

Sedgefield News

Insert logo in white

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

March 2007



Sedgefield - pretty in *your* pictures?

To help with the re-launch of the community website, Sedgefield Development Trust invites readers to send in any interesting or attractive images of Sedgefield.

It would be very helpful if you could include a note to say that you give copyright approval for their use in the development of the site and that they may be used on the final site. If you are on the digital photography course what better reason to perfect your technique?

Your name would be published along with your photographs so the world will know how good a photographer you are!

Above is a classic panorama, from Digital Photography tutor, Tim Randall.

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG...

Maybe it was the **BIRDS** or the **SQUIRRELS** - we will just leave it at that, but **PLEASE NOTE. WE WILL NOT GIVE UP!**

Ian and Connie Spring

How sad to receive this message after last month's heart-warming letter from Connie, recounting Ian's time spent fulfilling his ambition to plant bulbs in and around the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall.

Whoever did this - you must be so proud. Why not write in and let us all enjoy your attempt to justify your oh-so-grown-up activities.

Daffodil bulbs pulled up and strewn on the ground.



February half term fun and games included queuing hungrily for pancakes in the Parish Hall on Shrove Tuesday. A cheerful crew of cooks (among them, Elaine Bryant, pictured right) mixed and tossed for England all morning.

Sedgefield News arriving on time?

If not, Judith Edgoose will do her best to sort it. No pressure then! Judith recently took over Sedgefield News distribution, for which we thank her heartily.



For the last few years, the task of collecting, sorting and delivering the 2650 papers to the next level of the distribution pyramid has fallen to Marcus and Becky Rowe. With the impending birth of their second child, the time has come for the job to be passed on. We're grateful to them for taking the strain for so long and wish their growing family all the best. For the editorial team it's good to know that after we've gone to print this month, Sedgefield News will continue to go out without fuss.

We do need a new volunteer to deliver the comparatively small round at Wallington Drive. If you live nearby and are willing to help, please call Judith on **620244**. Judith is also keen to hear from anyone willing to stand in when distributors are away or unwell.



Meet Joe Thomas, our new Adult Education Development Worker

We asked Joe, pictured left, to give us some insight into his life, in particular in education.

Joe takes up the story...

I spent about 20 years of my working life in the Transport Industry developing a successful Haulage Company, but in 1989 I became involved with the development of the Fishburn Skills Project, where with others we developed a centre for IT training to offer alternative opportunities to workers being made redundant with the closure of the local mining industry.

In 1994 I sold my interests in the haulage company and returned to full time education studying Information Systems at Teesside University, and worked evenings to gain a teaching certificate. From 1995 to 2002 I taught Information Technology at Fishburn Skills Project on a part time basis, in 2002 I joined Education in the Community as a development worker in the Sedgefield Borough based in Spennymoor.

As of the 1st of February this year I have been appointed to the Sedgefield/Fishburn area, based in the Community Centre at Fishburn for four mornings each week and at 58 Front St. Sedgefield on Thursday mornings from 9am to Noon. Afternoons I am based in Peterlee working in the East Durham area.

Although working full time I have still managed to continue my own personal studies, recently being awarded a Level 5 Diploma from The Chartered Management Institute.

Courses currently running in Sedgefield

At CEDDESFIELD HALL

Level 2 French on Thursday from 6.30 - 8.30pm

Beginners Ballroom Dance on Wednesday: from 7.45 - 9.45pm

Advanced Ballroom Dance on Sunday evening

In SEDGEFIELD LIBRARY

Card Crafts on Tuesday from 1.00 - 3.00pm

At SEDGEFIELD SCHOOL

Art and Drawing on Tuesday from 6.30 - 8.30pm

In THE ZONE AT 58 FRONT ST.

Digital Photography on Monday from 4.00 - 6.00pm

After the half term break we hope to have sufficient numbers to start the following new courses:

DIY Plumbing at Sedgefield School:
Times to be arranged

Beginners IT (Computing) at 58 Front St

Holiday French at Ceddesfeld Hall

Other courses can be arranged if sufficient numbers of learners request them.

