

Sedgefield News

Logo in black

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

April 2007

Refreshed and back in action
www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk
is working for *you*

As you may have noted, we have not been able to update the website for some time due to funding issues, but we are delighted to have obtained support from the Community Engagement Fund administered by Sedgefield Borough Council to enable us not only to update the site but also to produce a new "look and feel" that should prove attractive and useful to residents, advertisers and general visitors. The new look site will be available from April and will be progressively developed to contain more...

Information for visitors, including local maps
Advertising opportunities for local businesses
Information and input from young people
Opportunities for community involvement with the site ...

...whilst maintaining all the excellent existing features such as:

News and photographs of local events
What's on guides
Local groups and organisations
Local business directory
Travel information

The site will be updated frequently by volunteers, and your suggestions for new content and ideas will be much appreciated. The May edition of Sedgefield News will contain more information on the site and how you can be involved with its further development.

Lottery award means trip *and* treats for our older residents



LOTTERY FUNDED

Great News!

Sedgefield has been granted £4840 from the Big Lottery, Awards for All, to fund activities for older people in our village. This means not only that the Annual Trip to Redcar will be able to go ahead once more, but with the money raised, there will also be opportunities to meet together and have a programme of events and outings over the course of the year.

The project is to be called DIDO (Days In, Days Out) Sedgefield. There is already a very successful programme up and running in Ferryhill and we hope to enjoy similar success here.

Cllr Linda Maddison has kindly offered to arrange the Annual Trip and the whole project will be managed by Sedgefield Development Trust. The Sedgefield Charities have agreed to contribute £250 towards the Trip and the Mayor, Cllr Dudley Waters, will make a contribution from the Mayor's Charities Fund.

On behalf of the Trust, Gloria Wills said "I am delighted that we have been successful in our bid for the money for this project. It is becoming more and more difficult to raise money from Grant Making bodies. It is particularly difficult to raise money in Sedgefield as it is not seen as a deprived ward, so we are extremely pleased with our grant."

"thank you"

...to those who have gone out in all weathers throughout the winter season, to bring Sedgefield News to your door
...and to the new volunteers who responded to Judith's request for distributors last month

...and to our advertisers. You have helped us bring Sedgefield News on to a financially stable footing and we're glad to hear that the adverts do indeed bring in business for you.

And...

"please"

...do remember that to keep Sedgefield News fresh and stimulating, we need to hear from new contributors. Your articles and ideas will always be welcome and if you're unsure about anything you can always run them past one of the team.

Contact details are on page 12

Latest news from Hardwick Park

Resource Centre

The building of the Heritage Resource Centre started on March 5th. This is being carried out by ROK, a national firm with its north east base in Stockton, and completion is due in October. The car park will then be completed and landscaped.

Tree felling/re-planting

Although many more trees have recently been felled to open up the original view lines and vistas, this will soon be counterbalanced by the start of a planting programme. Planting will include some trees but the major part of the scheme will be the planting of shrubs to fill space between the trees and the grass. The shrubs have been identified from historic documents and should be, in most cases, identical to those originally planted in the 1700s. This is just the start. More planting will follow in future years.

Electricity supply and Fencing

A major installation project is nearing completion. The electricity supply for the Heritage Resource Centre, the Temple and the pumps on the Serpentine and main Cascade has been laid in along the A177, up to the cricket ground and then along Queens Drive, where it has caused some day-to-day disruption. Following this, metal 'parkland' fencing will be erected in and round the East Park, in the ha-has of the West Park, and also to delineate the boundary between the Hotel and the Park.

Friends' new Vice-President

Mike Adamson of Ramside Estates has agreed to become the new Vice-President of the Friends of Hardwick, following the resignation of County Councillor Ken Manton, founding Vice-President. He was duly elected at the Friends AGM on the 20th February.

Video available for showing

A video of the "Restoration of Hardwick Park" has just been updated. The Friends of Hardwick will show it to interested local groups. Contact the Secretary, John Fitzpatrick on 01740 621431 for details.

