

Sedgefield News

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

Hair Raising Charity Stunt!

Sedgefield Winkers have sacrificed their flowing locks to raise money for Leukaemia Research. Jonah Jones, Philip Jackson, David Etheridge, Steve Chaytor, Steve Nadin, Kevin Foakes, Roy Chowns-Smith, Colin Lowe and Chris Stephenson all cheerfully volunteered to have their heads shaved. Thanks to all the locals who sponsored them, the final total going to the North East Children's Cancer Research Fund should reach £3,500. Thanks must also go to the staff at Evolution who donated their skills and time.

Photograph by Nat. Stevenson



Twenty two people did the abseil this year, the oldest Leonard Palmer aged 80 and the youngest Abigail Hearman and Robert Young both aged 9. We hope to raise over £2,000 to be shared by The Friends of St. Edmund's and the Parkinson's Disease Society

Ahoy Kids! Find the buried Pirate Treasure at Sedgefield Library!

This summer's children's summer holiday events have a pirate theme and there will be regular craft making sessions on Mondays and Thursdays 10.00am-11.30am throughout the holidays.

Professional entertainers will be there to entertain the youngsters, Martin Duffy's Magic Show on Thursday 4th August and Eileen the Ventriloquist on Thursday 25th August. All events start at 10.00am and finish at approx 11.00am.

All activities must be booked in advance and require a £1 fee.

Sedgefield Library is also be running a FREE pirate competition for the under tens. Entrants will be required to borrow 3 books whereupon they can guess where they think the hidden treasure is buried! The person closest to the mark will win a treasure chest of goodies!

(Any queries please ring 620103)

St. Edmund's Abseil



Players say “Allo ‘Allo” to Packed Houses

Sedgefield Players scored another resounding success when their recent production of ‘Allo ‘Allo played to full houses for all 3 nights of its run. The Parish Hall was transformed into Café René, with accordion music, checked tablecloths, bunting and posters coming together to recreate the atmosphere of wartime France. The cast, all suitably attired of course, mingled with the audience before the play began and were delighted to see that many had entered into the spirit of the occasion by dressing up too. There were French waitresses, German soldiers and British airmen, not to mention a rash of striped T shirts, berets and French onions.

Still fondly remembered from its television heyday, ‘Allo, ‘Allo proved to be extremely popular and many people were disappointed when they discovered the show was a sell-out. There are risks aplenty in putting on a production where all the characters are so well known in advance and everyone has a mental image of them. Would the Players be able to rise to the occasion? Mais oui! Rene, Edith, Helga and Herr Flick were all brought vividly to life, not forgetting those saucy waitresses Yvette and Mimi. Those well-loved catchphrases “It is I, Leclerc” and Michelle of the Resistance with her “Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once!” brought laughter every time. The Germans were suitably foolish and the Italian Bertorelli more interested in making love than war. The bungling attempts of Crabtree to pass on information in his terrible French, much confusion over the portrait of the fallen Madonna with the big boobies and a surfeit of sausages all added to the mayhem.

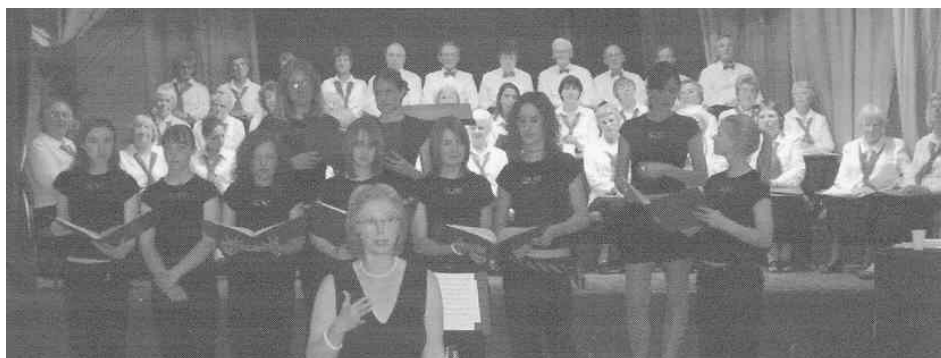
A cast composed of old stagers and young blood combined together under Walter Howell’s direction to bring a much-loved old TV favourite brilliantly to the stage.

The Players are now in rehearsal for their next major event, the week long Drama Festival of One Act Plays which takes place in September. This year is the 30th and the Players plan to make it go with a bang ! Don’t miss out this time – book your season tickets early !