Drop in and see Joe - in the Zone at Sedgefield Development Trust's office - 58 Front Street (next to the Fish shop) for advice on courses. He is there every Thursday morning.

Joe can also be contacted any morning on 01740 629536

CHARITY EVENTS

Spring Fair

at Sedgefield Primary School,

Rectory Row, on

Saturday 24th March between 1pm and 3pm

Bring your pennies and bring your friends.

Bouncy castle, bingo, baby equipment, badge making, fire engine, cakes, refreshments, games, toys, books and lots, lots more!

All proceeds from this event go to Sedgefield Primary School PTFA to enrich the school lives of its pupils

Chocolate Egg-stravaganza

Enjoy a tasty night out and take advantage of purchasing those all-important chocolates for Easter.

Organised by the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield & Thornton's Chocolates, "Naughty but nice" is the catch-phrase for the evening.

Thursday 15th March at 7pm

Parish Hall Sedgefield

Tickets £2.50 including refreshments, available from:

Tel. 01740 629070 or 01740 621187 or North End Garage

Proceeds in aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Sedgefield WI

Coffee Morning

in Sedgefield Parish Hall on

Saturday 10th March from 10 am - 11:30 am

Stalls & Raffle

Entrance 50p (inc. tea or coffee)

In aid of the Mayor's Charity, Sedgefield Community Hospital

Ladies Day

Coming soon! Your chance to see an "exuberantly up-to-the-minute comedy" (The Guardian) performed by your very own award-winning local drama group. Sedgefield Players will be taking their production of "Ladies Day" to the Easter Drama Festival in the Isle of Man. Don't miss your chance to see it in Sedgefield Parish Hall on March 29-31st. Written by Amanda Whittington and first performed by the renowned Hull Truck Theatre Company, the play tells the heart-warming tale of four workmates. Pearl is about to retire from the fish filleting plant and her mates Jan, Shelley and Linda, are determined to mark the occasion in style.



Their one chance of a trip to Royal Ascot comes in the year the event moves north to York. Out go the hairnets and wellies as the four ditch work, do themselves up in fine style and head off to the races. A drink, a flirt, a flutter, and maybe, just maybe, the chance to hit the jackpot in more ways than one. Do yourselves a favour. Grab a ticket for this not-to-be-missed event. It's an odds on winner! *Further details on the diary page.*

The Bookworm

Winter in Madrid by C.J Sansom, is centred around 1940 after the Spanish Civil war, in the ruins of Madrid, its people starving and two years into the second world war. It tells a haunting and compelling tale of the impact of the war on personal choices, often impossible situations, together with an intensely moving love story. Truly well worth a read.

Gloria Wills

If you have enjoyed a particularly good read, why not share it with the rest of us?

Send your review to **Sedgefield News, 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ** or email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk.

Golden celebrations for Bill & Edith



Bill and Edith Cooper would like to thank everyone so much for their kindness and good wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was brilliant to see so many friends. A wonderful weekend made possible with help and organisation by all the family.

Open Church

St. Edmund's Church in Sedgefield is a member of the Open Churches Trust, which was formed by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber with the express aim of making it possible for all of England's churches to be open to visitors during the week. Unfortunately, this is not possible without volunteers willing to be present. Up until last year the St. Edmund's team had enough members to open five and a half days per week, now this is down to two and a half days. This is a pity because it is a lovely church in an attractive setting. It is also listed in two publications – *1,000 English Churches* and *Monumental Brasses of Co. Durham*.

We are, therefore, appealing for new members (men and women) who could spare a couple of hours or so, on a regular basis between Easter and Harvest Festival, to join us in this worthy activity. It is not necessary to belong to the congregation or to know anything about St. Edmund's history. There are guidebooks and leaflets available for visitors, who, incidentally, come from all over the world, and we know from their remarks that they appreciate being able to look around the interior. Many are researching their family history, or they or their relatives were christened or married here. For further information please contact either:

Mrs Joan Unsworth (01740 621073) or Mrs Yvonne Dow (01740 621079)

Thorpe Thewles & Grindon History Event

An illustrated talk - an Introduction to the Archaeology & Historic Landscape of Grindon Parish by Peter Rowe of Tees Archaeology will be held in Thorpe Thewles Village Hall, 7:00 for 7:30 pm on Friday 2nd March.

