## Sedgefield News

Produced by the Villagers for the Villagers.

A Very Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year to all our Readers!

#### Sedgefield's Citizen of the Year, 2002



Issue 9. January 2003



Wendy Gill was declared the Citizen of the Year for 2002 at the Mayor's wine and cheese reception in the Parish Hall just before Christmas, and presented with her award by Ken Threlfall, president of the Sedgefield Rotary Club, joint organisers of the annual award with the Development Partnership.

The first woman to be given this award, Wendy has been an SCA Committee member for over twenty years. She has been chairman of the SCA Social Club committee for about 15 years, where she has co-ordinated the volunteer bar staff, ensuring that members have been served 364 days a year for two decades! This provides important financial underpinning for the SCA.

Wendy has also been chair of the Medieval Fayre Committee for

almost as long and so has been pivotal in raising many thousands of pounds for the SCA. The visitors who come in their thousands every year also make a big contribution to Sedgefield's economy. This year she extended her commitment to this community, playing an important role in the Jubilee Programme in Ceddesfeld Park. She is currently the Durham Association of Youth and Community Organisations joint personality of the year.

#### Hardwick School Appeal Fund Winds Up

Many of you will recall the horiffic Everyone involved events of January 2001, when Hardwick School was destroyed by fire. Due to the dedication of the head teacher, her staff, and support from local schools, community, Sedgefield Town Council and Durham County Council, the children's education was not too severely disrupted. Classrooms for the infants were set up in the Parish Hall, the juniors resumed lessons at the Community College and the nursery class was taught in the Fun Club at Sedgefield Primary. At the beginning of June the school came back together in demountable buildings on the all weather pitch and finally moved back to the rebuilt school after Easter.

worked incredibly hard to ensure that the high standards maintained, so Governors, staff and children were very pleased when an O.F.S.T.E.D. inspection in July 2002 praised the school's above average attainment, good quality teaching, very good behaviour and positive attitudes.

The appeal fund led by Mayor Maxine Robinson was set up by teachers, parents and residents to fund immediate requirements and help with the purchase of new equipment. The annual Mayor's Ball was the first event with monies raised matched by Barclays Bank. PC Todd raised funds by having his head shaved at Mediaeval fair! Sedgefield Co-op raised money

through their community dividend scheme and many other businesses donated wonderful prizes. The squash club, Lyrics Youth Choir, the cricket club and Sedgefield Primary School all held events, money was collected at pubs and clubs, including the Hardwick Arms, whose staff held a fancy dress disco and raffle. There were also many personal donations.

In a little over a year a staggering £6872 has been raised. The school is running happily and everyone is pleased with the improved building. The staff and children greatly appreciate all the help that was so generously given and would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to you all.

## Some very good reasons to join Sedgefield Civic Trust

The Civic Trust aims to conserve the centre of our village, acknowledging its ancient roots and character, and to work with (or sometimes against!) local councils to that end; to help attract visitors to our village, encouraging the economy of the area; to support the conservation of the surrounding area.

So why should you join? You would be part of a respected team putting new energy into the task of conserving Sedgefield. You could help us to attract interesting speakers who would further our knowledge and enable us to achieve even more.

What have we done so far? Members actively and successfully opposed the County Council's plans to demolish all buildings in Hardwick Park and made the initial approaches to Tony Blair and Ken Manton to enlist their support. Several members were involved in the first attempts to clear the site of the gothic ruin and with the aid of an enlarged committee we instigated the rebuilding of the Serpentine Bridge. Past and present members of the Trust have continued to be involved in the future development of Hardwick Park through the work of the Friends of the Hardwick.

We maintain a watching brief on the development of the Winterton Hospital site and will do our utmost to ensure the promises made by the developers with respect to landscaping etc. are kept.

Our views were sought during the planning stage of the new Community Hospital.

Our annual Floral Awards Competition continues to be a success. Every property in Sedgefield, both private and commercial, is looked at and the best 50 short listed. These are given a window sticker, many of which are displayed around the village. A visiting judge decides the winners,

cups and certificates are awarded at a Presentation Evening in September. We feel that the general improvement in gardens etc. since the competition started in the early 1970s is very noticeable.