WI supports fair deal for dairy farmers

The Sedgefield branch of the WI used a recent coffee morning as an opportunity to publicise their support for the NFU, the Small Farmer's Association and the Farmers for Action campaign for a fairer deal for dairy farmers. Ten years ago farmers were paid an average of 24.5p per litre of milk. Shockingly, today it can be as little as 18p per litre.

For anyone interested in finding out more and supporting dairy farmers, there is to be an open meeting at Spennymoor Town Hall on Tuesday 1st May at 7pm.

Out & About at Easter

If you like shopping at our own Farmer's Market (this month on Easter Sunday) you are sure to enjoy a visit to the

Wear Valley Food Festival
on Easter Saturday 7th April.

Fresh local produce will be on offer along with art and craft stalls at this festival, held in the attractive grounds of Auckland castle.

Step into Spring Walking the Way to Health Sedgefield Village Group

To find out more about us please come along to an

Anniversary Walk on Wednesday 4th April

starting in front of the Parish Hall at 1.00 pm.

Enjoy a short local walk of about 2 miles.

Find out about the 'Walking for health' scheme.

Find advice about diet and healthy living.

Chat about the benefit of walking to village residents who have enjoyed the walks during the past year.



**For more information contact Jim Nutt' at Sedgefield
Borough, Green Lane, Spennymoor DL16 6JO.
Tel 01388 816166 ex 4487 or 4630.**

Quiz Night thanks

Sedgefield Cricket Club would like to thank everyone who has supported the Quiz Nights this season. If your Sedgefield News arrives in time, there's just time to catch the last quiz, hosted by John Bryant on Saturday 31st March at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Coffee Morning a great success

Sedgefield WI recently held a Coffee Morning in support of the Mayor's Charity (Sedgefield Community Hospital). Over £186 was raised from the raffle and the sale of cakes, crafts, cards and bric a brac; members of the WI would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported this event and to all the helpers on the day.

Thanks must also go to Sedgefield Co-op, which donated Fair Trade cakes for refreshments, and loaned other Fair Trade food stuffs for the stall promoting Fair Trade.

See Charity Events, right, for another chance to support your local hospital.

Local students in charity effort

As part of the Tourism Management degree at Teesside University, Hayley Gibson and three other students have been asked to organise and manage an event of their own choice. Emma Hymer, who like Hayley, is from Sedgefield, Samantha Hood from Redcar and Simon Cort from Bishop Auckland make up the group.

The event they decided on is a charity band night and it will be held on Saturday 21st April at Sedgefield Cricket Club between 7 and 11pm. There will be a number of bands playing, representing different styles of music. The Cricket Club has been offered free of charge due to the proceeds going to charity, which the organisers greatly appreciate.

The charity to be supported is the James Cook Holistic Cancer Care Centre in Middlesbrough (they offer complementary therapies to medical treatment for cancer). The group wanted to support a local charity and one that will be important to many people.

Tickets are £5.00 and must be purchased before the event. They are available from Sedgefield Co-op, where Hayley works, the Cricket Club or by ringing 07748190656 for any enquiries.

Prizes Please!

There will be a raffle drawn on the night and the students would be extremely grateful for any prizes that could be donated.

Food thoughts for spring days

Spring lamb

Traditionally associated with spring in many cultures, in our culture, spring lamb is definitely the traditional roast for Easter Day. With its small, slender bones and rosy coloured flesh, spring lamb is more tender and subtle flavoured than the darker-fleshed meat of summer or autumn.

Yorkshire Rhubarb - again!

Both growers and lovers of the stuff please forgive the editor. I seem to have been a bit previous last month, but I hear it's because there hasn't been much frost this year. Here's hoping for April - it's been pretty cold this week!

CHARITY EVENTS

Sedgefield Singaround Charity Night

Saturday 14th April

8.30pm - 11pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

£2.50 (Pay at the door)

Come along & listen, sing,
play & enjoy

Raffle

Supported by George Bolam Foods
Proceeds to Butterwick Hospice

Sedgefield Community Hospital Coffee Morning

in the Parish Hall at 10.30am

on **Thursday 19th April**

All welcome

Charity Band Night at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Proceeds to James Cook Hospital
Holistic Cancer Care Centre
(see article, left)

Saturday 21st April 7pm - 11pm

Tickets **£5** from Sedgefield Co-op,
the Cricket Club
or phone 07748190656

FREE PUBLICITY

Send details of your local
Charity Events to
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Photograph courtesy of Ken Saiger

On Wednesday 14th March, our Mayor Dudley Waters carried out the draw for the three free prizes from **all** the votes received in the ballot to decide whether local residents support implementation of Durham Trading Standards' initiative to make our village a Door Step Awareness village and to encourage saying "No to Cold Calling". The lucky winners will be notified in person by N/Hood Watch C/man Ken Saiger.

