be a lively, friendly evening suitable for anyone over 7.  
Tickets are **£6.50** for adults, **£4.50** for children and **£20** for the whole family.  
A cold buffet is included in the price and we ask you to bring your own drink.  
(Glasses to be provided)  
All proceeds go to school funds.  
Contact Alison Etheridge on **622839** for tickets or further information.





## Developing science and learning in Sedgefield



Making a difference where you live

**NetPark is being developed by Durham County Council as an exciting new science and technology park project of regional, national and international significance, located on the former Winterton Hospital site.**

The development is an imaginative, forward-looking flagship project which will help create new industries and act as a magnet for investment in new technologies in County Durham. It will harness the world-class strengths of the Universities of Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside in a central location and will provide fast-track access to their world-class research and teaching facilities, led by Durham University.

It includes amongst its goals, the creation of new, exciting employment opportunities which will encourage the development of technical skills and expertise amongst local people.

This aim must involve the young, so strong links have already been established between one of the groups in the Research Institute and Sedgefield Community College.

### The winner takes it all!



*Bradley Saunders (centre), whose recent successes include not only 'winning' at the Ball Game, but also gaining the Best Boxer trophy at a recent tournament in Germany.*

### Life long Learning news

#### Computer Support Drop-in sessions

Since the beginning of February, Sedgefield Development Partnership has provided five hours of drop-in support in Ceddesfeld Hall on Tuesdays (1 to 3 pm) and in the Library on Thursdays (9.30 am to 12.30 pm). The sessions have proved very popular with people with a wide range of abilities; from those who have considerable experience with computers but need to develop new skills to those who have never used a computer, or even a type-writer, before. Some 25 people have sought support and quite a few have become regulars on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their friendly enthusiasm has made the task of providing support a most enjoyable one. I've written, and given out, seven different sets of notes to help with particular tasks; covering the topics of E-mail, the Internet, word processing and editing photographs from a digital camera. Also I have hand-written instructions for help with installing printers, adjusting screen resolution and choosing a computer - tasks which are specific to the needs of individuals.

In 40 hours of drop-in sessions, I have delivered about 70 person-hours of support and given, whenever possible, individual attention to those attending. If you have never used a computer before, if you would like to develop new skills or if you have technical problems - these sessions are for you. Come and join a friendly and supportive environment, have fun and make progress with a fascinating hobby.

**Tim Randall**

### Sedgefield Primary School pupils discover other ways of life

Years 3 & 4 recently had an exciting opportunity to consolidate and extend current class studies by visiting places of worship of the Jewish and Hindu faiths and a museum at Newcastle University.

While these visits were essentially part of the Religious Studies syllabus, many cross-curricular issues, such as History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama and Language were also covered and this work will be extended in class over the next term.

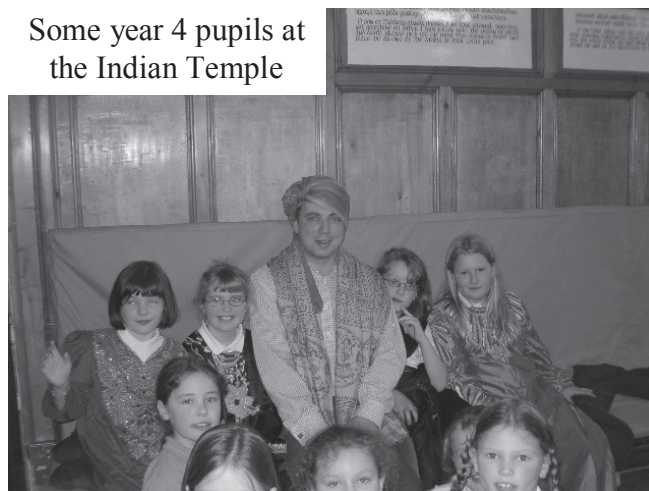
Year 3 spent a morning at the Synagogue in Sunderland where they learnt much about the Jewish religion and were able to see many articles and items used in worship.

After lunch they visited the Greek Museum at Newcastle University where they were allowed to handle ancient artefacts and complete worksheets of what they saw there.

Year 4 visited the ISKCON Hindu Temple where they took part in workshops looking at Indian

culture and beliefs, costume, face painting, music and dance. At lunchtime they sampled traditional Indian vegetarian food. Later this month, they will be taking part in another workshop in school when they will be learning a series of Indian dance movements and putting together a sequence of moves to tell a story.

Some year 4 pupils at the Indian Temple



# April DIARY

Announcements on this page are **free** to  
non-commercial organisations

## Sedgefield Community Hospital

**Thursday April 1st** at 1pm

**Easter Fayre**

All Welcome

All proceeds to go to the Hospital

## Sedgefield Cricket Club

### QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 3rd April** at 8pm

*All Welcome*

## Town Councillor Surgeries

will take place in the  
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on

**April 5th at 6.30pm**

with Cllrs. S. Green,  
S. Hannon & J Wayman

## Local History Society

**Monday April 5th**

at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Speaker is Mike Thompson

**"The Battle of Cullodon"**

*Further details on 620244*

*All welcome*

## Sedgefield Village People's Forum

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm

in the Parish Hall

*Do please come along and  
have your say!*

## Sedgefield Garden Society

**Tuesday April 6th**

at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

**Spring Flower Show**

together with talk on

**Daffodils and Tulips**

by Ray Beckwith

## Sedgefield W.I.

**Wednesday April 7th**

at 7pm in Parish Hall

Speaker is Mr Thomas Tipler

**"Seventh Sense-Hospital,  
Police & Forensic Science"**

Competition for members is a  
decorated egg - dyed or painted.