The Borough Council provides us with plans and invites our comments and observations on all developments within the Conservation area and other major projects in areas. Are you bothered about such matters as these? As a member you would have the opportunity to influence planning decisions. Your opinions are important. There is no point in complaining after the event.

What next for Sedgefield? We would like to see the Manor House opened during Heritage Open Days. This is a national scheme in which members of the public are admitted to properties not normally open to them.

Membership. Informal and friendly meetings are held in the Fletcher Room, Sedgefield Parish Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm (not August and December). Why not come along and see the difference you could make to our work.

We are members of the parent Civic Trust and also the North East Federation of Civic and Amenity Societies. This second body meets twice a year in Blackfriars, Newcastle, well worth a visit whatever the subject of the meeting.

We are a Registered Charity and as such it may be possible in the future to become involved in the Gift Aid scheme, which would make our annual subscription of £2.00 worth £2.56. Our next meeting is on January 9th. Do come! For more information contact Iris or John Ingham,

19 Spring Lane Tel: 620227

#### Review: 101 at the Bird in Hand

I'd seen 101 previously so I knew we were in for a good night! Tim, Richard and Robin are great guys with talent and enthusiasm, who can do justice to a wide spectrum of music. The night got off to a rocking start with The Undertones 'Teenage Kicks' and the classic Jam track 'Eton Rifles', but when the band sang the soulful Oasis hit 'Stop Crying Your Heart Out' the friendly local crowd really started to listen. They moved on to the upbeat indie style of bands like The Stereophonics and Green Day, then yet more variety with Blur's 'Song 2' (the crowd was really rocking to this one) and ballads such as Coldplay's 'Yellow' and 'The Scientist', played with sensitivity and soul. A difficult number by any standards, 'By the Way' -The Red Hot Chilli Peppers - was executed with charm and great energy, and hits from the punk rock era, including 'Should I stay or should I go' by The Stranglers and the Sex Pistols 'God Save the Queen' went down a storm. Cover versions of Thin Lizzy and Stone Roses songs were crowd pleasers, and requests for Lynyard Skynard's 'Freebird' were eventually granted - well worth the wait. Tucked bravely between the covers (pardon the pun!) was 'The Bottom of the Bottle', a 101 track from their self-penned album October. Very well received, it is just one of several tracks on the cd that really shine. 101 always leave you wanting more but all good things must..etc. Several encores and a superb rendition of Oasis' 'Don't Look Back In Anger' provided a great end to a great night. These guys are talented and ambitious musicians so my advice is catch up with them before fame does! You can see them at the Black Lion on 12th January and if you want to get hold of their cd, check out

www.communigate.co.uk/ne/101.

You can leave feedback there too. Suzanne Burkill

## **New Opportunities in a New Year**

#### A message from John Bower

Having only recently taken up my position as Methodist Minister in Sedgefield, I am naturally finding everything new. There is so much to learn about the area and more especially about the people I serve. Added to this is the fact that I have pastoral care for seven other churches in the Spennymoor and Ferryhill Methodist Circuit. This means a 'mega' learning process. Although a new move does mean a new start in this personal way for me, I do think a New Year offers a new start for all. A New Year is a milestone in life, as the continuing journey is made, leaving the old behind and travelling on to new experiences.

Events in the past shape and influence personal attitudes and feelings and the unknown tomorrow will continue that process for us all. We can approach a New Year in so many different ways but basically we can bring them down to two - a positive or a negative approach, conveyed with either enthusiasm or reluctance.

One year can be looked upon as very much like another,

bringing feelings of apathy and complacency, or it can be looked upon with hopefulness and expectation.

What might this year hold? For some the expectations may be of a special event, a wedding, a birth, an anniversary, the holiday of a lifetime. For others it might bring sadness, sorrow and pain. Some things we will expect and look forward to, others will come unexpectedly and will not be welcomed.

In our world, often referred to as a "global village", events in one country sooner or later come right back to us and affect our way of living. Therefore we naturally look beyond our immediate situation and ask what will take place in the world in this year? How will it affect my family and me? Can what I think or do ever make a difference to the whole picture?