Norma Neal as Edith and
Geoff Clifford-Brown as René

Lyrics Hit the High Notes



Sedgefield Lyric Singers, supported by the Lyrics Youth Choir, gave their annual summer concert in the Parish Hall on Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd July. The Senior Choir, under their conductor Jean Whittaker, performed songs from the shows, songs old and new, and also an arrangement which was written for the choir by Alistair Fisher. They were accompanied by Margaret Taylor on the piano.

Sandy Clubley conducted the Youth Choir and, although the choir was small in number, they gave a great performance. They were accompanied by Robert Guest.

Several raffle prizes were won during the interval when some welcome refreshment was served as it was very warm in the hall.

We are short of men in the choir so if you enjoy singing, come along to our practices in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm on Friday evenings - no audition necessary - just a joy of singing. We start again on 9th September.

Our Christmas Concert is on 9th and 10th December and we look forward to your continued support, we do appreciate it.

Daphne’s Dozen Ducklings

Sedgefield Community Hospital acted as a maternity hospital this summer, when Daphne the Duck chose to have her twelve ducklings in the inner courtyard garden. When they were ready to face the outside world, Daphne proudly led them out of the hospital to find a suitable watering hole

Sedgefield villagers at ceremony to commemorate the 60th Anniversary

John and Iris Forsythe and Betty and Jimmy Amlin were at the Horse Guards’ Parade in London on Sunday 10th July as the guests of HRH The Queen and the Prime Minister Tony Blair. Jimmy Amlin carried the Royal Canadian Air Force Standard and John Forsyth carried the Bomber Command RAF Standard.

How do your roses grow?

Are your roses looking good this year? Do your annuals look their best? Well, why not enter your beautiful blooms in Sedgefield & District Rose Society's Annual Show on **Sat 17th and Sun 18th September, in The Golden Lion**. But it's not only roses that we're interested in – there are classes for dahlias, chrysanthemums, annuals, fuchsias, pelargoniums & other pot plants. There are a range of floral art classes, & special classes for children, such as the new 'Miniature Garden' competition. Sedgefield & District Rose Society has been around for many years, & can trace its origins back to at least 1919, when it was given the prestigious 'Harkness Cup' by the firm of 'Harkness Roses'. Each year the society awards the cup for best exhibit in HT Roses, as well as a host of other trophies and shields collected over the years. Whilst you do have to be a member to exhibit, you could join on the day of the show & still enter this year. You don't have to live in Sedgefield either, as the society is keen to recruit members from all the surrounding villages. So keep on top of the greenfly and black spot, feed & pamper those plants throughout the summer, then enter our show, which is also open to visitors on both days. Schedules can be obtained from Ian Spring on 621196 or Sue Hannan on 629549. Or see our page on the Sedgefield community website : www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/rose show for more details. Good Gardening and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Stepping out

Susan Walker & Joan Dalton of Sedgefield only started walking seriously when they retired. They recently set themselves the challenge of raising funds for the Great North Air Ambulance by walking the length of Hadrian's Wall from Bowness to Wallsend – 84 miles in 6 days! They walked an average of 15 miles per day. With the support of their sponsors, they have raised over £600 for the

Music at Morden

The first MORDONFEST took place on the village green on Saturday 9th July and was a great musical extravaganza, running for 8 hours. We were treated to a feast of musicality provided by the abundance of talent, starting with 'The Fratellis' who are old friends of Morden, having played here on last New Year's Eve. The two sets of brothers have just won every stage of the battle of the Bands Contest.

They were followed by Steve Fothergill and John Dixon-unplugged. Steve has a great voice as well as playing guitar, and John's technical brilliance as accompanist to Steve; make them both a pleasure to listen to. John has also set up his own studio for sound recordings to professional standard. A special guest was Dave Hodges, with Mark on base and members of 'Wishful Thinking' augmenting the line up. Next to perform was our own resident band and host for the festival, 'Round the Back, George', with Kev Stevens, Graham Evans, Steve Parmley, Jonti Hudson and Nigel Coulson. Interestingly, Steve and Graham are the fathers of two of the boys in the 'Fratellis'.

