

Sedgefield News *logo*

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

December 2006

A very Merry Christmas from Sedgefield News

2006: not a bad year for swanning around!

Ian Hunter's collection of photographs taken over the nesting season for SedgefieldWeb charts this year's success story at Hardwick Country Park



The nest site is chosen & the work begins, both cob & pen sharing the load.



Endless patience is needed with a clutch this size!



The cob was never far away and always watchful



Left - first swim and right: early November brings us Ian's last photograph of the family, with the cygnets at 5 months old.



Bring us your news & meet the team

On Monday 11th December from 9.30 - 1pm, the Sedgefield News team will be working on the January issue at 58 Front Street.

We would welcome the chance to meet the people who make the news, so if you have something to pass on to our readers, or if you usually pop a note through the letterbox or email your news to us, why not pop in to say hello. We'll have some seasonal refreshments on hand to welcome you.

You'll be able to see how the News is produced, make suggestions for features or make an entry in the January Diary.

Also, if you have never had hands on experience with a computer, you are welcome to have a guided tour of one of ours!

In the New Year we hope to open the office regularly on the Monday morning closest to our deadline. We will publish the date and time each month in Sedgefield News.

EARLY DEADLINE

As we must get the January edition to the printer well before the Christmas break, we need your copy as early as possible please.

Carols on the Green

Join in the singing on Friday 22nd December at 6pm
All your old favourites, led by the Trimdon Silver Band

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Midnight on the Village Green

Meet friends old & new to welcome in the New Year.

Special Christmas Farmers' Market

on Sunday 10th December from 9am - 1.30pm

Santa will be popping in and you can enjoy seasonal entertainment and refreshments

Sedgefield Scouts Christmas Post Service

Members of 1st Sedgefield Scout Group and the St. Edmund's Explorers Unit will deliver Christmas cards within Sedgefield village during December. If you would like to use this service, please take your cards to Number Four on Front Street and deposit them in the box that has been placed there. Any donations for delivering cards will be gratefully received and will contribute to 1st Sedgefield's involvement in the Scout Movement's World Jamboree & centenary celebrations during 2007.

Sedgefield Community College Christmas Concert

Tuesday 12th December 7-9 pm

See the school pantomime - a humorous version of "The Night Before Christmas" plus a comedy sketch of the Three Shepherds, music, carol singing, PTA raffle & refreshments.

Tickets £2.50 from the school main office or 'Selections'

It was with great sadness that everyone involved with Sedgefield Development Trust received the news that Dan Mold had died. We had known, of course, about his illness and its increasing severity - Dan was nothing if not open and honest - but it was still a shock to learn that he would no longer be with us.

Dan volunteered to be a Trustee and Director when the Partnership, as it was then, was set up and his main interest was to further the cause of adult education in the community. He continued to work on the Zone project until the last few days of his life, and we are very grateful for his contribution. He was a kind and caring man with a gentle but unmistakable sense of humour and he will be very much missed by us all.

Roger Clubley

Chairman, Sedgefield Development Trust

Daniel Mold 1948 - 2006

Dan was brought up in Thornley vicarage, and from this background he developed strength of character and a quiet dignity as well as a faith which sustained him right through his illness.

His interests were very many: in addition to his close-knit home with Susan and the two girls, he loved nature and was hugely knowledgeable about the weather, rocks and fossils, insects and animals. He enjoyed birdwatching and provided carefully chronicled information to BOT surveys.

Dan was a most regular churchgoer; for several years he was treasurer at St. Edmund's and was an enormous help to me when I arrived in this parish. He loved teaching - his subject was geography, especially outdoor activities, which included camping with students in snow holes, and latterly at East Durham College he prepared students for all the armed services, civil and military, though he was flexible enough to turn his hand to maths and other subjects if necessary. His knowledge of World War I was encyclopaedic.

All this might make him sound a sobersides, but Dan greatly enjoyed comedy - the Goons, Monty Python, Blackadder, the Two Ronnies, Have I got News for You? and so on. He loved real ales and brewed his own, made sloe gin, loved gardening alongside Susan and travelling with her to many parts of the world: throughout Britain, Europe, USA, the Canadian Rockies, Russia, Mexico, Peru (they celebrated their silver wedding at Machu Pichu). Only ten weeks before his death there was an uncomfortably close encounter with a lion in South Africa.

He met Susan as a student, and first showed an interest in her by lending her a book on badgers. This unusual chat-up was to be followed after their marriage by her discovery of a carefully stored harvest mouse in her fridge, and later, a guillemot in the freezer! His idea of a good weekend involved a long walk with Susan and a pub lunch, enjoying the scenery, the birds and flowers, the moors, castles, cathedrals and country houses.

These things strike me most: his tireless energy and willingness to help; his keeping in touch with students and family; his meticulous care, his firmness and fairness. And his faith: his last night on earth, apparently semi-comatose, he expressed his thanks for his life and his hope for heaven.

The Reverend Martin King

No more NHS dentistry in Sedgefield

Some of our readers have informed us that they have received notice from our local dental surgery (Chris Edmonds and Associates of Front Street, Sedgefield) that there are important changes ahead which will affect people of all ages living in the Sedgefield area.

