

Sedgefield News

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*By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
January 2005*

We wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year

Popular folk musician is Citizen of the Year 2004

There can't be many people in Sedgefield who don't know of Joan Edmundson (pictured right) - if not the name then at least the voice.

Singer and keyboard player with the John Wrightson band; organiser and stalwart of Folk nights at the Cricket Club, the Proms in the Park, numerous New Year celebrations and hundreds of performances to groups of older people, Joan has entertained and fed (she is a noted baker) us in our thousands!

And as often as not, while she is entertaining, she is also raising money for charity, one recent and regular beneficiary being Butterwick Hospice.

Many of us are lucky enough to have come across Joan in one or more of her other guises; a good friend and neighbour, generous with her time and care; a support through illness and bereavement; a dedicated health worker - radiographer, home help, occupational therapist and mental health care worker.

The nominations received for Joan were full of admiration for the fact that her care for others has been unaffected by her own recent troubles. Testament to this can be seen in quotations from just two of the people who suggested her as a contender for the award.

"Joan is never happier than when helping someone - she's a village gem!"

"...despite surgery and ongoing treatment, Joan has been committed to helping others and remains an inspiration to us all".

The Citizen of the Year Award for 2004 was presented by Councillor Jim Wayman, Mayor of Sedgefield, at the annual Wine & Cheese party in the Parish Hall on December 16th. We add our congratulations to a very worthy winner.

At the same event, framed pictures of Sedgefield were presented by Cllr Wayman, to Father John Caden and the Reverend Martin King. Both have recently retired and will be sorely missed by the whole community.

The Citizen of the Year Award is organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Sedgefield and Sedgefield Development Partnership.



Sedgefield News Offer

Do you know someone living outside our free delivery area (Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon) who would like to receive Sedgefield News?

We can send one copy per month for a year for just £6.00, payable annually.

All we need is the name and address of the recipient and a cheque for £6, payable to Sedgefield Development Partnership.

We'll do the rest.

Send your request to SDP, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS 21 2AQ

Beetlejuice, a Bull and the Dog Star

On a crisp January or February night, if you can brave the cold, there are few more stunning sights than the stars of the winter sky. They are difficult to beat for brightness, colour and ease of recognition.

Looking south during the evening at this time, your view will be dominated by the constellation (star pattern) of Orion the Hunter.

After the Plough (part of the Great Bear), Orion is perhaps the best known shape in our night sky. The line of three stars marks Orion's belt with a line below his belt representing his sword. The bright stars in a triangle above the belt are his shoulders and head, and the two bright stars below the belt are his knees.

The two most interesting stars are those forming his right shoulder (top left) and left knee (bottom right). View his right shoulder star under dark conditions, or with a pair of binoculars, and you will see that, to our eyes, it has an orange colour. It is a red giant star and its correct name is Betelgeuse although it is usually called Beetlejuice. It really is a giant star – if it were in the place of our Sun, the Earth would be inside it! It would even enclose the orbit of Mars. Although it is very large, it is much cooler than our Sun; having a surface temperature of about 4500°C (our Sun is about 6000°C at the surface). This (comparatively) low temperature accounts for its red colour.

His left knee is a totally different type of star. Rigel is much, much hotter because it is a blue-white star and is also a giant. Stars which are significantly larger than the Sun, live at a much faster rate. They use up their nuclear fuel and come, often explosively, to the end of their lives in a time-span much shorter than we expect (hope) the Sun will have.

Because of its size, and the speed with which it is 'burning' its hydrogen fuel, Rigel is over 50 000 times brighter than the Sun.

The birth of stars is represented in Orion too. The stars of Orion's belt and sword are immersed in clouds of interstellar dust and gas. This dust

and gas is collapsing under the effect of gravity and, as a result, new stars are being born. A time exposure photograph of Orion, even with a simple camera (20 to 30 seconds exposure), is likely to show the red colour of gas clouds which surround the middle star of the sword.

The stars of his belt, very conveniently, point to other interesting features. Follow them up to the right and they point first to Aldebaran (the eye of Taurus the Bull), which is also a red giant star, and its surrounding cluster of stars called the Hyades. Follow the same line from the belt further on and you will soon spot the beautiful cluster of stars called the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters. They are all blue-white, quite young and are a beautiful sight through binoculars. Follow a line through Orion's belt the opposite way, down and to the left, and you will find the brightest star (after the Sun) in the whole sky – Sirius. Sirius is a blue/white star and is in the constellation of Canis Major, (the Great Dog). As a result, it is called the Dog Star. It is also one of the closest stars and this explains its high level of brightness. Rigel and Betelgeuse are actually much brighter than Sirius but they are also much further away. A photograph of Orion and Sirius can be found on your community website, www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Tim Randall

For more about the sky, you could try a visit to Wynyard Planetarium Located off the A177 at Wynyard Woods Walkway, formerly the Castle Eden Walkway, the planetarium has free viewing (see page 11) and regular shows.