When I ask that question of myself I am always drawn to the

conclusion that I can make a difference. It may seem that our contributions are insignificant, but I believe we underestimate ourselves. A vast beach is made up of individual grains of sand; an avalanche of single snowflakes. We can make a difference in the community where we live, so how we live is important.

We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus, one person who lived to be a great influence upon the world and who is still an influence today. In His life we have an example of one who faced joys and sorrows with the belief that all things are held in God's hands. For me this is the key to facing the future, no matter what it holds. As human beings we need to know that we count, we matter, we can make a difference and that there is a purpose in all we do. God offers us that assurance and the means by which we can move on to new opportunities in renewal and growth.

## **Close Competition for Resource Centre**

Judging for the Hardwick Park Heritage Resource Centre produced a close finish. The design by London based Hoger Hare Architects won by a hairs breadth. For those who viewed the exhibition in the Library, this was design No. 1 (H36201). It will be rectangular in appearance with its glass envelope supported by vertical wooden ribs spaced at 1 metre intervals.

The entrance to the Park will be near the middle of the building and will frame a view of Neptune on his island in the Serpentine Lake, whilst the Café Terrace will give a panoramic view of the Gothic Bridge. In the body of the building there will be exhibition space with a virtual reality module, education facilities for school children as well as a café, shop and toilets. At the other end will be administrative facilities, offices, staff amenities as well as accommodation for the Ranger. The building will benefit from good use of daylight through its long

south facing elevation while the deep wood portals will provide shading.

The environment has been well considered, for example rainwater will be collected for use in flushing the toilets. It will be collected in bioswales with ponds, designed as part of the landscaping along the north side of the car park by a picnic area, designed to catch runoff rain water.

Although construction will not take place immediately, it is planned to complete the building in early 2006 towards the end of phase 1 of the Hardwick Park Restoration.

The Resource Centre is part of the successful bid for support from the Heritage Lottery Fund of which £750,000 has been received, with another £4m to be released pending further development work in the first phase between 2003 and 2006.



# Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel Neighbourhood Watch

(ALL for ONE & ONE for ALL)



#### Compliments of the Season to you, one & all!!

We hope you had a very happy & merry, Xmas! Hopefully, all of your visitors were invited!

Unfortunately some of you may have had unwanted visitors. Burglars, robbers and con-men descend on the unsuspecting at this time of year. You can't be too careful, so as the Scouts' motto goes, be prepared.

Perhaps you think that we place too much emphasis on these activities. But, until it happens to you, you do not realise the traumatic effect it has. Ask anyone who has been robbed, mugged, burgled or assaulted. It is not nice, so do please TAKE CARE!

Now for the matters in hand. At the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December it was reported that a letter has been sent to the Town Council, thanking them for the funding of our Data Link project.

Crime Prevention Officer, Neil Langthorne, reported that Operation Lancet has resulted in a 24% drop in crime in the Borough, with 3 very significant arrests. However, he cannot stress enough, that **unlit premises = crime targets**. Also, people are leaving premises & vehicles unsecured.

After receiving the funding from the Town Council, we have purchased the Data Link flasks.

The forms have been printed so that as soon as the labels arrive from the printers, we intend to start issuing them. Tim Speary, of Community Force, reported that to date he has fitted 60 smoke alarms in the village. However the current position is that the Fire Brigade cannot supply him with any more as they are waiting for a delivery. He also re-iterates that if you see anything suspicious, report it to the **Police** (01325 314401) or Community Force (01388 721351).

Eric Benson, of the First Responders, thanked NHW for the donation in memory of Alan Sowerby. John Fawcett was presented with a scroll to commemorate his 12 years as Treasurer of the panel.

Jeannette Garbutt won the raffle and the meeting closed with the Chairman inviting everyone to partake of refreshments and view the security devices on display. These were; Personal Key ring Alarms @ £2 each (we defy you to buy cheaper) and glass vibrator alarms @ £3.50 each. So for great, cheap New Year gifts please ring David Hillerby 01740 621343!

Talking Book is going from strength to strength - we now have requests for 14 copies each month. We are currently in the process of applying for grants, looking for funding, or will accept gifts, to enable us to purchase our own (NHW) equipment. At present we are using Ken Saiger's.

