

Sedgefield News

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

January 2006

Guider Jackie is Citizen of the Year 2005

Jackie Postgate came to Sedgefield aged 18 to train as a nurse at Winterton. Whilst a child, she had spent many years in hospital in Middlesbrough, where she had been introduced to both guiding and to nursing. She continued guiding when she came out of hospital and rose to become Brown Owl in Middlesbrough. She worked at Winterton with breaks to give birth at Hardwick Hall, first to Stephen and later Julie (Julie was one of the last of many Sedgefield people to be born there), moving on later to become a district nurse for Sedgefield, Ferryhill and Fishburn. Jackie resumed her passion for guiding when Julie had no guide group to move on to after her time in Fishburn brownies; Jackie set up another troop to fill the gap. She was Tawny Owl at Sedgefield, and Sedgefield Guides captain, in fact guiding is the constant commitment that underlies Jackie's life as a volunteer. But it has also been the starting point for other activities. Early in the Twinning with Hamminkeln, a scout group from Germany arranged to visit but as more than half turned out to be female, the scouts turned to Jackie. Brownies, guides and several other groups became involved with groups from Hamminkeln. Putting up larger groups of young (and not so young) visitors never again posed the same daunting prospect as when the scouts first contemplated girls coming! Jackie brought possibly hundreds of families into twinning and guiding; she found hosts for visitors - she has a very persuasive personality! She also did a long spell as secretary of the Twinning Association and became an important bridge to other groups like the Lyric Singers and the youth choir. But she went further, taking groups into international Guiding, with visits to Germany, Sweden,

Italy, Australia, and India. A recent e-mail came from one of the scouts who had camped on the racecourse 22 years ago! Now married with five children, he's back in touch. She receives invitations to the weddings of brownies she nurtured. In fact, there can't be many people who are greeted so often as she passes through the village.

This 40 year commitment has been entirely voluntary, on top of her career and raising her family and hundreds of youngsters have had their lives enriched by her.

A worthy contender for the title Citizen of the Year 2005, Jackie now joins the very exclusive 'club' of Sedgefield's favourite citizens.



Sedgefield Post Office Basil gives us the *real* story!

I am aware of the rumours regarding the future of the Post Office and myself, that have circulated for the past 18 months or so. The facts were that the Post Office would relocate and that I would retire. This procedure was not simply driven by market forces and was not straightforward, but had to have the approval at all stages of the Post Office.

My suffering a heart attack at the beginning of the year complicated the process: and I wish to thank everyone who subsequently and kindly asked after my health in the Post Office. I wrote to all who sent good wishes but apologise if I missed anyone. I have made a good recovery and am currently feeling very well. Thank you again everyone.

After many interruptions to the process of retiring I finally made it when the Post Office Auditors arrived on the 29th November. They handed the accounts over to Richard Parry (Richie) and he became the new SubPostmaster.

Over the 23 years I have been SubPostmaster of Sedgefield I have enjoyed every day (the odd hour or so might not have been so pleasurable, but those are easily forgotten)! I would like to say "Thank you" to everyone who has supported the Post Office during that period and thank all for their custom.

I hope that you will all afford the same support and custom to Richie, my successor, and I wish him and his wife Sheri every success in their first business venture.

Finally may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Basil Watson, Ex-subPostmaster

The new 'phone number for Sedgefield Post Office is 01740 629073

**A real 'Coup' for Sedgefield? see Sports Update on page 6
It's now Sedgefield Development Trust - see page 12**

"I'll tell you a story, about Jane and Luke and the late, late train!"

You may have heard by now that on 29th December I really was left "holding the baby". I was on my annual shopping trip to Edinburgh with my Mum; we go by train from Darlington Station every year. Anyway, as we got onto the train I helped a friend by carrying Luke (eight months old) on at Darlington, off at Edinburgh, back on again at Edinburgh and of course I would carry him off at Darlington.

But no! The doors opened at Darlington (bear in mind we were supposed to be back at Darlington at 9.30 pm but had been delayed in Dunbar for 1½ hours - it was now around 11 pm) but only half of our party had time to get off before the doors shut and the train left the station! Twelve of us and Luke were left on board.

In a panic we rushed to the buffet car to contact the staff who said we could get off at York and return from there. I spoke with Luke's Mum via various mobile phones but felt it was far worse for her than me - where was her baby going to in the middle of the night - would we all end up in Kings Cross?

Anyway, the train staff ensured we all got off in York and we got a train back at 20 past midnight, having of course been assured that there would be food and blankets for the baby (comforting, empty words). The waiting room was freezing; Luke was wearing his pyjamas, a sleeping bag and then

borrowed someone's hat, scarf, a jumper from someone's shopping and eventually a guard's coat.

Obviously all his warm clothes were with his Mum. Luke was very heavy and no-one else in the party dared take him from me in case it upset him, but he was extremely well behaved, as if he was on an adventure, amusing himself with an empty crisp packet. The staff did make sure we got onto the train back to Darlington and off at the other end, which was a major relief.

Then of course the car park ticket wouldn't work, so back over the footbridge onto the station, where the one and only member of staff said he would open the barrier. I scraped the ice off my car, he did open the barrier and "thank goodness", Mum and I thought - "home we go". We got to the road near the brick train - closed - road works - diverted down McMullen Road. It was 2am when I finally got home and I sat in the car on the drive and thought "thank you God - I am safe and alive".

Positives can always be drawn from these situations and enrich our life skills! Thank goodness there was a party of us on the train or I would have sat down and sobbed. It certainly seemed a Jackanory Story.

I guess the moral is - don't take someone's baby onto a train - carry the pushchair instead!

