

Sedgefield News

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By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
April 2005

Spring is sprung and all's well with these new arrivals!



Some lambs are born lucky and others need a bit more care & attention. Adam and Jodie Elders are happy to put in some time playing the doting parents to these little beauties at Swan Carr Farm in Bradbury.



Barbara says a fond farewell to lollipop duty

After nearly sixteen years patrolling the school crossing at Sedgefield Primary School, Barbara Nicholls (pictured right) retired from her duties on March 18th.

Barbara would like to say a special thank you to all the children, parents and grandparents who have made her job so enjoyable through all the years. Their friendliness and kindness will always be remembered and appreciated.

She would also like to pay tribute to Mr Irvine, the Headmaster, for his constant support, as well as to PC Todd, Helen, of the Community Police, and Tim, the Community Warden for their help in ensuring the safety of the children.

For his part, Mr Irving said, "Barbara has been a loyal servant to our school. The safety of our pupils has always been her priority, not only on the crossing at Rectory

Row, but also when vehicles have had to access the school grounds. She has been a welcome face every day to so many children. We shall all miss her".



Zone opening hours gradually increasing

As volunteers become available and more courses come on stream, the Zone at 58 Front Street will be open more often, lessening the frustration of people who need to contact the Partnership, Sedgefield News or Sedgefield Learning Borough. There is now a regular open session with Tim Randall from **10am until 12.30.on Monday mornings**. Tim will deal with general enquiries but he is, as many of you know, a bit of a computer whizz as well as being webmaster at SedgefieldWeb. So if you have an IT query, pop in and set Tim a challenge!

Zoe & Maggie continue their open sessions on Thursday mornings, and it is hoped that there will be more IT courses starting soon. Thanks for your patience to all who are waiting for a place on a course.

SDP is looking out for two more volunteers.

Firstly we would be very grateful for the gift of one hour's **cleaning** each week - most important for the proper functioning of the learning area. Secondly, we are looking for a volunteer with **office experience**, willing to spend a little of their spare time helping with administration and enquiries at 58 Front Street. If you could help with either, please call in or leave a message at 629011.

The Alcoa Foundation Grant awarded by industry body

Sedgefield Development Partnership were pleased to receive confirmation that they have been awarded a 250 dollar grant from the Alcoa Foundation.

This results from the involvement of Mike Ashwell, who recently joined SDP as a volunteer director. Mike is the Finance Manager of Reynolds Food Packaging, based in Sedgefield and part of the worldwide Alcoa group.

The Alcoa Foundation supports charitable organisations and projects in local communities, with particular emphasis on conservation, sustainability, health, and education.

Full of New Year enthusiasm, I was delighted when the "Zone" opened its doors at the end of January and offered the opportunity to get to know a bit more about using the Internet.

Eleven of us turned up on the first day of the Wednesday

Dulcie and Judith getting to grips with the internet



morning course run by Rob Kirton from Bishop Auckland College. We were all at different levels of competence (or incompetence!) but Rob managed, that first day, to fire our enthusiasm and keep us coming back. At first, I wondered how ever there could be enough for us to learn about the Internet to keep us occupied for 15 weeks – I thought I knew all about searching the web - how wrong I was! Now, eight weeks later, I feel I've hardly started. Rob is a mine of information and always knows how to rescue us when we press the wrong button. He also has a seemingly inexhaustible fund of funny stories! We all now have an e-mail address so he can send us work (as long as we remember to check our e-mails) and we can all work at our own level. Our two hours go very quickly!

Judith Edgoose

COMING SOON TO SEDGEFIELD

Interpersonal Skills Level 1 (Introduction to Counselling)

The Course aims to develop and improve your practical communication skills - and to explore counselling theories, confidentiality and referral mechanisms

Duration - 12 weeks Cost £70 (the course may be free to those claiming a means-tested benefit)

No Entry Requirements - just come along and have a go

For more information and to book a place, contact Maggie, Katie or Zoe on **01740 657 493**

ARE YOU FEELING RUSTY?

Are you returning to work and want a qualification in **English and/or Maths** to plug a gap in your CV?

Do you want to brush up your English and Maths skills and achieve a Level 2 qualification? If so, this course could be just for you!!

Bishop Auckland College are hoping to run a FREE course in Sedgefield after Easter, which can lead on to GCSE in English and/or Maths.

Sedgefield Learning Borough

Free Advertising - BOGOFF!

Buy One Get One For Free: Buy advertising space in Sedgefield News and get free publicity on SedgefieldWeb

All advertisers in Sedgefield News are automatically listed in the Business Directory of SedgefieldWeb at www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/ and now also in Sedgefield News Online

Yes, you can read Sedgefield News on a computer, anywhere in the world. Go to www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/snews_archive.html - or follow the link from the home page. Keep in touch whilst you are away from home.

Let your friends and relatives know, so that they can see more about the great place you live in. *Tim Randall*

Well intentioned but inherently lazy 'would-be-ex-couch potato' seeks enthusiastic, motivated training partner for the Great North Run!

