

Sedgefield News

LOGO

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

June 2006

Referendum

The opportunity to play a part in the crucial decision on a future hall for the community comes your way this month, in the form of a poll organised by the Electoral Reform Service. The voting papers will be posted to each member of the electorate in Sedgefield Village.

The status of the current Parish Hall, which has been such a great asset to the people of Sedgefield, has been hotly debated for years with seemingly no end in sight. Now, however, we can all make our views known and with a bit of luck this sorry saga will find a resolution behind which the whole village can unite.

With our population rising and a growing number of interest groups needing space for their activities, it can't be stressed enough how important it is that we all take part, to ensure that there will again be an up-to-date public hall in Sedgefield, with the capacity to serve this and future generations. Even if you have never set foot in the place, it is in your family's and the whole community's interests to use your vote.

See also Sedgefield Extra, included with this issue, & 'Opinion' on p. 5

As another innocent animal is used for target practice, we wonder why - just **WHY** would anyone do it?

Here is one family's experience...

Towards the end of last year, our much loved young cat came in with a profusely bleeding wound on his neck and hid under a chest of drawers, where he stayed for 2 days, coming out only to eat. He was clearly terrified, but all we could think was that he had been in a particularly nasty fight with another cat, or a dog, or that he'd got caught on a nail. We had the wound cleaned and checked out by the vet, and moved on. The cat did not move on though, in fact he virtually stopped going outside for several months. His behaviour changed - he became fat and sluggish - and he has only recently begun to behave normally. However we noticed that when a child came in to our house, he flew into a panic, even though the child was very well behaved. We had never seen him so scared and wondered what might have happened to cause this reaction. Then recently we discovered a small lump in his shoulder which the vet recognised immediately as an air rifle pellet. He had been shot! No wonder he had taken to

hiding under the furniture. As it happens, this time the cat is alright - he can have the pellet removed, but the fact is the wound was in his neck; an inch or two either way and he would have been dead. It turns out that this is nothing unusual. The vets are all too familiar with this kind of incident, though they only hear about the serious or near fatal ones and have no idea how many others are going unreported, as ours nearly did. The local police also said there have been a worrying number of incidents of poaching or animals being shot at by children with air guns. They are treating the problem as high priority. Pet owners, in fact anyone with any feeling, must be shocked by such cruelty. Given the reports about the geese & goats at Foxton in a previous edition of Sedgefield News, it seems not everyone respects the lives of pets and farm animals. If you come across anything suspicious, do report it, and parents, please think very hard before allowing your children to go about with weapons.



Many thanks to Ian Hunter for this happy photograph, taken during the Walking Group's visit to Spring Gardens Nature Reserve on 25th April. More photos, and details of how to join the group, on www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

It could be any one of us!

Sedgefield Players at Isle of Man Drama Festival

Paul Baguley returned to Sedgefield Players in March in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy thriller "It Could Be Any One Of Us", playing the incompetent and aggravating amateur detective who spectacularly fails to work out who dun it. On only his second visit to the Manx Festival he repeated his earlier achievement, coming away with the award for Best Actor (the first was in 2000, in the all-male production "Neville's Island").



Also nominated for awards were Geoff Clifford-Brown as the slow-witted brother of the household and Viv Jacobs as the surprised recipient of the family house and contents on the death of head of the family, supreme egotist Mortimer (Terry West). Viv and Paul jointly won the Comedy Award for the memorable scene in which the tension and the humour mounts as they both try to keep terror at bay by singing children's songs.

The play was directed by Walter Howell and the cast was completed by long-standing Player Jean Hewling as Jocelyn, and Sarah Jones, a recently returnee to the Players, as Jocelyn's daughter, aged 15 with weight in stones to match! If you saw the play in March you won't be surprised by its success, but who did you expect to be coming home with an award? With a production as good as this, **it could have been any one of them!**

This month, step back in time with the Players to The Good Old Days. Come in costume and be part of the entertainment. (See June diary for further details) *Norma Neal*

Shake that a..! Dance fever hits town

There's a lively new dance class with newly qualified teacher Carole Deluce at Sedgefield Community College on Thursdays from 7.30-8.30pm. She teaches Salsa and Latino Mix - a combination of all the latin dance moves, Cha Cha, Mambo, Jive etc., danced mostly in lines, so no partner is required. There's also Salsa, Cha cha and other couples dances, but Carole pairs the class up with each other.