The draw in the Council offices was observed by village PCSO Dean Wilson, Community Warden Tim Spearey, Durham Trading Standards Officer Debra Newton, Town Clerk Lesley Swinbank & her staff together with members from Neighbourhood Watch.

Following the draw counting of the votes cast was carried out by members from N/Hood Watch observed by Debra Newton & scrutinised by Tim Spearey who declared a resounding **YES** vote of 100% from votes returned. C/man Ken Saiger stated that this is a most welcome confirmation of the need to implement the initiative in our village, a view championed by N/H Watch for some time now; and supported by our Town Council and local Police.

N/H Watch will now liaise with Durham Trading Standards to obtain the appropriate notices, house stickers etc. and will provide residents details of progress in future issues of the "News".

C/man Ken Saiger issues the Panel's resounding appreciation to all those involved in the activity so far and especially to our local businesses, the Co-op, Library, No. Four, Post Office & Town Council; and of course to the residents who took the time & trouble to cast their vote and make their views known.

Members' update from Police Consultative meeting, Sedgefield Area, held Aycliffe, 26th Feb. '07

In response to questions, Superintendent Andy Summerbell confirmed that there is no intention to reduce the present Police Officer allocation to our village and the recent PCSO addition of Dean Wilson is just that, an addition to our area. Additionally he reported that there would be no change to the service our village currently experienced from our Crime Prevention & Neighbourhood Watch representatives.

This follows the news that the Police Authority for Durham has approved a major increase in the precept to be paid from our Council Tax.

Once again Superintendent Andy Summerbell and his team confirmed their total commitment to "Neighbourhood Policing" and gave details of ongoing activities across the Sedgefield district. This led to significant dialogue between the public at the meeting and the Police Officers present.

In response to queries about PCSO's and their recent introduction; Sup't. Summerbell spoke in glowing terms, of their enthusiasm and commitment as well as the real impact they are having on the street. This experience was supported by members of the public present.

Flask in the Fridge

This month a timely reminder to all persons using this simple and valued help for the emergency services. Please remember to keep the information in your flask **up to date** with any changes to your prescription.

PC Todd reports

This month I would like send out a reminder about how silly it is to leave your PIN number with your credit cards. Recently a purse was stolen. Not only were the contents lost but a large amount of money was withdrawn from the bank using the conveniently placed PIN. Other crimes reported include a burglary in Maple Grove and attempted burglary in Boynston Grove.

A vehicle in Salters Lane had all its windows smashed whilst another in The Lane had its rear windscreen broken.

The cycle rack in the grounds of Sedgefield Primary School was pulled from its foundations; a group of youths were throwing mud around in Cross Street causing damage to a window and a 6ft Yucca plant 'went for a walk' from a garden in Winterton Avenue.

Until next month,
Keith

Pub Watch

This month the meeting was held in the Nags Head. No incidents were reported in member premises, so we continue to enjoy a trouble-free atmosphere in our pubs and clubs. In the run up to July 1st and the smoking ban, notices will appear in member premises advising customers of the new laws.

Telephone Numbers

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

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

For advice/assistance:

Crime Prevention Officer

Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Sarah Norman: 01325 742755

Tim's Tips

In the last couple of weeks some dog owners have dropped back into the bad habit of leaving their pets' faeces behind and dropping litter. It's disgusting and if we catch you we will issue you with a £50 penalty fine. I can and will use the cameras in the village. Be a good Citizen and take it home or put it in a bin. Remember, Bag it - Bin it is a 24/7 service. Phone me on 623654 for information about bags.