During the exciting 12 bar jam session with Mark on base, Dave on guitar and Kevin on drums, Angela Crawford joined in on vocals. 'Drumathon' was a drum duet, plus the children in the audience playing percussion with anything they had got. Pots and pans, mugs, drums, bottles etc. and we amplified the sound through the PA system, much to their enjoyment. Great! 'Goldenman', an Indieband from Darlington, were playing their own "Indie-Techno" compositions in a slight change of style, but much appreciated by the audience. Then came 'Larry and the Actors' playing their own catchy rock songs. Larry is currently Head of Performing Arts at Greenfield School, and he enjoyed great success as a professional musician in the late 80's. A great coup to have them join us. (By the way, they kindly handed back their fee to the Village Hall Committee. A very generous gesture for which we thank them very much.). 'Wishful Thinking' of Spennymoor closed the show with a bang. Sisters, Lesley and Angela were the vocalists joined by an energetic Jim Boylan as guest, (Who would have thought it?). The gig reunited many old friendships from thirty years ago and proved that the old magic is still there. Kevin, who was the organiser of the brilliant event, (very much a first for Morden) sends a massive thank you to all the performers and to the people who attended and supported the event on The Green. Thanks must also go to Elementis Ecology Centre of Yarm who kindly loaned us the gazebos, when our backs were against the wall. When all the sums were done, almost £400 was made for the Village Hall Funds.



Steve Fothergill and John Dixon - unplugged

Community Safety & Health

PC Todd reports

Some of the reported crimes in Sedgefield between 16th June – 13th July have included: paint stripper on car and nails in tyre on Queen's Drive, parcels taken from one insecure van on Spring Lane and a juke box and other items stolen from another van delivering to an address in Front Street. A works van was broken into and tools stolen in Mitford Court. Windows were broken in Rectory Row, High Street and South View. Thieves struck in The Meadows, The Square, Wallington Drive, Beacon Avenue and Chestnut Road. A Drugs Dog Operation in the High Street resulted in one person being arrested. Once again the number of crimes

reported in the village over the past few weeks remains low, but I would like to highlight two unusual crimes which could have been avoided if only more care had been taken. Both crimes of theft occurred when delivery drivers left their vehicles insecure while they were delivering goods nearby. On one occasion a Juke Box was stolen from the back of the van, and in the other crime about 9 parcels were taken. The ducks living around the ponds behind Ceddesfeld Hall have been subjected to attacks by gangs of youths lately, which have resulted in about 6 ducks receiving treatment. Sadly, some ducks have died from their injuries. **Kicking or throwing things at our feathered friends will**

not be tolerated. I will prosecute anyone doing so.

Pub Watch

Two guest speakers attended the last meeting and spoke about taking action against under-age drinking in pubs and initiatives to improve local pub watch schemes. As we are a well established scheme we have taken the lead and invited the Hardwick Hall to become a member, and welcome Mr John Milburn to the next meeting in August

Until next time,
Keith

Tim's Tips

"Remember to pick it up!"

Neighbourhood Watch - Alan Sowerby Citizenship Awards 2005

Presentation Days at Hardwick Primary & Sedgefield Primary Schools



Pictured above from left to right is Hardwick Primary Headteacher Linda Johnston, proud Mum Eileen, daughters Eloise (seated) & Georgina Tinkler (Citizenship Award), proud Mum Jayne, son Adam Foakes (Individual Recognition Award) with proud Dad Kevin.

On Thursday 14th July at Hardwick Primary School a special assembly was arranged by Headteacher Linda Johnston to allow Village Neighbourhood Watch representatives to present the annual Citizenship award to the pupil who has consistently demonstrated those qualities and attributes the award demands. None of the pupils had any idea who is to be awarded, and it was only after a glowing testimonial from Linda that a surprised Georgina Tinkler was asked to step forward and receive her trophy and certificate; then of course the reason for Mum Eileen and sister Eloise being in

assembly became clear.

Georgina was described as a role model for other pupils through her very active support for school activities and to her fellow pupils and also for her invaluable role at home and outside school where she is a major carer and supporter to her less able sister Eloise and younger disabled brother Max.

Headteacher Linda Johnston went on to say that whilst it had been unanimous amongst staff that Georgina was the most deserving pupil for the Citizenship Award, another young pupil should be recognised for the effort he has put into his personal self development and for being such an all round good, kind and supportive person. So, much to his surprise, Adam Foakes was asked to step out and receive a trophy and certificate to record his "Individual Recognition Award – 2005".

At Sedgefield Primary School Leavers Service on Friday 15th July, the last day of term, Neighbourhood Watch representative Jeanette Garbutt presented Lee Turner with the Alan Sowerby Memorial award. This is awarded each year to the pupil who has made the most contribution to school life as a good citizen. In describing Lee's involvement on the School Council and his general willingness at all times Headteacher Philip Irvine said that Lee has made a real difference to the school's operation and that he was totally committed to school and to helping others – he is a real asset to



Pictured above from left to right is Sedgefield Primary Headteacher Philip Irvine with pupil Lee Turner receiving the Citizenship Award from Neighbourhood Watch representative Jeanette Garbutt.