All shows 7.30-8.30pm

Friday 7th January

What's up in the sky this month?

21st January

Is there life out there?

Adults £3, Children and Seniors

£1.50, Families £6

Advance booking essential

For information or booking contact

Planetarium Director

Tel. No. 01740 630544 email

director@wynyard-planetarium.net

Sedgefield Guiders celebrate

At the Sedgefield guides' Christmas show in the Parish Hall in November, all the girls took part and were able to show the audience what a talented group of girls that we have in our Guide Unit. Many thanks to all who came along on the night to support us; we raised a total of £196, from which we donated £96 to Rectory Row School, where we hold our weekly meetings.

Afterwards at the post-production party, pizza and squash rounded the evening off nicely! Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the surrounding villages joined us for another event at Broom School Ferryhill - the Division Christmas Craft evening.

Long service badges were awarded to the following for commitment to Guiding, by Mrs Christine Jackson, County Commissioner -

1st Sedgefield Brownies

Gill Chapman, 5 years and Caroline Waggott, 20 years

2nd Sedgefield Brownies

Caroline Morrison, 5 years

Sedgefield Guides

Fiona Holt and

Joanne Thompson, 5 years;

Julie Towler, 20 years

Jackie Postgate, 30 years

Sedgefield Learning Borough

Need Help with the Computer?

Improve your

Word Processing skills

Surf the net!

Email a friend

Make a Birthday card

Update your Curriculum Vitae

Set up a spreadsheet or database

Learn all the basics

And much, much more,

if you pop into the Zone

at 58 Front Street

on Thursday mornings

from 9.30am—12noon

For more information contact

Katie, Maggie or Zoe on

01740 656953

the Zone thoroughly investigated!



Zoe (right) from Sedgefield Learning Borough was in demand at the Open Day

Sedgefield Development Partnership threw open the Zone, the new learning centre at 58 Front Street, so that people could drop in to see what's in store.

You came in numbers, perhaps tempted by the excellent mulled wine and mince pies!

The Zone, refitted largely thanks to the generosity of Barclays' Community Fund and a small team of volunteers led by John Parkinson, was open on Thursday 9th December, and it was full from start to finish.

The Zone provides computer learning facilities to replace and improve on those lost at the Advice & Information Centre - anything from computing for absolute

beginners to courses for those wanting to develop their IT skills for work or for pleasure.

Learn to manipulate photographs, find out how to use the Net for information and shopping or to pursue studies like genealogy.

There is a video projector and screen installed, not just to support learning, although it is very helpful for that, but also to allow its use for screening DVDs to small groups, either for training or leisure.

Indeed the Zone can be very much more than an IT learning centre.

Contact us on 629011 or for advice on courses and learning opportunities phone Zoe or Maggie on 657493.



Meg, in charge of mulled wine & mince pies!



Prospective clients checked out the facilities with SDP volunteers

**Lloyds/TSB,
supporting
this
Community**

LLOYDS TSB
FOUNDATIONS



Sedgefield Development Partnership has received a grant of £2,500 from the Lloyds/TSB Foundation, to go towards the Partnership's core funding. This will help to ensure that SDP can continue to develop its services to the Community. Currently these include Sedgefield News, the new IT and learning facility - the Zone, SedgefieldWeb, Sedgefield First Responders, Sedgefield Organisations Directory; and with partner organisations, Sedgefield Slayers and the Citizen of the Year Award.

Roger Clubley, Chairman of SDP, said, "We are absolutely delighted that the Lloyds/SDP Foundation has agreed to support our work.

Although SDP is run by teams of dedicated volunteers, we could not achieve what we do without funding support."

Anthony Nolan Trust: forthcoming events

As part of a number of initiatives to raise funds for the Anthony Nolan Trust and to increase the number of potential donors on the register, we are organising two events for your diary which are definitely *not to be missed!*

African Evening at the Dun Cow

A unique occasion at the Dun Cow on the 26th January comprising a four course meal with an African flavour prepared by Tariq, the Egyptian chef.