Jane Young

Ceddesfeld Tree Preservation Order

A meeting of Sedgefield Borough Council's Development Control Committee on the 9th December decided to confirm the provisional order made in October 2005, so the Tree Preservation Order has now been made permanent.

The meeting papers said "The order has been made because the trees provide amenity value to the Conservation Area and several listed buildings and are highly visible in an area well used by the public. The trees soften the impact of the built environment and frame the historic buildings. The Horse Chestnut is a particularly fine specimen and may be contemporary with the Hall."

Three assessments of the trees have been carried out, one in 1999 and two in the last year. As a result of the survey carried out for Sedgefield Town Council, application was made to fell two trees as diseased and dangerous. The Borough Council initiated another survey using a different, more advanced technique, which contradicted the Town Council's survey.

Also a climbing survey by the Tree Officer found nothing untoward; the trees were healthy and showed signs of self-repair of damage caused by the electricity supply company.

Following technical input by the Council officers, four Sedgefield residents spoke in favour of the order; the Committee then voted unanimously to confirm it.

Courses in the New Year - in the Zone at 58 Front St.

IT help: Drop-in times

4th January - CLOSED

Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am and

Wednesdays 9.30 - 12 noon

E Citizenship (IT foundation level, E-mail, Internet)

Starts 16th January, 1pm - 3pm

Beginners' Digital Photography

starts on January 13th

Let us know if you would like to do any of the following courses.

Certificate in Environmental Health (Basic Food Hygiene)

Genealogy on Computer

Introduction to Counselling

Contact Carol Smith or Maggie Jackson at Sedgefield Learning Borough on **01325 311177**

or email carolferryhill@yahoo.co.uk

PARALEGAL TRAINING

There will be a Taster Session on Tues 17th Jan from 10am - 11am in the Zone at 58 Front Street

10 Week Foundation Course begins soon. To enrol for Paralegal Training, please contact **Jackie Young on 01429 420302, email jyoung.hdt@btconnect.com**

Italian at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesday Class resumes on Jan 17th at 7pm.

If there is sufficient interest, a beginners' class could start on Wednesday evenings.

To register interest, and for information on other courses at the College and around the village, please contact Rana Coates on 01740 623585

You may have noticed work going on at Bradbury Service Station.

Northumbrian Water are upgrading the Waste Effluent System .

Pictures & report next month

Bus Timetable Changes

from Harry Bower

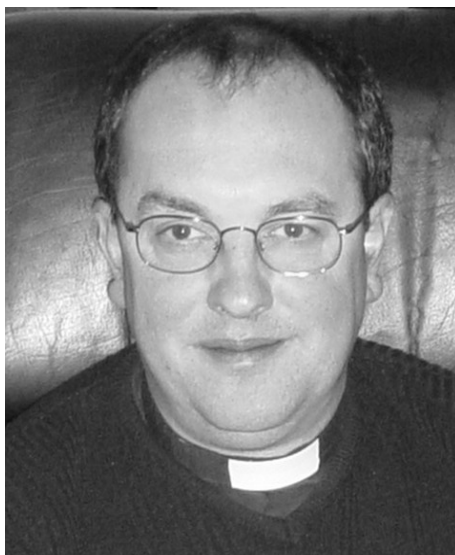
It is understood that from January 8th there will be some amendments to the current Arriva timetable for services X1 X41 X2 and a tweaking of the route for services 55 and 214.

Hopefully there will be a new timetable available at Sedgefield Library in due course.

Sedgefield welcomes the new Rector

At a joyful occasion in December, the newly created parish of Upper Skerne, comprising the Trimdons, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham and Sedgefield, welcomed its brand new Team Rector, Father Michael Gobbet. Born in Kent but brought up in Stamford in Lincolnshire, Michael had his first link with the north-east when he came up to read maths at Durham University in 1982. He already had inklings that he might want to become a priest but at the age of eighteen, sensibly decided to pursue other routes first. By the time he graduated, his firm decision had been made and, after a year on placement in a parish in Kennington, South London, Michael began training for the priesthood at St. Stephen's Theological College in Oxford. After ordination, he spent four years as a curate in Hartlepool in the parish of St. Aidan with St. Columba, an area that contained its fair share of private housing, as well as problem areas. He then moved on to St. Michael's in Norton as vicar, where he remained for eleven years.

Arriving in Sedgefield soon after the creation of the new enlarged parish is naturally a challenge, but one that he is looking forward to very much as he helps the original parishes grow together into a new unit. As the Team Rector of Upper Skerne, he will live in Sedgefield but wants to make it clear that his



responsibilities cover a much wider area than before, so the nature of the job will change and his new parishioners must not expect him to be doing exactly the same things as his predecessor because of this. He is keen to encourage the role of individual churches as community churches; there for everybody regardless of whether they attend church regularly.

Aside from his clerical duties Michael enjoys classical music, reading (particularly modern novels and biographies), watching cricket and holidays abroad (particularly in France). Michael pleads for people's patience as he settles in and is very much looking forward to meeting and working with the people of Sedgefield.

A New Year message from Father Michael Gobbet

The beginning of another New Year often inspires people to make resolutions. Often they concern rectifying the effects of some mild over-indulgence during the Christmas season! People promise themselves that they will eat and drink more wisely, or take more exercise. All of this can be highly beneficial, but primarily to ourselves.

Might I suggest another way in which each of us might resolve to make a change in 2006? It hardly seems possible that we're six years on from the Millennium celebrations, but you may still remember the Millennium Resolution;

"Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs and from now on, a new start".