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents Forum

from February meeting

The meeting addressed several ongoing issues – the cleaning of rubbish from Wykes Close pond is proving to be a particular problem. Underage drinking and anti-social behaviour continue to be a problem in several areas of the village; the issue is raised and discussed at several meetings yet there still seems to be a problem in getting a co-ordinated and active response to the problem leaving the Police to deal with the issue with too few officers to be effective.

You will notice that we now have new belisha beacon poles; still awaiting installation of the lights on top but hopefully this will make the crossing safer when it is dark.

A request has been made to the Town Council to try to make more room available on the notice-board for any village group to post notices, probably by making use of the wasted space on the back.

The dates for the planning meetings on the wind turbines and secure unit are still awaited.

There seems to be an increasing problem of dog fouling in the village – please clear up after your dog, it only takes a moment and prevents a great deal of unpleasantness for the community – and of course don't forget the financial penalties if you don't!!!

Minutes are available as always in the Library and from the Town Council Offices. The April 23rd meeting will be an open meeting to meet prospective new Town Councillors prior to elections in May.

Proposed Road Safety Event

Do YOU consider that you are a safe driver? How long have you been driving? How often do you have your driving evaluated?

You visit your doctor, for a health check. Your car needs servicing regularly. Your house needs renovation as it gets older. Televisions, videos, fridges and computers need servicing occasionally. But how many of us actually consider that we may not be as good a driver as we think we are, and have that checked?

A car is a LETHAL WEAPON if not handled correctly: the view, which tends to be "it can't happen to me" often changes when things go wrong. "I wish I could put the clock back" comes to mind.

Well, The Residents Forum, with YOUR help, would like to give YOU the chance to have your driving skills evaluated. We have written to the police road safety Officer (Dave Nixon, he actually gave an eye-opening talk at our January meeting- you should have been there- it was riveting) to get his support. We also intend to invite the Darlington Branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists to help us.

We will hold a Driving Festival (date to be arranged) on Sedgefield Race Course car park, providing we can get (1) a grant and (2) sufficient help from the public to organise it. So please give me a ring as soon as possible, if you would be prepared to help.

David Hillerby 01740 621343 .

Sedgefield Village Veterans Group

We are displaying our Exhibition at

**Locomotion - The National Railway Museum at Shildon -
at their Military Vehicle & Militaria Show during the
Easter Weekend Saturday 7th April and Sunday 8th
from 10am till 4pm.** We hope to see you there.

Basil Watson, our retired Post master, has agreed to
give his presentation of

"Deception in the Desert": the plan to beat Rommel at Alamein,
which he gave to the Rotary Club before Christmas.
Thursday 12th April at 7-30pm in the Parish Hall.

Price £3 per ticket including a pie & pea supper
from David Hillerby on 621343 to help raise our funds.

Tickets are limited, so please call early.

Shed security

Householders are being urged to secure their garden and allotment sheds to protect their equipment from opportunist thieves. With summer just around the corner, Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership is reminding us to think about the security of garden equipment and provides these handy tips:

Ensure that your shed is in good condition.

Fit a good lock on your shed door, bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws or coach bolts fitted.

Fit shed windows with a grille and ensure screw heads are not visible on hinges.

Security mark lawnmowers, garden furniture etc. and never leave items unattended even to pop into the house.

Pedal cycles in your shed should be security marked and secured to the superstructure of the building.

Install a 'Dusk till Dawn' low energy security light in your garden.

Early Warning from Durham Trading Standards

A lady from the Low Hamsterley area tells of her experience of being door-stepped by 2 men claiming to be working up the street. They told her they had noticed she had some loose concrete above her back door and quoted £60. She gave the go ahead. The men came back a few days later and did the work while she was out.

When she returned they told her more work was required which would cost £900. She said she did not have £900 and they reduced it to £400. At this point the lady said she would need to speak to her son so they left a number for her to contact them.

She later rang them and asked them to come for their money and after short time, when she was at the bus stop they pulled up in their car.

She felt intimidated and said she did not want the extra work doing and offered to pay for what they had done. They asked for £50 which she paid. There were 3 men, all with a local accent driving a large white estate car with a roof rack and ladders.

The best advice is simply not to employ cold callers.

Sports Update

with chrisjlines@aol.com

In the previous update, I promised to find out when St. Edmund's FC will play their Staffieri Cup Final.