My name is Elaine, I am a 33 years old training manager, have lived in Sedgefield for about 3 years and have made the somewhat unexpected decision to attempt the Great North Run on 18th September this year in aid of Cancer Research UK. Although not completely new to running, my sole previous experience was completing the Race for Life in Darlington in aid of Cancer Research last summer. I managed the not too shabby time of 31 minutes for 3 miles and raised £750. I hope this year to at least double my sponsorship effort and prove to myself, and a not inconsiderable number of sceptics out there, that I am up to the challenge!



I believe that Cancer Research UK is a very important charity. There are approximately 200 different kinds of cancer and current statistics say that 1 in 3 people will suffer from some form of cancer in their lifetime and that 1 in 4 will die from it. Think about it. That means that in every household in Sedgefield one person may die. Cancer Research UK is one major charity working to ensure that these odds improve every day.

So if you have a guaranteed place in this year's in event and would like someone to train with, please get in touch via the Sedgefield Development Partnership offices. And if any of you see me out training please give me some encouragement. I'm going to need all the support I can get!

Retired farmer takes vacant Town Council seat

On March 10th, Sedgefield residents *elected* a Town Councillor for the first time in 10 years, the elections of 1999 & 2003 being unopposed. David Brown, Conservative, took 495 votes, while Gail Platts, Labour, took 268. The turnout was remarkably low even by Local Government election standards. Perhaps it was the lack of polling cards, a cost cutting measure, that the poll did not quite reach the consciousness of the public. If you had registered for a postal vote, you received a 'prompt' in the form of a ballot paper.



Brother and sister swim the distance for charity

Inspired by an adopted Romanian orphan who has overcome the immense difficulties in his life and now spends much of his time helping others, Tim and Ciaran Jasper decided they must help him in some small way.

Both members of Billingham Amateur Swimming Club, Tim and Ciaran, aged 11 and 9, were each to attempt a 5,000 metre distance award - equivalent to 150 full lengths of the pool, swum non-stop and they estimated a time of between 2 and a half and 3 hours! After spending a couple of weeks looking for sponsors, Tim completed his swim in 2 hours 25 mins and incredibly Ciaran was just 5 minutes (and 4 lengths) behind him, amazing as she's almost 2 years younger. They have a total pledged of £1,172 for the Cornel Romanian Rehabilitation Charity Trust, largely from the staff of Carmel RC Technology College in Darlington, parishioners of St. John Fisher Church, The Lyric Singers and many kind-hearted Sedgefield people.



Fundraisers send thanks

Sedgefield WI would like to thank everyone who supported their recent coffee morning/bring and buy sale, which was held in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance. They raised the magnificent sum of £100.

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir has sent £250 to Fisherfolk Aid, part of the International Technology Development Fund, to help victims of the Tsunami. To all who turned out to hear their programme of water-themed songs, a big thank-you for your generosity. Jen Wilson of Fisherfolk Aid says "Since headlines declared a surplus of money donated, people have begun to question whether what we are doing is still necessary. The answer is most definitely yes. D.E.C. does exactly what it says it will do, that is, it provides emergency relief following a disaster. They have provided water, food, clothing, temporary housing etc. to all of the affected countries and for that they received massive amounts of money. But it is not their job to rebuild communities and livelihoods on a long term basis. ITDG, as a development agency, did not benefit immediately from the money sent to D.E.C and they are certain that the rebuilding of the Sri Lankan fishing industry is going to take a very long time yet. All offers of help are still hugely appreciated."

Community Safety

Introducing Police Community Support Officer Helen Holme



Helen Holme has recently been appointed as the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Sedgefield. Her patch will cover not only Sedgefield Village but also Fishburn and the Trimdons. Her duties include traffic duties, parking and abandoned vehicles and anti social behaviour which will include the confiscation and disposal of alcohol. For this she will be accompanied in the evening by PC Todd or another PC in Fishburn and the Trimdons. She works for 5 days over a 7 day period, including weekends, and is based in the Sedgefield Police Office. She can be contacted there, either in person or via

the Bishop Auckland Control Room on 0845 606 0365. She will be seen regularly in and around the Village making high visibility patrols.

Helen comes from Darlington and has been in Durham Constabulary for 38 years, 35 years of these as a Traffic Warden in Darlington. She then moved to the Sedgefield Division for 18 months before changing over to become a PCSO, there no longer being any Traffic Wardens in the Durham Constabulary.

Her main hobby is walking which, she says, can sometimes seem like a busman's holiday! In 2002, Jubilee year, she was invited to meet the Queen at a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Crime prevention tip

If your neighbour is frail, clearing their path from front door to pavement in snowy weather, suggests that there is an able bodied person at that house.

From **Living Streets** - an excellent source of advice. See more on their web page, www.livingstreets.org.uk

PC Todd reports

The recent spell of bad weather resulted in an increase of calls to the police regarding youths throwing snowballs. These included throwing snowballs at moving vehicles, pedestrians, and windows. To the youths involved I would say that not everyone welcomes the snow or becoming a target for inconsiderate people wanting some fun. On consecutive weekends damage has been caused to Sedgefield Primary School, with six windows being smashed in one incident alone, and youths have been seen running on the roof on another occasion. Parents, please inform your children about the dangers before they get arrested and I come knocking on your door.