Beginners will be fine, as it starts from very basic and easy dance steps and build up at a pace to suit the pupils. You can go at your own pace and put as much or as little into the dancing as you like.

Carole is assisted by husband Brian so there are always two teachers on the floor and you can learn much faster than you could imagine.

There are no age restrictions; it's for the young (they do take under 14s) and the not so young. Prices are £4 for adults and £2 under 14s. Dance is a fantastic way of keeping fit and having fun as well as making new friends. Telephone Carole on 07969557078 or Brian - 07791471522 for details.

June Jottings

The sixth month of the year takes its name from the Roman goddess Juno, wife to Jupiter and the goddess of marriage, which is probably why June is considered to be the most favourable month in which to marry ...

Married in the month of roses – June

Life will be one long honeymoon

More relevant perhaps to our Southern friends who are suffering the current hosepipe bans, Sera monath (dry month) was the Anglo-Saxon name for June!

Oops! Nearly forgot the Dads. It is of course Fathers' Day on June 18th - a chance to let them know we appreciate them - usually - though we don't always show it!

If you know anything interesting about July let us know at snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Cooks' Corner Sweet Salad

- 1 small tin sweet corn
- 1 small tin pineapple
- 1 small packet frozen peas
- 4 eating apples
- 1 oz sultanas
- 2 large celery sticks
- mayonnaise
- Drain pineapple and cut into small pieces
- Wash and cut apples into small pieces
- Wash and chop celery
- Cook peas and drain
- Combine all into a bowl and mix with mayonnaise just before serving

(*WI Millennium Cookbook*)

Our Cook's Corner feature is looking for new contributors. If you have a favourite recipe you are willing to share, please send it to snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or pop it through the office door at 58 Front Street.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Easter activities at Sedgefield Library gave children lots of opportunities to enjoy themselves, with traditional Easter crafts such as Easter bonnets, Easter baskets and card making, and craft activities on a farmyard theme, when the children made model farms and farmyard puppets. Younger children did not miss out. They were treated to a sensational story time session with Eileen Glenton, who entertained them with farmyard stories complete with sound effects! As an extra treat there was a special visit from Zoo Lab, which gave allowed them to interact with real live animals - not farm animals this time but spiders, giant snails, other creepy crawlies and even a slithery snake! If you've missed out on the fun this time don't worry - there will be more activities throughout the summer holidays, but remember booking is essential!

Library Footnote:

The Queen's official 80th birthday

will be celebrated on Thursday 15th June when Sedgefield library hosts a special morning, with tea, cream buns and a special tombola in aid of cancer research.

Please come along and help make this occasion memorable.

Young Farmers' charitable efforts

The saying goes "You can't plough a field by turning it over in your head" and Sedgefield Young Farmers Club members are to be congratulated for their initiative. They turned thoughts into actions, raising £800 for Cancer Research. Yet another feather in the cap for the youth of our society.

Picture below: The cheque being presented to Lindsey Kay on the 25th April at Sedgefield Cricket Club.



Fun & Fundraising at Hardwick Primary

Winners in the Easter Bunny Trail organized by Hardwick Primary School during the Easter Holidays were Chloe Hill, Hardwick Nursery; Bethany Peterson, Hardwick School Year 1; Kelly Dobson, Hardwick School Year 4. The children received their prizes (Easter Eggs) during school assembly. The trail raised nearly £60 for Hardwick School, so many thanks to all who took part.

Our school also held a coffee morning at the Methodist Church at the beginning of April. The school choir sang a selection of songs, we had a cake stall and there were games for the children. The 3 winners at this event - Adam Foakes, year 4; Ben Bradford, year 6; Abbi Lennox, year 6 - also received their prizes in assembly. The coffee morning raised nearly £190 so thanks again for all those who attended and contributed in anyway.

Friends of Hardwick School

Top design honour for art student Katie

Sedgefield's Katie Slater, a third year design student at Cleveland College of Art & Design, Hartlepool campus, has won the prestigious Eddie Squires Bursary for outstanding contemporary printed furnishing fabric design from the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts).

The award will give her the opportunity to travel to the USA to broaden her knowledge of design. Katie is also using some of her prize money to help fund her textile design business.