Unfortunately, as I write, the date and venue have not yet been confirmed. By next time I should have details of the match and will let you know where and when it will take place. The more support St. Edmund's can muster the better.

Darts and Dominoes

I'm pleased to report that my request last month for darts 'enlightenment' has been answered. Harry Ryder dropped me a line to provide some news on not only darts, but also dominoes. It seems that Sedgefield can boast successful teams in both, based in the Golden Lion.

The pub hosts darts and dominoes teams that compete in the Cornforth Blue Star League. Matches are played every Tuesday night from 8.30pm on an alternating home and away basis. There are currently 12 teams in the league, from exotic locations such as Coundon, Spennymor, Trimdon, Ferryhill and West Conforth, with the Golden Lion representing Sedgefield. The Golden Lion currently (at time of writing this at least) lead the darts league by four points from the Voltigeur, representing Spennymoor. The team's last two games of the season are against the Voltigeur – it should be an exciting finish. The dominoes team are lying fifth in the league and are beginning to show improved form after a shaky set of results in the middle of the season. The combined Golden Lion team were also winners of the Champion Of Champions Cup held earlier in the season. The games consisted of five single darts and five single dominoes games on a knockout basis. In the final, the Golden Lion were 6-4 winners over the Voltigeur, providing landlord Graeme with another cup to polish! Thanks

to Harry for the update and look out for an end of season review in a future update.

Rugby

England have flattered to deceive at times during the recent Six Nations and will be hard pressed to defend their World Cup crown later this year. There were some encouraging signs in contrast to the dismal displays last autumn, but the side was a pale shadow of the phenomenal team of 2003.

Meanwhile, closer to home, a comeback to rival that of Lazarus (blame darts commentating legend Sid Waddell for that one) may be on the cards if plans for Sedgefield District Rugby Union Football Club come to fruition.

Since the demise of Sedgefield RUFC in the late 1990s, there has been no local facility for those interested in the sport. Sedgefield District RUFC is being formed to put that right. The club is organising regular training sessions by qualified Rugby Football Union coaches and social gatherings to foster a team spirit and enjoyable rugby experience for all. Friendly games are already being planned and the club hopes to have a senior league team ready for the start of next season. If you want to find out more visit

www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk, email info@sedgefieldrugby.co.uk or call Richie Wanless on 01740 623058, Greg Dougall on 07815 818731 or John Wanless on 01740 623787.

Sedgefield Harriers

The club had a number of runners at Herrington Country Park last Saturday when the English National Cross Country Championships came to the North East. For the Under 13 Boys Jonathan Baines finished 150th in 12 minutes and 18 seconds over a 3km course with Jordan Swailes close behind in 12:54. In very windy conditions over a tough hilly

8km course Gail Bell competed in the Senior Women's race finishing in 202nd position in 40:16.

There were four runners in the Senior Men's race, Gary Hethrington competing for his home town club for the first time in this competition finished 191st in a field of nearly 1000 in a time of 43:46 over the 12km course.

He was followed for Sedgefield by Scott Hydon 55:30, Ean Parsons 55:43 and Matthew Jones 56:54.

On the same day Rosie Sims ran the 14 mile Dentdale Run over a hilly course to finish in 1:53:34.'

To contact Sedgefield Harriers, go to www.sedgefieldharriers.com

Sedgefield Racecourse

A quick note to let you know that Sedgefield Racecourse's popular Easter Monday fixture is back, with a full card that includes both horse and greyhound racing. Children under 16 get free entrance on the day, when accompanied by a paying adult. To find out more go to www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk

Sports Contacts

A quick reminder – here are some contacts in case you are interested in some of the other sports clubs in and around Sedgefield.

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Martin Lower on 07862 715006

Tennis

Call 620367 or 620143

Badminton

Call Stan Smith on 621883

Squash

Call James Larcombe, 620717 or Chris Rowsby on 621125.

As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to me - chrisjlines@aol.com.

Greening our lives

A carbon neutral village - is it possible?

Ashton Hayes in Cheshire, population 1,000 thinks so. It aims to become the first carbon-neutral community in Britain after a host of energy-saving measures by residents, the local school and even the pub landlord.