Sedgefield Primary.

Leavers' Books, Awards and Certificates were presented by Mrs Barbara Nicholl, who had recently retired as the School Crossing Patrol on Rectory Row.

Two new awards were donated to the school by families of children who have gone through the school, and whose long association with the school ended this day as their youngest children move on to the next stage in their education. The Pighill's Prize was awarded to Emily Radford for her musical achievements, and Chloe Ritchie and Matthias Reichel for their sporting prowess.

The Leavers Service ended with the very relevant hymn – The Journey of Life

Want to get fit this summer?

Sedgefield Community College Association is offering a special deal on gym membership, providing unlimited use of the facilities for 6 weeks for the amazing price of just £25! Each member will undertake an initial induction (which is included in the price) under the supervision of a qualified instructor, following which they can either follow an individually devised fitness plan or make general use of the equipment. The gym contains treadmills, bikes, cross-trainers, steppers, rowers, weight training equipment plus small fitness items.

Opening times are as follows:

Daytime 10.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday to Friday (during the school summer holidays only)

Evenings 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Saturdays & Sundays 10.00am to 4.00pm

This offer is open to anyone over the age of 16 and closes mid September, so come along now and enjoy a healthier, fitter lifestyle!

For further details or to book your induction please contact SCCA on 01740 621097 or come along to the gym.

In Case of Emergency!

Following the disaster in London, where many casualties have still not been identified as we go to press, East Anglian Ambulance Service have launched an "In Case of Emergency (ICE)" campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston.

The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to have contacted "In Case of Emergency".

In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able quickly to identify your next of kin and contact them. It's so simple that anyone can do it.

Mobile Podiatry Service suspended due to mechanical problems

A Mobile Podiatry Service that has operated in the Durham Dales and Sedgefield areas has been suspended due to mechanical and electrical problems. The decision to suspend the service follows a recent inspection of the Podiatry Mobile Unit by the manufacturers on 24th June, following reported mechanical and electrical failures. Patients are being offered alternatives by the Podiatry Service temporarily.

Jeff Hobkirk, Head of the Podiatry Service said: "We regret that we have to suspend this long running service, but it was felt necessary in order to protect the safety of both staff and the public. Durham Dales and Sedgefield PCTs are looking into the options around for the future of the mobile service."

All patients are being contacted directly by the Podiatry Service and are being offered alternative appointments with a choice of venue and appointment time using existing facilities.

Jeff added: "The Podiatry Service extends its apologies to all users of the Mobile Service for the sudden change to service and any inconvenience it may cause. Ring for more information about the change to service please contact 0191 301 3876. or contact Tina Young, Communications Manager on 0191 3333382.

"It pays to read our pages"

One of our readers was re-united with her lost necklace due to spotting in last month's PC Todd's Report that a necklace had been handed in to the police

VJ Day- August 15th 1945

60 years ago some of the final acts of the 2nd World War were enacted with the formal surrender of the Japanese Empire (isolated fighting continued in some areas, after this date, due to communication difficulties).

At the time of the surrender there were 11 Sedgefield men serving in the South East Asia Command of the British Forces.

RAF: J L Hammond, N Walker, J Gill, S S Wilkinson, E Orwin-Kent

Army: J Bell, N Watt, H Ellis, R W Southwood, W Ramsay, and Les Butler.

In addition Gunner T H Harris Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment RA had died on the 11th January 1944 as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. He was captured in Malaya in 1941 and died later in Thailand.

These men served with the 14th (or Forgotten) Army and most of them did not return to UK until 1946.

Gunner Harris, God rest his soul, did not return.

We must always remember that it was not only in Europe where atrocities of WW2 were carried out and we must ensure that they do not happen again!

The above information is from records just unearthed. If they are not accurate nor complete, would you let me know please.