Finally, we would like to thank all of those people who deliver Sedgefield News each month for a job well done! A very happy, prosperous New Year for 2003 - may it be your best year, ever!

#### P.C. Todd's Column

The message is still not getting across to some residents! It seems that some of you like burglars. Why else would you leave an open invitation for them to enter your house? We have recently suffered from a number of burglaries, which have taken place in the afternoon or early evening when people are still at work and it is dark early. None of the target properties had been illuminated. A light left on, or the use of a timer will, in the long run, be cheaper than being burgled, and it will tell the thief "I'm in! Go away!" Please don't be a victim.

On a happier note here are this

year's winners of the Sedgefield Village Beat Officer's Christmas Card Competition.

This annual event for the children of Sedgefield Primary School is sponsored by T.C. Harrison JCB.

1st prize to **Rachel Cummings**, aged 11 and runners-up;

2nd Megan Devine, aged 5, 3rd Sara Hird, aged 6, 4th Harry Simon, aged 7, 5th Mattias Reichel, aged 8.

Congratulations to the winners & thanks to all the children who took part for the high standard of entries. May I finally wish everyone a very safe and undisturbed and Happy New Year! Keith.

#### Sedgefield Road Safety Panel

From the Chair, Linda Byrne.

As a Borough Councillor, I am often asked to help residents. During the past few months several problems have arisen over cars being parked next to 'dropped kerbs' and even on pavements! Anyone who pushes a pushchair or uses a wheelchair, is elderly or disabled, will identify with this! It is so dangerous for young children and the elderly to have to walk into the roadway, to pass cars parked, blocking the footpath. Disabled people need access to their homes and often need to park near their doors. That is why the dropped kerbs are provided, not to make it easy for cars to mount the footpath! So, **come on drivers**, let's give pedestrians and particularly the disabled, a chance and make the pavements and disabled access a **CAR FREE ZONE!** 

This will help us all to have a Very Happy New Year!

#### Fred Risler - a memorial and a request

A memorial service with a difference was held at the Parish Church in Sadberge on October 8th, where the congregation was invited by the Rev. Robert Cooper to share their memories of Fred Risler and enjoy a celebratory drink to toast a good friend. Though it wasn't a big crowd, friends and neighbours who knew Fred for a good portion of his life were able to expound on his likes, dislikes, thoughts and passions!

Unfortunately though, no will has been found, nor any written documentation as regards the appointment of Rev. Cooper as his executor, so the vicar is making an appeal to anyone who can throw any light on Fred's last wishes to come forward. Perhaps someone knows the whereabouts of one of Fred's relatives. If so, please contact **Robert Cooper tel:** 01325 333771

#### The key to success

Ean Parsons of Parsons Containers, certainly unlocked the door to a new life in business after facing redundancy from a job in freight depot management.

With the invaluable help of Business Link County Durham, and in particular, Sedgefield Business Service's adviser, Mike Jones, U Hold The Key has become one of the brightest stars in the Business Link portfolio. Now officially a high growth company, the success is largely down to Ean spotting the potential in what was originally just a small part of the business (container hire & sale). His bright idea was to use refurbished shipping containers for domestic and commercial storage, giving secure storage, completely in the customer's control, speedily arranged and accessible 24 hours a day. The aim was to offer a flexible service with a flat rate weekly fee and no hidden charges. From the original U Hold The Key site on Sedgefield Industrial Estate, Ean has already opened new depots in Bishop Auckland and Newcastle, with further expansion imminent. Seven people are currently employed, and with turnover likely to double in the second year of trading, new jobs should be part of this continuing success story.

According to BLCD's business improvement consultant, Eddie Jones, the company has excellent potential for the future.

Thanks to the Northern Echo for the information in this article

## A Happy Learning Year to you all!

December was certainly a busy month for lifelong learning and we have all sorts organised for January. But first, meet our new recruit, Simon Leadbeater, who is currently on a Modern Apprenticeship scheme, helping me with all the administration and organisation of courses.



We all start January with good intentions don't we? Resolutions are made to change our lifestyle or even our environment, but by the second week we've usually forgotten or given up entirely. This New Year why not make a real difference? Learn a new skill or hobby, a new language or even get to grips with that computer gathering dust in the corner of the room. We can help.