The village school already has a solar panel which provides enough energy to heat the water used to wash classroom floors, and soon a wind turbine will be installed on the school roof. (*We don't have to look so far away for inspiration; see below for an award winning county Durham School. Ed.*)

The year old Cheshire project set out to show how small efforts can combine into significant collective action, a year dominated by talk and action on solar power, wind turbines, recycling and carbon footprints. Enthusiasm blossomed as locals came to realise that they really could make a difference. Both the local pub and the football team aspire to be carbon-neutral. Both would be firsts in their field.

One man building an extension explains how the project has influenced his building work: sheep's wool insulation, lime mortar, recycled hardcore, no trips to the tip.

The local county council has agreed to build a new footpath so that residents can walk in safety to the railway station. The area near the school is likely to be the centre for a proposed experimental micro-grid powered by bio-fuel or woodchips.

Cassop Primary School Closer to home, this County Durham school was a 2006 finalist in the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy. Under Head teacher Jim McManners, a lifelong environmentalist, Cassop has been setting the standard for years. From the Ashden website...

... "A programme to make its use of energy more sustainable started in 1995, when light bulbs were replaced with compact fluorescents. This was followed by a recycling drive and the installation of cavity wall insulation.

In 1998, the school took up an invitation from Durham County Council to have a 50 kW wind turbine installed in its grounds, which generates about 50 MWh of electricity per year. Overall, this meets the electricity demand of the school, although much of the output is generated out of school hours and is therefore exported to the grid. The wind turbine installation involved a community consultation carried out by the children, and showed 98% public support for the project.

In 2003, the old oil boiler was replaced with an automated wood-pellet boiler, which burns pellets produced locally from recycled waste wood. Suspended ceilings in classrooms were then replaced, and more efficient lighting provided. A photovoltaic (PV) array was installed on a south-facing roof in 2005, with safety rail and stairs to allow access for visitors.

The use of sustainable energy is integrated into the curriculum. An interactive display in a corridor shows where the current energy demand lies and how it is being supplied, and Year 6 pupils can confidently explain what is happening. This display was started when the wind turbine was installed, and pupils monitor readings from the wind turbine and keep the display up-to-date. Maths is taught using energy data from the wind turbine, and sustainable energy posters are designed in art."

Food for thought.

"A trawl round a couple of local supermarkets revealed a hugely improved range of energy-saving light bulbs at a much reduced cost, compared to even a year ago. Judging by my purchases, both the comfort of the light and speed of switch-on seem to be improved over early models too. I was pleasantly surprised by the choice on offer." JH.

Send more of your green, or maybe sceptical, thoughts to snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk - or write to Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ.

Green Bookworm

"High Tide - How Climate Crisis is Engulfing Our Planet" by Mark Lynas.

Reporting from different parts of the world, including Britain, the author brings home forcibly how change is already impacting on a world wide scale.

He talks about industrial pollution and desertification in China; ground collapsing as the permafrost melts in Alaska; and flooding in York and Oxford.

Invasion and succession is explained - as the climate warms, species need to find cooler climes and begin to thrive better in areas more northerly or higher than their former habitat. At the same time, species normally growing in warmer latitudes take their place. However such obstacles as motorways will impede them and Lynas asks us to think how we can help native species such as beech and oak to survive as their optimum habitat moves North. Gardeners - think on!

This is a surprisingly easy read, but beware! You may find yourself in danger of wanting to make a difference! WM.

If you have enjoyed a particularly good read, why not share it with the rest of us? Send your review to Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ or email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.



Paul Heasman sent us this delightful image, which brings to mind our logo. We look forward to seeing more of his photography on both SedgefieldWeb and these pages

Festival success for brother and sister



At this year's Darlington Festival for the Performing Arts, Tim and Ciaran Jasper, aged 13 and 11, won 3 of the classes they entered. Tim took the Mona Cornforth Cup in the under 14 string solo class, playing 'Traumerei' on his 'cello, and the Upton Cup in the Open Composition Class for his Christmas Carol 'He's Our Lord And Master'. Ciaran (pictured) was placed first out of a field of ten to win The Philip and Isobella Bethell Trophy in the Vocal Solo under 11 Class, with 'Wouldn't It Be Lov-er-ly?' from My Fair Lady.