Tickets £25 each which includes a cocktail on arrival and a donation to the Trust are available from Geoff Hughes, 36 Spring Lane Sedgefield.

Folk Nite

At Sedgefield Cricket Club on 12th February - bands already booked include "Skerne" and for one night only "The Fenners".

Tickets £7 to include buffet - also from Geoff Hughes.

All proceeds to the Trust.

Community Safety



*Handover & fitting of the final Carbon Monoxide Monitor
Courtesy of Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch*

On 25th November local resident Mary Hodgson was most pleased to receive a visit from the Deputy Town Mayor Maxine Robinson, who handed over the last monitor on behalf of Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch, for installation by Community Warden Tim Spearey.

Almost a year ago N/H/Watch volunteers noticed a home security issue with some vulnerable residents whilst delivering their monthly Audio Tapes (principally a recording of Sedgefield News) for the sight impaired. This was in the area of Gas Appliance safety, where an audible Carbon Monoxide would lessen the risk and make the residents feel safer too. Funding was sought & kindly obtained from County Durham

Foundation; initially this was to purchase & install 9 monitors. However by the time the award was made the costs associated with installation had been eradicated by the generosity of Local Warden Tim Spearey who volunteered his time to assist in this aspect.

With the most generous support from Durham Foundation who sanctioned the addition of more units rather than insist on a return of funds and with a little help from the Village N/H/Watch funds, a further 7 units (for vulnerable persons) were purchased and now installed. Thanks to all involved there are now a total of 16 residents who feel safer and more secure in their home knowing they are being silently monitored against the risks from Carbon Monoxide.

PC Todd reports

I hope you are all enjoying the festive season, but please be aware that some parasites are out there to spoil your fun. 2 house burglaries were committed while the owners were at home. They gained entry from unlocked rear/kitchen doors. In the first incident 2 youths just walked in until confronted by the female owner. She made a gallant attempt at stopping them before they made off with some goods. The second involved two males keeping the owner talking at the front door, whilst a 3rd entered from the back. We also have some light fingered people eager to spoil your night out.

there have been a number of thefts in the pubs, so don't leave your handbag/wallet/mobile unattended. Have a safe New Year! **Keith**

Pub Watch Licensees & shop keepers from the Trimdons & Fishburn were welcomed to a talk by Neil Smalley from SBC licensing department on the new licensing laws which come into effect in 2005 and effect all licensed premises and late eating houses.

'Timothy's Tips' from
Neighbourhood Warden Tim Spearey
**Beat a burglar when going out
at night - leave your home with
a light on!**

Sedgefield PCT supports World Aids Day

Health promotion staff from Sedgefield Primary Care Trust did their bit for World AIDS Day on December 1st. The day is an opportunity to remind people that 5 people worldwide die of AIDS every minute and many lives, families and nations are affected by the scourge of the HIV virus.

Events took place in Youth Centres, Community Centres, and other community settings and free goodies, including stickers, leaflets (and condoms where appropriate) were given out.

The theme was 'HIV hasn't gone away'. Maria Lawson, Sexual Health Outreach Worker for Sedgefield PCT, said "Every year thousands of new diagnoses of HIV are seen within the UK. HIV is an issue for everyone. We are using the displays and stalls across the Borough to promote awareness of HIV and AIDS to young people and to emphasise the risks associated with having sex without condoms. By increasing awareness of HIV we can enable young people to make informed choices about their sexual behaviour and practising safer sex."

Inconsiderate parking

Several complaints have been sent to the Road Safety Group about motor-cars and tradesmen's vehicles parking on pavements leaving so little space that a wheel-chair, a mother with a push-chair or toddler and, often, unencumbered pedestrians have to move onto the carriageway and "dance with death". Recent complaints refer to Station Road and Durham Road at Woodland Mews.

The police do take a pragmatic view but where they find obstruction, namely insufficient room for the aforementioned groups to pass on the pavement then prosecution will follow. For my part I believe that there should be a gap at all times sufficient for a twin buggy, that is, not less than a gap of 1m.

Roy Smeeton, Residents' Forum

County Council to consult on dangerous junction

In a letter to the County Council, following the deaths of a motorcyclist and his pillion passenger, coroner Michael Sheffield expressed his concern about the layout of the junction between Stockton Road and the A689 dual carriageway (December Sedgefield News).