Katie's work is on display in an RSA Design Directions Awards Online Exhibition (www.rsa-design.net) and you can catch all the students' final design work at the Art Gallery, Church Square, Hartlepool. The degree show, entitled 'Surface', is open to the public from June 8th for one week. It will then move to the 'New Designers' exhibition in London.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Some N/H/Watch members have received two items of information from Durham Trading Standards, which may be of wider interest and benefit:

Firstly, BEWARE! If you receive a card through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying that they have a parcel awaiting delivery instructions and can you contact them on 0906 6611911, **DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER, AS THIS IS A MAIL SCAM ORIGINATING FROM BELIZE!** If you call the number and start to hear a recorded message **you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.** If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICTIS at www.ictis.org.uk

Secondly, BT offers a service called BT Privacy in response to a growing number of complaints from customers about abuse of their telephone service. This Free facility helps you take action against unwanted telephone callers with Caller Display & Registration with the Telephone Preference Service, which will help to reduce the number of unwanted sales calls you receive. You can set up BT Privacy at no extra cost by visiting www.bt.com/btprivacy or calling 0800 916 5544 at any time. Further details are explained in the leaflet 'Unwanted Sales Calls?' - Here's something to help make them stop' (including a door sticker). Copies available from BT Freephone 0800 800 150.

On the subject of phones, we urge residents to report issues of concern to the Police; Durham Senior Police Officers consistently say they need the public to phone in with details of anything / anyone that is out of place or suspicious – this is how they can provide an "Intelligence lead Police Service". Logs from calls are their way of prioritising Police activities and response; the well used phrase "use it or lose it" springs to mind. To contact our Local Police to report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police, telephone: **0845 6060365**

NB It may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation.

Finally some good news: at the recent Sedgefield Partnership Assisting in the Reduction of Crime (SPARC) meeting we received the following

Borough Crime figures:

Sedgefield Section	737 offences (2004)	724 (2005/6)	Reduction 1.8%
Newton Aycliffe	2031	2211	Increase 8.9%
Spennymoor	1270	1553	Increase 22.3%
Ferryhill	1176	1879	Increase 5.8%
Sildon	1067	these figures were incomplete	

Sedgefield Village is the only area to show a reduction of crime, with no significant changes to the previous year's statistics, with the exceptions of **House Burglary, reduced by 40% & Shoplifting, reduced by 57.9%**



David Quarmby sent us this evocative Holy Island scene, taken on a recent visit. See his letter on page 12

PC Todd reports

Childrens' bikes were targeted recently when someone stole a green and silver mountain bike, a Star Wars themed bike and a Batman themed scooter. They were all parked in the cycle rack in the playground of Sedgefield Primary School.

Whoever stole them must have either had help or looked suspicious under the weight of the items, so they may possibly have been seen by someone. If you have seen or found these items somewhere, please let us know.

Until next time,
Keith

Pub Watch

At a recent meeting 7 individuals received bans of between 3 months and 2 years, for offences including drugs, violence and contravening a current ban.

Members of Pub Watch would like to remind customers and residents that they are committed to the values of the scheme and will take action against anyone found to be breaking these rules.

Shed security advice

With summer fast approaching, Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership urges us to think about the security of our garden equipment.

People take a great deal of trouble securing their house but often leave property in either an unlocked shed or one so old and run down that it would prove no obstacle to a thief.

Here are a few hints to protect your property:

Ensure that your shed is in good condition.

Fit a good lock on your shed door. The fitting should be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws or coach bolts fitted.

Fit any shed windows with a grille. Security mark property such as lawnmowers, garden furniture etc. Never leave items unattended even if you are just popping into the house.

If you leave items such as pedal cycles in your shed ensure they are security marked and secure them to the superstructure of the building.

Install a 'Dusk till Dawn' security light. They cost less than a penny a night to run.

Opinion: Community Hall Referendum

In December last year Sedgefield Development Trust wrote an open letter offering to help and assist with whatever hall project was chosen. Since then the Trust, with representatives of other groups in the Town have been meeting with the Town Council, some of whom felt that the petition which demanded that the Parish Hall be rebuilt rather than Ceddesfeld Hall extended, might not have fully reflected public opinion.

So it was resolved at the start that a referendum should be held to establish the community's opinion without doubt. Good progress was being made in how that should be done and the Council seemed responsive. However the one area in which the Trust still has reservations is in the options being offered in this referendum. These were tabled by the Council alone and despite all discussion, criticism and comment, the group, who can only advise, was told that the Town Council will not revise them.

The Trust remains totally committed to offering its help and assistance, no matter which project is initiated after the Community's decision is known.

Nevertheless the Trustees have considered the choices put before you and offer the following comments:

Option 1 - Major Refurbishment

Although cheap, could not deal with the main problem and could invite the Licensing Authority to close the hall completely since the Statutory Noise Nuisance would not have been addressed.