Tickets to this event are available from Thorpe Thewles Post Office at a cost of £1.50 each. Tea, coffee and biscuits included.

Peter Rowe is the Sites and Monuments Record Officer for Tees Archaeology. It is his job to record information about each archaeological site in the area. Peter's talk will summarise this data for Thorpe Thewles and its environs, looking at each archaeological and historic period in turn. The talk will include a summary of the archaeological excavation at the Thorpe Thewles Iron Age site and other significant discoveries in the local area. For further details, or to reserve a ticket contact Mark or Linda on 630014. www.thorpe-thewles.org.uk

Calling musicians

Sedgefield Methodist Church is hoping to have a music group to accompany worship. Initially we would meet once a month and play in the church on an occasional basis. We would welcome anyone on any instrument classical or modern and of any level. Please contact Vanessa Morrell on 629834 or e-mail to vmorrell@contactbabel.com if you are interested.

... and that's not all, folks

... a very different type of music, but is anyone interested in starting a monthly session for traditional instruments - fiddles, squeezeboxes, whistles, etc? Call 620609. A lonely melodeon has found a home there.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch



Please Use Your Vote & help to **STOP THE BOGUS CALLERS** and help **REDUCE DISTRACTION BURGLARY**

By saying **YES** to Durham Trading standard's Initiative & making our Village a DOORSTEP CRIME AWARENESS ZONE

Bogus Callers prey on the elderly and anyone who is seen as vulnerable or an easy target; they leave their victims with shattered self-esteem and a serious lack of confidence as well as poorer in the pocket.

Bogus & unscrupulous traders do the same – charging for unnecessary work & usually leaving a shoddy job with their victims seriously out of pocket.

We can help to protect our vulnerable neighbours by declaring our village a No Cold Calling one & seeking Trading Standards support to implement their scheme in SEDGEFIELD

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch believe this is a real Crime Reduction initiative that will be of major benefit especially to the elderly and vulnerable in our community who are the usual targets of this type of nasty, confidence eroding crime.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR VOTE by Tuesday 13th MARCH

Sealed boxes for votes are located in the

Co-op, Library, Number Four, Post Office & Council Offices.

On Wednesday 14th March, our Mayor, Dudley Waters will kindly make the draw for the Free Prize Draw from **all** votes cast. The result of the "No to Cold Calling" ballot will be published in the April issue of Sedgefield News

Update from Neighbourhood Watch meeting held 6th February '07

CCTV in Village: Councillor Maxine Robinson attended, to explain in detail the funding and running of the village's 3 cameras and to take questions to further support the details already provided to the Panel by Town Clerk Lesley Swinbank. Her presentation was very thorough and most helpful to members present. From the discussion arising, new concerns were identified for the Town Council and Cllr Robinson undertook to investigate these and provide an update for the next Panel meeting in April. Members thanked her for taking time to come to the meeting and provide such a clear & detailed presentation as well as confirming the Town Council's continued commitment to the existing valuable & useful CCTV resource.

Village Constable Keith Todd circulated copies of the Reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period **between 10th Jan. & 6th Feb.** this indicated there were **16 crimes** recorded, consisting of **1 Burglary; 4 Criminal Damage; 5 Thefts from Motor Vehicles, 5 Damage to Motor Vehicles & 1 Theft.** Keith also gave details from the *Sergeant's report to Area 3 Forum*, as previously requested by Panel Secretary. This showed that **between 9/11/06 & 6/01/07b there were 252 calls to the Police from Sedgefield Village.** Actual crimes recorded during this period were **29 crimes.**

Keith discussed in detail various aspects of both his report & that of the Sergeant. Members were very interested to discuss his report and the wider aspects of crime detection ongoing in Sedgefield. They recorded their appreciation on hearing of thieves and burglars caught and commended Keith for using Ring Round to inform members of some of these successes. C/man Ken Saiger formally asked Keith to include Police successes into his Ring Round messages in the future as this gives credit where it is due and will provide a more balanced view regarding Police effectiveness.