In a subsequent interview with Ken Manton, leader of the County Council, he was able to advise on the planned actions by the Council, details of which had already been forwarded to the coroner. The County were currently studying the accidents that had happened at the junction since the dual

carriageway to the east had been opened. There was no common thread through all of the accidents, and indeed two of them were totally unrelated to the crossover junction. Options being examined included traffic signals and roundabouts, together with the total closure of the gap, however, each of the options has other drawbacks. There is no obvious quick fix answer that will solve all of the problems, and therefore the studies are continuing. In January the County plan to consult on the possible closure of the right turn into the village for traffic coming from Wynyard and the east. This traffic will have to travel to the

village via the roundabout adjacent to the Little Chef. Such a closure will mean that there will be less possible conflicts for drivers to deal with when turning right out of the village.

In the meantime anyone using the junction should do so with care.

Those pundits who claim that the layout is confusing should realise that the junction design follows nationally established standards for use at such a location. Proficient drivers should therefore already know how to use the crossover.

Sedgefield Residents Forum: A689/Stockton Road junction

Further to the editorial comment in the November News the Coroner made four points in all for consideration by the County Council:

- Whether, balancing the safety aspect against the convenience for road users,
- 1 ...the opening in the central reservation should be blocked off ...
- 2 ...a roundabout or traffic lights, or narrowing the approach lanes to one lane
- 3 ...the road signs, including the triangle and their location of the signs are appropriate
- 4 ...it would be appropriate to reduce the monitoring time to less than three years.

In respect of this particular accident the coroner stated "... the available evidence did not satisfy me sufficiently that if a vehicle is pulled up at the dotted white lines at the junction ... there could be a significant obstruction of the view to the right, even though the roundabout is but 223 metres away."

Both points 1 and 2 were made to the County Council in April this year. Additional suggestions were:

The Thorpe Thewles solution which mirrors point 2 above. It was suggested that the carriageway could be reduced to a single lane some 500 yds east of the Stockton Road turn-off and reinstated to two lanes some 100 yards west of Stockton Road. (There is the complication of the garage exit)

Traffic lights, again mirroring the Coroner, but the point was made that this solution was and is successful at Sappers Corner on the way to Hartlepool

That traffic emerging from Stockton Road South should turn left, as does the traffic from the garage, and negotiate the roundabout to reach Sedgefield or proceed towards the A19 as the solution at Bradbury.

The County Council carried out a traffic survey soon after Easter, but, despite my request made before Easter, has preferred not to disclose the results of the survey. Nor has the council apparently considered and applied "white lines" to narrow the lanes, a stratagem said to be successful in reducing speed. The May to September data is 1 fatal accident, 2 serious and 5 slight accidents. In addition I am aware of an incident in November involving 3 cars and a lamp-post and a serious accident, requiring an ambulance, two fire tenders and several police cars.

It seems clear that the right turn from the village and the garage exit need to be considered as a single problem.

Roy Smeeton, Lead, Road Safety Group, Sedgefield Residents' Forum

The next meeting of the Forum is on Monday 17th January 2005

Green Chips on the menu this Christmas?

Community groups are taking part in a Christmas tree shredding scheme again this year. The trees will be collected at allotment sites and chipped by the Prospect Intermediate Labour Market, a partnership between Groundwork East Durham and Sedgefield Borough Councils Training Division. Chippings will then be used in local community gardens. The nearest tree collection point for Sedgefield will be open from the 3rd to the 16th of January at the Community Allotment, behind South View, Fishburn. This will be the third year of the project which offers residents a chance to help the environment as well as their local community.

Anyone not able to take their tree to Fishburn can take it to the Civic Amenity sites where they will be taken away and turned into compost.

How about the green groups & citizens of Sedgefield getting together to start up a Community Composting Scheme?

Contact Sedgefield Development Partnership on 629011 or at sedgefieldweb.co.uk if you are prepared to get involved in a 'green' community enterprise.

Sports Update - with Chris Lines

This month, a departure from the usual fare. The festive season is a boom time for terrace or armchair viewers of top level sport, but participation tends to slow down a bit locally (especially in Sunday League football and even more so in the case of the players themselves!). So, we thought we'd shift focus and update you on a major regional sports story instead – more below, but before that, we do have a bit of news on the local football front. The big derby match we plugged last month duly came and went. The Golden Lion and Cross Hills faced each other for the first time in the league this season and fortunes followed the form book. Although we are told that it was a closely fought game, the Cross Hills ran out 3-0 winners and consolidated their top three position. That result seemed to set back the Golden Lion, who have since struggled to find the elusive form that earned them a few great victories in previous weeks. The famous bouncebackability they had been exhibiting appears to have temporarily deserted them. In contrast, the Cross Hills team is in good shape, maintaining a challenge in the upper reaches of the league. Sticking to football for a moment, we can report that the power of the press has done some good over the last few weeks. Through the previous issue of Sedgefield News, Steve Morrell appealed for a couple of extra players to join him and his friends for midweek five-a-side games. We are pleased to confirm that there was a good response and a few more footballers have joined

