

# Sedgefield News

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

## March 2006

### Time running out on vehicle amnesty only a few weeks remain for you to dispose of unwanted vehicles free of charge

Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership has been running the successful amnesty on abandoned and unwanted vehicles since March last year. In that time 163 cars have been taken away to be disposed of properly.

But the reprieve on paying to get rid of your car ends on March 31 and the partnership is encouraging owners to come forward now before it is too late. Anyone who abandons their car after the deadline could face a fine of up to £250.

The amnesty is aimed at cleaning up Sedgefield Borough and has been funded by the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. The new Streetsafe Team, operated by the council's Neighbourhood Wardens, have placed posters all over the borough to encourage members of the public to make use of the free service.

Richie Brown, the Neighbourhood Warden Co-ordinator said:

"Abandoned cars like these have a detrimental effect on the whole community. They are unsightly and can become targets for anti-social behaviour and arson attacks. The message we want to get over is that owners needn't go to this extreme to get rid of their unwanted vehicles. They can call us up until March 31 and we will come and collect it free of charge."

**For vehicle removal or  
information on the amnesty,  
please contact 01388 816166  
ext 8808 / 8850.**

#### Change of opening hours at Post Office

Sedgefield Post Office  
will no longer be closed on  
Tuesday afternoons.

The new opening times are:  
**Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30pm  
& Saturday 9am - 12.30pm**

*A fine example! The Community Partnership hopes to  
rid our streets of such unsightly and dangerous wrecks*



### INVITATION to 13-19 YEAR OLDS

New youth work provision starting in  
Sedgefield is open to YOU

Hi, my name is Ellen and I am the new Sedgefield Youth Development Worker. I am based at Sedgefield Community College and I work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday and Thursday lunch times the Smart Bus will be coming to the college at lunchtimes; this is for Year 10s and 11s.

On Wednesdays I work with a group of young people looking at using arts and crafts as a way to explore issues that affect them. This group is open to any young people and you are welcome to come and check us out.

On Thursdays after school we are developing a health drop-in for young people. You can come for advice, a chat, and a chill out.

We look at issues that may be affecting you or your friends.

**So come along and see what youth work is all about; I am looking forward to seeing you. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in Sedgefield please let me know.**

## The Bookworm

### A reader recommends ...

J E Taylor starts the ball rolling in this new series, with one of his favourites from action writer and TV survival programme presenter, Chris Ryan. It's one of a series called Alpha Force, in which a team of five volunteers from various walks of life are out in India helping build a school in a village - Nayla. They make friends and are involved in a kidnap which leads to a chain of events, shady characters and back street surgery.

**'Blood Money'** is a very good read and once started has to be finished. Try your local library, and if the books are not on the shelves they can be requested if you are 12-18 years plus. Good reading! By the way, I have just finished reading **'Untouchable'** by the same author. Also excellent.

If you would like to share your idea of a good read, email your review to [snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk](mailto:snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk) or write to **Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ**

## Mothering Sunday - March 26th

**The Jewish people have a saying, "God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers"!** The fourth Sunday in Lent, is celebrated as Mothering Sunday. Some think that the occasion has become much too commercial nowadays - greeting card sellers certainly make a fortune out of it, but its origins lie in the distant past.

Early Christians held a spring festival in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus. It was carried across Europe with the Christian faith, gradually extended to the Mother Church and eventually, to all mothers. The custom could also have originated in the church festival of Refreshment Sunday, when everyone was expected to revisit the church in which they were baptised, their "mother church."

Some historians claim that the origins are in the spring festivals dedicated to mother goddesses. A Greek festival honoured Rhea, wife of Cronus and mother of the gods and goddesses. The Romans' festival was dedicated to the worship of the mother goddess Cybele and ceremonies in her honour began about 250 years before Christ was born. This celebration was known as Hilaria and lasted for three days - from March 15 to 18, also known as the Ides of March.

In England from about the 1600s, young apprentices or servants were allowed a day off and returned home on Mothering Sunday, gathering wild flowers for their mothers as they walked. This was often the last time they would see their families until Christmas. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch. One such cake is a simnel cake, so-called because they were made with fine white flour, or simila, a special flour used by the Romans. The Lenten fast dictated that the simnel cake had to keep until Easter.

The occasion is celebrated the world over and it's said that more flowers are bought on Mothering Sunday than on any other day in the year. I am sure that most mothers have fond memories of their children struggling to prepare a surprise breakfast in bed for them!

## Parish Hall

Further to my letter in the February issue the Town Council has now met representatives from the Sedgefield Development Trust, Residents Forum, Community Association and Community College to discuss how we can work together to provide a community hall. We discussed possible options which include:-

- using Local Improvement Programme monies from the Borough Council to substantially improve the current building
- to provide (subject to funding) a complete rebuild on the existing site which would be guaranteed to allow all functions and solve noise/vibration transfer issues
- Resubmission of the plans for Ceddesfeld Hall
- All or combination of the above

However before a decision is taken we all agreed that all options and costs will be included in a formal referendum - hopefully in May/June and the Town Council will seek funding for this.