*New members always welcome*

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

The next market is on

**Sunday 11th April**

from 9:30am to 1:30pm

*Local traders always welcome*

Please contact Bob Harris on

07977 231815 for details

## Sedgefield Racecourse March Fixtures

**April 12th:** 1st race 2.15pm

**April 30th:** 1st race 5.55pm

## Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting is on

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April** at 7pm

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.

*Everyone welcome*

## Family History Group

**Monday April 19th**

at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

**"The Other Lady  
with the Lamp"**

by Mrs Eileen Catterick

*New members always welcome*

## Bingo - Advance Notice

New afternoon session starts on

**Friday May 21st**

at 1.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

**Tuesday April 20th**

at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Andrew Griswood, National

Demonstrator will give a

demonstration entitled

**"Flowers are Nature's Jewels"**

*Everyone welcome*

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

**Thursday April 22nd**

at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall

Jonathon Elmer, Sedgefield

Countryside Officer

will give an update on

**Castle Eden Walkway  
and other projects**

*Everyone welcome*

## Sedgefield Community College P.T.F.A.

**RACE NIGHT**

**St. George's Day Sweepstakes**

at Sedgefield Parish Hall on

**Friday 23rd April**

Starts at 7.30pm, first race 8pm.

Admission **£3** inc pie & peas

Licensed Bar. *Please come along  
& support the College*

## Countryside Group

**Monday 26th April**

see page 3 for details

*Controversy still rages about the A689 /Stockton Rd. junction  
Three more letters on the subject can be found on page 6*

## Shocked by Parish Hall news

I feel sure residents will recall an emergency meeting called by the Town Council in Feb 2002 to warn of possible closure of the Parish Hall, resulting from complaints about noise received by Sedgefield Borough Council, who have power to grant or withhold an entertainments licence for the Hall, without which no activities can take place. Strength of feeling about this was demonstrated by an impressive turnout; the Parish Hall was packed to overflowing. After this meeting, a group of volunteers was entrusted with investigating possible solutions, since the Town Council was not legally able to apply for the funding which would be needed, whether for a new building, modifications to the existing hall or a completely different option. As a member of that group, I can testify to the huge amount of work that has been done to ensure that any solution proposed would cater for the existing needs of all groups currently using the Hall and for any future development to take us into the new millennium with a Hall suited to the purpose and the times. The task has not been without its frustrations and you may be forgiven for thinking no progress has been made. However, various proposals have been considered, some rejected, and as I understood it, a point had

been reached where 2 options were under consideration. The Town Council took a back seat after the initial meeting, leaving the volunteers to their work, but have become increasingly involved in recent months and have now said they wish to become more pro-active in the situation.

So a meeting was held on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 to dissolve the Parish Hall Development Group (the volunteers) at which I was staggered to hear that the Town Council have decided not to spend any more money investigating the possibility of redeveloping or rebuilding the Parish Hall on its present site. They wish to proceed with the second option i.e. extending the building at Ceddesfeld Hall. There may be valid reasons for pursuing this option, but I feel very strongly that the people of Sedgefield should be told what the Council is proposing and given the opportunity to express an opinion. This is even more essential if, as seems the case, funding from bodies such as the National Lottery will not be available to the Council and they will be obliged to raise a large proportion of the sum needed by putting a levy on the Council Tax. Other funding may be raised by the sale of the Parish Hall. I'm sure both possibilities will cause concern and I believe we are entitled to express our opinions in a public meeting, as we did on that February night in 2002.

**Norma Neal.**

## Doctors' Surgery Vandalised

We would like to draw attention to the problem of vandalism to the surgery premises in Sedgefield. Hidden away from the village CCTV cameras, we have suffered many incidents, to the total repair cost of almost £6000 in the last 12 months. On Christmas Day, and again 5 weeks later, large waiting room windows were smashed. In addition, door and other glass panels have been regularly damaged. The door bell and letter box have been repeatedly targeted and cars damaged in the car park.

Litter has been a major problem and at weekends it is common to find the doorways and adjacent land strewn with takeaway papers, bottles, cans, cigarette ends and worse.

In the evenings, groups of youths regularly congregate outside and their presence is intimidating to staff working late in the building, and passers by. These young people may not be responsible for the vandalism, but someone clearly is.

The surgery exists to provide a base for healthcare for the people of the Sedgefield area. Valuable resources are being wasted tackling vandalism instead of health.

**Notably, our premises in Fishburn and the Trimdons have escaped such unwanted attention.**

Yours sincerely

**Dr Christine J Hearmon**

*Copy for the May issue by*

**April 15th** please, to  
**Sedgefield News,**

Advice & Information Centre,  
Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT  
or to [snews.sdp@sedgefield.net](mailto:snews.sdp@sedgefield.net)  
or telephone Simon on 629011  
NB. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

*Sedgefield News is grateful for the support of the  
Community Empowerment Fund & the County Durham Foundation.  
Sedgefield Development Partnership is a member of the  
Development Trusts Association.*