Steve. We're glad to be able to help. Back to that regional news story. The North East was recently the first region out of the starting blocks in the race to support London's bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. Recognising the spin-off benefits that the North East could derive from a London Olympics, regional development agency One NorthEast teamed up with the likes of athletics legend Steve Cram to publicly back the bid at a high profile photocall at Gateshead International Stadium. Fifteen per cent of the International Olympic Committee's final judgement criteria will be based on the amount of support London receives nationally, so the backing given by the North East is hugely valued by the bid team. In fact, and this may come as a surprise, the campaign is overwhelmingly endorsed across the region - a recent ICM poll for BBC Five Live showed that 81% of North Easterners support London's 2012 bid. It just goes to show how passionate the people here are about their sport. Tim Cante-Jones, from Sport England in the North East, added his backing: "The London bid to host the 2012 Olympics is fantastic news for the North East of England. We have already established a close working relationship with the 2012 team. As well as hosting training camps for athletes we see significant opportunities in terms of contract opportunities for North East firms and tourism spin offs as visitors to the Games explore the sights and scenes of the North East".

So good luck to London and we're sure you will see much about the campaign in the lead up to decision day next July.

We've been wondering if motor-grass racing will be an Olympic sport one day. Yes, you've guessed it - that is in fact about as far as we've got on this particular topic. Have you noticed the prolific use of the word "we" in these articles? "We" is of course me, and "me" is Chris, but I've been hiding behind that collective noun for months now. I think my cover is now pretty threadbare, so the pretence stops from this moment and I'm going to make a pledge. More than that, my solemn New Year Resolution will be to once and for all deliver the goods on this exciting sport, whatever it is! Meanwhile, have a great festive season and if you over-indulge, come back to this feature next month for inspiration on how to get fit again in 2005.

As ever, send any sports news to me at chrisjlines@aol.com.

Special award for Sarah

At a ceremony at New College Durham on December 16th, Sarah Slater, was awarded the Outstanding A2 Achievement Award for her 3 A's in Psychology, Sociology and Media Studies, at A-level plus an AS in Business Studies last summer. Her results have taken her to Liverpool University to study psychology, and she hopes to specialise either in forensic or child psychology. Sarah's sister Katie is in her second year at Cleveland College of Art studying fabric and textile design.

Sarah at the ceremony with sister Kate



Give me hope in January!

Food & drink, with Meg Clubley

The days are short and it's bitterly cold, your waistband is tight and you would cheer yourself up by booking a holiday, except that you're awaiting your credit card bill with trepidation. Worst of all you're trying to diet/take more exercise/cut down on booze - and it's difficult! New Year's resolutions are doomed to fail year after year simply because January is the worst time of all to be making them.

Losing weight is the last thing your body expects to have to do in the middle of winter; we're designed to pile on a few pounds in December while there is still some preserved summer produce left. By now our bodies are in hibernation mode, trying to preserve those precious insulating pounds for as long as possible. What's more, it's now that you most need something comforting to see you through the day. So what does January have to offer?

Well, there are pears and apples (russets particularly) and forced rhubarb; leeks, shallots, carrots, squashes, winter greens and red cabbage on the vegetable front, and for a special occasion (or you feel wildly extravagant) wild duck, lobster, scallops, & oysters and sea bass are in season. Hardly a miserable picture, and all very tasty and nourishing too!

Try these spiced greens for a colourful pick-me-up.

This works just as well all year round, but the garlicky spice is very uplifting in winter.

Choose from Savoy, Chard, Spring Greens, or Perpetual Spinach (leaf beet).

Finely chop a good few cloves of garlic; chop one or two bird's eye chillies (depending on your tolerance for heat) and an inch of ginger root. Heat some olive oil in a wok or similar pan and *gently* soften them, taking care that the garlic doesn't brown.

Once it is soft and golden, throw in torn or shredded greens and gently stir-fry until they are as soft as you like.

Season with salt & pepper.