With regard to the planning application for Ceddesfeld Hall, this was withdrawn in January on the advice of consultants. However it should be pointed out that it was a Borough Council Officer who suggested the development in the first instance and both the Borough Council Planning Officers and English Heritage indicated to the consultants more than once that an extension would in principle be acceptable. Had this not been the case the Town Council would not have continued with the scheme.

Issues arose on the scale of the extension necessary to accommodate all needs. However, total costs to date for studies on both the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld stand at £40,000 minus grants of £10,000 over a period of 6 years. We are arranging a further meetings and will continue to keep everyone informed. I'm sure we all hope we can then move forwards with a community building and facilities which we all want to see, supported by all. *Lesley Swinbank*

## Tokens for schools

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School and Sedgefield Primary School thank everyone in Sedgefield who donated Tesco Tokens at various collection points in the village. The schools have collected over 10,000 tokens, a great effort. Hardwick Primary have ordered play tags, soft tennis balls and a ball net, dance scarves, bean bag target, agility ladders and various other pieces of PE equipment.

Sedgefield Primary School has also made an order, including a pop target, skipping ropes, play tags, hurdles and a mobile trough. Children at both schools will enjoy their new equipment, so a big thank-you once again.



## Digital Photo class 'graduates'

The latest cohort of enthusiastic digital photographers celebrated their newly acquired skills with cakes all round, as the class came to an end in February. Most of the participants intend to go to the next level, probably in autumn after they have taken lots of photos to practice on.

A new beginners course will start soon. If you would like to join, please let us know.

The teacher is Tim Randall, who many of you have met at the regular IT advice sessions in the Zone at 58 Front Street. Tim's 'pop-ins' continue on Mondays from 9.30am - 12 noon.

## Neptune sculptor signed-up

The Friends of Hardwick passed a significant milestone recently when they signed the contract for a new Statue of Neptune to stand in the Serpentine River in Hardwick Park. Keith Maddison, who lives in Elsdon in Northumberland, came down to Hardwick Hall Hotel and signed on the dotted line.

He will start by making a clay model, which will be approved by the Friends before it is fired and transported to the Black Isle Foundry at Nairn in Scotland. The foundry will carry out the rest of the processes, making the mould from a wax impression before the statue is cast in bronze.

It is expected that the statue will be finished by late summer and ready to install on its refurbished plinth in the Serpentine. The Serpentine will be restored to its original format with grass banks down to the water's edge and an upgraded path. Various schemes are being considered to lower the statue on its plinth including the use of a large crane or a helicopter!

## Friends of Hardwick AGM

The Chairman, Jack Glendinning and the Treasurer, John Hannon were re-elected for another three year period, together with the five retiring Committee members. A video was shown highlighting the tremendous progress made with the restoration of Hardwick Park.

A recent letter, sent to residents whose properties border the East Park, outlining Durham County Council's proposals for the land management and boundaries, had prompted several favourable reactions but a few householders had reservations. It is intended that after 5 years, when the fertility of the soil has declined, stock will graze one area at a time out of the three areas planned. House boundaries will be protected by stock proof fencing.

Concerns were expressed at the meeting about the graffiti which currently adorns the underpass. This is a difficult problem as the road engineers will not allow the concrete surface to be painted.

## Walk this way for a healthier life

### 5 reasons to start walking

**For health:** walking strengthens your heart, your bones and your muscles ... and it helps to control your weight.

**For wealth:** walking is free and will enrich your life in many ways.

**For happiness:** walking improves your mood and combats depression.

**For comfort:** walk in your local park or wood and discover how nature can reduce stress and calm your mind.

**For joy:** join a group and discover just how much fun walking can be!

The 'Walking the Way' initiative has seen over 350 walking groups established throughout the UK, targeting those who don't take sufficient daily exercise but are terrified of going near a gym or aerobic class. It's for anyone who wants their exercise civilised and moderate, something to enjoy, maybe making friends along the way.

We have worked with the Countryside Agency, Sedgefield Primary Care

Trust, and Sedgefield Borough Council to develop the scheme. We promote moderate but regular walking as a way to increase fitness and encourage social interaction.

You don't have to be a regular rambler or hiker; the initial walks are normally 2 to 3 miles in length and at a pace suited to those wishing to make a gradual improvement to their fitness in a sensible way.

Successful groups have already been established in nearby towns and villages and we now hope to form a group for people living in and around Sedgefield Village.

To find out more about what the scheme has to offer and whether it is for you, you're invited to an 'Open Morning' in the Parish Hall on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am.

## Credit Card scams

If you get a telephone call from someone claiming to be from the security or fraud department of your credit card company (Visa, MasterCard etc) asking you to confirm that you have the card, by quoting the 3 digit security code from the back of the card - be very cautious.