Much may have flowed from the resolutions people made in 2000 but we are all aware of how all those aspirations still desperately need fulfilling in people's lives. If each of us could make a practical resolution to make a difference in one of these areas in the coming year, though action, or giving or prayer, then our neighbourhood and the wider world would benefit, not just our own health and happiness.

Victory in Sedgefield

The war years returned to the Parish Hall at another successful show for Sedgefield Players. Packed houses enjoyed comedy gems from Rob Wilton, Gert and Daisy and Joyce Grenfell, while memories flooded back with songs from Vera Lynn, Gracie Fields and Flanagan & Allan. The Fenner Sisters were a class act as The Andrews Sisters, while that maestro of the spoons, Fishburn's Bert Draycott entranced the audience with a virtuoso display. Ferryhill Operatic Society's George Wilkinson serenaded the audience with his beautiful tenor voice, expertly accompanied by Ken Simmons. Sketches from ITMA and Dad's Army tickled the funny bone, while evocative World War II poetry reminded us that it wasn't a laugh a minute. The hall was decked out with patriotic bunting, posters and memorabilia. In the interval, we tucked into delicious home-made corned beef pie and mushy peas. Even the raffle had a wartime theme, the prize being a hamper of goodies hard to come by during the war, such as sugar, eggs and of course, a banana!

The Players were delighted with the success of this venture, following the popularity of *Allo, Allo* in June. As a mark of respect to those who lived and died during World War II, the group donated £50 of the profits from this show to the Royal British Legion.

Haydn Neal

Festive music

Sedgefield Lyric Singers and SLYC, "Together Again for Christmas" gave their Festive Season Concerts in the Parish Hall to full houses. For the first time the choirs were joined by Lirica, the small group made up mainly of past Youth Choir members, who Sedgefield News introduced to you last month. It was a real pleasure for choir members to welcome the young singers back into the fold and the audience made it quite clear that they too enjoyed not just the music of the established choirs but also that of Lirica.

Another novelty was the 'village-style' band, made up mainly of members of SLYC, to accompany some of the carols.

Thanks must go to Jean Whittaker, Musical Director of the Lyric Singers for her enthusiasm in getting the choir to present an excellent programme and to Sandy Clubley who produces a superb Youth choir.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



**Neighbourhood Watch support the Mayor's charities,
Breakthrough Breast Cancer and
Butterwick Day Hospice @ Sedgefield Community Hospital
as well as other Local Charities.**

So we are pleased to invite you to our

Soup Kitchen & Grand Raffle

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Thursday 19th January from 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Please help us to raise money by enjoying a big bowl of
delicious home-made soup for just 50p**

Minutes of Panel Meeting

The final Panel meeting for 2005 took place on Tuesday 13th December. As is customary it was a short meeting to allow regular members to enjoy a modest glass of wine and culinary treats so kindly provided by Belle Saiger.

Keith Todd provided his summary of local crime and went through it in more detail. Between 14th Nov & 13th December in the village there have been: 4 Thefts; 2 Burglaries; 3 Damage to Property & 1 Vehicle damage. Keith confirmed there had been 4 persons arrested during this period, 2 for the theft from Bolam's and 2 for the serious property damage incurred on the High Street on Sunday 11th Dec. at 1.00 a.m. Keith was arresting officer – many thanks Keith. The C/man asked Keith if new licensing laws had any impact on his policing requirement. Keith responded that at weekends, instead of a midnight – 1am drop off in activity on the street this has now extended to 3am, meaning their pattern of duty is altering.

Police Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Sarah Norman reminded members of the need to recall the annual "Operation DARC" message: Deter the Burglar – Use lighting/timers etc & keep property locked and secure. Sarah also gave valuable feedback regarding recent concerns over Ringmaster messaging system. At this point the C/man informed members of the personal undertaking our Community Inspector Andy Neil had given to Executive members (for the Panel) to improve relevant communications, using this system at a meeting with the Executive (6/12/05).

The planned "Soup Kitchen" was discussed and David urged more volunteers (than the Executive) to support/donate and assist.

Under AOB Keith described the drink related initiative being rolled out across the Borough (see below). Secretary briefly reported on the presentation at County Hall by the new Chief Constable, recommending one new Regional Force.

Before the close, our newly wed N.H. Watch co-ordinator Sarah was completely taken by surprise when asked to assist with a presentation and suddenly found she was receiving a wedding gift presented by long standing member Mary Hodgson on behalf of the Panel. *See photograph!*

C/man Ken Saiger closed the meeting thanking all present for continued support and wished everyone "all the best" for the coming year and asked everyone to enjoy the refreshments provided – so members duly obliged!

Nightsafe Campaign

Young binge drinkers are urged to walk away from that last drink in the Nightsafe campaign. Aimed at men aged 18 to 24, it spells out the message 'know your alcohol limits, drink inside your limits, walk away from trouble'. Posters feature a young woman bluntly telling lads they don't stand a chance if they've had too much to drink, are falling over or fighting. Ads claiming 'drinking too much can seriously damage your love life', are on the backs of buses, in pubs and clubs,

on beer mats and contained in tip cards. There are also safety messages, urging young women to have nothing to do with lads who have had too much to drink.

Avoiding car theft

Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership & Durham Police have launched Operation Hawkeye, to combat thefts of valuables from vehicles. Neighbourhood wardens and police patrolling will look out for valuables unattended in vehicles. Registration details will be taken and within a few days the

PC Todd reports

We are still receiving reports of young people, mostly girls, behaving in a loutish and abusive manner whilst aimlessly walking the streets, then using foul language when challenged. These girls are in their early teens but sadly show no respect for anyone but themselves. Be warned!! I have CCTV footage of them and it is only a matter of time until I am able to identify them.