Thank you to all you residents who sponsored my fire walk recently. I am still in the process of collecting the cash, but I have submitted a photo to prove I took part. Bye for now. *Keith*

Pub Watch

Two females have been banned from the pubs for 3 years each after a disgraceful scene in a member premises where the licensee was assaulted. This violent conduct will not be tolerated in the village and we look to all persons enjoying their social nights out to keep it this way.

I will remind everyone that the police have visited some pubs recently and removed persons who are not 18 years of age. If you are not 18 years old don't let me embarrass you by removing you too!

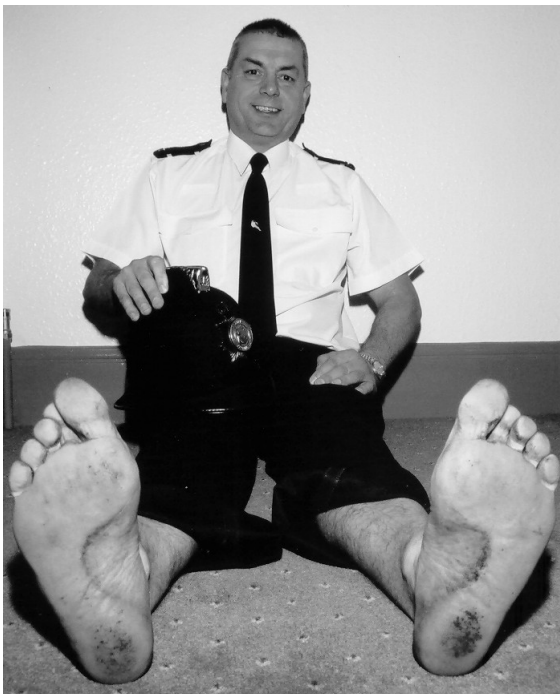
Congratulations to PC Todd, who braved the fire on behalf of Butterwick Hospice and the War Memorial Fund

Tim's top tip for April
Sedgefield Community Warden, Tim Spearey has already collected three £50 fines from people who have allowed their dogs to foul the streets. If you don't want to be the next in line, remember to take a bag with you and clean up after your pooch!

Crime figures for Sedgefield Village 8.02.04 – 13.03.05

3 thefts were reported, one involving tools taken from a garage, and also gates and hubcaps were stolen.

There were also **8 incidents of damage**, one involving a motor vehicle, and windows and tiles were broken at Rectory Row School. There was also damage to a bird bath in a garden and to a post box, with letters being scattered on the ground.



New face at Sedgefield Primary Care Trust



David Rutherford is the new Non-Executive Director to the Board of Sedgefield PCT. He started his career as a Development Engineer at GEC Telecommunications in Newton Aycliffe before going on to become a Regional Director. After 14 years at Thorn Lighting in Spennymoor, he left his most recent post at Tridonic Limited, last April. He has declared no political activity or other ministerial appointments. Long experience of working with people in business will be put to good use in the new post. "Lifestyles and health issues are continuously changing" David said, "and the PCT holds a huge responsibility to ensure that local health services meet Government requirements and the health of our community improves". Non-Executive Directors are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission to be accountable to Ministers and the local community and to bring independent judgement on strategy and performance. David Rutherford was appointed for four years and will receive £5,673 a year. He will be expected to devote two and a half days per month to board responsibilities.

50+ 'Your Health Roadshow'
Trimdon Village Hall,
Friday 22nd April, 10 am - 1 pm
Get yourself checked out and
enjoy free complementary
therapies. For more information
or to book your place please ring
Gill Macnab
on 01325 321234.

A COOK'S CORNER Charity Special from Delia

Shepherd's Pie with Cheese-Crusted Leeks - Serves 4

Copyright Delia Smith 1999 - Recipe reproduced by permission from Delia's How to Cook Book Two, (Published by BBC Worldwide Ltd)

This recipe can be made with fresh minced lamb (shepherd's pie), fresh minced beef (cottage pie) or minced leftover beef or lamb from a cooked joint (in which case, cut the initial cooking time to 15 minutes). In the following recipe we're using fresh minced lamb, and what puts this dish in the five-star category is the delicious crust of cheese and leeks.