Option 2 - Complete rebuild

The only forward looking solution which was recommended after a thorough feasibility study in 2001. Would solve all current problems and can use eco-friendly building methods and renewable energy as well as being financially self-sustaining.

Option 3 - Extend Ceddesfeld Hall:

Not an option unless a

planning permission is achieved on appeal, and the Local Planning Authority has repeatedly indicated that it would not support this option particularly as a better opportunity exists on the larger Parish Hall site.

Option 4 - None of the above

Solves nothing and adds nothing to years of discussion.

In conclusion, after careful consideration it is our opinion that Option 2 - the complete rebuild of the Parish Hall - is feasible and can be made to work.

From professional experience we believe that funding can be found for it from a combination of grants, with minimum impact on the Council Tax.

Further, Sedgefield Development Trust would be able to help this option more than any other, as long as it is the choice of the community.

John Fitzpatrick
SDT Company Secretary

Jottings from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

At the April meeting representatives from the **Village Pub Watch** group came to discuss the concerns of residents re drinking, noise, broken glass, anti-social behaviour etc. Everyone shared the concerns with licensees also wanting to seek solutions. It was pointed out that alcohol is not the only problem it is apparent that the use of drugs contributes to the problems. It was identified that the village needs a greater police presence and a meeting will be organised to progress this as well as further investigation into banning drinking in the streets.

Durham County Council gave us news that finally there is money available to start the junction changes on the A689/Stockton Road. Work should commence in a couple of months time. Traffic will have to use Station Road for a time whilst the work is done. Many at the meeting repeated the view that a roundabout would have been a much better and safer option than the proposed changes but the Officers present could not comment on why it could not have been a roundabout - we wonder why! The plans for the proposed changes are available in the Town Council offices for anyone to view. Whilst the changes may not be all that everyone feels is necessary hopefully the junction will be made much safer.

By the time you read this, the referendum on community facilities should have been well publicised - hopefully when there is a clear way forward everyone can work together to make it happen.

More detail on the above issues in the minutes and the May meeting will report on all other ongoing issues. As always minutes and agenda are in the library and on the two village websites and a copy can be collected from the Town Council offices; you can also have all information emailed to you all we need is your email address (Jane in the Town Council Office deals with email contact so please let her know if you are interested). Of course we now have the new notice board outside the library (very posh) although it seems a shame that all that space at the back is wasted - but we are told use of that would have cost more money! Also the grassed area around the boards will be paved - very sensible! The Residents' Forum will have some space on it so notices will appear shortly when we know how much space we have.

Don't forget forum meetings are the 4th Monday in the month in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall at 7pm. Everyone is welcome - do come along.

The Bookworm

A reader recommends...

My best read in May was "**The Lake House**" by James Patterson. It is the second book of the story of 6 children who were test-tube babies. But the twist is that they have been genetically engineered, so that they are part human and part bird - they have human bodies with the addition of wings and the ability to fly.

Brought up in laboratory conditions, they escape, hunted by their creator but are aided by a Veterinary and her boyfriend, an FBI agent. IT IS A FABLE, but is it close to the truth? Could these things happen, or are they already happening? This book is filled with action, full of compassion, from start to finish. But read it yourself David Hillerby

PS This book is in Sedgefield Library (large print). However, I haven't read the first book, which is titled "When the Wind Blows" as I haven't located it yet! It would be better to read them in order, if you possibly can.

To share your idea of a good read, send your review to

snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk
or to **Sedgefield News,**
58 Front St, S'field, TS21 2AQ

Sports Update

with chrisjlines@aol.com

Running

Sedgefield Harriers is about to launch a junior section, aimed at children from the age of 10 upwards. To kick things off, the club has arranged a special **Juniors Open Evening** where young sports people and their parents can meet the Club Committee and learn about the activities that are being planned for this summer. The open evening will take place at the Community College, from 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th June.

The club is in the process of building strong developmental links with the School Sports Partnership, County Sports Partnership, local sports development officers and other interested agencies to enhance and make athletics accessible to all children. To find out more about the Sedgefield Harriers, Junior Coach Scott Hydon and the June event, visit www.sedgefieldharriers.com. Anyone interested in discussing the junior section can contact Scott Hydon on 01740 620251, 07790418188 or scotthydon@yahoo.com.