In his absence Keith introduced the Village's new PCSO Dean Wilson. C/man Ken Saiger and other members present commented positively on Dean's presence in the Village already. C/man extended an invitation for Dean to attend our next meeting.

Community Warden Tim Spearey circulated his report and gave further details that resulted in two-way discussions with the members. He stressed the importance of residents coming forward with relevant information, if he and other members of the policing teams are to be successful in prosecuting the minority who spoil it for the majority in the village.

PC Todd reports

Vehicle crime has become a problem recently – overnight on 20th January 5 vehicles were broken into in the Spring Lane, Hadleigh Close, and Hornby Avenue areas of the village. Radios, CDs, and anything else left inside the vehicle was a target. The next day, a male was arrested and some property was recovered.

On another occasion, overnight 2nd February, 3 vehicles became targets in the Naylor Road, Lyle Gardens and Beaumont Court areas. Thieves were looking for the wheel locking nuts. Sadly, they succeeded at their third attempt and all four alloy wheels were stolen.

We may not be able to stop these people snooping around at night but we can reduce the chance of our vehicles becoming targets by removing possessions from show and by not leaving the wheel locking nut where it can be easily located inside the vehicle. Other crimes include:

East End: damage to greenhouse

The Lane: damage to fence

West End: damage to vehicle with corrosive substance

Cross St: damage to shop sign

Until next month,

Keith

Pub Watch

This month, the meeting was held at Ministers. Mr Neil Smally from the Council Licensing Department gave a talk on the change in law regarding smoking in pubs and other enclosed spaces. Leading up to this date of 1st July, the pub watch will be discussing how this will affect their premises and incorporating these changes into their constitution.

Telephone Numbers

Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield 623654 or via Chilton Control Room: 01388 721351

Local Police: 0845 6060365 - to report concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police (*it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & to obtain an incident number*).

For advice/assistance:

Crime Prevention Officer

Neil Langthorne: 01325 742714

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Sarah Norman: 01325 742755

Awards presented at Thinking Day



Photo by Adam Postgate

On Tuesday 13th February, over 100 Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Sedgefield, Fishburn and Bishop Middleham gathered together to celebrate Thinking Day in Sedgefield Parish Hall. The girls all took part in crafts and songs from around the world. The Mayor of Sedgefield Cllr. Dudley Waters and his consort, and our division Commissioner, Jane Vaslet, came along to present Baden Powell Challenge badges, the highest award within the guide section. Three 14 year-old guides, pictured above, received the awards - Sarah Dunn, Danni Palfreeman and Catherine Younger - all of whom will now move on to the Ranger section and continue to give service by working with Rainbow and Brownie packs in the District. Long Service awards were also presented to Gill Chapman, for 10 years, and Claire Chapman and Janet Holt, for 5 years service and Sarah Dunn was congratulated on her selection to represent our Guides in August at a Jamboree in Holland.
Jackie Postgate, 1st Sedgefield Guides

Great Crested Newts find sanctuary

3 Newt Ponds have been dug at Hardwick Park in the Bath Plantation and near the Serpentine. The Great Crested is the largest of the three species of newt native to the UK. Ponds are used for breeding and are usually occupied between early spring and late summer. The surrounding land is used all year by immature newts and most newts will spend the winter on land. Over the last 50 years there has been a decline in the abundance of great crested newts. The loss of the great crested newt has been more marked in continental Europe than here and the UK now has the largest population in Europe. The downturn is closely linked to the disappearance of ponds in our landscape, but also to the loss of good quality habitat for newts on land around ponds, which is so important for much of their life-cycle. The great crested has the most specialised requirements, and so has suffered the greatest. Early in the Hardwick restoration project, considerable time and effort was expended to ensure the wellbeing of the resident colony. Now the major disturbances have finished a determined attempt is being made to open out suitable areas to the Great Crested Newts in the hope that the colony will not only survive but expand.