For many years this privately owned practice has provided the local population with both NHS and private dental treatment.

Recent discussions between the practice and Sedgefield Primary Care Trust unfortunately resulted in "irreconcilable differences" and from 31st January 2007 the practice has decided to stop offering NHS dental treatment. Patients will instead be offered a "Practice Plan" membership scheme - private dental treatment only.

What do you think about the changes? How will this affect you and your family? Please let us have your views in early December for the January issue of Sedgefield News.

We would welcome responses from the public, PCT and the Practice.

Charity Book Launch

On Saturday 2nd December, we will having a coffee morning to launch a dessert recipe book, based on contributions made by many people in Sedgefield and beyond.

The proceeds will go towards helping to prevent AIDS in Lesotho, a tiny African nation, where 30% of adults are HIV positive, and where 70,000 children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. In 1991, I went on an exchange visit to Lesotho organised by the Durham diocese before this epidemic struck. It is an awful thought to realise that many of the friends I made on that exchange trip will have died from AIDS.

Although the book will be raising money for a serious cause, the coffee morning - shared with Sunshine Corner - will be fun, with Christmas music and mince pies. Please come along to Sedgefield Methodist Church between 10am and noon. If you'd like to purchase a book for £4 call me, Vanessa Morrell on 01740 629834.

Many thanks to all who supported George Simpson's fund raising Coffee Morning on the 4th November. It was very well supported and raised over £700 for medical supplies for the Gambia.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Winter Nights – Security Concerns

With the dark nights comes the Burglar & Sneak Thief's greatest opportunity, so take the time and trouble to help yourself minimise the risk of their Xmas Bonus!

Don't leave your house unlit after dark. Use light timers and draw curtains.

Don't leave valuable items or Xmas presents on show.

Lock your doors even when you are at home.

Don't leave your keys where a thief can see them or where they can be hooked and retrieved via the letterbox.

Tell a "trusted" neighbour of any extended periods of absence and ask for their help to push all letters and papers **fully** through the letterbox (& why not complain to the culprits who leave stuff sticking out in the first place?). Report any suspicious persons or out of place vehicles to the Police on 0845 60 60 365

Door Bars are a simple and effective deterrent to the sneak thief or unwelcome visitor; these are available from our local Community Warden **Tim Spearey** who will also fit same if required (Tim's phone details below or contact N/Hood Watch C/man **Ken Saiger** on **621896**).

Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice and usually they go elsewhere, similarly good exterior lighting usually deters thieves; for advice on these items and other security aspects contact **Neil Langthorne** our local Crime Prevention Officer (see below).

N/Hood Watch are able to provide door/window stickers stating "No Cold Calling" and also a small label to attach to your phone, with the Police & Warden telephone numbers detailed on it; please contact Ken Saiger or your Neighbourhood Watch Street Contact for supply.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Community Warden Tim Spearey - 623654

or via Chilton Control Room - **01388 721351**

To report concerns, seek advice or give information to

Local Police, telephone **0845 6060365** (NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no.)

For advice/assistance: CPO Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Sarah Norman: 01325 742755

PC Todd reports

I am sure that residents will have noticed that a number of windows along High Street have been broken recently and had to be boarded up; I can report that a male (not local) has been arrested and is helping police with their enquiries into this mindless damage.

I was disappointed to hear about an assault which occurred recently on Front Street which resulted in the victim being admitted to hospital, where he is still receiving treatment. I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery. A male is helping the police in this matter, too.

Last month I asked where you kept your car keys and related an incident involving double vehicle theft. I should like to make it clear that the unfortunate victim, whose keys had been located by thieves, had not just left his keys lying around. Until next time, *Keith*

Pub Watch

At a recent meeting in the Dun Cow, members decided that a male who had caused damage to a member's premises window should receive a 13 month ban.

Not the Royal Mail - beware of postal scam

The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam: a card is posted through your door from a company called **PDS** (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number: it is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk

Young Persons' Health Event Report published

In January 2004, there was an opportunity for the Patient & Public Involvement Forum Sedgefield to apply for funding to support specific pieces of work. At the time, the government had recently produced its Choosing Health white paper that put forward proposals for how services should encourage the population to live healthier lifestyles.

The Forum, in partnership with Sedgefield Primary Care Trust held Young Persons' Health Events in three schools in the area, with an emphasis on healthy eating and providing information to help children and young people to make decisions about their lifestyle and control their own health. The Forum and the PCT went about doing this through various methods including preparing and providing healthy snacks, fruit smoothie-making displays, discussion groups, questionnaires and other various exercises which highlighted how to live a healthy lifestyle.

The Forum has now produced a report on the Young Persons' Health Events and if anybody would like to obtain a copy, they can contact Jane King, Forum Support Co-ordinator on 01325 327463

Veterans' Quiz Prize Presentation

After the service of Remembrance at the War Memorial, The Mayor, Councillor Dudley Waters, on behalf of Sedgefield Veterans, presented the prize to the winners of the quiz which was held at the Exhibition, on 21st October in Ceddesfeld Hall, to the Devine family of Beacon Avenue, who had the only entry which was 100% correct.

He also presented a donation of £40 to the St Edmund's Explorer Scouts, Jonathan Dunn and Tom Watson, for services rendered.