**Never quote the security number except when you are making a purchase.**

**Never give personal or security details to someone who contacts you.**

**Contact the telephone number on your card if you wish to check on any security issues.**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



#### Soup & a chat in the Parish Hall - provided in chilly January by local Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers



Wilf Garbutt, Enid Hillerby, Margaret Stewart, Mayor, Edith Ferguson, David Hillerby  
Front Row from left: Ann Oliver, Jeanette Garbutt, Phyllis Hillerby, Mary Hodgson

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January regular members of the N/H/Watch brought panfuls of soup and broth of great variety, great quality and even greater value (50pence a bowl) to the Parish Hall – some it has to be said with a degree of apprehension (will anyone turn up, I don't dare take any home, etc). The room was quickly set up and transformed with the aid of last year's (still present) Christmas decorations, to provide an inviting and cosy atmosphere.

Any doubts about lack of customers were quickly dispelled – Margaret and Edith were kept hard at work in the kitchen all morning, and Jeanette, Enid, Ann, & Phyllis almost had to run between the tables and the kitchen to serve customers.

Ken and David were equally busy on the Tombola. Thanks to the amazing generosity of members and supporters there were many excellent prizes and happily all were claimed by some very happy customers.

**The purpose of the morning's work** was to raise funds in support of Mayor Maxine Robinson's nominated Charities and to do so in a manner whereby local people meet together with time for a chat.

Thanks to the support from so many residents turning out on the day, both objectives were amply met, as was illustrated by the count at the end of the morning – **£152.00** was the sum raised. Subsequently there were two more donations, which brought the total raised to **£172**. This is a magnificent testimony to the generosity of Sedgefield folk and generous and continuing support by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

Without a doubt the day was a resounding success. The cheque was gratefully received by Mayor Maxine Robinson on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February and was presented by Edith & Margaret together with support from fellow helpers from N/H/Watch. (see photograph)

## PC Todd reports

Recently a local businessman was subjected to an assault by a group of youths from our village. Spurred on by his friends, one youth threw eggs at the unsuspecting victim. One of the eggs struck him on the head, causing not only pain and embarrassment, but also the sticky mess caused damage to some expensive clothing.

The culprits were caught and one of them was prosecuted and convicted for his actions. He must pay a fine and compensation.

This type of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated, so be warned – anyone caught in this kind of act will suffer the same fate.

Until next time

Keith

#### Crime report for Jan1st - Feb 9th 2006

Theft from a pub (handbag);  
burglary from a garage (air rifle);  
2 instances of damage to motor vehicles.

#### Mayor's thanks to Neighbourhood Watch

Please can I pass on all of my thanks to the Neighbourhood Watch and everyone who supported their recent 'Soup Kitchen' in the Parish Hall. There was a wonderful choice of homemade soups to choose from and it raised over £170 for the Mayor's Charities. The presentation of the cheque was made in the Parish Hall and was extremely well received – thanks also to the Neighbourhood Watch for waiting for me to arrive – my apologies for the short delay due to traffic.

Cllr. Maxine Robinson

#### Mobile Phone Record Card

Below is a message from Streetsafe about phone security. Contact Durham Constabulary (phone number in poster) if you would like to have one of these cards.

### Help to STOP Mobile Phone Crime

- Do you know what to do if you have your Mobile stolen?
- Never leave a Mobile Phone in a vehicle.
- Never leave a Mobile Phone unattended.
- When using your Mobile remain aware of your surroundings.
- Mobile Phone crime is a serious offence.

It is an offence to use a mobile phone while driving

Keep this record card in your wallet or purse, totally separate from your Mobile.

### Mobile Phone Record Card



Durham Constabulary  
0845 60 60 365

**Look after your phone**

## Jottings from **SEDGEFIELD VILLAGE RESIDENTS FORUM**

At the meeting held on 23rd January, members were informed of the Town Council's response to issues raised at the open meeting on the subject of atmosphere in the village environs particularly at weekends. There has been a firm commitment to address every point raised and to this end the council has submitted a plan of action and an agreement to regularly update the Forum of progress.

Recent cutting back of lower branches of trees within the churchyard and the removal of a bench near the lychgate was not seen as dealing with the problem of youths gathering at these places, despite being carried out on the advice of a Crime Prevention Officer.

Members were reporting increased difficulty in crossing Church View/North End due to volumes of traffic at certain times. Apparently previous requests for a zebra crossing have been refused.

The Forum has requested the Town Council to supply information of any planning application which might have an impact on the village as a whole. Recent applications have included the application for 69 dwellings on Neville Drive, the construction of an incinerator at the George Bolam premises and a request to **not** comply with noise restrictions at a proposed "wind farm" between Thorpe Thewles and Wynyard!

Reports were received from Forum Sub Groups. Full details can be found in the minutes, available on the Sedgefield Website and in the Town Council offices and Library from February 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the Sedgefield Village Residents Forum takes place on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Parish Hall**. All residents are most welcome. This is your opportunity to have your say on any matter affecting you or your neighbourhood.