1 lb (450 g) minced British lamb; 1 tablespoon olive oil
2 medium onions, 3 oz (75 g) carrot & 3 oz (75 g) swede,
peeled and chopped very small

1/2 level teaspoon ground cinnamon; 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley; 1 level tablespoon plain flour
10 fl oz (275 ml) fresh lamb stock; 1 level tablespoon tomato purée
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

For the topping: 2 oz (50 g) mature Cheddar, coarsely grated
2 medium leeks, cleaned and cut into 1/2 inch (1 cm) slices

2 lb (900 g) Désirée or King Edward potatoes; 2 oz (50 g) butter
salt and freshly milled black pepper

You also need a large lidded frying pan or saucepan, and a 7 1/2 inch (19 cm) square baking dish, 2 inches (5 cm) deep, well buttered. Begin by taking the frying pan or saucepan and, over a medium flame, gently heat the olive oil. Now fry the onions in the hot oil until they are tinged brown at the edges – about 5 minutes. Add the chopped carrot and swede and cook for 5 minutes or so, then remove the vegetables and put them to one side. Now turn the heat up and brown the meat in batches, tossing it around to get it all nicely browned. You may find a wooden fork helpful here, as it helps to break up the mince. After that, give the meat a good seasoning of salt and pepper, then add the cooked vegetables, cinnamon, thyme and parsley. Next, stir in the flour, which will soak up the juice, then gradually add the stock to the meat mixture until it is all incorporated. Finally, stir in the tomato purée. Now turn the heat right down, put the lid on the pan and let it cook gently for about 30 minutes. While the meat is cooking you can make the topping. Peel the potatoes, cut them into even-sized pieces and place in a steamer fitted over a large pan of boiling water, sprinkle with some salt, put a lid on and steam until they're completely tender – about 25 minutes. While this is happening, pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400°F (200°C).

When the potatoes are done, drain off the water, return them to the saucepan, cover with a clean tea cloth to absorb the steam and leave them for about 5 minutes. Next, add the butter and mash them to a purée – the best way to do this is with an electric hand whisk. Don't be tempted to add any milk here, because the mashed potato on top of the pie needs to be firm. Taste and add more salt and pepper if necessary. When the meat is ready, spoon it into the baking dish and level it out with the back of the spoon. After that, spread the mashed potato evenly all over. Now sprinkle the leeks on top of the potato, scatter the cheese over the leeks and bake the whole thing on a high shelf of the oven for about 25 minutes, or until the top is crusty and golden.

In Memoriam

The death has been announced of Pat Caple (nee Thompson), on Saturday 6th March at her home in Aylesbury, Bucks, after a short illness, bravely born.

Pat, aged 68, was the daughter of Gordon & Evelyn Thompson. All three were Directors of Wilkinson's Motor services of Sedgefield and at one time lived in The Leylands, North End, Sedgefield.

Pat leaves husband Alan and three children, Jacqueline, David and Simon, as well as 6 grand children also her 2 brothers Geoffrey and Alan & their families. May she rest in peace. *David Hillerby*

Sports Update with Chris Lines

It's been a quiet month for sport in Sedgefield, or at least if much has been happening, then I've not been told about it.

The wintry spell put paid to most of the recent scheduled Sunday league football games, so I have no updates from the various teams the newsletter has been following. Meanwhile, I'm still waiting to find out whether the ten pin bowlers we've been watching were successful in their bid for a league title.

As for the greyhound expert who offered some handy tips recently, we're giving that individual a break for a month. Yes, that's right, those feeble excuses are trying to hide the fact that I need to get my mind back on the game!

I do have some news of a recent event that may not, on the surface, appear to be sport in the strictest sense. However, it certainly deserves its place in these reports, alongside the other activities on which I report. On Tuesday 8th March, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre hosted the first ever Sedgefield Schools Dance Festival. Some time ago, the 30 schools in the Sedgefield School Sport Co-ordinator (SSSCo) partnership identified dance as an area where they would welcome some more support in delivering dance through the school curriculum and in encouraging more children to take part in a wide range of dance activities out of school. Working closely with Greenfield Community

Arts College and Sedgefield Leisure Services, SSSCo (under the guidance of SSSCo Partnership Development Manager Diane Snowhill) has developed a substantial programme of dance training activities for children and this built up to the recent festival, which was a great success.

The concept of the festival received a tremendous response from local schools and the event was blessed with a fantastic diversity in forms of dance, performed by talented students of varying ages. More than 30 different groups of dancers from around the district entertained an enthusiastic audience and Sedgefield Community College, Hardwick School and Sedgefield Primary were all very well represented.

Alongside football, athletics and other 'classic' sports activities, walking and dancing have been recognised by bodies like Sport England as playing an equally important role in a healthy lifestyle. So the Sedgefield Schools Dance Festival is just the kind of event that should be applauded and encouraged. The fact that it was so enthusiastically supported in its first year is very encouraging and here's hoping that it will be back even bigger and better next year. Thanks to sports newshound Bill Hopps for tipping off the newsletter about this.

That's it for this month. If you have any sports news or would like me to investigate activities that I have not yet covered in the newsletter, drop me a line at chrisjlines@aol.com.

Close harmony treat

Hartlepool Barbers Shop Choir visited and delighted Sedgefield music lovers with their particular style of singing a couple of years ago.

Now they are paying a return visit, to St Edmund's Parish Church on **April 16th at 7.30pm.**

Hosted by the Friends of St Edmund's, tickets are £6, and are available from the Post Office, members of the Friends Committee or Brian Mutch, on 622302.