These two lads will be attending next year's World Jamboree, to be held in Essex, commemorating the 100 anniversary of the first Scout camp to be held by Sir Robert Baden-Powell (later Lord Baden-Powell) on Brownsea Island, Poole bay, started on the 27th July 1907. We are sure the lads will appreciate any further financial help that anyone can give them. They are prepared to work for it.

Good luck to them!

David Hillerby & Tim Spearey

Jottings: Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

From the October meeting:

Ongoing issues were raised and discussed, in particular the relationship between the Forum and the Town Council. Both organisations wish to promote a more efficient way of dealing with issues, which affect our community. The recently published Government white paper will influence this – it would seem that more powers will be given to local authorities, it is therefore increasingly important that the voice of the community is heard and listened to, it also appears that local areas/authorities have three months to address their status e.g. unitary, elected Mayor, directly elected Chief Executive - presumably we are going to be consulted on this! So watch out for information and don't forget we have local elections next May. There are real concerns about the planning application for the wind farm at Butterwick. As always it is not just the people closest to it that will be affected, there are issues that can impact on the whole area. A group is forming to address the proposal - the first priority is to ascertain the time scale i.e. when is the planning meeting etc. to take place. The proposal for 17 windmills is the largest that EON, the applying company, have anywhere – we really need to be aware of the consequences of such a large wind farm in our area – watch out for information or if you would like to get involved with the group now contact the Residents Forum.

Another very concerning piece of information has been highlighted. Whilst not confirmed in writing, rumour has it that bus companies are proposing to stop all buses after 6pm in the village. We can imagine the impact this would have – again, the Forum will try to find out more.

The Forum will have a stand at the Organisations Fayre in the Parish Hall on Saturday 25th November. We may not be able to have someone attending the stand all day but there will be information and an opportunity to leave your contact address if you wish. All Forum info can be found in the usual places, Notice Board, Library, Town Council and the village web sites.

Winterton Hospital War Memorial Service Resurrected

At 10-45am on Saturday 11th November 2006, Sedgefield Veterans held the first service at the above Memorial since Winterton Hospital closed; however, we understand that wreaths have been laid, regularly, without benefit of a service during the interim period.

Father John Caden and Rev. Michael Gobbett officiated and the Mayor of Sedgefield village, Councillor Dudley Waters and the Mayor of Sedgefield Borough, Councillor Lucy Hovvels each laid a wreath. Mr Jackie Brown, President laid a wreath on behalf of Trimdon Branch of the Royal British Legion and Tim Spearey laid one on behalf of Sedgefield veterans. Mr Eric Richards played "Last Post" & "Reveille" on his bugle, interspersed by "The Silence", at 11 o'clock, to correspond with the silencing of the guns on the same date in 1918.

There was a goodly turnout, including Mrs Christine Moore, who owns the site and gave her permission for the service to be held, with the proviso that it is repeated next year, when we hope for a much bigger service and turnout. It will probably be held at 2pm on Sunday 11th November so as not to clash with the service at St Edmunds church.

We would also like to thank Durham County Council, Etherley Lane Depot for coming to our rescue, by sending their Simon Snorkel Land Rover across to Sedgefield and putting the cord onto the 25ft. high flag pole, thus enabling us to fly the flag of St George, over the weekend. A big thank you to all who attended.

David Hillerby



Remembrance Sunday

Those who attended on Remembrance Sunday will no doubt agree that the service conducted by Reverend Michael Gobbett was memorable and well attended; thank you to Reverend Gobbett.

We would however, like to say a very special thank you to the children and young people of our organisation, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - for attending the service and for being so well-turned out. A number of people commented on how smart and well-behaved they were. It is important for our youngsters to be involved in Remembrance. We would also like to extend thanks to parents, carers and friends for their commitment and support on such an important occasion.

*Thank you, on behalf of the
1st Sedgefield Scout Group*

A salute

to the men from this town who are putting together the Veterans' Association:

the display put on in Ceddesfeld Hall on October 21st was great and the simple service today at the Winterton War Memorial was very moving.

I hope more folk will attend at future remembrances and that the Veterans may have a grant from somewhere in order to have a Standard made and proudly borne at town functions.

Maureen Royale Semmens (Mrs)

Sports Update

with chrisjlines@aol.com

By the time this newsletter has been delivered, the first Ashes Test in Brisbane will have taken place and we will have a better idea of England's prospects for retaining the famous urn. As I type, it looks like there will be two representatives from the North East in the team – Steve Harmison and Paul Collingwood – with Liam Plunkett also in the squad. All three came up through Durham County Cricket Club's academy and it's a source of great pride that the club continues to provide players for the national team.

Another prospect started to make a name for himself last season and is a talent to watch in the future.

Graham Onions forced his way into England's One Day International squad and ended the season being crowned Durham CCC's Bowler of the Year and Young Player of the Year. Durham's wicketkeeper is Phil Mustard, so if nothing else, the presence of these two in the team does provide the amusing sight of the opposition score card

describing a batsman as "caught Mustard, bowled Onions,!" The club has now published many of next season's domestic fixtures, on www.durhamccc.co.uk and of course the Riverside will host and England vs. West Indies Test Match from 15 – 19th June. Tickets are selling fast for that match – again, full details can be found on the website.