They also received certificates of commendation; Tim for piano solo, prose speaking and humorous prose reading (distinction) and Ciaran for Bible reading, solo Recitation & Woodwind solo.

101's coming home!



Finally after a long absence, 101 make a return to Sedgefield with a gig at The Black Lion on Sunday 13th May at 8.30pm.

Although the band has been missing from Sedgefield they have been very busy on the gig front as anyone who checks the monthly gig guide will see.

The boys have been busy keeping up to date with current songs, recent additions include "Ruby" by The Kaiser Chiefs and "Open Your Eyes" by Snow Patrol. They will be playing a mixture of modern and classic rock. Expect the pub to be packed so best to get there early! 101 has a new website up and running at www.myspace.com/weare101theband

The April gig list is on page 11.

Your letters

Dear 'Sedgefield News',
I would have addressed this to the editor but could find no name on the March issue. I was sent the latter by my sister who lives in Sedgefield - some of your regular contributors will know me as a former resident! I found all the articles and information interesting - not sure why people have problems with wind turbines, which have their own slender beauty and at least are better than the great cooling stations I pass on the 'MI' en route to see Mum (Margaret Bell) in her lovely nursing home at Redmarshall. However my particular query is about the funding of the '58 Front St.' office and the printing of 'S.News': I gather there is some connection with a development association, but am puzzled - surely Sedgefield (unlike former mining villages) doesn't need development or re-generation?

One matter your newsheet might look into is the state of the cemetery entrance: every year I tidy/put flowers on our family graves, and every year note the dilapidated state of the path/gateway/bin area. Allowing for the foolish decision to rent Cemetery Lodge out - so its tenants have no responsibility for their immediate environment - surely the resurfacing of the pathway and attention to what was, in the days of the old 'Joint Burial Board' a neatly-bordered entrance for corteges, with well-cut topiary and verges, is well overdue!

I have communicated with Sedgefield Town Council on this issue - suggesting councillors actually walk around the cemetery entrance - any takers?

I'll look forward to a reply but appreciate your contributors write in a voluntary capacity, so won't expect same too quickly....

Regards to all,

Monica Waters

Hayling Island, Hants

The Chairman of Sedgefield Development Trust replies...

Mrs Waters queries why Sedgefield needs a Development Trust.

People in Sedgefield (and Bradbury and Mordon) chose to establish the Trust so that the community had more capacity to help itself. Amongst other things, the Trust has built up Sedgefield News into the self-sustaining enterprise it now is, as well as being a much needed and valued asset.

Similarly the Trust has built up SedgefieldWeb, the community website re-launched this month; it also provides The Zone, to bring extra learning opportunities into the community.

It has enabled the now flourishing youth drop-in to re-start and is facilitating the 'trip and treats' featured on the front page.

The Trust is the means by which volunteers *from* the community do things *for* the community. Far from Trusts being for other places (e.g. former mining villages) I would

suggest that every community should have a Trust, owned and controlled in each community (there are currently over 350 across the country), to empower local people to develop community enterprises which benefit their own areas.

Neither should we forget that this community lost 2,000 jobs at Winterton around the time our Trust was established; and also that one of the prime purposes for establishing the Trust was to redevelop the Parish Hall. So we do have needs.

Whatever purpose the Trust is used for will be determined by this community; and further, I believe that a community that sees no need to develop is a dead community.

Roger Clubley

MARCH Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Local History Society

7.45 pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday April 2nd

A talk by George Flynn on

Darlington

Everybody welcome!

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 3rd April

in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Fruit Growing

Trevor Rogerson

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 4th April

Parish Hall, 7.15 pm

"Wills and Estate Planning"

John Oakes

Members' competition – Words you would like on your headstone!

Visitors welcome (fee £1)

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Easter Sunday 8th April

on the Village Green

April at Sedgefield Library

Not a member?