These early dark nights provide a natural cover for any moron, intent on taking your property, to look for an easy target. There have been a couple of reports of prowlers during the night who left evidence of their visit by leaving footprints or damage to fencing. Please think about your security – lights and locks may prevent your property from walking away.

I would like to wish all readers a Happy New Year. *Keith*

Pub Watch

At a recent meeting held at the Dun Cow there were no reports of incidents inside member premises. However, an updated list of persons who are currently banned from entering member premises has been distributed. Should any of these people choose to ignore their ban, a more severe penalty will be imposed.

The change in the licensing hours has arrived, and I hope everybody benefits from these new laws. Consideration and moderation are maybe the watchwords over the festive period. Have a good time but a safe one – from all member pubs and clubs.



owner will get a letter reminding them not to make it easy for the thieves! If owners spend a minute locking valuables in the boot or removing them, they remove the opportunity for crime.

Notes from **SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE RESIDENTS FORUM**

The November forum meeting was a topic discussion session, planned as a result of many residents wishing to see an end to and reversal of the anti-social behaviour trends in the village. Attendance was less than we had hoped for but those taking part had a very active and productive discussion. For the Forum to press for action on any issues such as anti-social behaviour we need to demonstrate a need from a high proportion of residents. Those in authority with the power to take action need to be assured that the views presented represent the wishes of the village; so it is really important that as many residents as possible give their opinions. We recognise that attending a meeting may not be the easiest or desired way for people to give their views so we will be looking at other methods of doing this. Written questionnaires and surveys are time consuming and expensive but maybe a page on the web to gather comments could be developed –

'Year of the Volunteer' Awards & Celebrations

Gloria Wills, Chair of CAVOS and Sedgefield resident was one of a number of volunteers recognised for their hard work and dedication at a NE Region Awards Ceremony.

what do you think? Comments and wishes from the November meeting will be passed to the Town Council for comment and action; future meetings will report progress.

The road safety group have sent further letters to Durham County Council regarding the delay to improving safety at the A689/Stockton Road junction (there have been several more accidents with ambulance and air ambulance attendance). Update at the January Forum meeting.

Old Beacon Lane was again a complete 'no go' area for the period of the illegal encampment. Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders venturing down the lane experienced threats, intimidation and attacks from the dogs. The gypsy/travellers left after 5-6 weeks at the direction of DCC, leaving an unbelievable mess which

the Environment Agency declared a public health hazard. The clean up will once again cost several thousands of pounds, which Council Tax payers have to cover. The DOVE (Defend Our Village Environment) group will be seeking to establish the full cost to tax payers i.e. clean-up, provision of services to the illegal encampment (toilets, regular removal of normal 'house-hold' rubbish) Council staff attendance time, on site education provision, police time etc.

The next meeting is on 23rd January at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Do come along to discuss your concerns. Residents' Forums only succeed if residents take part.

In the mean time, we wish you a happy, safe and peaceful New Year.

(Full minutes are available on www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

New website supports patients with long term health conditions

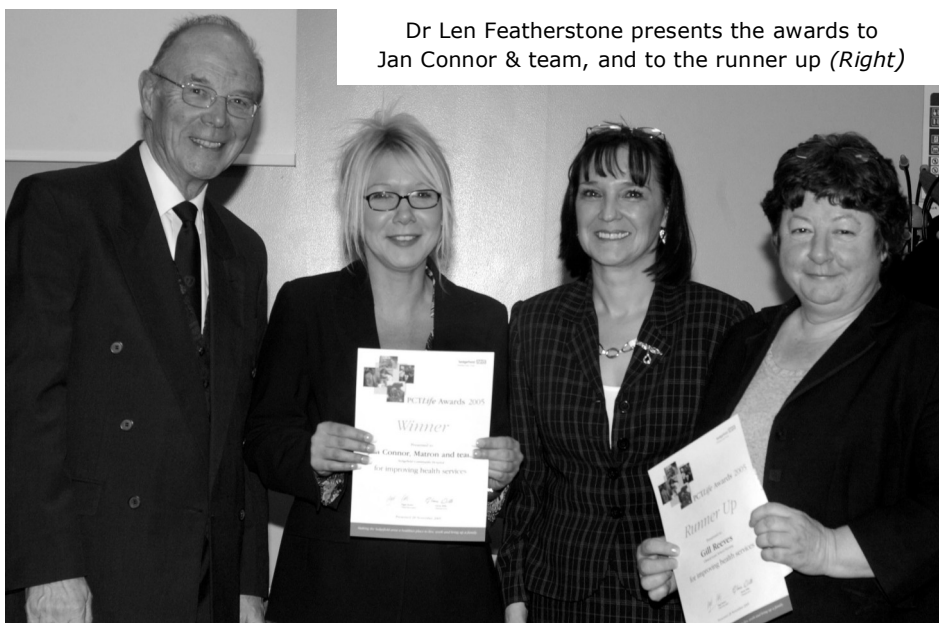
A collaborative 'brainstorming' between Sedgefield PCT, the Expert Patients Programme and the Princess Royal's Carers Forum has resulted in the launch of new website to support people .

People living with conditions such as arthritis, asthma, back pain, diabetes, heart problems, multiple sclerosis and mental health issues will be able to use the website to get practical advice and tips on how to live with their illness. They can be signposted to the available support, such as the excellent Expert Patients Programme, Care in the Chemist, transport, Young Carers and local support groups. The website is full of practical help and support. Try it out at **www.health-promotion.cdd.nhs.uk**

Outstanding Community Hospital team wins Award

At the first Sedgefield Primary Care Trust Life Awards, Jan Connor, the Matron of Sedgefield Community Hospital, and her team were presented with the **Improving Health Services Award**, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to health care. They were presented with a certificate and £200 to be used to benefit patient care.