## Were you offered a cheap turkey at Christmas?

Our two pet turkeys, Eb and Flo, were slaughtered and stolen from Spring Lane Holdings the week before Christmas. Whoever was responsible for this awful act, I hope you are ashamed. If anyone reading this knows anything about it, please report it to Sgt. O'Connor. We were not fattening Eb and Flo up for Christmas dinner – they were pets. In fact, they were "rescued" from the Christmas dinner table the previous year. They would not have been too tasty either, as they were old and had only been de-loused 4 days before they were stolen. Because of the toxins in the skin, they should not be eaten for at least 28 days after the treatment. So, with a bit of luck, whoever ate them would have had an upset stomach and toxins in their body. The message here is to make sure

that your turkey comes from a reputable supplier next year. I hope it was not someone local who was responsible for this – it's a shame when you can't trust your neighbours in the community. To those people who walk and cycle down the Foxton Lane and enjoy our goats (and once, the turkeys) please keep an eye out for anything unusual and let me or the police know. I can be contacted on 0778 939 6044. We have also had one of our baby goats poisoned and she was at death's door for a few weeks, but thanks to Mark at Dunelm vets, she has made a good, though not complete, recovery. I am sickened by what has happened to our animals and I know there are plenty of people in the village who will feel the same. *S Green*

## Sympathy

The Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr. Maxine Robinson, on behalf of the Town Council and all of the community, would like to express her deepest sympathy to Tim Spearey on the very untimely death of his wife.

Tim is the Community Warden in Sedgefield and he not only carries out his role with great diligence but also gives his time freely to help with events such as the VE day celebrations, Proms in the Park and firework displays. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

Until Tim returns to work the Council Offices can be contacted on 01740 621273 and we will refer problems or issues to the Warden Coordinator.

## Neighbour supports incinerator scheme

I am writing regarding the recent article in the Northern Echo on plans to install an incinerator at Bolams' Sedgefield site. As a direct neighbour I compliment the company on their consideration of environmental issues and their pro-active and forward thinking approach.

We have had no problems over the years regarding hygiene or sanitation and I think that this new development can only enhance the current operation and its impact on local businesses and the general public. As a group, Linpac supports environmentally sound incineration as a viable method of disposal and I am sure that the project would encompass all the latest technology, ensuring environmental impact is minimised.

In this current age of congestion and emissions from vehicles, a scheme that removes this risk and deals with an issue at source should be commended.

A cradle to grave approach, which tackles the whole of the supply chain, should be encouraged and adopted by more businesses and councils alike.

We wish the company well with the project.

*Gary Trotter  
Site Manager, Linpac/Filmco*

## Mark of Success Protection for your bike

More than 80 cyclists in Sedgefield borough can ride out in confidence their bike is more secure after a successful bike marking initiative.

Free bike marking sessions organised by Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership ran throughout January to protect old and new cycles at risk from thieves.

Sean Barry, Partnership Co-ordinator, said: "The security marking scheme means thieves will not be able to pass the bike off as their own and it also makes it much easier for people who have had their bike stolen to reclaim it."

**Sedgefield Borough Council's Neighbourhood Wardens, Police Beat Officers from Durham Constabulary and Millennium Volunteers are planning more such events for spring and early summer.**

## Sports Update

with [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

February has been a busy month on the sporting front, both in the village and across the North East. Football, running and cricket dominate this report, though by the time you read this, Sedgefield's biggest sporting event of the year will have also taken place. Yes, it's Ball Game time again.

### Football

Since the last report, the Crosshills Hotel team has shown encouraging signs of getting its act together. Helped enormously by the fact that mostly the same players turned up for several weeks in a row, the team recorded its first victory of the season against one of the best sides in the league, Chilton. After being 1-0 down at half time, Crosshills fought back to record a famous 3-2 victory with virtually the last kick of the match. This win was followed by a hard fought draw the next week. Although the club then suffered a couple of defeats, the team does at last appear to be playing like a team and confidence is growing. That fancy new kit seems to be doing the trick!

### Running

We've had some great news from Sedgefield Harriers. The club's application to become an affiliated club with the Northern England Athletics Association has been accepted. Hats off in particular to Scott Hydon for all of his work in completing the forms and submitting the application back in October 2005, and also for his continued efforts to get this result for the club. It seems clear that the Harriers are going from strength to strength and quickly establishing themselves on the running 'scene'.



### Cricket

You can read below about some of the activities underway at Sedgefield Cricket Club. The Junior coaching sessions are a real opportunity for youngsters to get involved in the sport, and all at a very exciting time for cricket in North East England. Durham County Cricket Club is now represented by three players in the England Test team, which is a phenomenal fact, especially given that the County only achieved First Class status in 1990.

Durham CCC is very ambitious and, as I type this, is in the process of submitting a bid document to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) that could see the North East hosting an Ashes test in 2009. If successful the bid would see Durham's Riverside Stadium secure a five year staging agreement. The club would expect to host an England v West Indies Test Match in 2007, a One Day International between England and South Africa in 2008, culminating in an Ashes Test Match in 2009, with opponents for 2010 and 2011 to be confirmed at a later date.