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

Call 01740 620103

Parental control on the internet

Thursday 5th 5-7pm

Booking essential

EASTER CRAFTS

Tuesdays 3rd & 10th + Friday 13th from 10-11am

Easter Bunnies

Thursday 5th April 10-12am

Glass Painting

Thursday 12th from 10-12am

**All children's holiday activities require a £1 non-refundable advance booking fee. Places are limited so please book early. All children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult.*

Tickle Time: songs & rhymes for babies & their carers

Monday 16th April 2.15 - 3pm

Junior Reading Group; suitable for ages 7-10 years. Places limited

Monday 16th April 5-6pm.

Weekly in term time

Rhyme Time: stories, songs & rhymes for under 5's

Wednesday 18th April 10-11am

Book circle

Wednesday 18th April 2-3pm

Toy Library / Stay & Play

Wednesday 25th April 10-11am

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch & Crimewatch Panel

Tuesday 10th April at 7 pm

in the Parish Hall

ALL Welcome

Sedgefield Village Veterans

meet in the parish Hall at 7.30pm

on **Thursday 12th April**

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

Everybody welcome

Sedgefield Civic Trust

The next meeting will be held on

Thursday 12th April

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night

Saturday 14th April at 8pm

Main guest – Bernard Wrigley

Also featuring Nebula and the John Wrightson Band

Admission £8 includes buffet

Tel 621347

The Cricket Club is available for hire for private parties. To book, ring 620927

Sedgefield Town Council

Monday 16th April at 7pm

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 16th April at 7.45pm

in Ceddesfeld Hall

"Shipwrecked" Maureen Anderson

New to Family History? Join us at

one of our meetings. New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th April at 7.30 pm

Open Meeting in the Parish Hall

Sheila Holland,

National Demonstrator

"Big, Bold & Beautiful"

All welcome

Mobile Movies

Friday 20th April

Sedgefield Parish Hall, 6.30pm

start. Entry £1.50

All ages welcome

Residents' Forum

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Monday 23rd April

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 26th April

at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall

AGM & Faith Supper

More details from Steve on 620559

Everybody welcome

101 Gigs in April

01 – Bar Luma, Sunderland

06 – Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough

07 – The Sun Inn, Newbottle

08 – Bensham Jockey, Newcastle

13 – The Daisy Hill, Sacriston

14 – BCCC (Private Party)

15 – The Normanby, Normanby

20 – The Avalon Hotel, Whitley Bay

21 – Annfield Plain Cricket Club

24 – Elgins Bar, Redcar

26 – The Gold Medal, Low Fell

27 – Billingham Club (Wedding)

28 – Grinkle Park Hotel (Wedding)

29 – Sleepers, East Boldon

Wynyard Planetarium &

Observatory

Pyramids in the Sky

Friday 6th April 7:30pm

What's Up in the night sky?

Friday 20th April 7:30pm

Public Observing outdoors

Every Friday in April at 9pm

Telescope Club

Friday 27th April 7.30pm

in the Planetarium. Last in series.

Starts again in September

Tel: 01642 365119

Sunshine Corner

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

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Friday mornings

in the Parish Hall

(Not Good Friday)

St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings in church on

Thursdays from 6.30 - 7.30pm

... and in May ...

Bingo at Ceddesfeld

Saturday 12th May

Local History Society

Monday 14th May

David Butler

"Servants at Croxdale Hall"

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 1st May

Visit to Beamish Clematis Nurseries

Details at April meeting

Just one letter this month & it's on page 8. This gives us the chance to savour one of the biggest days in the Sedgefield calendar

Good luck tummy rub *must* be a first for the Ball Game!

18 year old Karl Thompson, addicted from a young age to Sedgefield's Shrove Tuesday mayhem, had more reason than usual to want to triumph this year. With co-conspirators Andrew (Dad) and Bradley Saunders (friend and fellow boxer), Karl ran with the ball with just one thing on his mind, because 2007 is set to be the year when Karl celebrates becoming a Dad himself. When he finally claimed victory, it was straight to his girlfriend to rub her tummy with his prized good luck charm.

We have no record of how she reacted but we hope it stands her in good stead for her due date in August!



Betty and Jim Amlin kicked off the Ballgame this year
(thanks to Ian Spring for this lovely photo)



It's always a disputatious event, but this time PC Keith Todd was on hand to provide an arbitration service. *Thanks to Ian Hunter for the photo*