Books on Wheels

Did you know that there is a totally free delivery service of books, talking books or information to County Durham residents who have problems getting to the library because of disability or mobility problems?

To be accepted onto the service, there is an informal assessment procedure. A member of staff will visit your home, take a few details and discuss your reading needs. Based on this, a bag of books will be chosen for you and every three weeks, a new bag will be brought to you.

If you could benefit from this service or know of anyone else who might be interested within the Sedgefield area please contact Sedgefield Library on 01740 620103.

Sports Update

with chrisjlines@aol.com

As spring approaches (did anyone spot winter by the way?), thoughts start to turn to warmer weather sports. The indoor athletics season is already in full swing and outdoor meetings will follow soon. It won't be long before cricket whites are used in anger, "anyone for tennis?" can now be asked with some optimism and darts players across the country are embarking on strict fitness regimes to help them cope with the ever more oppressive temperatures. Sedgefield is blessed with opportunities to try most sports and those mentioned above are no exception.

The Sedgefield Harriers haven't eased up at all over the winter, but as the evenings get lighter and warmer, you may feel more inclined to join their running ranks. Regular training sessions take place on Wednesdays (6.30pm), Fridays (6.30pm) and Sundays (8.30am), with Harriers meeting at Sedgefield Community College. To learn more about these and the club go to www.sedgefieldharriers.com.

Last month, I mentioned that **Sedgefield Cricket Club** will be starting weekly nets sessions on Sunday 11th March, from 2-4pm. To find out more, call Martin Lower on 07862 715006.

On the tennis front, the lighter evenings mean that the courts at the Community College will see a lot of use. For more about tennis in Sedgefield, call 620367 or 620143. While I'm talking about racquet sports, there are also active squash and badminton clubs.

To find out about badminton call Stan Smith on 621883; for squash, call James Larcombe on 620717 or Chris Rowsby on 621125.

As for darts, I will see if I can find out what teams Sedgefield boasts and report back in a future issue. If you can enlighten me, please do.

St. Edmund's FC

I'm pleased to report that I have a new contributor to the sports update. Andrew Watson has provided me with the latest news from St. Edmund's FC. The team plays in the premier division of the Step's Coaches Durham and District League and here's Andrew's report on the season so far (to 15th February).

The team is currently lying third in the league, having won seven games, drawn three and lost three.

Since 3rd September, St. Edmund's have enjoyed an impressive 15 match unbeaten league run. Top scorer so far this season is Brian Fairhurst with 12 goals.

The team has also had some considerable success in cup football. They have reached the quarter final of the Heart Foundation Cup and by the time you read this will have played that match against West Auckland Social Club. St. Edmund's have also performed very well in the Staffieri Cup, knocking out Bishop Middleham with a 3-1 victory in the quarter final. Then, in a hard fought semi final against Kellogg WMC, a single goal by Andy Howarth secured a place in the final. That will be played against Hetton Lions at Durham City Archibald Stadium.

The date has yet to be confirmed, but the club is hoping that plenty of supporters will turn up to cheer them on. As soon as details of the final are confirmed, they will be posted on the community website and printed in Sedgefield News

(assuming the next issue is going to be published in time).

Thanks to Andrew for the update – I hope there will be more to follow.

I will re-visit football next month, with updates from the Black Lion FC and Crosshill FC, as the Sunday league season moves into its final stages.

An ongoing Beginners Class in **Salsa and Latin-In-Line** runs on Thursdays from 8.15-9.15pm at Community College. Latin dance moves, Cha Cha, Samba, Jive etc., mainly solo and in line so no partner required. Partnering for Salsa and couples dancing is done in class.

Ring 07969557078 for more info.

As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to me - chrisjlines@aol.com.

Pilates has moved

It's now at the Scout hut in Sedgefield. Same time and day; Thursday from 9.30 - 1.30am.

Everyone welcome!