Football

Although I heralded the end of the Sunday league season last month, it turns out that St. Edmund's still has a few games to play, but the village's other two clubs have reached the close season.

The Black Lion

The Black Lion team has enjoyed a very successful first season in the Durham District League and has just secured promotion from Division Three. A full end of season report about the club will appear in the next issue.

The Crosshills

It's fair to say that the Crosshills' season wasn't exactly marked by

unprecedented success. Finishing bottom of the Trimdon and District league, the club won only one match (albeit against one of the best teams in the league) and drew a couple of other games. However, the team battled hard throughout the season and did play some good football at times. When a full squad was fit and available, the Crosshills put in decent performances and gave a hint of some genuine potential.

A lot of credit is due to Dave Ryder, Ian Greene and Ian Joss for their massive efforts to run the club, and to their respective other halves for the part they played in either helping out or simply putting up! The club would also like to thank Carpets at Home and Darren and his staff at the Crosshills for all of their support.

The season ended on a positive note with a friendly match against the Winkers. Supposedly a team made up of more mature footballers, it was clear that either some of the players who turned out for the Winkers had been using some miraculous anti wrinkle cream or several youngsters had found their way into the squad. Regardless, it was an entertaining game that finished 3-3, with Crosshills' Club Player of the Year Nicky Walker scoring two well taken goals.

The match went to penalties and the tension was almost detectable. After a masterclass in how not to take spot kicks by both sides (other than Craig Provett's effort which arrowed into the top corner) and some great saves by Darren Fox, Crosshills came out on top. After that, next season should be a breeze.

**As ever, contact me
with all your sporting news:
chrisjlines@aol.com**

Sedgefield Scouts 40th Birthday

Last issue, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group announced plans to celebrate its 40th birthday. This landmark anniversary will be marked by a series of events from 30th June - 2nd July, with the highlight being a barbeque and traditional camp fire. The Group is hoping to track down and invite as many people as possible who, over the years, have been involved in 1st Sedgefield Scouts. Full details of what, where and when will be finalised very soon. To find out more please contact Chris Lines on 623090 or Gary Hetherington on 621214, or send a message to sedgescouts40th@aol.com.

Talented Jaspers do the double

Tim Jasper has been judged National Winner by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, in the Ottakar's & Faber National Poetry Day Competition. The Darlington title (9-12) was Tim's for the third time but this year he also took 1st place out of 140 winners from the Ottakar's stores around the country with his poem about having a brace fitted to his teeth!

As well as a selection of poetry books he also won a £100 cheque for himself and £100 in book tokens for Carmel College. You can view Tim's poem and the other national winners by logging on to www.ottakars.co.uk/Internet/home/poetryresults_2006.jsp. To cap it all, Tim's Dad, Dave made it a family affair with runner-up position in the adult class of the Darlington competition.

Sedgefield Harriers seek Club Secretary

The role is pivotal to the smooth running of the Club and one which will support this AAA affiliated Club through its next stage of development. It would suit a person with strong organisational skills, home access to a computer/internet, and who enjoys general business administration.

You don't need to be a runner; it's your organisational skills we need!

You will be working with a dedicated and forward thinking group of Sedgefield residents so for an informal chat, call

Jeanette Ives on (01740) **629778** - jives@thinksmith.co.uk
or **Ean Parsons** on **07771 828 568** - ean2005@hotmail.co.uk

The Sedgefield Harriers website is now live. Visit **www.sedgefieldharriers.com** for all you need to know about getting involved in the sport.

Find news of other local groups and societies on your community website **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk**

Contact **tim@sedgefieldweb** to publicise news of your group online. The daily hit count on the website is growing fast so you can reach your target audience more easily every day

After the Deluge...

From 7am until about 2pm the rain was relentless but the Fayre went on much as usual; we all just got very, very wet! As usual the Fayre started with the parade but a parade with a difference.

Thanks to the prohibitive costs of road closures we had a walking parade led by the Flower Queen, Bethan Lindsay, and her four attendants in a beautifully decked out pony and trap. It ended up on the green where Sedgefield Primary School, the Hardwick School and the Caravan Club arranged themselves in tableaux. Hardwick school were the winners with St George and the Dragon but it was a close run decision.