Good luck to England in the Ashes. Even better luck to anyone planning to stay up all night to watch the Tests and then go to work!

Sedgefield Harriers

Sedgefield Harriers recently held their first annual dinner at Ministers Restaurant. The event marked the climax of a very successful first year for the club, which has grown its membership to 49. It all bodes well for a great future. At the dinner the Club Captains for the forthcoming year were announced as Nick Burchall for the men and Jeanette Ives for the women.

Winners of the Summer Time Trial series with fastest times were Gary Hetherington for the men and Rosie Sims for the women. Ean Parsons won the Summer Grand Prix series for the men and Jeanette Ives for the women. Club Development Officer Scott Hydon awarded Level 1 UK Athletics coaching awards to Ean, Jeanette and Rosie Sims. The

evening concluded with Runner of the Year award going to Rosie Sims and Club Member of the Year to Scott Hydon.

Football

Sedgefield's leading Sunday league team is St. Edmund's, playing in the Premier Division of the Durham District League. The team had a poor start to the season, but form has really picked up. Of the last 10 games, St. Edmund's have won eight and drawn one. This great run included a local derby against the Black Lion in the Staffieri Cup. It was a hard fought game, but St. Edmund's ran out 3-0 winners. The Black Lion missed a few good chances during the match, but St. Edmund's deserved the victory and are looking forward to the next round of the cup and continued success in the league.

Crosshills FC are having a mixed season, their first in the Durham District League. Cup success has eluded them, but they are starting to make modest progress in the league. Three wins in a row in October boosted confidence and though the team have since suffered a defeat at the hands of the league leaders, prospects for a good league position remain high.

Junior Football

It's not strictly on our 'patch', but there are plenty of children from Sedgefield who are members of Trimdon Juniors FC, so it's good to know what the club offers.

Trimdon Juniors runs football teams for boys for all age ranges, from under 10s to under 18s. Also there are weekly training sessions for under 6s and under 8s in the "mini-tot" range and there is also a girls' team for the under 11 age group.

The teams play in the Teesside Junior Football Alliance and are enjoying varying degrees of success, with the most successful team currently being the U15s who have won most of their games this season. Teams train once a week at Trimdon Community College.

Training nights for the different age groups vary according to the availability of the astro turf. Players in the teams tend to be from the Trimdons **and** the surrounding villages. Over half of the boys from the under 14s squad, for example, are from Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham. There are also social events and leisure activities to get involved in. Next up is the family Christmas disco on December 22nd

– at Trimdon Labour Club.

Anyone interested in playing in or coaching (or wanting to attend the disco) can ring Tony Magee on 01740 622167 or Ian Harper (Secretary) on 01429 880240.

Merry Christmas

It's going to be a bumper festive season for armchair sports viewing and there will as ever be mince pies, turkey and sprouts (!) here, there and everywhere. However, many of Sedgefield's sports clubs and facilities will still be open for business most of December, so the opportunities to keep fit won't disappear beneath the wrapping paper, tinsel and baubles! Have a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year and keep the sports news flowing to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Looking for the stars of London

2012. It's only 6 years to the London Olympics and the medallists and stars of the future are already practising hard on playing fields and pitches and in pools around the world. Who knows who they will be or where they will come from. But for all we know one of them could be within our midst! To see the young people practising athletics skills at the Sedgefield Harriers' Junior session is heart warming. Club coach Scott Hydon has created a special atmosphere with the young people under his wing and it's only a matter of time before they are running, jumping and throwing their way to success.

Scott is a full-time Sports Development Officer at Clairville Stadium in Middlesbrough where he encourages young people to get involved in athletics. In his spare time he relaxes by doing exactly the same for Sedgefield Harriers! He has already worked with pupils from Hardwick and Rectory Row Primary Schools and with Students from Sedgefield Community College and encouraged some to give athletics a try. The sessions Scott runs are a far cry from the dreaded cross country purgatory we all remember from school. He mixes coaching and instruction with fun and blends them with enthusiasm to provide multi-activity sessions the young people enjoy.

All of this takes place close to home at Sedgefield Community College and all young people

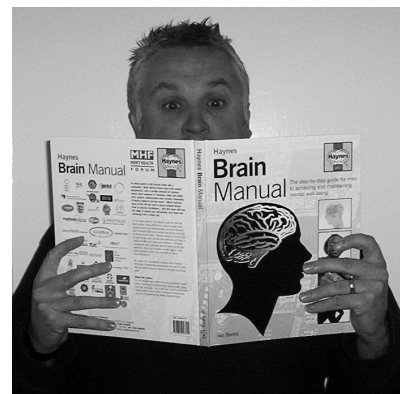
continued right...

Writing therapy

Sedgefield News recently received a touching letter from a lady who moved to Sedgefield this summer. She says she enjoys reading all the local news and sent us one of the poems she has written during the past year to help her through some personal difficulties.

Sadly it is too long to publish, but it is a very loving and moving tribute to her daughter Katie, who is clearly a source of pride and a considerable help to her Mum "You cared for me, I cared for you, You chose the time, you read my mind" - just 2 lines from the poem.