When we say team, think big! This one includes absolutely everyone, from consultants to domestic staff. Nominations were made by members of the public, who know the work of the hospital, and as Jan commented, "It was an achievement just to be nominated, so to win was very exciting. The whole team values the support they get from people around Sedgefield, which often takes the form of donations that come in from charity fundraising events". Jan also feels that the staff work harder because



Dr Len Featherstone presents the awards to Jan Connor & team, and to the runner up (Right)

they feel so valued by the local community, which is, after all, their main focus. The prize money could be spent on an Air Flow Mattress. If

anyone else would like to contribute to the Amenity Fund, cheques should be made payable to Sedgefield Community Hospital.

Sports Update

with chrisjlines@aol.com

At one point it looked as if I wouldn't have any news for you this month, mainly because I hadn't gone out and found any. I will be back with some of the usual 'stuff' in the next issue, but something came in at the last minute that deserved a full report on its own.

Winter Olympic Games 2014

The weather forecasters are predicting a harsh, cold winter and though that hasn't yet materialised at the time of writing this, I wonder if it's a trend that will continue. If so, that might explain an exclusive story that Sedgefield News has just unearthed. I can reveal that Sedgefield is preparing an audacious bid to host the Winter Olympic Games in 2014. Although not particularly renowned as a winter sports destination, the team behind the bid is confident that it will make a compelling case and has a good chance of winning. Bid leader Jack Andrew Nory is new to the area but is convinced that he can bring the Winter Olympics to Sedgefield: "It's true that we have a lot of work to do to convince the IOC that Sedgefield is the right destination for this festival of great sport, but my team has been committed for a long time and we have clear visions of bringing the Games to this part of the world."

Mr Nory has so far been reluctant to reveal all of the detail of the Sedgefield bid, but I was able to prise some information from him about potential venues for specific sports. In the plans, the two ponds at Ceddesfield will be converted into ice rinks - one for the skating disciplines and one for Curling (this will require specialist 'icing' equipment as the usual covering of ice is far from adequate for supporting skaters). Great Britain won Gold in Curling at the last Winter Olympics, so crowds for this competition are expected to be very large and a suitable grandstand will have to be built to accommodate spectators. However, the most extensive building projects will be embarked upon for the skiing events. Two 'super structures' are being planned, one for the downhill and slalom events and one for the ski jumping. These will be 'leant' against the church tower, providing a spectacular centre piece for the host village and, as Mr Nory puts it, because "that is a more cost effective approach than having to build a tower from scratch". The team has not yet confirmed the proposed location

for the bobsleigh, skeleton or luge events. Hardwick Park appears to be the favoured site, though that will involve another huge construction project that will dominate the views of the park. In addition, the bid team is hoping that sledging will be an officially recognised Winter Olympics sport by 2014 and Ceddesfield bank has been earmarked as a venue. Of course, bringing such a large event to Sedgefield requires more than providing venues for the sports and much of the other infrastructure detail behind the bid has yet to be revealed. However, Mr Nory has confirmed that local bus companies have already agreed in principle to put on extra services to Sedgefield from Darlington, Middlesbrough, Durham and Newcastle for the duration of the Games, as well as a direct service to and from Durham Tees Valley Airport. Sedgefield News will keep you all updated with developments on the bid front and will stay in close contact with Jack Nory to find out more about this mysterious man and his motives. Finally, although the Sedgefield team genuinely thinks it can bring us the Winter Olympics, they are up against stiff competition, with other bids likely from Death Valley National Park in the USA, Australia's Ayers Rock/Uluru Resort and the little known Val d'Isere resort in France. Watch this space. As ever, please send your sports news to me on chrisjlines@aol.com.

Space to hire at College

I have noted with interest the debate on the use of community premises by residents of Sedgefield, Mordon and Bradbury. We support ways to encourage community activities and offer the use of our facilities, in particular for sports. The facilities are extensive and support many active pursuits.

The 'Community College' is said to be too far away from the village. Whilst we are not in the village centre, we are in a residential area close to a large housing estate, so for some people access is easy. We also have more parking spaces and floodlights during darkness. The Community Association have access to a minibus which they would be delighted to use to expand their already regular pick-ups. I think we need a variety of community venues in Sedgefield, each with its individual nature. One writer referred to the restrictions of the Community College. I would be pleased to know what they are. We are due to be part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme. When we are rebuilt (details still being looked at) we will have the best facilities possible to share with our community, in conjunction with the Parish Hall, Ceddesfield Hall and other venues. At present, as well as fields and sports pitches, we offer large meeting hall facilities, gardening and livestock facilities, a purpose built and recently refurbished Drama Studio, state of the art Multi-Gym, outside Tennis (with the Sedgefield Tennis Club) and AstroTurf. We also have many smaller rooms and classrooms which are available to be booked through our Community Association. (Please telephone Mrs Gillian Myers on 01740 621097). There are currently 600+ members of the Association and a mass of adult classes and activities. Local people are welcome to pop in for a coffee, jacket potato or snack from our Coffee Bar. I can't see why the college premises should be excluded from discussions of village facilities. We are part of the community and wish to work together for all ages.

Lynne Ackland

Fun activities during school holiday

A host of activities are available to young people at our Leisure Centres at Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe, Ferryhill and Shildon-Sunnydale

Try something 'new' at Spennymoor with **New Age Kurling** on Friday 6 January

Get some **netball** tips from NE Community Coach of the Year, Susan Sweeting, at Ferryhill Leisure Centre on 6th January

Shildon-Sunnydale is providing '**sports mix**' (football, cricket, basketball and badminton) throughout the School Holiday.