The bid is supported by the Regional Development Agency, One NorthEast, which brought the Seve Trophy to the North East last year. It's clear that the benefits to the region of staging an Ashes Test at

the Riverside Ground and securing a host of other internationals would be huge. The region has recently demonstrated how well it can host world class events, such as the aforementioned Seve Trophy and Tall Ships Races, and of course the North East's own Great North Run. Of course, strong rival bids for these internationals are expected and certain established Test grounds have long term staging agreements already in place. However, the Riverside has developed into an outstanding venue and there is a real passion for sport in the North East that would guarantee a fabulous occasion (fingers crossed for the weather!). The club is encouraging everyone in the region to visit [www.signthebat.com](http://www.signthebat.com) and register their support for the bid. Signing the bat will demonstrate to the ECB that the region has a massive enthusiasm for sport and give an indication of the type of vibrant occasion we can deliver. The final decision will be made by Easter – I for one will be doing all I can to lend my support to the bid. Wouldn't it be great if one day a former Junior at Sedgefield Cricket Club developed into an Ashes hero, having been inspired by watching an England v Australia test at the Riverside in 2009? Yes, that would definitely bowl me over!

### Sedgefield Cricket Club

You will know from the diary page that there's always something going on at this lively club. But they would like you to know that you don't need to wait to be invited to a special event to enjoy their facilities. The Clubhouse is open every Wednesday and Friday evening throughout the year to anyone who would like to enjoy a drink in a friendly, smoke free bar and lounge at the quiet end of the village. Membership is not required to use this facility.

However, we mustn't forget the Club's raison d'être, amidst all this socialising, so here's a reminder for the next generation...

### Junior Cricket Coaching Sessions

The coaching sessions for Under 11's, Under 13's and Under 15's start at the Cricket Club on Saturday 8th April, commencing 9.30am, and continue each Saturday morning through the season.

We look forward to welcoming back all existing members and any new boys or girls who wish to play cricket in a friendly and safe environment.

Any parent wanting further information please ring Nigel Bill on 620927.

### Crosshills Hotel F.C

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March

Trimdon Dovecot 'H' CUP Round 2

### 101 Gigs in March

03 - Hartlepool Rugby Club  
(Private party)

04 Tut And Shive, Bishop Auckland

08 - Lord Nelson, Stockton

10 - Pemberton Arms, Seaham

11 - Grangetown Club (Pte party)

17 - The Old Fox, Gateshead

18 - The Princess Alice, M'brough

19 - The Normanby, Normanby

24 - Redcar Rugby Club (Pte party)

25 - Ferryhill British Legion Club

31 - Cypress Hotel, South Shields

## Cook's Corner

### Apricot Cobbler

(Serves 4-6)

#### Ingredients

2 x 350g (14oz) cans of apricots  
in natural juice  
250g (8oz) SR Flour  
25g (1oz) margarine  
25g (1oz) sugar  
125ml (1/4 pint) milk

Oven Temperature - Gas Mk. 6,  
200 degrees C, 400 deg. F

#### Method

Put apricots into ovenproof dish  
with the juice

Sieve flour into a bowl

Rub margarine into flour

Stir sugar into flour mixture

Add milk to flour mixture.

Mix to make a soft dough

Flatten dough mix on a floured  
surface and, using a cup or scone  
cutter, cut out scone shapes

Put scones on top of apricots and  
cook for 20-30 minutes until well-  
risen and golden brown

Serve with natural yoghurt

Per serving: 1-2 portions of fruit,  
232 Kcal, 5g fat, 4.8g Fibre

Five a day programme -  
County Durham and Darlington

## New Coordinator for Farmers' Market

The popularity of our monthly market cannot be denied and we now welcome a new coordinator, Nigel Davison of Ing Nurseries, who is relishing the opportunity to continue the good work of all stallholders. We are sure it will continue to grow in strength. We do however need to address the issue of damage caused to the village green due to very wet weather on Sunday 12th February. A meeting has been arranged with the coordinator, prior to the March 12th Farmers Market, so that guidelines can be adhered to when faced with particularly wet and inclement weather. This will address both footfall & tyre marks. Several options are being considered regarding parking of vehicles and ground cover. We're looking forward to some dry spring weather for a good March turnout!

Angela Simpson

Community Development Officer,  
Sedgefield Town Council

Contact Angela on 621774 or email  
angela.simpson@sedgefield.net

## Cripes! No cakes ...

... just a helping of humble pie  
in this open letter to  
disappointed customers.

I would like to apologise for not being at the Farmers' Market in February. I fully intended to have a stall full of cakes but when I woke up early on Saturday morning, nose streaming with cold and my son suffering with chickenpox I could do nothing else but give in and 'phone in sick'.

I hate letting people down but I'm afraid there was nothing more I could do.

Having had 3 colds since November, I hope that's my quota for a while.

I **will** be there in March!