David Hillerby

Tel: 621343

david.hillerby@btinternet.com

The Bishop Auckland Classic Car Show

The Show was held on the evening of 28th June and attracted 78 vehicles of all kinds. The winner of

the show was a superb MG TD, first registered in 1950. The car is owned by Mr & Mrs T Morton of Barnard Castle. It was re-imported into England just over four years ago and fully restored to its former self with its immaculate "racing green" paintwork. The event was held in support of the Butterwick Hospice, The organiser, Beryl Anderson, said that the Hospice was overwhelmed by the support and the turnout for the event

Sports Update

The Olympic Games

I said it was neck and neck! The London Olympics bid clearly gathered great momentum in the final stages of the campaign and I am sure you all know the result. So, now the youngsters of today can aspire to competing in the Games in front of a home crowd in seven years. That fact, and the huge investment in sport at all levels that should follow the decision, is good enough news in its own right as far as I am concerned. However, there could be significant further Olympic associated benefits for the whole of North East England, if the region makes the most of the opportunities that will be out there.

St. James' Park has already been identified as a venue for the Olympic football tournament (but will there be a men's GB team to compete?). Meanwhile, investment in facilities such as the new 50m pool in Sunderland, the redeveloped Gateshead International Stadium and the watersports centre at Tees Barrage, all help make the case for the North East hosting a training camp for one of the major teams that will take part in London 2012. Then there are the numerous construction contracts that will be awarded over the next few years and that is business for which companies in this region can pitch. I could waffle on about tourism too, but space is tight, and I will leave the Olympics theme with the reminder of the mouth-watering prospect that London 2012 offers for us to actually go and see the Games live. I can't wait.

Golf

It's not exactly on the scale of the Olympics, but a major international sports event is going to take place on our doorstep in September. The Seve Trophy 2005 will be held at Wynyard Golf Club just down the road. The event sees the cream of golfing talent in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland take on the best from continental Europe in a competition that follows a similar

format to the Ryder Cup. Although injury has put a stop to Seve Ballesteros playing in the event he will be there to support his playing captain Jose Maria Olazabal and team, against that led by Colin Montgomerie. The event takes place from September 22nd-25th and will boast a star studded line up, with the likes of Pdraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, Luke Donald and Sergio Garcia expected to be teeing off.

The Seve Trophy is biggest international sporting event that the North East has ever attracted and it's fantastic that it is taking place so close to Sedgefield. Expect an influx of golf fans and media towards the back end of September. Tickets are available now via the Seve Trophy website www.sevetrophy2005.com or at www.ticketmaster.co.uk, and can also be booked through a ticket hotline telephone number **0870 602 1121**. Get in quickly if you want to witness close at hand this major sporting extravaganza.

Aikido

Last month I promised some Aikido news, after Sedgefield News received an e-mail offering information about the sport. However, when I tried to respond to the e-mail my message was bounced back. If our Aikido correspondent will send me another e-mail and include a telephone number, I will make contact. All being well I will have the promised news next issue.

Wife Carrying

Stop the press – big news from the racecourse. The 'Sedgefield Racecourse Wife Carrying Race' will return (I had no idea it existed in the first place!) on Friday August 5th, sponsored by the Hartlepool based Cameron's Brewery with a £250 cash prize, as well as the 'wife's weight in beer', to the winner!

Last year's event attracted a small but select field with only six couples 'going to post' for the first running of the race. However, the finish was

dramatic with two competitors independently 'buckling' under the weight of their wives just yards from the line. The race was won by Andrew Richardson, 30 from Penrith, who intends to defend his title although it is unclear if he will be carrying the same 'wife'.

The sport of wife-carrying has come a long way since its early days (whatever they were – its origins are apparently Finnish), and the Sedgefield Racecourse version is more to do with entertainment than anything else. You are actually allowed to carry other people's wives as part of the contest, but it seems they all have to be returned at the end. In fact, it's not even necessary to be married, as long as 'wives' are over 17 years old.

The race distance on Friday 5th August is approximately ½ furlong from start to finish, with no obstacles. Dropping your wife does not incur a penalty, at least not during the race. Excessive use of the whip is discouraged. If you and your 'wife' are interested in taking part, please contact Jim Allen at the racecourse on 621925, but be quick, as there are limited places. Friday 5th August will see plenty of other entertainment during the meeting (as well as the horse racing) including a bouncy castle, face painting and Punch and Judy for the kids.

That's it for this month. I'll definitely have something on cricket next time and though it will still be summer, the next football season will be about to kick off.

Contributions

Please send contributions on any sport to:

chrisjlines@aol.com

or drop it through the letterbox at:

58 Front Street

and we will pass it on.