The Fancy Dress (won this year by Joseph Dredge) was diverted to Ceddesfeld Hall and Sedgefield Primary School Country Dancing to the Parish Hall. The only casualties of the weather were the Taekwondo team, as the conditions were too dangerous for them. Otherwise it was business as usual. Those brave souls who came out despite the weather still enjoyed all the fun of the Fayre. Black Sheep Morris, Durham Rams and the Knights of the Black Phoenix all performed on the green and Ridgeway Falconry put on a stunning display just as the rain stopped. The Tug-of War always draws the crowds and this year was no exception, the Scouts winning the Junior trophy and Northern Counties Caravan Club the Senior trophy.

Those venturing into the Church were entertained to free concerts from the Northumbrian Pipers, Handbell Ringers, Lyric Singers and the very talented new group Lirica. Very many thanks to everyone who helped; to those who collected round the village, who sorted every night in Ceddesfeld Hall, who manned the stalls all day on the green; to the Round Table who put the stalls out and in, the Police, our sponsors and everyone else who contributed, including residents who were generous with donations of goods to sell - thanks to all of you. There was great community spirit - long may it last.

The Fayre is now a regular event in our calendar and entertains visitors from all over the county. It is, however, held to raise money to support Sedgefield Community Association and despite the awful weather the provisional total is £4,500 so "3 cheers" for all those volunteers who made it happen.



Setting up on Friday, the sun's still shining and the showman is optimistic - and with good reason - because as Wendy Gill's article, left, suggests, Sedgefield doesn't mind the weather; but we'd really rather it was just once in a while!

Do you know any volunteers who deserve special recognition?

The Volunteer Centre is looking for nominations for its

VOLUNTEER AWARDS EVENING
on Thursday 8th June at Spennymoor Town Hall

For more information or nomination forms, contact Sharon on 01388 811115

NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER?

Almost everyone I meet, once they realise that I know a bit about computers, has a question to ask or a problem that needs solving! Sedgefield Development Trust has several ways in which you can get the help that you may need.

On Monday mornings (9:30 to 11:30am) I am in the Zone at 58 Front Street for drop-in computer support. Come along and ask your questions. I can't always guarantee an answer, but I will do my best.

If you can't make it on a Monday morning, send your question by E-mail to tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk and if I know or can find an answer, I will reply as soon as possible.

Don't forget too, to look at the Computer Corner - that's on www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk - where you will find the answers to questions posed by other visitors and the answers that I have given.

Linked from Computer Corner you will also find a page of computer warnings; alerts about weaknesses in commonly used software and attempts to compromise your computer through malicious E-mail messages and phishing attempts.

The help is with computer problems here in your community; please make the most of it.

Tim Randall

High jinks and celebrations for Sedgfield Guides



22 Sedgfield Girl Guides enjoyed a weekend recently at Osmotherley Youth Hostel, reaching for the heights at the Camp Hill Aerial Extreme Assault Course and thoroughly enjoying themselves among the tree tops. Later on, their Saturday evening's entertainment at the youth hostel proved more of an 'X factor' audition experience - so watch out Simon Cowell!

On Sunday it was on to Thorpe Perrow Arboretum to follow the nature trail despite the pouring rain. There was a flying display by the owls, and as part of the demonstration all the guides were able to hold the owls as they landed on their arms. Before the journey home there was a chance to dry out with steaming mugs of hot chocolate in the Café, celebrating Martha's 11th birthday and sharing her cake of course.

A KoolKash grant enabled the Guides to hire a mini bus for the weekend and many more outings are to follow during the year.

Jackie Postgate



Advance Notice of the "Trimdon Comes to Sedgfield" Folk Festival

Friday evening 8th September

Concert in Ceddesfeld Hall

Guests are Scratchband, Flossie & Bernard Wrigley (Coronation St., Phoenix Nights, etc.)

Saturday 9th September at 2pm

Hope Inn Rafters Bar

Spoons Championship hosted by Scratchband Junior and Adult Classes, with Singaround

Saturday evening 9th September

Concert in Ceddesfeld Hall

Guests are the John Wrightson Band George Welch and Real Time

Tickets for concerts cost £8 and are limited.

They are available from
Sedgfield Town Council Office
or telephone 01740 621347

Other events are free

SING & DANCE?

No, the Lyrics Choirs won't be waltzing their way through the programme at their 2006 Summer Concert! The show's title "Sing and Dance" actually comes from a wonderful new piece of music by Alistair Fisher, specially commissioned for the choir, to commemorate Lyric Singer, past chairman, Alan Vincent.

Alistair, an old friend of Alan's and his sparring partner at Youth Choir rehearsals, has set the words of a poem chosen by Alan's wife Anita. The words reflect the joy of an all too short marriage, as well as a hint of the pain of separation; the music brings the poetry to life with a remarkable combination of sensitivity and exuberance.