All centres will be closed on New Year's Day & 2nd January

Wine & Health? Meg Clubley confronts the perennial New Year dilemma!

In January, wine may be the last thing on most of our minds, but is the traditional seasonal detox really the answer to post-Christmas guilt? Research into the health-giving properties of alcohol consistently shows heavy drinkers as having the poorest health prospects, closely followed by those who abstain during the week but binge at the weekend. So far so predictable, but after the weekend bingers, in 3rd place, come the teetotallers. Healthiest by far are those who enjoy a regular (even daily) tipple, never drinking more than a couple of small glasses. All regular, moderate drinkers show some improvement whatever their preferred refreshment, but wine drinkers fare best of all. Most exciting is the news that, for women, drinking up to half a bottle of wine a day has been associated with increased IQ. Sorry boys, it doesn't work for you! Unsurprisingly, after more than half a bottle the effects are reversed.

Suggestions that the benefits can be explained by the typical wine drinker's overall lifestyle being relatively healthy have been quashed by research which compared teetotallers & moderate drinkers of otherwise similar lifestyles. Even when all other factors were the same, the drinkers fared better.

Why is regular moderate drinking good for us? Ethanol itself accounts for about half of the known benefits, explaining why even beer & spirits drinkers enjoy some of them. The particles in wine that contribute flavour, colour and preservatives account for the other half. Their anti-oxidant properties can help to fight cancer-inducing free-radicals, improve the balance of good to bad cholesterol and, by acting as an anti-coagulant, reduce risks of heart disease and stroke. The effects last for about 24 hours so optimum protection is gained by daily moderate drinking. Alcohol free days reduce the overall benefit but do give the liver a chance to recover after excessive drinking.

Wine is not medicine though and the optimum amount to benefit is quite low: 1-2 units a day – almost certainly less than you drank in December! You are most likely to benefit if you are a post-menopausal woman or a man above 40.

Nothing we do in January can change what we did in December. So instead of launching into a (probably doomed) January detox, why not resolve to iron out some of those peaks and troughs in future? Remember the mantra "little and often" that has served our octogenarians so well.

If you are a post-menopausal teetotaller with an intellectually challenging job, then maybe you could think about drinking a little for "medicinal purposes"! The rest of us should probably cut down a little and spread our drinking out a little more evenly.

But don't cut it out completely, not even in January!



Make it happen!

The Enterprise Lab

Fun, practical workshops to explore your enterprising ideas.

Are you already in business or maybe thinking it would be good to start something of your own?

Create your own map for the future in the company of like-minded people and those already on their enterprise journey.

People Into Enterprise mentors will help you to move your ideas forward. We'll have lively sessions over 4 evenings then a chance for groups from 4 areas of County Durham to get together to swap ideas, stories and plans.

Sedgefield: 23, 30 Jan, 6 & 13 Feb 2006

To book a place or for more information please contact Alison on **0845 245 0212** or email alison@peopleintoenterprise.com



Holiday on 'ice' at Hardwick Hall



Hardwick Hall Hotel's latest enterprise has seen local youngsters having great fun on skates.

A temporary ice rink was installed on the rear car park and it proved very popular. The rink, with a polypropylene surface on which real ice skates were used, was floodlit in the evening. Skates were provided as part of the £3 fee and available in children's size 7 to adults 13. The 20 foot square rink was provided by "Funice" of Bedford and is one of four that are deployed round the country, the others being at Liverpool, London and in Wales. One of its attractions is that the "ice" is dry so when you fall down you don't get wet.

Let's hope it's here again next year!

Games at Mordon

The annual Whist and Domino drive organised by Mordon and Bradbury Village Hall Association was held on Thursday 8th December with the village hall full to overflowing. There were 5 tables of whist and three of dominoes and the function was organised and run in his usual impeccable way by Robert Elders. The winners of the whist were Pam Hall - ladies' first prize, Joan Heslop - second prize and Anne Sayers, third. The gents' first prize went to Barry Hill. The second prize went to Monica Jackson, and the third to Isobel Wood. Norman Oliver won at dominoes, with Christine Hill second, and Jim Peacock third. After the games and supper were over, the Grand Draw took place for the fifty-plus raffle prizes, which had been donated by neighbours and friends. The evening was voted a great success by all the players, and the proceeds went to assist with Village Hall Funds.

Parish Hall notes

Sedgefield Town Council will discuss December's open letter from Sedgefield Development Trust, as well as one from Norma Neal, at its monthly meeting in January.

Farmers' Market

I would like to thank you for supporting the Christmas Farmers' Market. It was lovely to see everyone on the Village Green, catching up on gossip and buying those essential supplies and last minute gifts and goodies. On behalf of the stallholders, I would like to thank the Sunday School Choir and the Round Table for giving up their time to add to the festivities. This is my last update. I handed the Co-ordinator reins back to the Town Council at the beginning of December. I've really enjoyed seeing the market grow since its relocation to the Green and I'm pleased it has become a firm favourite with so many people. There will be a market on Sunday 8th January - a bit smaller, as some of the stallholders take holidays in what is usually a quieter month. Mellanby's have assured me that they will be attending with their vegetable stall - we'll have to wait and see who else turns up. The market should be back to normal strength in February. If you have any queries, please contact the Town Council on 01740 621273. I hope it continues to be a success. *Joanne Martin, Stallholder*

Cook's Corner

Bean & Sausage Casserole

A healthy winter warmer!