It reminded me strongly of the power of words to heal and give solace. With creative writing the link is perhaps most obvious, but even just sub editing some of the news that comes in regularly, making it read more clearly, or having to précis it when short of space, can carry me away from everyday anxieties. That's it! Just a comment, a recommendation maybe. Oh yes, and thank you to Norma, who sent the poem, for inadvertently teaching me this lesson. *Editor*



De-stressing - see page 9!

Sedgefield Walking Group

If Ian Hunter's photograph encourages you to get out and join them, you need to know that the meeting time has changed to 1pm for the winter months. The group strides out every Tuesday on varied routes, with occasional trips away from the immediate area.



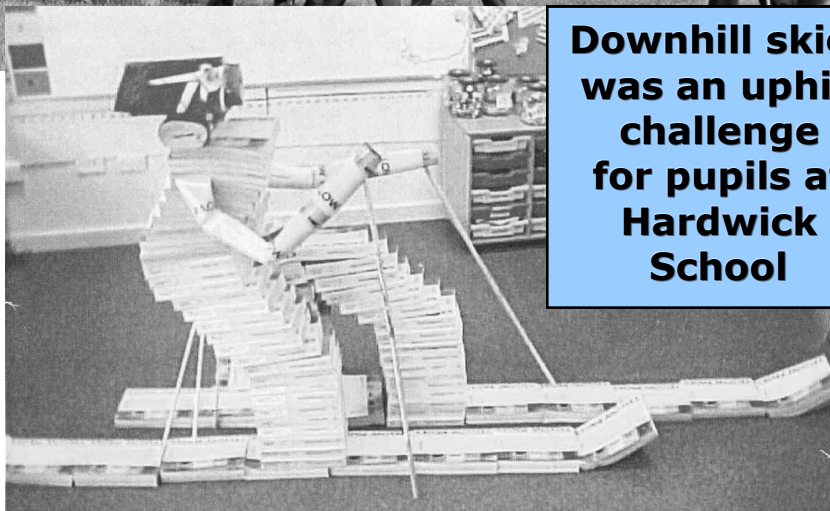
between the ages of 7 and 15 are very welcome to come along, no previous athletics involvement is required. Sessions cost £1 and run between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. Maybe, just maybe we'll find that future champion!

More information can be obtained from Scott Hydon on 01740 620251, scotthydon@yahoo.com or just come along any Wednesday at 6.30 p.m.

More information on Sedgefield Harriers can be found on

www.sedgefieldharriers.com.

Sedgefield Harriers Coaching and Development Officer, Scott Hydon



Downhill skier was an uphill challenge for pupils at Hardwick School



Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School has again reached the national final of the *Yellow Pages* sculpture competition, this time with the Downhill Skier, which is constructed from old directories. They really do us proud with their tremendous record in this competition. The result is due this month with top prize £1,000. For every pound awarded to schools, *Yellow Pages* donates one pound to the Woodland Trust's 'Tree For All' campaign.

The competition is part of the Yellow Woods Challenge, run by *Yellow Pages* with the Woodland Trust and local authorities. The campaign aims to recycle old *Yellow Pages* directories and save landfill, to educate children about the environment and support the Woodland Trust's 'Tree For All' tree planting campaign. This will allow children to plant 12 million trees, making a very positive difference. For further details visit www.treeforall.org.uk.

Neil Buchanan, presenter of CITV's *Art Attack* had the difficult task of picking his six favourites from a huge number of entries, and the 'Downhill Skier' really caught his eye. "I love the clever 3D design of this entry. This must have taken a long time to design and build. The skier really looks as if he is speeding along down a mountain slope and having a fantastic time."

According to teacher Anne Burns, building the downhill skier proved to be an uphill challenge, but success came through "teamwork, creativity and a hands-on approach to balance!"



photo Courtesy of Grange Photography
The wedding of Alison Jane Huitson
to John David Stoddart of
Hartlepool took place at Sedgefield
Methodist Church on 7th October
and the Reception was held at the
Staincliffe Hotel, Seaton Carew.
Contact
snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk
with your news

CAVOS BEFRIENDING PROJECT

**Would you like to play a more active role in your community?
Do you lack the confidence to take that all important first step?
CAVOS CAN HELP!!**

We are developing an exciting new project aimed at people who need a little bit of extra support and encouragement to help them into volunteering or training.

CAVOS has a wide range of volunteering and training opportunities to offer but understands that not everyone has the confidence to take the plunge.

Funding from Sedgefield Borough Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund will enable CAVOS to recruit and train volunteer Support Partners who will work with people to help build their confidence. Over a period of weeks or even months they will work with people on a one to one basis, building a positive relationship and helping them to overcome the barriers that are preventing them from moving on.

CAVOS is looking both to recruit volunteers who are keen to train as Support Partners and to make contact with people who feel that they might benefit from the friendship and encouragement that a Support Worker could provide.

**If you would like to find out more about the CAVOS
Befriending Project in either capacity, please telephone
Freda or Sharon at the CAVOS office in
Spennymoor on 01388 811115.**

Unitary U-turn? *It may be dry reading, but bear with it, because it will affect our lives*

You may recall in 2004 we had a Referendum. The issue was Regional Government, but on the back of this, County Durham was asked to vote on proposals for the re-organisation of Local Government, and given two options; either one unitary authority, County Durham Council, or two unitary authorities covering the North and South of the County.