For an early taste of spring, look to the 2004 vintage white wines from the New World. The crisp and zippy Sauvignon Blancs from South Africa & New Zealand are now at their most refreshing and uplifting best - close your eyes and it could be May! Don't be fobbed off with 2003s - with a very few exceptions they are mostly past their best.

Or snuggle up with a full, spicy red (this is no time for tee-totalling!) The warm, full-bodied, high-alcohol reds taste best in the bleak mid-winter!

Look particularly for wines from the Rhone valley - either Grenache based from the Southern Rhone - Chateauneuf du Pape, Gigondas, Vacqueyras and most Cotes du Rhone. They will be relatively high in alcohol but also juicy, spicy and warming - or Syrah based wines from the Northern Rhone, like Hermitage, Crozes Hermitage, good value Saint Joseph or extravagant Cote Rotie. Lots of juicy black fruit flavours, sweet spice and often a pleasing floral note - a reminder of summer blossom just when you need it most.

Australia, South Africa & California have their share of Rhone fanatics too, producing these varieties in abundance. (In Australia and South Africa, Syrah is known as Shiraz).

Mordon & Bradbury Village Hall Association

A very successful Annual Whist & Domino evening was held in the village hall on Thursday 9th December. Fortified by a supper with good home baking, the winners were; Mrs C. Hargrove, Mr Keith Heslop and Mr Keith Elders. Runners up were: Mrs Elders Senior, Maria, Mrs A. Elders and Mrs Peggy Parker, Mrs D Tinkler and Mr Ward. Once again the committee would like to thank Robert Elders for running the evening for us. The Annual Raffle was drawn and a list of winners can be found on both village notice-boards.

Cook's Corner

Spicy Chickpea Burgers

(Makes 8-10 burgers)

2 tbsp sunflower oil
1 small onion and 1 carrot
200g/8oz dried chickpeas
2 tbsp gram flour
2 tsp salt & a pinch of black pepper
½ tbsp apple juice concentrate
1½ tbsp rice flour
½ tbsp fresh ginger
1 tbsp millet flakes
1 fresh red chilli

1 tsp each tumeric & ground cumin

Soak chickpeas in cold water overnight. Drain, rinse and boil until soft (approx 1 hour).

Rinse in cold water and drain.

Chop the onion, remove seeds from chilli and finely slice; grate ginger. Fry these in the oil with the cumin, tumeric and pepper over a low heat until onions are soft. Grate carrot and add to the pan with apple juice concentrate and sweat until carrot has softened. Remove from the heat. Liquidize half of the mixture with the cooked and cooled chickpeas to make a smooth paste.

Return chickpeas mix to the pan and add gram flour, rice flour, millet flakes and salt. Mix thoroughly. Press into burger shapes with your hands and deep fry in hot oil until the outside is crisp and golden.

Serve in a bun with ketchup, mayonnaise and green salad.

from the Treehouse Cookbook

Do you have IT skills and a little spare time?

Sedgefield Development Partnership needs a volunteer to manage its databases
Please call Roger Clubley 629011 if you can help.

Cherie Blair launches Community Care Project



Cherie Blair officially launched a unique project that aims to bring health, social care and housing support together in this area. The Sedgefield Adult Community Care Partnership project, the first of its kind in County Durham, was developed to deliver 'seamless' services to older people and older people with mental health problems, giving them a single point of contact. The first team, based in Trimdon, was launched in June 2004 and is already successfully providing services to the communities of Sedgefield, the Trimdons, Fishburn and West Cornforth.

Use it or lose it?

Many of us wish there could be a swimming pool here in Sedgefield and with luck it will happen one of these days. But in the meantime, perhaps we should beware of ignoring the little pool just up the road in Fishburn. According to Jack Pattison, who came into the Sedgefield News office straight from a swim, there is a real danger that the pool could 'go under' for want of support. Jack was himself unaware of the place until his grandchildren had lessons in the Fishburn pool. He says that he finds it very warm and run by very friendly staff, making it highly suitable for children learning to swim. He swims regularly at Fishburn now, rather than driving to Billingham as he used to, but – and this is the main point – he often finds he has the place to himself. His concern is that unless the pool is used by more people, it could be closed, thus we might lose a small but worthwhile facility, and at the same time, compromise the claim that there is demand for a pool in this area.

Fishburn Pool runs swimming classes for all ages as well as aqua aerobics and adult/GP referral sessions and it is very reasonably priced. You'll find it at Fishburn Primary School. Turn right immediately after the Beehive pub, then right again and park in the yard.