Cyclists visit Sedgefield to promote campaign



A group of cyclists publicising the Make Poverty History Campaign were given a good welcome by Sedgefield residents. They took a much earned rest on their trip from London to Edinburgh to coincide with the G8 summit. Some of the group of 21 anti-poverty campaigners had already been on a two week ride in Kenya and Tanzania. There they were able to meet people directly affected by poverty, and visit projects supported by Christian Aid, CAFOD, and Vet Aid. The group leader Margaret Hanson told us how the simple gift of a goat had transformed a widow's life, and given her back her independence. The Jubilee Scotland

cyclists who arrived on a warm June evening, were very grateful to the people of Sedgefield who offered showers, beds, and food. The highlight of their evening was a performance of African songs in Ceddesfeld Hall by the Sedgefield Lyric Youth Choir conducted by Sandy Clubley. They returned the compliment by acting out a short parable based on the Merchant of Venice.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Tuesday 28th June event.

Geoff Clifford-Brown

Halifax/Meikles Solicitors

We would like to confirm that Meikles Solicitors will not be closing following the departure of the Halifax Agency on 5th August. We will continue to operate as usual from our offices at 7 High Street, offering a wide range of legal services.

We understand from the Halifax that they have no plans to open another Halifax agency in Sedgefield

Elizabeth Forrest

*Meikles Solicitors
Sedgefield*

PM Supports Action on Old Beacon Lane

DOVE (Defend Our Village Environment) presented a petition from residents of Sedgefield to Rt. Hon Tony Blair seeking his support to protect Old Beacon Lane from the many anti-social behaviour activities. After the presentation, which described the current problems including Stockton Old Road, the Prime Minister gave his support and promised to report back in Sept. Full report of the PM's response (and the outcome of our complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman) at the next public meeting. *Mike Gibson*



Mike Gibson, Julia Bowles, David Hillerby and Allan Fletcher present the petition to the Prime Minister

Further investigation into the Roman site

In the last few weeks there has been a lot of archaeological activity in the East Park. A partnership between Durham County Council's County Archaeology Section and Archaeological Services University Durham (ASUD) has been running an excavation on part of the Romano-British site in the East Park. The Time Team first excavated parts of the site in 2002 but they only scratched the surface. Subsequent investigation has revealed that it is one of the largest Romano-British sites in the north-east, with the exception of Hadrian's Wall. So far nothing military has been discovered and the description of it as a Roman industrial estate still seems to be accurate.

The dig encompasses an area where the geophysics has highlighted a large target area at the joining of two ditches. This has proved to be a pit about six metres wide, of indeterminate use. Several sections through the ditches have been



excavated revealing some artefacts including pottery and animal bone, the bone being a rare discovery on such sites. On another part of the dig the remains of a small building have been found, with slots for the timbers laid on the ground. There is evidence that it was rebuilt at a later date, with vertical posts set into the ground. Other discoveries are two Roman ovens, probably used for drying grain or malting barley for brewing and several burnt areas of industrial origin. Late 4th century pottery has been found, Crambeck ware from the Castle Howard area, which is common on military sites, as well as a few coins and pins.

If you feel like a walk, the dig is in the East Park just to the left of the path from the Showfield to Hardwick Hall entrance. Once there, continue on into the West Park where rapid progress is being made with the restoration. The Temple of Minerva now has its dome in place and is well on towards completion. The walls of the Gothic Seat are rising above the platform and work is progressing on the tower of the Gothic Ruin. Some minor work is being completed on the Lake edges and soon (hopefully) the Lake will be allowed to fill. With the nice summer weather now with us, why not go and have a look!





Developing science and learning in Sedgefield



Boost for NetPark

In a further boost for the NetPark, it has been announced that a multi-million pound centre to help build a plastic electronics manufacturing infrastructure in the North East has been given the go ahead. Plastics electronics developer Plastic Logic has been granted permission to site an open access facility for the entire European plastics electronics community at the NetPark at a cost of more than £20m. The development is being co-ordinated by Cenamps, a centre of excellence set up by One NorthEast to bridge a gap between universities and business. Partners in the enterprise will include leading research universities such as Cambridge, Durham and Newcastle.

Stylish and comfortable underwear for mums-to-be

NetPark will soon be the location of a new company which intends to provide expectant mothers with comfortable and sexy lingerie. "Amoralia" is the brainchild of psychology graduate Jules Fossett.

Jules' idea of providing women with stylish and practical underwear, beat off the other competitors to win this prestigious business planning award from Durham University. Her prize for winning the Durham Blueprint competition (sponsored by County Durham Development Company plus others) is £2,000 and six months rent free in the incubator unit at the NetPark, plus free consultancy from business specialists.

The competition is in its second year and aims to celebrate enterprise and give the winners with the necessary support to make their business ideas successful.