101 Gigs in April

1st - Sunderland M.A.G Rally,
Butterknowle
3rd - The Clarendon, Redcar
9th - The Penny Black, Stockton
14th - The Gold Medal, Low Fell
16th - The Ox Inn, Stanley
17th - The Normanby, Normanby
22nd - Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough
23rd - The Bird In Hand, Trimdon
24th - The Normanby
29th - The Lord Nelson, Stockton
30th - The Grand Hotel,
Bishop Auckland

Junior Cricket Coaching

Coaching will commence on Saturday April 2nd at 10am at the Cricket Club and continue each Saturday morning throughout the 2005 Season.

Coaching is for the following age groups Under 11's, Under 13's and Under 15's. As well as welcoming back all last season's junior members we look forward to any new juniors wishing to take up cricket coming down and joining in. Any junior or parent requiring further information please contact Nigel Bill on 620927.

Did you know?...

Children who are driven to school, clubs and outings are less active when they get there than children who walk. Research from the Centre for Transport Studies shows that children who walk are more active in general. The research tracked 200 children, using electronic monitors and diaries to see how active they were throughout each day, and shows that walking is the link between lifestyle and physical fitness. Not only is it good activity in itself - it is the key to greater activity throughout the day. The research showed that walking to school can provide as much exercise as PE or games.

The trend away from unstructured play in the street and between friend's houses, to organised classes and clubs, has led to less walking and general activity. Even sports clubs don't give children as much physical activity as old-fashioned play. *from Living Streets, March 2005*

Bradbury & Mordon enjoy the Bard

The Durham Shakespeare Group recently presented an excellent and amusing evening in Mordon Village Hall, entitled "A Miscellany of Shakespeare". Excerpts from The Comedy of Errors, The Tempest, Twelfth Night and The Taming of the Shrew were interspersed with songs, sonnets and a 'soupcon' of audience participation. A real treat!

Duke of Edinburgh Award - possible new group

A colleague and I are considering setting up a Duke of Edinburgh Award Group in the village. This is not to duplicate the existing Award at the Community College or those who already participate in the Fishburn group. Rather it would be for those who are unable to attend the school group or for whom the evenings on which the current Awards operate are inconvenient. At this point in time I only want to know who might be interested so we can get an idea of numbers and levels. My colleague has Mountain Leader (Summer & Winter) qualifications and I have the BELA but it would also depend on receiving support from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator at Durham County Council. It does make sense to see how many young people might be interested in an Award running in the village. So if you are aged 14 to 25 and are interested in participating in a Duke of Edinburgh Award please e mail me at **suegreen@fsmail.net** to register an interest. Don't forget to leave your **name, contact e mail or postal address, your age and whether you are interested in Bronze, Silver or Gold Level**. Contact can also be made via the Council Office at the Advice & Information Centre.

Please remember this is only to test the water and much discussion would need to take place if we were to proceed.

.....letter continued from Back Page

bar area (in the presence of gas cylinders less than three feet away!)

I had approached the Town Clerk for guidance, and was sent a written indication that the Parish Hall was a total NO smoking zone. Armed with this I challenged the group who were smoking behind and at the bar, related the Council policy, and asked them to put out their cigarettes. (This was at midnight on Friday, when I had no chance of getting any support). They refused, and their Hon. Secretary stated that as she had had no instructions on the matter, she was going to ignore it, and allow the smokers to carry on. I protested and showed her my authorisation for my actions; I was told that she did not intend to continue a debate on trivialities, and walked off.

I took exception to the manner in which I was being treated and approached the Leader of the group to protest the next day, but his attitude was rather contemptuous, and he was not prepared to do anything about the problem – this despite having been told the night before of the NO smoking policy. I personally have little time for people who care little for the health and safety of others and seem oblivious to the dangers they presented, and who appear to think themselves above the rules and regulations that govern “ordinary” people. Dead Guilty would seem an appropriate ending to this letter.

Brian Hunter

P.S. The hidden notice was produced by the Hon. Sec. at my demand on Sunday morning. This, the person who had denied any knowledge of it being taken down on the Friday night. The Town Clerk was informed at every step by letter.

Roman Sedgefield: Time Team Excavations in the East Park

The East Park first excited interest in 1996 when some aerial photographs excited the curiosity of the County Archaeologist. Crop marks showed up an intriguing series of lines in the grass covering the Park. Later, a metal detectorist discovered a number of artefacts and the Sedgefield Local History Society found much more in a field walking exercise in 1991. The Time Team were looking for somewhere in the north east for one of their programmes and DCC Archaeology Section put forward the East Park as a possible site. In the event it was chosen and in April 2002 things got underway.

Quite a lot of preparatory work was carried out with the local involvement of the Local History Society, the Friends of Hardwick and DCC Voluntary Rangers. This included a landscape analysis and a geological survey together with scrutiny of documentary evidence. Aerial photography from World War 2 showed evidence of ploughing and crop marks, in field 1 there were ridge and furrow earthworks, field 2 had ridge and furrow in the same direction indicating it had not been ploughed since the creation of the East Park in the mid-18th century. Field 3 had also been ploughed but also contained broad earthwork banks crossing the field in an east-west direction. Also visible was a herringbone pattern of deep drains.