The performance builds through three songs until the whole family of singers, the Lyric Singers, Lirica and the Lyrics Youth Choir, raise their voices for a truly joyous final movement. This première will be a very special occasion for all three groups, but particularly for the many friends who remember Alan so fondly.

Please join the choir in the Parish Hall on Friday 30th June or Saturday 1st July for what promises to be a memorable evening of music.

June Diary

*Announcements in the Diary are free
to non-commercial organisations*

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 3rd June

Doors open 7pm -
Eyes Down 7.45pm
Cash Prizes, Bar open
Everyone welcome
(Next month - July 1st)

Wynyard Planetarium

Sundays 4th & 18th June at 3pm

A one hour show -

Wonders of the Universe

Adults £3.50, Children £2
Family ticket £7

Local History Society

Monday 5th June

Gordon Morris

Early America: the Pilgrims

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

All welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th June

Outing to

Beamish Cottage Gardens

Meet Ceddesfeld Hall 6.30pm

Sedgefield Racecourse

Next Fixture

Wednesday June 7th

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 7th June

7.15pm Parish Hall

A Talk by Sarah Shreeve of The Dogs' Trust

Members' competition - photo
taken by yourself of a dog or dogs
New Members Welcome

Proms in the Park

Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds

Saturday 10th June

from 3.30 - 11 pm

Tickets £15 on sale now - limited
availability (under 5s free) Must
book in advance, no entry on door

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 11th June

from 9.30am - 1.30pm

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting

Tuesday 13th June at 7pm

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgefield Library

Queen's Birthday celebration

Thursday 15th June (see p 3)

Rhyme Time for under 5s

Wednesdays 14th & 28th June

from 10 - 11 am

and **Book Circle**

Wednesday 21st June at 2pm

Friends of St. Edmund's

Summer Concert

in St Edmund's Church on

Saturday 17th June at 7pm

with the Alex Ord Jazz Trio &
"Pieces of Eight" close harmony
singing group

Light easy listening music
in aid of Friends of St Edmunds

Tickets £6 each including
refreshments from Brian Mutch,
Joyce Jordan, Judith Edgoose or
any committee member

Family History Group

(A branch of Cleveland FHS)

"Secrets of the Attic - part 2"

Dr Tony Nicholson

Monday 19th June

7:45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

If you are interested in tracing your
family tree, come along to one of
our meetings

New members are always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th June

7.30 pm Parish Hall

Audrey Foster,

NE Area Demonstrator

A Love Affair with Wood

All welcome

Vintage Car Rally

Butterwick Hospice (Bishop
Auckland) hold their annual
Vintage and Classic Vehicle Fete
in the idyllic setting of
Sedgefield Village on

Tuesday 20th June

Vehicles are exhibited around
the entire perimeter of
the Village Green from 5:30pm

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 22nd June

Foxglove Covert Local Nature
Reserve Catterick

Meet at Parish Hall Car Park

at 6 pm to car share

For more information call 620559

Sedgefield Players

present **'The Good Old Days'**

Thursday 22nd, Fri 23rd

& Sat 24th June

Tickets £8 and £7 concessions from
Selections or tel. 621000

Residents' Forum

Monday 26th June

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

All welcome

Summer Concert

"Sing & Dance"

with the Lyric Singers, Lirica &
Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir

Friday 30th June &

Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall

Tickets £5 or £4 concessions

including refreshments

from Selections or

Audrey Lofthouse tel: 620625

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Fridays in the Parish Hall

Great value home baking, eggs,
garden produce and crafts

St Edmund's Church

Baptisms & Weddings can be
booked in Church on Thursday
evenings from 6.30 to 7.30pm

101 Gigs in June

02 - The Station Hotel, Redcar

03 - The Caroline, South Hetton

08 - The Gold Medal, Low Fell

09 - Wedding - Grinkle Park

10 - O'Neills, Durham

13 - Elgins Bar, Redcar

16 - Shafto's Bar, Stanley

17 - The Penny Black, Hartburn

18 - The Normanby, Normanby

23 - The Royal Oak, Wrekenton

24 - Masons Arms,

Easington Village

Coming up in July

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

July 1st

Darts and Domino League

Old Folks Trip to Redcar

takes place on

Wednesday 5th July 2006

The bus will leave

Thurlow Grange at 12 noon

and the Parish Hall at 12.15 pm

Please give your name to

Bill Cooper (620057)

Mary Hodgson at the Pop-in Centre
or the Post Office (after 19th June)

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tues July 4th - Outing to

Northdale Horticulture

Details TBA

Right to Reply

I was surprised to read the very personal response to my letter in the April edition, from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the SCA. In their letter I am accused of being mischievous and misleading, which I find totally bizarre, given that all of the facts stated can be substantiated, both by accessing the Town Council Web Site, and by request, as part of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. To make my position quite clear on this matter, I did not say anything derogatory about the SCA, or question the value of the excellent work the volunteers have done over the last thirty years, which is why I found the response so unprecedented.