Comet Dust

Comet Swift-Tuttle is not as famous as Halley's Comet (rhymes with either 'alley' or 'hall-ee' but not Bill Hayley and the Comets). Its orbital period of about 135 years makes revisits rare events – the next in 2126 will probably be a bit late for most of us! Swift-Tuttle does, however, leave a legacy which can be seen every year; comet dust. Comets have been described as dirty snowballs or as snowy dirtballs. As comets orbit the Sun, they leave behind a trail of dust. Each year, during late July and August, the Earth passes through the stream of dust left by Swift-Tuttle. This dust creates one of the year's most famous meteor showers; the Perseids. As the dust particles strike the Earth's upper atmosphere at up to 40 miles per second (over 100, 000 mph) they become white hot and burn away. These meteors are called Perseids because they appear to come from an area of the sky near the constellation of Perseus.

Two nights are likely to be good for observing the Perseids in 2005; 11th/12th and 12th/13th August.

Activity will begin to rise on the first of these nights and will probably be best on the second. Since 12th/13th is Friday night into Saturday morning, it is probably a good night for many to try a meteor watch. Binoculars and telescopes are not needed for meteor watching – a clear, dark sky and a comfortable, reclining seat.

Perseid meteors are expected to be seen at a rate of about 1 per minute by midnight and by then the Moon will have set. Choose a location with a good view of the north-eastern sky – sit back and relax whilst looking up at about 45° in that direction. Perseids are renowned for being fast and bright, and often leave persistent trails. *Tim Randall*

Planetarium Dates

Sunday 14th August at 3pm
"The Wonders of the Universe"

Sunday 28th August at 3pm
"Secrets of the Sun"

Adults £3, Concessions £1.50

Unlimited Family Ticket £6

Booking advised

Telephone:
John McCue 630544

August Diary

Announcements on this page are free
to non-commercial organisations

**Read on for what is
happening this month**

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 3rd August

7.15pm Parish Hall

Mrs J Wilkinson

“The Wildlife in Zimbabwe”

Members’ Comp. – Short Poem

about a Wild Animal

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Show

Saturday 13th August

Robert Brown Showfield,

West Park Lane

Neighbourhood Watch

Public Meeting

Tuesday 9th August

7pm in the Fletcher Room,

Parish Hall

Sedgefield Area Churches Together

invite you to an

Afternoon of Fellowship

in the grounds of

St Catherine’s Church, Fishburn

Sunday 14th August at 3:00pm

A united act of worship followed by

refreshments and time to chat with

friends old and new. Everyone is

welcome, whether a member of one

of the six churches or not

Sedgefield Farmers’ Market

from 9.30am - 1.30pm on

Sunday 14th August

On the Green

Please contact Joanne Martin

Tel: 0774 3337960 for details

Family History Group

(part of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 15th August

Sedgefield Library 7pm-9pm

NB - Please note change of usual

venue for this meeting

“Members’ Queries Evening”

Get help with your genealogical,

computer or internet questions.

A good selection of family history

reference books will be available for

research purposes

101 Gigs in August

20 - The Penny Black, Stockton

21 - The Phoenix, Seaham (7pm).

27 - Private Wedding

28 - Private Wedding

Sedgefield & District Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Like our photographs?

They look even better in colour!

We can supply high quality prints of

many of the photographs in

Sedgefield News and on the

Sedgefield Web.

Contact Sedgefield Development

Partnership for details on

629011 (answerphone)

or tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Town Councillor Surgery

No Surgery in August

Sedgefield Garden Society

No Meeting in August

Tiny Steps at St. Edmund’s

No Meeting in August

Local History Society

No Meeting in August

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

No Meeting in August

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

No Meeting in August

Country Market

No market in August

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club

**We have spaces for the
summer holidays!**

We provide childcare from
8am-6pm for school children
up to the age of 14

Situated in the grounds of
Sedgefield Primary School in
Rectory Row, we have a fun-
packed summer programme of
activities and outings and we
welcome new faces!

**Please phone for details and
availability on 623565**

St Edmund’s Church

Baptisms and Weddings can be
booked in Church on Thursdays
between 6.30 & 7.30pm

Sedgefield Methodist Church

is used throughout the year, not
only for services, but also for many
other activities including Play
School and charity Coffee

Forward Planner

September

Country Market re-starts
26th - Oct 1st Drama Festival

October

15th Round Table Autumn Fayre
22nd Trafalgar Day, Ceddesfeld

November

5th Fireworks Display, Ceddesfeld
19th St Edmund’s Church Fayre

December

9th & 10th Lyric Singers’ Concerts

**For up to date changes and new
events go to**

www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Your Letters

Thank You!