The landscape analysis revealed an earthwork bank some 6 metres wide which was up to 1 meter in height, composed of earth and large gravel. It was suggested that this may be the line of Cades Road which ran from York to Chester-le-Street. However, evidence suggests it was more likely to be a substantial boundary feature such as a manorial boundary or park pale. The geophysical survey corroborated this with evidence of a major ditched roadway lying parallel to and to the east of the banked feature. The southern end of the bank appeared to align with the western boundary of the Roman enclosures. If the line of the roadway from the geophysical survey is extended south, it would pass through Sedge-

field Racecourse.

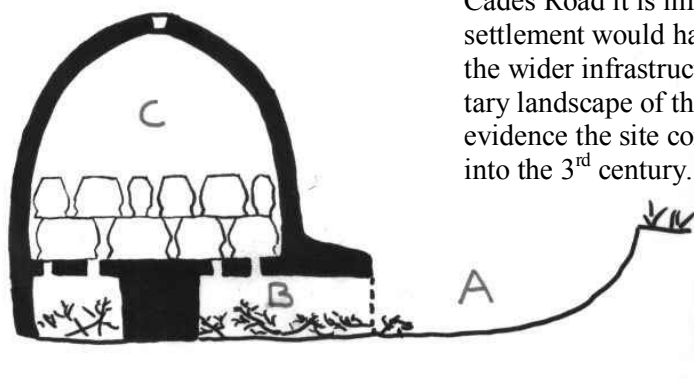
The geophysical survey was carried out with a fluxgate gradiometer survey technique over an area of 6 hectares. The gradiometer was carried by hand and had two sensors about 50 cm apart. It measured the difference in the magnetic field between the two sensors at each survey station. It worked at no more than 1 metre deep, the ground conditions were considered excellent, short pasture and rolled, ploughed soil. The first area was dominated by strong magnetic anomalies, mostly archaeological but there was also a modern pipeline on an E-W alignment. The roadway extends N-S across the full site and there were 3 possible side roads and two alleys. Ditch type anomalies suggested enclosures containing pits, ditches and a possible Kiln, the only clearly visible response indicative of industrial activity. The pattern strongly suggested a linear settlement very like a typical Romano-British ladder settlement. The second area again showed the pipeline and the N side of a possible road/alley which suggested that the settlement extended across the unsurveyed area.

8 trenches were excavated across the site by JCB and the spoil was metal detected by local detectorists. The trenches were located to test the geophysical anomalies as well as to understand the landscape development. The areas targeted were intended to make good TV viewing rather than good archaeology! The first trench produced few finds; just a small amount of pottery, mainly Nene Valley Colour Coated ware. Trenches 2 and 3 were largely un-

productive but post holes, a ditch, a possible stone surface and a pottery kiln were found in trench 4. This was a large sub-circular feature about 1.7metres wide which, when sectioned revealed a sunken, double chambered kiln, typical of small scale Roman kilns. It had a domed roof firing chamber about 1.2 metres wide within a clay lined superstructure. Large pottery fragments found in situ from the last firing date to the latter half of the 2nd century. Trench 5 explored the probable Roman road and a circular pit like structure picked up by the geophysical survey. No evidence of road surface was found, it was surmised that it had been removed to use elsewhere. The circular feature was excavated to 2 metres and animal bones and 3 quern stone fragments were found. It was interpreted as a sand quarry pit backfilled with Roman finds. Trench 6 produced 1st century Samian ware, a coin dated AD81-96 and Roman glass. In trench 6 was a roadside ditch, the ephemeral remains of a probable structure and a large pit. Trench 7 had the possible remains of a wooden structure.

The dig produced pottery, 4 coins (1st-2nd century), copper alloy objects, button & loop fastener, a belt attachment, 2 cylindrical jet beads, some sheet metal and 475 sherds of Roman pottery. These objects have been deposited in Bowes Museum.

The conclusions were as follows: Roman land use was dominated by late 2nd century dating evidence, direct evidence of pottery production, NO evidence of domestic settlement (but not the full site was investigated). Given that the location was along the route of the proposed Cades Road it is inferred that the settlement would have been part of the wider infrastructure of the military landscape of the NE. There is evidence the site continued in use into the 3rd century.