The initial First Aid course has now been completed and proved to be a great success, with all participants enjoying the course and learning new skills. Because limited numbers can take part at any one time I still have a list of people who

wish to take First Aid training, so I am organising another course for later this month. Contact me soon if you would like to reserve a place.

An Exhibition of Learning will be held in the Library from 6th January, where you can find out what learning opportunities are available in the village and nearby. You can pick up leaflets and register your interest in taking up a course.

Next, a Basic Computer Course will be held from the 15th January from 6-8pm at the community college. Disabled access is possible and places are limited. Please contact me if you are interested.

On 21st January, East Houghall College will hold an enrolment day at the Advice and Information Centre. You can pop along to discuss what courses are available and sign up for your choice.

Finally, a Learning Fair will be held in the Parish Hall on the 24th January. A number of learning providers will be showing what they can offer, including: the Open University, Learn Direct, Sedgefield Community College and others.

It's an ideal opportunity to discuss your needs.

Bob Harris Lifelong Learning Coordinator Office 01740-629011 Mobile 07905734169

### **Community Appraisal**

Yes! The final report of the Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon appraisal is now published and available in four parts - the main report, summary, appendices, & the findings of the questionnaire.

The Appraisal should become a well used and helpful resource for all our community. It sets out a baseline study and community profile to record conditions in the year 2002. Through consultations it draws out the community's issues, summarising strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and goes on to set out possible actions. Now we as a community and all groups, organisations and official bodies should consider what actions we want to follow up. You can find out what it says as follows:

Come to the open meeting on Wednesday 22nd January in Ceddesfeld Hall at 8.00pm

Look at the public copies in the Library, Parish Hall, Advice and Information Centre, and through the Clerks to the Bradbury and Mordon Parish Meetings, Peter Brewis and John Parkinson. Contact SDP's office for a copy on CD (free).

If you want your own paper copy we can arrange one for you, but may have to make a small charge. It is also being circulated to the Borough and County Councils, and other bodies and they are being encouraged to engage in the discussions on the Community's priorities and action programme.

## **Sedgefield Playing Pitch Strategy**

The Borough Council has recently produced this strategy document and will consult widely upon its findings and proposals. The aim is to secure the future of existing pitches, to bring pitches that are currently not available into community use, to improve pitch quality and where possible create new pitches. It is concerned with football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches and their ancillary facilities. This is particularly important for Sedgefield because the pitches that used to be available at Winterton no longer exist due to the new development there. It is contrary to national policies for pitches to be lost to development unless they are not needed, and the Borough's Strategy proposes that a replacement pitch for junior football should be provided at the reinstated Winterton Green. The document also highlights the need for Sedgefield Cricket Club to gain access to winter nets and practice facilities, and for the re-establishment of Sedgefield Rugby Club and rugby coaching at the Community College. The Borough is holding a series of Road Shows around the district and they will provide a vital opportunity for clubs and their communities to understand and comment upon the proposals.

The Road Show comes to Ceddesfeld Hall on Wednesday 15th January at 6.00 pm. If your club used to use the Winterton pitches and pavilion, come and see if the proposed re-instatements meet current and future needs. If your particular interest lies in another sport or area, come and have your say on that too.

Remember, if the need is justified in this new Strategy document, the case for funding will be much more easily made, by whichever organisation is responsible, and Sport England will pay attention to the priorities in the Strategy.

## What's on in January

This page is open to anyone wishing to announce future events

#### **Burns Night Supper**

In aid of the Mayor's Charity -Children of Sedgefield Organisations.