The outcome was in favour of one unitary authority, but this could not be implemented because the outcome was tied into the vote for Regional Government being agreed. This was consequently rejected by the voters. Nevertheless it is clear that the status quo is not an option, and now some two years on the Department for Communities and Local Government has issued an invitation to Councils in England to make proposals for the future unitary structures and to pioneer pathfinding new two-tier models. The indicative timetable is as follows:-

Oct 2006	Alongside the White Paper, an invitation to all county, district and unitary councils in England, except London Boroughs and metropolitan district councils, to submit proposals for unitary structures
Jan 2007	Deadline for councils to submit proposals for unitary structures
March 2007	Announcements of the Government's preliminary views as to those proposals that have met specified criteria. Consultation with local stakeholders that are potentially affected by the proposals.
June 2007	Stakeholder consultation closes.
Early July 2007	Final announcement of those areas that will be restructuring into unitaries.
May 2008	Elections to new unitaries
By April '09	New unitaries up and running

As you can see the timescale is extremely tight and the window of opportunity for public consultation is small. The website address for those who have access is www.communities.gov.uk
It is vital that we are all aware of the implications and impact of these

Christmas Cooks' Corner

Christmas Nut Roast

- 3 oz butter or margarine
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 5 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 6 oz Brazil nuts, ground
- 6 oz roasted, ground cashew nuts
- 2 oz wholemeal breadcrumbs
- 4 oz mashed potato or parsnip
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- ½ tspn oregano
- ¼ tspn ground ginger
- ¼ tspn cayenne pepper
- ½ tspn curry powder
- Juice and rind of ½ a lemon
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Stock or wine to taste
- Salt and pepper
- 8 oz chestnut puree

Heat the butter, add the onion and cook until transparent. Add garlic and celery and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and put in a large bowl with the nuts, breadcrumbs, potato, parsley, herbs & spices, lemon rind and juice, egg and stock. Season generously and mix well to give a firm consistency. Press half the mixture into a greaseproof paper lined 2 lb loaf tin. Spread chestnut puree over the mixture. Top with the remaining nut mixture. Bake at 190 C, 375 F, Gas mark 5 for 45-60 minutes until golden brown.

November Farmers' Market Report

Stallholders agree that Sedgefield Village Green is one of the most lovely Farmers' Market settings. The green, with its trees, pavings, cobbles and overlooking buildings contribute to a strong sense of history felt by anyone who cares to stroll around or sit and contemplate for a while.

Today customers and stallholders were proud to participate in sombre memories of history during the annual Remembrance Day Service. The simple eloquence of the Minister's words and sonorous bugle notes directed us, silent onlookers, in our thoughts.

A baby crying and toddlers playing reminded us that there was a market on. Sedgefield is a family market: small children run and have space for playing on the green; senior citizens similarly have time, space and a friendly atmosphere to relax in.

The proximity of Christmas brought many customers to our stalls looking for special Seasonal fare and gifts. We were lucky today to have beautifully hand crafted earthenware from Dave Drewery. Home made country wines from Skinningrove Wines would be unique gifts, gift bags from Pickled Pink Preserves were popular, fudge maker Loopy Lisa has produced her exquisite, new Christmas fudge with figs and nuts. Lisa's stall today was extended to include a special game involving Pudsey Bear's friends. This was particularly appealing to younger children whilst also raising funds for Children in Need.

The wide range of stalls also available at Sedgefield includes fresh fish and shellfish, free-range poultry and eggs, also puddings. Organic vegetables, David and Anne Melmerby's vegetables, Game, Nurseries, Cakes, Christmas puddings and orders for celebration cakes, farm-reared pork and bacon organic beef and lamb are all there for you. See you in December!

Winterton Lighting

Jan Welsh is a lady with a problem. She has been trying for over 6 months to get 2 street lamps repaired in front of her property at Winterton Park, where the lamps are actually still under the ownership of Miller Homes, not having been adopted by the Council as yet. Miller's technical department tells her the responsibility for repairs lies with contractors EDL...

Jan would obviously just like someone to do the repair. As she says, knowing who SHOULD be doing it doesn't make her feel any safer at home. She writes:

"It is very dark in the area and I am very concerned about break-ins, car theft, or tripping and falling, especially now that the dark nights are upon us. Durham County Council are not interested, as the estate has not been adopted, even though I pointed out that if adoption is near they will be inheriting a long outstanding issue which would then cost the local tax payer. I've spoken with neighbours who have been informed the repair is not straightforward; it would involve digging up land as the repair is underground. I spoke to a footpath workman contracted by Miller Homes. He said he would inform his foreman, but other than that he could not help. I had a better response from Sedgefield Borough Council's Community Safety Warden, Colin Mason. He was very helpful, and has contacted Miller Homes expressing concerns for public safety, theft, and injury due to the area being so dark. They told him they are looking at the problem and it will soon be repaired. I'm not holding my breath, but I greatly appreciated the effort made by the Officer".