I too was around in the seventies when the SCA was set up, and know only too well its history. I have always been an advocate of the Community and Voluntary Sector and have been involved with several organisations both within the village and around Sedgefield Borough for many years. Without the 'unpaid' volunteers of this village, the community infrastructure would indeed collapse; but SCA volunteers are only a small part of that network and not everyone is a member of the SCA. The SCA has 17 projects or sections within it, according to their Charity Accounts, and they all make their contribution to the Charity so that it is able to fulfil its objectives which are '...To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the beneficial area...', that being the 'Parish of Sedgefield and the Neighbourhood.' Clearly this does not mean *only* users of Ceddesfeld Hall are beneficiaries, although most people would argue they are the main beneficiaries. The running costs of the Parish Hall have to be met by the local taxpayer and its users, because it is in local authority ownership, making grants from Trusts more difficult to access. The Parish Hall relies heavily on rental income from its users, and because of its legal status and the lack of investment in the fabric of the building, its



Your Letters

'letting' potential is diminished therefore any financial support from elsewhere would be welcome. In the case of the SCA, their Charitable Status allows access to a huge range of grant making Trusts and the freedoms to raise money and in turn support the upkeep of Ceddesfeld Hall, and also to fulfil its objectives as a Charity. As the respondents so rightly pointed out, Ceddesfeld Hall is a **valuable public asset**. It is not good financial management to rent out such a huge building for a mere £50 per week in today's climate of Best Value. This is still a public asset and the community should expect a reasonable return on it, as we do with other public assets such as the Cemetery Lodge. It is also not in the public interest when a Charity is declaring a profit of around £10,000 per annum* to expect the local taxpayer to subsidise the rent especially when others are being treated differently. It is also very naïve, and misleading, to suggest that there have been no financial subsidies to the organisation, as for example, Charitable Status allows Business Rates to be waived, in full, as part of Sedgefield Borough Council Policy of support to Charitable Organisations. Perhaps, we should all take time to reflect on how best we can work together for the benefit of all of the people in this area, and not the few.

Gloria Wills

* www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registeredcharities

Care-Link thanks

May I on behalf of the Sedgefield Wildlife Trust thank the Council and the Care-Link coach driver for the use of their coach and driver on our sortie to Holy Island and then to Seahouses.

After being taken to Holy Island we were given 2 hours to look around and then it was off to Pinnacles Fish and Chip Restaurant at the basking-in-sun (like lizards) port of Seahouses.

Once again many thanks and thank you to Margaret for organizing it.

David Quarmby

Photograph on page 4

Where are they now?

Out in the village recently, my wife and I were discussing our children - one in his year in Industry in London while studying at Northumbria University and the elder a successful pub landlord in Sunderland.

A Middlesbrough match was playing on the pub television and I recalled how a Sedgefield College centre forward once put a hat-trick past a Spenny-moor centre half who is now a premiership player; I wondered what had become of him. Lo and behold, the next person to come in was the man in question, Simon Halliday. It turns out he graduated from Newcastle University and gained a Masters degree with distinction in Financial Services from Bournemouth University (congratulations Simon). He now works for HSBC in Letchworth.

This prompts me to ask what has happened to other young people of the area in the 20-25 age group and what they are doing now. I don't doubt there are many success stories out there. It would be nice to hear of their exploits.

Brian Crossan

Crime figures

Each month I read P.C. Todd's report of crimes committed in Sedgefield during the previous month. Whilst this information is of interest, I am sure that residents would be even more interested in learning what proportion of these crimes have been solved, the number of arrests made and convictions obtained.

Nick Crass

Please send your copy for the July edition of Sedgefield News by the 15th June to

58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 01740 629011 or snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Please note: views expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent.

We reserve the right to edit contributions and will not publish letters of unknown authorship, so **please include your contact details in all correspondence**