Hardwick Park - "Dam" slow work!

Cumbrian Industrials has been working on the dam, forming the concrete face which as we go to press at the end of December should be complete, although the breach is being left open at present to allow access to the Cascade. About 90% of the Lake bed is complete, but the heavy machinery has been withdrawn for fear of damaging the clay bed. Work will resume when the ground is drier, perhaps around March. A lot of the edging has been formed but this must also wait for drier conditions.

Work on the sewerage system for the Heritage Resource Centre will start soon and the builders' compound on the car park is being decreased in size and manpower to save money.

W Anelay of York, a firm with an excellent record in restoration, has been awarded the contract for the Temple, Gothic Seat and Gothic Ruin (which should be finished by next autumn), and also the decorative work on the Cascade. The Temple stones are being assessed for re-use, as the alternative would be to get new stone carved to mimic the original. The first work will be the consolidation of the Bono Retiro. It is intended to add three stepping stones to allow people to cross at the bottom of the Cascade.

The Bottle Pond will be part of the landscape contract, as will the Circular Pond, Serpentine River, Lake inlets etc. The briefs for this work to go out to tender are being prepared.

Work on building the new Heritage Resource Centre starts during 2005 and a team is working on the Exhibition area to go inside it. One of their ideas is for the Friends of Hardwick to interview people with memories of Hardwick, especially before the second World War, and record them for posterity. If any of our readers have memories they are willing to share with the Friends, please contact the Secretary on 01740 621431.

The East Park restoration starts next year with the making of footpaths and the addition of clumps of trees. First, however, a public consultation exercise is to be carried out.

Golden Lion triumphs in the Blue Star league

There were tense moments in the Golden Lion on Tuesday 14th December - not the football, but the Final of the Champion of Champions in the Tuesday Night Blue Star league!

Since rejoining the Blue Star league 4 years ago the Golden Lion Darts and Domino team had played hard and had now reached the final of the competition against the Surtees from Ferryhill.

The format is 5 single darts 501 and 5 single domino games and the first one to 6 wins. In the event of a tie it goes down to the toss of a coin to see who plays a sudden death leg of either dominoes or darts. It was a close fought battle with the match standing at 3:3 at one stage.

The Golden went 4:3 up and it was down to the last dart game and 2 single domino games. Bob Harris, Darts captain for the Golden won his game making it 5:3 to the Golden Lion and then Russell Wyatt won his domino game to make it 6:3.

The victory was ours!

January DIARY

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

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 4th January
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Cottage Gardening
a talk by **Dianne Nichol-Brown**
All Welcome
Tues 1st Feb
at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
AGM & Pie and Peas Supper
Members and prospective
members only

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 5th January
Parish Hall at 7.15pm
*Please note change of programme,
due to unforeseen circumstances*
Aloe Vera
with Melanie Rowland
Members' competition - "Your
favourite beauty tip from the
kitchen cupboard"
New members always welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

QUIZ NIGHT
Sat 8th January
presented by Ray Lower
Starts 8pm All Welcome
*The club now operates a no
smoking policy in the bar/lounge*

Education in the Community

Enrolment Day
Sat 8th January, 10am to 2pm
at Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th January
9.30am to 1.30pm
Local traders always welcome
Please contact Bob Harris on
07977 231815 for details

Local History Society

Monday 10th January
7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
Alan Whitworth
Yorkshire Oddities!
Guests & new members welcome
Further details on 620244

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 10th January
6.30 - 7pm, Council Offices

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir

restarts on **January 14th** at 6pm
New starters from age 9 - 17
are very welcome
The Lyric Singers
resume rehearsals on
Friday 21st January

Family History Group

Monday January 17th
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
"Secrets of the Attic - Part 1"
Dr. Tony Nicholson
New Members always welcome

Wynyard Planetarium

For free public views through
the telescope on
non-planetarium nights meet at
the observatory at 7.30pm
(follow signs from the
planetarium)

On show nights, meet at the
planetarium at 8.30pm, or why
not take in a show first?