I just wanted to thank all of you who took time to visit Sedgefield Farmers' Market on Sunday 10th July. It was a lovely sunny day and being on the Village Green made for a fantastic atmosphere. All the stallholders commented on the substantial increase of customers and I hope that those new to the market found the produce good value for money. The next Farmers' Market is the day after Sedgefield Show (Sunday 14th August) and again there will be a wide selection of produce including free range eggs, locally produced meat, fresh fish, soup, cheese, preserves, cake and plants. A Touch Of Class (handmade soaps) will also make a welcome return to the August Market! If you have any questions, please contact me (Joanne) on 0774 3337960.

Joanne Martin

Safer Roads for all: Mobile phone use/abuse

I have noticed in recent weeks that the use of mobile phones by drivers seems to have increased in Sedgefield, both by van drivers and private motorists. A study has shown that the risk of a collision is four times greater when a driver was using a mobile phone, or soon after a call had finished. The results also indicated that using the mobile phone in hands-free mode was just as risky as holding the mobile phone with one hand.

Rothman, K.J. (2000)

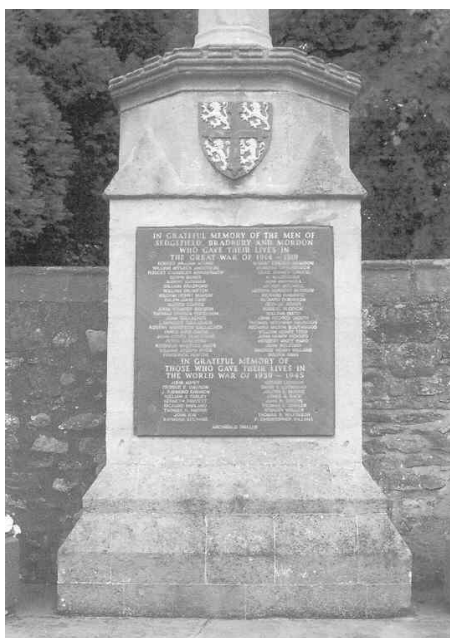
"Epidemiological Evidence on Health Risks of Cellular Telephones," *The Lancet*, vol.356, no.9244, pp.1837-1840.

R Smeeton

Road Safety Group, Sedgefield
Resident's Forum

Photographs featured in the Sedgefield News or the Website may be purchased. Contact 629011 or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk for more information

The Refurbishment of Sedgefield War Memorial



The Co-operative Funeral Service was approached by Sedgefield Town Council regarding the refurbishment of the War Memorial prior to the 60th Anniversary celebration of V.E. Day. They asked their monumental masons, North East Granite, to look at the possibility of re-furbishing the existing plaque which held the names of the war veterans from both Great Wars. Unfortunately, the

news was not good, the plaque was beyond repair and its removal would destroy part of the War Memorial. However, there was a compromise. A new plaque could be made, holding all the existing veterans names and allowing the addition of a soldier's name from the 1st World War that had been omitted from the original plaque. The new plaque, made from Lakeland Green Slate to complement the original materials, could be placed over the original so as not to destroy any part of the War Memorial for historical and sentimental reasons. This skilled workmanship came at a cost. Funds were sought and found from Sedgefield Town Council, PC Todd's Fire Walk and the Co-operative Funeral Service. It was agreed that the Co-operative Funeral Service would ask their monumental masons to carry out the work to supply and fit the new plaque.

As the photograph shows, the War Memorial has now been brought back to its former glory. It was re-dedicated on 5th June as part of the 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day's Thanksgiving Service.

What is happening at Harbinson House?

The building work currently being carried out at Sedgefield Surgery will last for approximately 12 weeks, and will result in a two storey extension at the front of the building. This will create two new consulting rooms on the ground floor and further office space on the upper floor. The waiting area will be extended and the front entrance will be re-sited and equipped with electronic doors, with provision for secure pushchair parking within the building. The reception desk will be modified slightly to accommodate the changes to the waiting area. The surgery is currently accessible

via the back entrance. Disabled parking spaces are situated in the bays previously allocated for medical staff, and are available for use for the duration of the building project.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our patients and visitors, and appreciate your tolerance and understanding while this work is being carried out.

Louise Ruecroft

Assistant Practice Manager
Dr Jones & Partners

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

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