With luck, by the time we get this month's edition printed and distributed, Jan's problem will be resolved, but this does seem to be a case of the proverbial buck being passed without anyone bothering to stop it! We welcome responses from the other parties involved. Editor

The North Wind doth blow and we shall have snow

But hope the snow does not come too soon, as we pensioners who use the last bus stop in Sedgefield for Stockton will be frozen!

Once we had a bus shelter – it was in a poor condition but would have given us some cover until the "Powers that be" erected another one. In late summer it was taken down. We have no hope now for a replacement until next year. Most likely it will arrive next summer.

Warm Christmas greetings to all! G. Wilson

We contacted the Town Council and it seems that Stockton Road is on the list for a new bus shelter, though they could not say when. It seems that ADSHELL, who provide bus shelters free of charge, prioritise the most well used locations, where their adverts will be seen by many. Winter drawers on! Ed.

Age Concern offer help to stressed men

Age Concern is trying to dispel the myth that men don't suffer from mental health problems by offering them a chance to read up in the rather unexpected form of a Haynes "Brain Manual"

Any man who has used a Haynes manual in their life will instantly recognise the layout more customarily used to describing the internal workings of a mini metro than their brain. This time however, Haynes have teamed up with Dr Ian Banks, who has written the manuals in an entertaining and informative way, cutting through jargon and explaining that men do regularly suffer from mental health problems

There are many reasons for people become vulnerable to developing mental health problems; indeed one in four of us will experience a problem at some stage in our lives. Although these problems affect both men and women, men are much less likely to seek help, finding it hard to admit to the fact that they are feeling fragile and vulnerable to a doctor, ending up talking more about physical than emotional and psychological symptoms.

Mike Bridge, development worker for Age Concern in Sedgefield said "Both the Manual and Mini Manual are well written and are easy reads. It's true that historically men find it harder to talk about their feelings, one thing that the books both do is make us realise that if we're suffering then we're not alone and that there are things that we can do as "blokes" to help ourselves. It offers simple advice that we can take or leave, but by getting one of these manuals anyone is taking a great first step. We've been fortunate to secure 3 of the manuals that normally sell for £17.00 and 20 of the mini manuals, so that we can give them away to the residents of Sedgefield Borough."

All the men of the borough have to do is phone in on 01388 720064 and leave their name and address stating that they would like the manual. The first three to leave a message will receive the manual; the next twenty will receive the mini manuals. All the manuals will be delivered in the post.

For further information please contact Age Concern on 01388 720064

December Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Local History Society

Monday 4th December

at 7.45 in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tim Brown on

**"Walter de Merton,
Chancellor Extraordinaire,
Oxford University - and the
Sedgefield Connection"**

We are also offering mulled wine and mince pies, for an extra donation of £1.

Everybody welcome!

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday December 5th

Christmas Party

(Contact committee member)

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.30 pm

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 6th December

7:15pm Parish Hall

**Liz Wilkinson's
Christmas Treats**

Members' competition;
home-made, edible
Christmas tree decoration

Visitors welcome

Festive Harmony

The Lyric Singers, SLYC & Lirica

present their **Christmas Concert**

in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on

**Friday 8th & Saturday 9th
December**

Tickets £5/£4 concessions
including seasonal refreshments,
from 'Selections', choir members
or phone 620625

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Quiz Night

Quiz Master Mike Blocki

Saturday 9th December

Doors open 7.30 pm for 8 pm start

Everyone's welcome!

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

A Christmas Special

on the Village Green

Sunday 10th December

9.30am - 1.30pm

With stalls, entertainment and
refreshments

Sedgefield Town Council

December meeting

Monday 11th December

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Christmas Party

Saturday 16th December at 8pm

Featuring John Wrightson Band

John Fyffe, Martin Nesbitt

and other guests

Admission **£8** includes buffet

Tel 621347

*The Cricket Club is available for hire for
private parties, free of charge*

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday, December 19th

in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

Members' Christmas Party Night

with Faith Supper

All Welcome

The Sedgefield Players

present

SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Allan Frayn

in Sedgefield Parish Hall

at 7pm on Wednesday 27th,

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th &

Saturday 30th and at 2pm on

Saturday 30th December

Tickets £6 (Concs £5) from

Selections, members of

The Players or call 621000

10% discount for parties of ten or more

By kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

No December meeting

December at the Library

Wednesdays 6th & 20th

Stay & Play Toy Library 10-11am

Wednesdays 13th December

Rhyme Time - Stories, songs &
rhymes for under 5's:10-11am

Wednesday 20th December

Book circle 2—3 pm.

101 Gigs in December

09 – The Royal Oak, Wrekenton

10 – The Frigate, Marske

14 – The Clarendon, Redcar

15 – The Pemberton Arms,
Cold Hesledon

17 – The Normanby, Normanby

22 – Morpeth Leisure Centre

23 – Ye Olde Horseshoe, Crook

24 – The Station Hotel, Redcar

26 – The Ox Inn, Stanley

28 – The Stags Head, Esh Winning

31 – The Princess Alice, M'brough

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Fridays 1st, 8th & 15th

December in the Parish Hall

Great value home baking, eggs,
garden produce and crafts

St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings on

Thursdays: 6.30 -7.30pm

Looking forward ...