Serves 3-4

1 tablespoon oil
1 large onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 red pepper, de-seeded, sliced
1 green pepper, de-seeded, sliced
400g (15oz) can chopped tomatoes
1 tablespoon tomato puree
400g (15oz) can mixed beans in tomato sauce
250g (8oz) low-fat sausage
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
ground black pepper

Method

Grill sausages until golden brown and slice.

Heat the oil in a flameproof casserole dish, or large saucepan.

Add the onion and cook for 3-4 minutes

Add the garlic and cook for a further minute, then add the peppers, tomatoes and tomato puree. Simmer for 15 minutes.

Mix in the beans, sausages, Worcestershire sauce, and season to taste. Simmer gently for a further 10 minutes.

Serve with pasta or rice

(3-4 portions of vegetables per serving - Five a day programme)



Developing science and learning in Sedgefield



Excellent Year at Red House School

Red House School, a coeducational day school based in Norton, Stockton on Tees, looks back on 2005 with pride as it celebrates another excellent year in its 76 year history. For the fourth year running exceptional GCSE results placed Red House School top in the Times League Tables for schools in the Tees Valley. 98% of students achieved 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A*- C with 52% of all results at grade A* or A. 96% of all results were at grade A*-C, significantly above the national and regional average.

2005 saw the arrival of new headmaster, Mr Alex Taylor, who brings a wealth of experience gained from working in both maintained and independent schools. A biology and sports science teacher, A level examiner, inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate and an enthusiastic promoter of outdoor adventure education, Mr Taylor joins Red House at a very exciting time and looks forward to driving the school forward into the next phase of its history.

The Year's key event was a major building and refurbishment programme, including the addition of a nursery unit to the thriving Infant School. Upgrades to IT facilities, the addition of a Systems Technology Suite and general refurbishments were also successfully completed.

Christmas at Sedgefield Primary ...

As part of their Christmas celebrations pupils at Sedgefield primary School performed their magical drama productions for family and friends. 'Cinders' was staged by the Juniors – many talented pupils gave a very professional performance of this well-loved pantomime, which was produced by the class teachers. Props and scenery were provided by the classroom assistants and the choir and music was directed and accompanied by Mrs Margaret Mowat.

The Infants' production of 'Don't Forget the Manger' brought a tear or two to many an eye! Every child gave their all: the acting was wonderful, the band played beautifully, and the singing was superb.

The school choir also visited Holmbryth House and Willowdene where they entertained the residents with a medley of carols and seasonal music. They were then treated in return with drinks and biscuits.

Along with children from the Hardwick School, the school choir, trained by Mrs Margaret Waller and accompanied by Mrs Mowat, took part in the annual Mayor's Christmas Service in St Edmund's Church by giving a rendition of three traditional carols.

Sedgefield Twinning Association Dates for 2006

Annual General Meeting: February 18th

Barbecue: July 22nd

Visit to Hamminkeln: September 8th - 15th

Pie & Peas Supper: September 30th

Wine Tasting Evening: November 18th

More details on the Diary page

in the relevant month

... and seasonal goings-on at Hardwick Primary

The run up to Christmas is a hectic time in any primary school and Hardwick Primary is no exception to that rule. Festivities began on 30th November when we held our Christmas Fair. This was run by the 'Friends of Hardwick School' together with help from the staff. The nursery had their own stall and several Y6 children organised and ran their own 'games' stalls. It was well attended, despite the weather, and everyone enjoyed it.

On 8th and 9th December the Infant Department presented 'Its A Party!' to relatives and friends who clearly appreciated the effort put in by staff and children. They dramatised the story of the nativity and sang some very catchy songs culminating in a 'party' to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

As in previous years, the school choir sang in Durham Cathedral as part of the NSPCC carol service, on Saturday 10th December and it was lovely to see so many people in the congregation.

We had parties, card-making and calendar-creating. Santa delivered gifts and Christmas songs were heard over lunch. It really is hectic but there's no better place to be than in a primary school just before Christmas - **it's truly magical!**

January Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 4th January

7:15pm in the Parish Hall

"Boyhood Memories of Sedgefield"

by Mr D Lofthouse

Members' Competition -

A picture of Old Sedgefield

New members welcome

Wynyard Planetarium

Friday 6th January 7:30pm -

What's up in the Night Sky?

Friday 20th January 7:30pm -

Who is the first Martian?

Adults £3 Children/Concessions

£1.50, Family ticket £6

Prior booking advised - contact

John McCue on 630544

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 7th January

Presented by Peter Dixon

Bar open 7.30 for 8pm start

Sedgefield Library

Teenage Reading Group

3.30 - 4.30pm on

Monday 9th January

Rhyme Time - stories, songs and

rhymes for under 5's

Wednesday 11th January

from 10 - 11am

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

from 9.30am - 1.30pm

Sunday 8th January

on the Village Green

Local History Society

Please note later date

Monday 9th January

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Peter Johnson on **The Cutty Sark**

Everyone welcome

Crosshills FC Fixture

Sunday 8th January

Trimdon Dovecot AWAY

Management and players from

Sedgefield Crosshill Hotel F.C

would like to wish Darren and

Tracey Gouldburn and ALL the staff

at the Crosshill Hotel and also Alan

and Lynne Goddard from

Carpets at Home, a

Happy New Year.