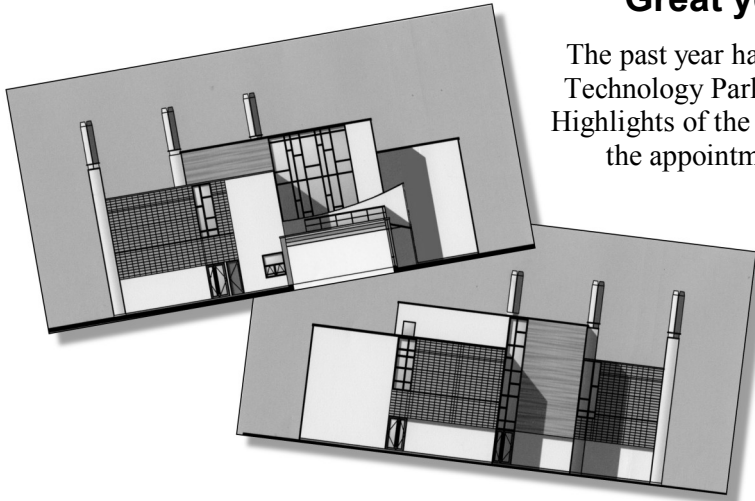
A: Flue

B: Heat source

C: Kiln chamber

Great year for NetPark - and Sedgefield

The past year has been a momentous one for NetPark, the North East Technology Park being developed on the old Winterton Hospital site. Highlights of the year were the completion of its first two buildings and the appointment of a private-sector developer to help drive the development forward.



Architects' impressions of the NetPark Incubator Phase II, now in the formal planning stage

Friends put Rubbish to Good Use!



Four members of the Friends of Hardwick received an award of £1000 from Gary Whitehead, director of recycling at Premier Waste Management. Vice-chairman Tom Stubbs, vice-president Ken Manton, chairman Jack Glendinning and treasurer John Hannon are pictured here after the presentation. The money came as a result of a pledge by Premier Waste to donate £1 to charity for every tonne of paper, cans and glass bottles it collects.

The Friends are commissioning sculptor Keith Maddison to make a new Statue of Neptune to stand in the Serpentine in Hardwick Park and this is a welcome addition to the fund.

Local History Society to feature Time Team Dig

Advance notice for the May meeting of the Local History Society (Monday 9th May) might interest Hardwick Park enthusiasts. Lee White, County Archeologist, will be talking about "Romans in Co. Durham; putting Sedgefield into context". She will bring artefacts found at the Time Team dig in Hardwick Park. *See opposite for an advance glimpse of the report.*

The NetPark Research Institute was completed in July and handed over by the Prime Minister to the University of Durham at a special event which also saw the launch of the County Durham Strategic Vision. Funded by Durham County Council and the regional development agency One NorthEast, the Research Institute contributes a significant proportion of the nearly 100 jobs which have already been created on NetPark. The NetPark Research Institute is home to two cutting-edge technology groups from the University: the IADET group develops digital techniques and systems for use by businesses to help make them more competitive, and the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation develops 'adaptive optics' which help enhance images for large, ground-based space telescopes.

The second building, the NetPark Incubator was completed in November. Designed to offer flexible office or laboratory space to fledgling technology companies, it can give them all the management support and guidance to help them succeed. The Incubator now has five tenants using it as a springboard for growth. Durham Scientific Crystals took up occupation in December, and Farfield Photonics followed shortly afterwards, as did i2B, a specialist computer software developer. Two of the Region's 'Centres of Excellence' recently established offices in the building; CENAMPS (Centre of Excellence for NanoTechnology, Micro and Photonic Systems) and CELS (Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences) both moved in to their respective offices in February, to provide further support for technology development here in Sedgefield.

With several firm enquiries reaching the final stages of negotiation and more enquiries being received every week via www.netparkincubator.co.uk all the indications are that this year is set to be even more exciting for NetPark.

With an eye on future demand an application for detailed planning permission for the third building, Incubator Phase II, has been submitted. This will provide an extra 25,000 square feet of laboratory, office and meeting room space, and it is hoped that building work will get under way in early summer. Other exciting developments are in the pipeline for world-beating research projects to be based at NetPark. It's safe to say that before very long Sedgefield could be at the heart of some of the UK's most advanced technological developments.

April DIARY

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

Wynyard Planetarium

April 1st and 29th at 7:30

What's up (in the Sky this month)

April 15th 7:30

Is there life out there?

Adults £3/Concessions £1.50

Unlimited Family ticket £6

Best to book seats - ring John

McCue on 01740 630544

Local History Society

Monday 4th April

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

George Flynn

**"England's Parish Churches -
the story behind the furniture
and fittings"**

Further details on 620244

Everyone welcome

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 4th April

6.30 - 7 pm; Council Offices

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 5th April

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Perennial Plants

with Westwinds Perennials

and **Tuesday 5th May**

Tour of Houghall Gardens

with Ian Lacey - *Arrangements to
be announced at April meeting*

Tiny Steps at St Edmund's

Wednesday 6th April at 1.30pm

Singing & Stories for
pre-school children & carers.

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 6th April

at 7:15pm in Parish Hall

Adam Prest - **Flower Arranging
Competition for Members**

A Homemade Hot Cross Bun

Visitors welcome - £1.50

St Edmund's Church

Baptisms and Weddings can be
booked in Church on Thursday
Evenings from 6.30 - 7.30pm

Plan ahead... and organise your
events without those unfortunate
clashes! From May we will have a
forward planner in the Diary, so
send dates and very brief details as
soon as you have them.