#### Saturday 25th January 2003

Tickets available from John & Maxine Robinson or the Council Offices,

@ £10 each

## Sedgefield Family History Group

Mr Bill Norman

"Luftwaffe over the North"

Monday January 20th 7.45pm

Ceddesfeld hall
Visitors Welcome

#### Sedgefield Development Partnership

Public Meeting on the Community Appraisal What is in it and what do we do now? Ceddesfeld Hall, Wednesday 22nd January

at 8.00pm, All welcome

#### Sedgefield W.I.

aid Ian Coburn

"Fire Safety in the Home"

Parish Hall

Wed 8th January 7.30pm Visitors Welcome - Fee £1

## Lifelong Learning Exhibition

in Sedgefield Library Week commencing 6th January

Come along and register your interest

#### Sedgefield Playing Pitches Road Show

will be at
Ceddesfeld Hall
Wed. 15th January
at 6.00pm

Sedgefield Cricket Club presents a Quiz Night on Saturday 11th January @ 8pm. All Welcome

Parish Hall Coffee Mornings resume on Thursday 9th January and continue till further notice

#### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I offer the following constructive criticism. There are far too many adverts creeping in to what otherwise is an excellent and informative newsletter. Do we really want to read about local eatery menus and the like? What's next? Every Sedgefield pub and hotel's menus? Bolam's price list? Fish and chip prices? It will get very silly.

You started off promisingly and we looked forward to each issue but if you keep going down the road of advertising you will become just junk mail and will be treated in the same manner, ie, to the dustbin without even reading it! Respectfully, I say to the editor, get a grip and nip the adverts in the bud. David Collins.

Dear David, We are pleased that you think Sedgefield News is an excellent and informative newsletter - except for the advertising of course. But your pleasure from a free paper has to be paid for and although I admit to generating more advertising than usual for the December issue, this paid for more editorial space which we put to good use. Please don't consign us to the dustbin unread - you never know what you might miss! Ed.

#### Yes we are in County Durham!

I would like to compliment Ian Hunter on his very determined stand (see October edition, Sedgefield News), to ensure that Sedgefield remains firmly planted in the *County of Durham*.

Since the introduction of postcodes, it is no longer necessary for our postal address to fall in line with the Post Office's requirement. The sorting machines are programmed to recognise the code. Where a postcode has been omitted it is not beyond the realm of reasonableness to expect an officer to look up "Sedgefield" in the gazetteer if he has to!

I always cross out Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland and insert Co. Durham as I too am proud of my *County of Durham* heritage and of my residence of Sedgefield (although I was born in Coxhoe) and will continue to fight bureaucracy on this particular issue!

David I G Hillerby

#### £1735 for Cancer Research

The Inner Wheel and Rotary Clubs of Sedgefield would like to thank everyone who supported their Race Night on 25th October in the Parish Hall. It was a great social night of fun and friendship, raising money for a very worthy cause at the same time.

Thanks again.

Ann and Melvyn Carr.

#### From your Mordon correspondent

The building works at Mordon North Farm Development continue, the demolition of the unsafe structures complete and building of the new west facing rooms started. The underpinning of the road sidewall is finished and the concrete base for the room with the lowered floor in.

The 'Flop Idol' night held in the Village Hall on 30th. November played to a capacity audience and was judged by the panel of Pete Waterman, Geri Halliwell and Simon Callow look-alikes.

It was won by Chris Grierson who transmogrified into the rock'n'rolling Elvis Costello. Organised by 'North of Watford' drama group who are also preparing the pantomime to be held in late March, it is entitled Broomsticks and Woodnymphs, and volunteers for back stage work are still sought. If you are interested, contact Jim Boylan or Kevin Stevens in Bradbury, and Richard Mann in Mordon.

#### From the Editor

Please keep the news and information coming. The deadline for the next issue is the 15th January.

Send articles and information on forthcoming events to:-

#### snews.sdp@sedgefield.net

Or The Editor, Sedgefield News, Advice and Information Centre. Front Street, Sedgefield. TS21 3AS.

Tel: 01740 629011

#### Cooks' Corner

**Paradise Fingers** 

#### **Ingredients:**

Shortcrust pastry rolled to fit

a Swiss Roll tin

Raspberry jam

#### For the filling:

4 oz caster sugar

4 oz margarine

1 egg

2 tablespoons chopped cherries

2 tablespoons ground rice

1 tablespoon chopped walnuts

1 tablespoon ground almonds

#### Method:

Spread the pastry with raspberry jam.

Cream sugar and margarine, then add egg and other ingredients.

Spread evenly over the jam.

Bake 30 minutes at 375°F, 190°C, Gas mark 5

#### Thanks to Sedgefield W.I.

for the recipe. Keep them coming!