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 9th January

6.30-7 pm in the Council Offices

Lyrics Youth Choir

Rehearsals in Ceddesfeld Hall at

6pm from **Friday 13th January**

New singers aged 9 - 18 welcome

Family History Group

(A branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 16th January

at 7:45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

"No Relatives"

a search for the family of Private

Robert Robson Banks by Ann Fell

New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield and District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th January

Annual General Meeting

and a talk by Sarah Hopps on

"All Seasons Gardens"

Followed by a plant sale

All Welcome

Neighbourhood Watch

Mayor's Charities Event

Thursday 19th January

SOUP KITCHEN

10.30 am -12.30 pm

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgefield Cricket Club

LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

Saturday 21st January at 8pm

Featured artistes -

Prelude, Kate Gormley,

the John Wrightson Band and

Southwind

£7.50 (inc Buffet)

Telephone 621347

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

Residents' Forum

Monday 23rd January

7pm in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 26th January

7.45pm in the parish Hall

Speaker to be arranged

Sedgefield Garden Society

No Meeting in January

Tuesday 7th February

AGM & Pie & Peas Supper

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market (WI)

is closed until

Friday 3rd February

St Edmund's Church

Baptisms & Weddings can be

booked in Church on

Thursday evenings from

6.30 to 7.30pm

101 Gigs in January

07 - O'Neills, Durham

09 - The Phoenix, Seaham

13 - The Wheatsheaf, Chilton

14 - The Penny Black, Stockton

17 - Elgins, Redcar

19 - The Grange, Sunderland

21 - The Office, South Shields

22 - The Normanby, Normanby

28 - The Old Fox, Gateshead

29 - The Royal Oak, Wrekenton

Your Letters

Connections

Before and during the Second World War, Archie Tinkler had a butchers shop in Sedgefield; the shop was on the site where the CO-OP store now stands. In 1943 Archie was a member of the Home Guard. He was accidentally shot and died from the injury he received. I am writing on behalf of Archie's daughter, enquiring for any memorabilia, photographs, or memories which could be relayed to her. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

On a similar quest; does anyone know of a Joyce Race, around 55 years old, from Sedgefield Joyce was a school pal of Christine Richardson, daughter of the Rev John Richardson who was vicar and rector of the parishes of Bishopston and Great Stainton in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Christine has expressed a wish to be re-united with her old school pal if at all possible. Again, any information would be greatly appreciated.

*Mrs E Suthern 18 Rowan Oval,
Telephone 01740 621845*

Disrespect in the streets

I am as concerned as anyone about groups of young people roaming the streets and gathering in the village, but can't help thinking that little will be achieved by referring to them as "low life" or "morons". Where else is there in Sedgefield for them to go? It must be pretty cold hanging around the church Lych Gate at this time of year! I don't have any easy answers, but do suggest that perhaps we should ask the young people themselves what they would like to be provided for them in Sedgefield. Has anybody done this? There is no excuse for verbal abuse and lack of respect – but they don't get much respect from us either. OK, so respect has to be earned – but not all young people are bad! But all young people are young and perhaps have not had the education or advantages that some of us older people have had. If they were truly considered and consulted in the village, it might be a different story. Just a thought.

Judith Edgoose

Remembrance

On November 11th 1918 the First World War ended. On November 11th 2005 I was at the Thiepval memorial to the fallen on the Somme where over 73,000 names are recorded of men who died in this area but have no known grave. Among them are Albert Bateman, John Usher Gladstone, Herbert Littleworth & William Brumpton from Sedgefield. Although not as large as the service at the Menin Gate in Ypres, a large crowd had gathered. A very moving service was conducted by the British Legion chaplain accompanied by two Scottish pipers. Just after the last post & reveille had sounded at 11am I was privileged to lay a wreath in memory of these men alongside the Mayoress of Thiepval and a member of the British Legion Somme Branch.

It was good to be back in Sedgefield for Remembrance Sunday (I am often still in France), and nice to see a large crowd of people paying their respects, and being able to read the names on the War Memorial now that it has been restored. As time goes on it is imperative that the sacrifice these men and their pals made is not forgotten.

William Robinson

Please would the "Angry Reader" who wrote describing an incident outside the chip shop, let us know your name and address. We want to publish your letter but can't publish letters of unknown authorship. Your details will **not** appear in the paper. *Editor*

Thanks

Sedgefield Development Trust is grateful to Sedgefield Town Council and the Farmers' Market for space on their stall at the Christmas Market, for sales of the "2005 Directory of Community & Voluntary Organisations and Businesses in Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon." Copies are available for £2 from Selections, the Post Office, Community College and the SDT office at 58 Front Street, during IT drop-in sessions on Monday & Wednesday mornings. *Roger Clubley, Chairman, SDT*

What's in a name?

Sedgefield Development Partnership becomes

Sedgefield Development Trust

The eagle eyed amongst you may have already spotted the name change at the top the front page masthead, but why the change? After all, Sedgefield Development Partnership has always operated as a Trust and for 3 years has been a member of the Development Trusts Association (DTA).

The development trust movement is still growing, and is not really a widely understood concept, although very successful trusts like those at Ouseburn and Hartlepool Headland have been making waves locally for some time.

Trusts strive to improve quality of life and the local environment and are concerned with sustainability. They are firmly rooted in their communities and are often set up initially for a specific project.

The DTA explains that the purpose of a Development Trust is "the economic, environmental & social regeneration of a community" and further, they are "not-for-private profit; are community-based and owned, and are actively involved in partnerships between community, voluntary, private & public sectors".

It seemed appropriate to name the organisation in a way that clearly states what it is for. The change was discussed at the recent AGM and agreed unanimously.

Sedgefield Development Trust belongs to this community, and exists to build up assets or to take on projects - like the website and this newsletter - which serve the community and help it prosper. As the ways of funding such projects has changed, the role of Trusts has become hugely important, as they can often access funds which are unavailable to Statutory bodies.

As for what it means in practical terms, a supplement in next month's Sedgefield News, will further explain the work of your Development Trust.



**Copy for the February issue by January 15th please
to 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011
or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk**

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