Local History Society

Monday January 8th at 7.45pm

Tim Randall will show

pictures of Sedgefield

Ancient & Modern.

Come and see if you can identify
the older photos.

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 15 January

7:45pm Ceddesfeld Hall

**"William Shaw & the Charles
Dickens connection" Mr E Shaw**

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday January 16th

(NB 3rd Tues of month)

AGM in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Pie and Peas Supper

Contact committee member

Be fair to the young generation

Teenagers lately have had a rough ride in the local and national press, and with the recent news that British teenagers are the least sociable group of young people in Europe, the future looks very bleak indeed. However, may I, as a parent of four, speak out in favour of my children and their friends? Our teenagers are loving, and have been brought up to be respectful of others. They work hard at school (most of the time!) and have been taught the difference between right and wrong. They may sound like paragons of virtue, but (like those of us who have been teenagers ourselves, lest we forget), they have had their moments, and I have no doubt that we will continue to see these moments for a good few years to come.

However, my husband and I are immensely proud of our children and their achievements. We have always told them that there is nothing that they cannot talk to us about, and, to date, they have always talked to us. They may grunt and mumble, but at least it is a form of communication!

I am very well aware that there are a number of trouble-makers who hang about in the church grounds and on street comers. I do not condone this anti-social activity, and I also believe that these folk would not be happy even if there was somewhere for them to go in the evenings.

Nowadays teenagers don't want organised fun - they want to be independent. (By independence I don't mean hanging around street corners, being disrespectful and making nuisances of themselves.) They have had their lives organised for them from a very young age: childminders; playgroup; Tumble-Tots and other gymnastic activities; ballet lessons; swimming lessons; football and other sporting activities, and school.

However, they need to feel that there is somewhere safe for them to go to in the evenings. Surely the councillors in Sedgefield, Fishburn and the Trimdons could fund meeting places for their respective teenagers? *continued right*

Your Letters

We have seen the effect that responsible bar keeping has had on the number of drink related incidents, mainly involving underage drinkers. (See Sedgefield News November edition). This may sound nostalgic, but perhaps if there was a "coffee bar" similar to the 1950's, where 13 - 16 year-olds could meet to play pool, listen to their music, watch DVDs and play on their Playstations, we would see the demise of vandalism similar to that done to the church in September. This would also be a safe place for them to go to. Finally, those people who only see the bad side of people (young and old) should take a close look at themselves before condemning others.

Name & address supplied

Butterwick Moor Wind Farm

I feel I must respond to the bewildering letter from I and L Harbottle of Brocks Farm (Nov). It is universally acknowledged that carbon emissions must be cut. Renewable sources such as Wind Farms will help and once operational will pay back the energy used in their construction and installation in 3 to 5 months. Their height will be the same as those on the already consented Walkway Wind Farm.

This area was selected because prevailing winds blow freely across it. Many people find Windmills elegant compared to the Electricity Pylons, which stand just to the east of the village. Landowners receive rent for these just as those affected will do for Windmills - rightly so!

As a long term resident of Sedgefield, who finds many people equally concerned about the deterioration of the planet we are leaving to our children and future generations, I would count the presence of a Wind Farm as a welcome sign that we, in this area of County Durham, are prepared to play a small part in trying to address the problem by supporting the project.

Concerned Parent and Grandparent

Halloween 2006

I had only one call that night. I opened the door to a 'mummy' completely wrapped in bandages and, beneath a horrifying mask, a vision - a figure in gorgeous diaphanous material (I wanted to ask where Mother had bought the material!) I think a guardian was just out of sight. When I dropped my contribution into the box the mummy turned her slit eyes upon me and very politely thanked me. I do wish I could have seen the beautiful faces which I just know were beneath the disguises. In my simple, long ago childhood we celebrated in a family circle with friends, dunking for apples by the light of a turnip lantern with a lighted candle made by a loving Grandfather for the delight of his equally loving Granddaughter. I know I would rather have that than the American import of "trick or treat". Simple values.

Maureen Semmens (Mrs)

"Forty Years Gone"

The party's over, and what a great success it was. Sedgefield Playgroup celebrated its 40th anniversary in October, and how pleased we were to welcome so many people who have been connected with us over the years. It was good to welcome the Mayor and Consort along with a number of those who were instrumental in founding and running the playgroup in those very early days. We even received a letter from Santa Claus.

Thanks to No 4 Patisserie for the splendid cake, to Peter's Bakery and Crosshill Hotel for the delicious savoury snacks. Thanks also to The Northern Echo for their reporting and photographs. Finally thanks to those of you who sent their good wishes and to all who came on the day. Here's to the next 40 years, though some of us may not be in attendance then, having been here for over 30 years already.

Margaret Glass

Fair success

Staff at Sedgefield Community Hospital thank all who contributed in any way to their Christmas Fair. The event was well attended and raised £667.



**DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS
ASSOCIATION**

the community-based regeneration network

Please send your copy for the January edition of Sedgefield News by 15th December or earlier, to 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011 or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Please note: views expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit contributions and will not publish letters of unknown authorship, so **please include your contact details in all correspondence**