**Please bring a torch and
wrap up warm!**

In the warmth and comfort of
Wynyard Planetarium everyone
can relax and enjoy the unique
spectacle of a starry night

Sedgefield Races

January meetings
Tues 11th - 1st race at 1.10pm
Tues 25th - 1st race at 1.10pm

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th January
7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall
A.G.M. and Faith Supper
Everyone Welcome

Sedgefield Library

will be the venue for a
**Creative Writing
Taster Session**
on Friday 21st January
from 10am to 12 noon.
Anyone interested in taking part
should contact Judith Machin
at Sedgefield Library

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Steve Ashton will give a talk on
A Trip to Estonia
In the Fletcher Room at the
Parish Hall on
Thursday 27th January
at 7.45pm

101 Gigs

15th The Penny Black, Hartburn
21st Dr. Brown's, Middlesbrough
23rd The Normanby, Normanby
28th The Spot, Hartlepool
29th The Grand Hotel, Bishop
Auckland
30th The Black Lion, Sedgefield

St Edmund's Church

During the interregnum,
Baptisms and Weddings will
continue to be booked in Church
on Thursday Evenings
from 6.30 - 7.30pm

Tiny Steps at St Edmund's

next meeting
Wednesday 2nd February

Is wind energy all that the developers claim it to be?

Wind Prospect State their final decision to go ahead was based on the feedback from the exhibitions held at Sedgfield, Fishburn and Trimdon. A total of 110 people attended, 54 responded to the questionnaire, roughly 0.4% of the population, still they proceed. Why? Could it be the large subsidies given by the government though the Climate Change Levy and the Renewables Obligation Certificates, an indirect payment to the wind power industry through higher prices to consumers?

Wind Prospect also states "Despite the arguments surrounding wind farms the figures are impressive". What figures? The proposed Walkway Industrial Wind Farm of 21MW installed capacity would produce only 5.04MW assuming an efficiency of 24% (actual recorded from last year's operating wind turbines), equal to 44,029 MW/hrs (one year's output), approximately 2 days running of the existing Hartlepool power station. In terms of saving CO2 emissions, the claim 55,000 tonnes/year is almost certainly overstated. Based on the The Carbon Trust and DEFRA the savings are less on average by 45% and to make matters worse the figures do not take into account the need to maintain continuous backup, cancelling out any emission savings. A local trust fund to help local energy saving projects is welcome, but the suggested revenue generated to the fund is a pittance of what the developers make. They also remind us that the UK is no longer self sufficient or secure in its energy generation capability. Will hundreds of wind turbines that are reliant on

the wind blowing solve the energy generation problem?
The North East Assembly energy strategy for the NE states that by 2010 a staggering number of turbines will be required to meet the quoted generated output of 240MW, that is equal to 1000MW installed, equal to 333 turbines of 3MW. Do we need to blot the countryside of the North East of England with inefficient, uneconomical and intermittent Industrial wind generators?
'Friend of the environment'
(name & address supplied)

Retrograde step for health?

I have just received my letter from Sedgfield Primary Care Trust about the out-of-hours health care service changes, with some concern. To my mind, we have taken a giant step – backwards – in service. Over 50 years ago when the Health Service was set up (and before that) you were able to call your doctor if someone was taken ill during the night and a doctor would visit you at home. No longer. Now we have to telephone a receptionist who may connect you to a health care professional for advice or arrange an appointment for you at Bishop Auckland General Hospital. If you are ill enough to seek help during the night, do you want to have to find a taxi and travel to Bishop Auckland? Do you know where the hospital is (I don't). It seems to me to be a very retrograde step. If our GPs are abrogating their responsibilities then the least the PCT can do is arrange for a locum service to make home visits. Incidentally, why Bishop Auckland and not North Tees, which seems to be the daytime hospital of choice?

John Fitzpatrick

One satisfied customer!

I felt I should write and thank you all for your hard work and support over the past few months. Since we took over Butterwick Kennels in April, we have tried many different forms of advertising in order to let people know of the developments we have made; radio, regional newspapers, flyers, in fact nearly every medium that is possible, yet none have proved as successful as yours. I can safely say that since we decided to advertise with yourselves the adverts have more than paid for themselves, in fact a couple of times over. We now get two or three new enquiries a month and the majority, I am glad to say have generated repeat business.

The coverage of the launch of our hydrotherapy centre in August and the adverts which have followed have helped us no end, in fact we probably could not have done it without you. So keep up the good work, in fact shout it from the roof tops...what you guys do is just simply fantastic!!!

**Francesca Harding and all at
Butterwick Kennels and Cattery**

Thank you Samaritans!

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the three good Samaritans, in two separate cars, who helped me up and saw me home after a fall in Stockton Road on the morning of the 26th October. Thank you very much.

Shirley Anderson

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**Copy for February by
January 15th to
58 Front St, Sedgfield
TS21 2AQ - or to
snews@sedgfieldweb.co.uk
or 01740 629011**

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