Joanne Martin

## Homemade Cakes by Joanne Martin

Available at  
Sedgefield Farmers' Market on  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March

If you would like a homemade  
cake please phone me on  
01740 629716

*The glory days will soon be here again at Hardwick Country Park, and we're lucky to have keen photographers to show us, if we haven't walked over and seen for ourselves, how things can change.*

*The Temple of Minerva, by David Hillerby, as never seen before by our generation.*

*Paul Heasman's panorama shows how quickly the newly filled lake is becoming an established part of the scene.*

*A little imagination - picture some planting here, wildlife and maybe a boat or two on the water - and we're back in the world as imagined a couple of hundred years ago.*

*'Follow the link on  
[www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/photos.html](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk/photos.html) to see more of Paul's photographs.'*

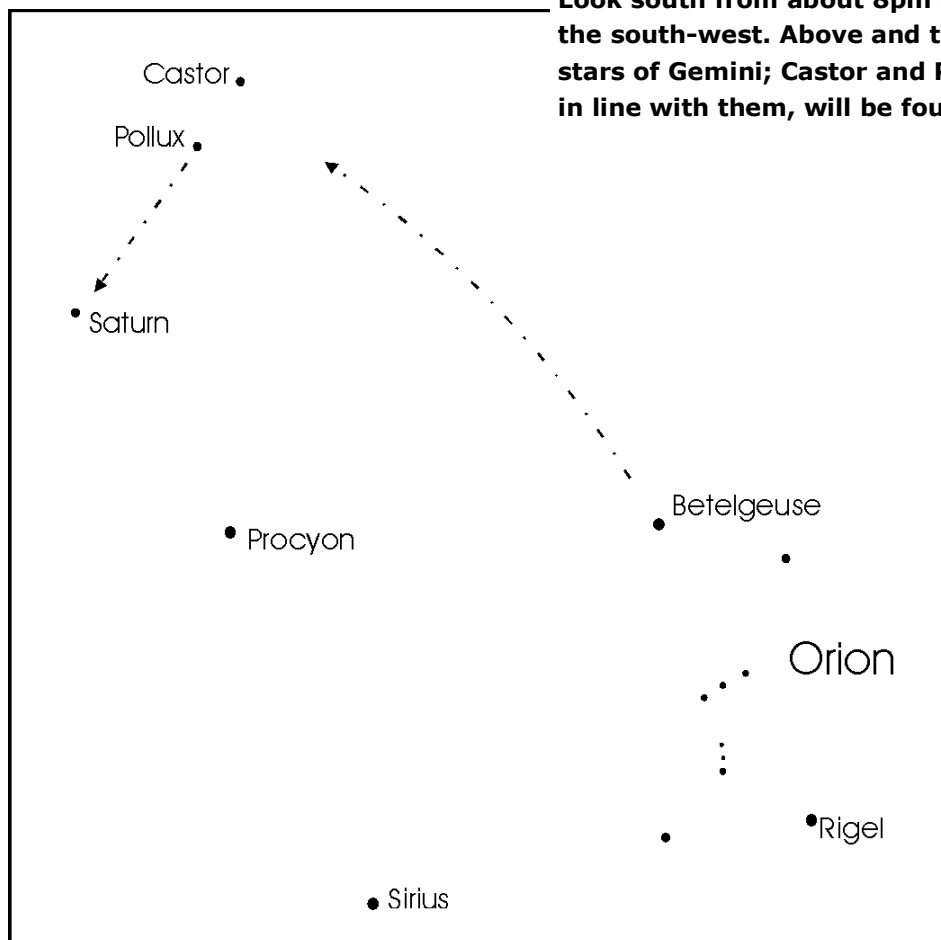
## Picture the scene ...



## Lord of the Rings

One of the most beautiful sights of the night sky has to be the ringed planet, Saturn. It is prominent now, high in the southern half of the sky, from sunset until long after midnight.

Look south from about 8pm in March and you will see Orion in the south-west. Above and to the left (east) are the two bright stars of Gemini; Castor and Pollux. Below Castor and Pollux, and in line with them, will be found the planet Saturn.



Even with binoculars, you should just be able to make out the rings of Saturn. When Galileo first observed it with his very simple telescope, he thought that the planet had two large moons very close to the parent body. Modern small telescopes will show the rings clearly and larger instruments will show that the rings are divided by one large gap - the Cassini Division.

Although we have photographs from unmanned spacecraft, which show the rings in exquisite detail, it can still be very exciting to see them for yourself from your own back garden.

**Further information on**  
[www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk)

## Work in progress in Ceddesfeld Grounds

Work is now well under way in Ceddesfeld Grounds. Having been awarded the £50,000 from the People's Millions, a working group with representatives from the Town Council and Community Association was established and one of the first actions was to hold an open forum meeting to involve other groups in Sedgefield including the Wildlife group, Countryside Group, Civic Trust and Local History Society. The bid was primarily concerned with reducing anti-social behaviour, at the same time improving access for the disabled and younger members of our community who are still in pushchairs. As a result the work is concentrating on improving existing footpaths, installing new lighting, creating pond dipping tanks, providing new seats and litter bins and removing some of the minor undergrowth where much of the anti-social behaviour takes place.

Work has started on all of these, using the Borough Council's technical services department who work closely with the Conservation Officer and Planning Department to draw up specifications and choose contractors who will be mindful of the important historical and environmental aspects of the project.