Film Night

in Sedgefield Parish Hall,

Friday 8th April

In Mordon Village Hall

Saturday 9th April

Film choice to be confirmed later

Sedgefield Primary School

PTFA

are holding a **Spring Fayre**

on Saturday 9th April

between 1pm and 3pm

in the School on Rectory Row

Sedgefield Cricket Club

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th April at 8pm

presented by Peter Dixon

*The club now operates a no
smoking policy in bar/lounge*

**The Cricket Club is available
for private hire**

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Behind Hope Inn

Sunday 10th April

9.30am - 1.30pm

Please contact Bob Harris on
07977 231815 for details

Sedgefield Village

Neighbourhood Watch

Tuesday, 12th April at 7pm

in the **Board Room**, Parish Hall

Everyone Welcome

Country Market Fridays in Parish Hall 9.30-11am

Excellent value home baking, eggs, garden produce & crafts.

Tea & Coffee served

Sedgefield Cricket Club

LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

On **Saturday 16th April** at 8pm

Main Guest -

MAMBO JAMBO

Also featuring the

John Wrightson Band

and other guests

Admission **£7** - includes buffet

Tel: 621347

Family History Group

Monday 18th April

at 7:45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

"Jacobite Women"

Michael Thompson

New members always welcome!

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 19th April

7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall

"Whispers" - with Lois Gill -

National & NW area D'strator

Everyone Welcome

Sedgefield Primary School

PTFA are hosting an

Aloe Vera Awareness Evening

on Wednesday 20th April

at 7.30pm in the School Hall

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 21st April

at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall

From South Africa to

Sedgefield - an update from

SBC Countryside Officers

Contact 620811 for details

All Welcome

Sedgefield Racecourse Fixtures:

Tuesday 5th April

Monday 2nd May (Bank Holiday)

Wednesday 18th May (Evening)

Tuesday 24th May (Evening)

First race

2.00 pm

2.20 pm

6.15 pm

6.10 pm

Last race

4.30 pm

5.00 pm

8.45 pm

8.40 pm

Jubilee Gardens

I must take the author of the letter 'fair play for youngsters' to task. The problem with Jubilee Gardens which led to the involvement of PC Todd, was vandalism and criminal damage, definitely not children 'playing'. I live very close to Jubilee Gardens and recently felt infuriated watching a small group of girls and boys literally ripping large branches off the trees, trampling down the shrubs, digging trenches in the grassed area with a large spade, then riding round the grass on bikes. Eventually I went out to calmly ask them what they were doing, and was told "We're making a motor cross track". I explained this was a garden, not waste ground, but was given nothing but abuse in response.

The phone box glass has been smashed more times than I can remember (I'm amazed that BT haven't just removed it by now). The litter bin has now been ripped off its stand and disappeared and residents have had stones thrown at their windows. All this including months listening to one group who met there every evening, screaming at the top of their voices night after night, with the foulest language you have ever heard! I just can't accept that any of the above fits with the term 'playing'!

I was part of the original Sedgefield in Bloom group who worked hard alongside SBC staff to renovate this garden 8 or 9 years ago after bidding for funds and pestering SBC for several years to spend some money on the previously neglected garden for the benefit of local residents – of all ages. It upsets me greatly to see it spoilt again by a handful of people who simply don't care.

I have two children (now grown) who went through the stage where they didn't want to play in our own garden anymore. I understand that we need adequate provision for children. However, any lack or unsuitability of that provision to individual needs, doesn't excuse the resort to vandalism. We plan to tidy and plant up the garden again soon (anyone wishing to help would be very welcome) and hope that it will be respected and enjoyed by everyone this summer. *A resident of The Lane*

Praise for hospital

I would like to express my appreciation for the high standards of care my late husband John received whenever he was a patient in Sedgefield Community hospital. It was always reassuring to know he was being well cared for by the hardworking and dedicated staff who looked after him there. The hospital is certainly an asset to the people of Sedgefield.

Unfortunately, I cannot similarly praise the standard of health care provided within the home. Based on our experience, significant improvements need to be made if individual health care needs are to be adequately met when patients live at home, and the aims of the Community Care Act are to be achieved within the Sedgefield area.

Mrs. M. Macnaughton

Disrespect for no smoking rule in Parish Hall

Having recently taken up the post of Security Officer for the Parish Hall, I took to reading the information relating to the post carefully, especially that relating to Health and Safety. Things went fairly smoothly in the first week, until in week two I encountered a group of people who appeared to be a law unto themselves, giving scant regard for the rules for the hire of the hall – especially the "No Smoking" edict. In the two weeks they were there, and despite the notices displayed (they even took one of them down and hid it!) they carried on smoking in most parts of the hall, especially in the main hall and the

This letter is continued on page 7

**Copy for the May issue by April 15th please, to
58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ -
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or 629011**

*Views expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher. We strive to be impartial & independent.
Sedgefield News can not publish letters of unknown authorship.*

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Dialling Dyslexia?

We have had a report that some of you regularly dial our office number in the wrong order, which has become just a bit of a pain in the neck for the unfortunate recipient! Also our trusty printer (number at foot of page) often receives calls intended for us here at 629011
PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU DIAL