**Durham Wildlife Trust** are advising on the pond work and our proposals to have new pond

dipping tanks, probably the most popular aspect of the project with children.

Work should start soon on the footpaths (contrary to rumours this does not involve tarmac), simply re-edging and top dressing the existing paths. New lighting will be included - design as suggested by the Conservation Officer. Perhaps most beneficial to date is that limited undergrowth removal has actually had some results, in that it has already greatly reduced the anti-social behaviour around the hall and in the grounds.

We must stress we are not taking out any trees or large shrubs - just brambles and undergrowth that have been allowed to amass over the years.

We have also met Fiona Green from **The Garden Trust** and Martin Roberts from English Heritage. We have known for some time that there is some evidence at Yale University in the USA of the Grounds being linked to Joseph Spence - a renowned eighteenth century landscape gardener who may have contributed to the design of the former gardens. Both Fiona and Martin visited Ceddesfeld last year and we hope to work with both to develop a historic landscape project which will include a management and maintenance plan for the future, to protect the grounds for our future generations.

Dr. Myra Tolan-Smith from **English Heritage** is considering if the grounds are of sufficient historic interest to merit consideration for registration within the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. This badge of distinction is very impressive; there are only 1,450 presently listed and we feel registration could well have long term benefits.

However we will ensure that this will not affect the grounds being open and accessible to all, or interfere with our Firework Displays, the Proms, Mediaeval Fayre and other events.

It is only a couple of months since the Community endorsed the project by voting in tremendous force in that television poll. Tyne-Tees Television will return soon to see what progress is being made. After a good start we hope everyone will soon be able to benefit from the improvements.

**If you would like any information on the project, please contact Lesley Swinbank on 621273.**



*Peter Hinde shows willing on a chilly day at the pond.  
Photo Dr Myra Tolan- Smith*

*Left; Dr Myra Tolan Smith of English Heritage surveys the scene with Angela Simpson of Sedgefield Town Council*

# March Diary

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

## Sedgefield Library

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Card Making Taster Session  
Places must be reserved,  
please ring 620103

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

World Book Day Coffee Morning  
10am-12 noon

### Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Rhyme Time – stories, songs and  
rhymes for under 5s  
10am-12 noon

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Book Circle – 2pm

## Sedgefield W.I.

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

7:15pm in the Parish Hall  
Mr B Cave on

## The Great North Air Ambulance

Members' Competition –  
3 Rock Buns  
*New members welcome*

## Wynyard Planetarium

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm

What's up in the Night Sky?

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Who is the first Martian?

Adults £3 Children/Concs £1.50,  
Family ticket £6; Prior booking  
advised: tel John McCue on 630544

## Civic Dinner &

## Masquerade Ball

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

7.15pm - 12.45am in the  
Coleman Suite, Hardwick Hall Hotel

**Tickets £26** inc. 4 course meal  
Champagne Reception, Dancing to  
live music. *Proceeds to Mayors  
Charities, esp. Butterwick Hospice*

## Cricket Club Quiz Night

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Presented by M. Blocki

Bar open 7:30 for 8pm start

## Annual Town Assembly

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Agenda & notices available on the  
evening or from Council offices

## Local History Society

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

John Southcott on

## The Heugh Gun Battery

at Hartlepool Headland  
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

## Round Table

### 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable  
events – new members welcome

**Contact Rob on 629079**

## Sedgefield Garden Society

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall  
Simon Cross from

## Northdale Horticulture

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> April – Herbaceous plants

Talk & slides by David Braithwaite

*All welcome*

## Film Night

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall

## A film for all the family

(Title to be confirmed)

*All ages welcome, but under 8s  
must be accompanied by an adult*

## WI Coffee Morning

with Bring & Buy and Raffle  
in support of the Mayor's Charity

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

10am – 12 noon in the Parish Hall

Refreshments £1.50

*Proceeds to benefit patients at  
Sedgefield Community Hospital*

## Sedgefield Twinning

## Association

### Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>

Trip to York

## Sedgefield Cricket Club

## LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm

main Guest – John Wright Band  
Also featuring Jack Burness (Corner  
Boys) and the John Wrightson Band

## Admission £8 (inc Buffet)

strictly by ticket only

Telephone 621347

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

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March

from 9.30am – 1.30pm

## Town Councillor Surgery

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

6.30 – 7pm in the

Town Council Offices

## Family History Group

(A branch of Cleveland FHS)

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Mr Harry Wynne presents

"Suffragettes to Lady Policemen"

*New members always welcome*

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield and

## District Flower Club

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Eileen Barroclough, NE Area D'tor

## "An Element of Colour"

*All Welcome*

## Sedgefield Players

Present their entry to the 2006  
Isle of Man Drama Festival

## "It Could be Any One of Us"

A comedy thriller by

Alan Ayckbourn

### Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March

7:30 p.m. Parish Hall

Tickets £6, Concessions £5  
from Selections or 621000

## Ferryhill Stage Society

presents a Musical Revue –

## 'That's Entertainment'

from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March in

Mainsforth Community Hall

Tickets from Elsie McGowan  
on 6211612

## Residents' Forum

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

7pm in the Parish Hall

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall

*Please note change from usual date*

## AGM and 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday meeting

## with Faith Supper

*All Welcome*

## Walking for Health

Open Morning in the Parish Hall on

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am

## Lyrics Youth Choir

Rehearsals in Ceddesfeld Hall

## Friday evenings

6pm – 7.15pm during term time

Keen singers aged 9 – 18 welcome

## Country Market (WI)

### 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

## Next Month...

## Charity Quiz & Dinner

at Ministers Restaurant on

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Tickets from Sedgefield Town  
Council office – Tel: 621273

## The Easter weekend falls on April 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Don't forget your special  
announcements for  
the holiday period.

**Sedgefield News contact  
information is on page 12.**

## Citizen of the Year 2005

What an honour to be awarded recognition for my service to the youth of our village through my many years as a Girl Guide leader. It has been a privilege and honour over the years to have the parents' most treasured possession, their children, entrusted to our care during normal weekly meetings and also the many and varied forays that take place, from bowling, swimming, rock climbing to Youth hostel weekends and week long camps.

A huge thank you to you all for the good wishes, messages and cards which I have received, both on the evening of the presentation and since. Thanks also to the Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Maxine Robinson, and all concerned for the presentation evening; to Roger Clubley of Sedgefield Development Trust for his excellent speech outlining my history; and to Sedgefield Rotary Club President, Stephen Croft, and members, for their sponsorship of this award. I would also like to recognise the other 35+ Guider & Scouters in the village who cater every week for over 200 of our future citizens, and of course, to recognise my family's outstanding support over the years.

*Jackie Postgate*

## Traffic calmers on Durham Road

Is it just me or anyone else realised the potential danger of these eyesores? Until recently I was a leading fireman at Sedgefield fire station, and if we receive a fire call at school starting or finishing time, the road outside the fire station becomes a nightmare to get out from.

The industrial estate has a chemical company as well as a plastics factory, and as we all know seconds mean lives. I was led to believe these traffic calmers were only temporary.

Could the relevant people please take another look at these obstacles and think about getting rid? After all, as the saying goes it's no good shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

*Bob Workman*

# Your Letters

## Teenage behaviour

I have read in Sedgefield News how people have felt intimidated by teenage gangs in Sedgefield on an evening, and to be honest haven't really paid much attention to it at all, until I witnessed it for myself. My husband, daughter and I were walking past the chip shop at 6.45 pm when we encountered a group of around nine 14-15 year old girls. Unprovoked, they started calling my husband names referring to his physique, and when he turned to ask them what they thought they were doing, they responded with a torrent of full mouthed verbal abuse at the tops of their voices. There was no respect for us, other passers by or the staff in the shops at the bottom of the village, who I understand are sick to death of this behaviour too.

To say the least, we were appalled by their behaviour and next day we informed the police and the community college just to make them aware of the situation. We fully appreciate that there is not a lot either can do, but can I make a point to the parents of these girls – you must know who they are – when they tell you they are “just hanging around the village”! I am a parent myself, and thankfully I know where my daughters are at all times, but I would be horrified to think they were behaving in that manner. I think in the future you parents should make more effort to find out what your daughters are up to, because after all you are still responsible for these individuals.

*Angry Reader*

*(Name & address supplied)*

## Sedgefield Surgery

May I say a public thank you to Dr Jones and Partners for providing us with a lovely extension to the surgery. Thanks are also due to the doctors, nurses and reception staff for coping so well while this work was in progress. Your care and attention is very much appreciated.

*Sincerely - Vera Thompson*

## Proposed Incinerator

It has come to my attention that last October George Bolam Ltd. applied for planning permission to build an incinerator and chimney (which will only be 2 metres above the roof height ) to burn unwanted meats on their site at Salters Lane. I have spoken to the person in Durham County Council who is coordinating the planning application. He advised me that a notice had been placed in the *Darlington and Stockton Times* to inform the residents of Sedgefield of the application. I am sure you will agree that this newspaper is not widely read in the village. I am also sure that people living in the village will NOT want an incinerator, and its subsequent emissions, in their locality. The council is due to meet in March to discuss the issue. Please support us if you do not want the incinerator built by writing as soon as possible to Acting Head of Environment & Planning, Durham County Council, County Hall, DH1 5UQ (please include the ref. number CMA/7/54) Thank you for your support.

*Name and address supplied*

***A letter of support for Bolam's scheme appears on page 5.***

## Drivers please note

Would drivers visiting Theakston's Stores please, please, kindly switch off their radio and engine. The noise is atrocious sometimes. A little consideration for the residents at Crispin Court.

Thank you

*The 'Golden Oldies'*

## Friends Re-united!

In letter in the January edition, a lady wished to find the whereabouts of an old schoolfriend. Several people who read the letter have now passed on details of the person sought. So, thanks to Sedgefield News, two old friends should be in contact again soon.

*Editor*

*Elsewhere in the paper:*

***Cheap turkeys leave nasty taste***  
*See letter on page 5*