Contact Rachel on **07765406784**



Sedgefield Harrier Stephen Collins at the Signals Road Relays

On Saturday 10th February a senior men's team competed in the Signals Road Relay at Lobley Hill. In windy and rainy conditions a six man team of Scott Hydon, Graeme Addison, Gary Hethrington, Ean Parsons, Stephen Collins and Roger Whitehills finished 14th in 1hr 19mins over the six 2 mile stages; an excellent result against strong teams from most of the regions athletics clubs. A week later a team of four, Scott Hydon, Roger Whitehills, Fred Wright and Matt Jones competed in Durham University's 2 mile stage relays on Durham's river banks. These races bring an added dimension to the clubs race programme and it is great that they are achieving good finishing positions for the Sedgefield vest. Apart from the usual spring road and fell race programme the club are looking forward to entering teams into a North of England Athletics Relay Championship, held this year at Silksworth and the National Cross Country Championships which will be held this year at Herrington Park, near Sunderland.

Greening our lives

We can all improve our carbon footprint - that measure of what we as individuals cost the earth. Our new column invites your input and ideas; wild & whacky or just plain practical. We kick off with some thoughts 6 months after completion of an overhaul of the space and water heating of a typical Sedgfield semi.

"There comes a time when you have to put your money where your mouth is." Fortunately we were in agreement. The environment has been a hot topic in our house for years, but apart from the easy things - some loft insulation, a few funny light bulbs, recycling, composting and teaching the choir 'right on' songs - we've done precious little about it.

The first move was a trip to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, for inspiration. This isn't a pre-requisite for doing the right thing, but we were going on holiday and the visit fitted in. We came home armed with membership, books, web-links and yes - inspiration - and got stuck into the research. We don't do things by halves in our house! The website of the Energy Saving Trust - *'Google' it, the links are great* - was an godsend.

The first thing had to be 'bin the bunker'. We had been guiltily burning coal for years, loving the real fire too much to give it up. Trouble was, apart from the obvious pollution, having an open chimney meant that when the fire wasn't lit (much of the time) all the heat in the house made a bee line for the chimney and the outside world. We were glad to have our suspicions confirmed at the CAT, that burning timber is carbon neutral. As long as trees are grown, any timber burnt is replaced and the CO₂ 'fixed'. The option of burning logs in an enclosed stove solved both pollution and heat loss problems. It's still a real fire - just seen through a glass door - and because we chose to have a built in back boiler connected to the hot water tank, the stove heats the living room, the water and contributes to the central heating. We didn't actually bin the bunker, by the way - it now holds one of four log piles!

Next came the expensive bit (please don't switch off now - we're getting payback already). **Solar panels, a 'solar station' and a new taller hot water tank.** And the difficult bit - finding installers who understood what we were doing and why. Unfortunately this isn't yet bog standard work even for an experienced heating engineer, though they do seem to be catching up. We were lucky and would recommend our 'finds' without hesitation. Two companies co-operated - they didn't particularly like it that way, but it was best for us and it worked out well. We ended up with a superb quality solar installation mounted on the south facing gable of our east/west house, and an airing cupboard equipped with what looks like the working end of a submarine. (The only disadvantage so far - this 'engine room' takes up all the space I used to air clothes in).

Here's the really good bit. Two quarters on, the utilities bills show our gas consumption reduced by 42%. It seems clear we WILL recoup our investment in time. *Sandy & Roger Clubley*

Sedgfield News would like to turn over a generous amount of space to green issues, so over to you. Contributions from all ages please.



Visitors to Hardwick Park may have noticed a pond on the move recently. **The Round Pond** had moved from its original position on the centre line of the Grand Terrace, probably during sewage works soon after Durham County Council bought the land. It has now been returned to its correct position and size. **See page 9 for Great Crested Newt News!**

One of the greenest

things we can do is to eat locally produced food that's in season. The huge distances travelled by out of season food contributes a lot to that all important carbon footprint. If you grow your own, go to the Farmers' Market or get a regular fruit and veg box delivered, you will already be well aware of what's in season, but for the rest of us, the choice at the supermarket often means that we are easily tempted into buying produce that has come from all corners of the world.

If you really want to do your bit, it really comes down to using your eyes and a bit of common sense. Read the label. If it's fresh but says it has come from, well, anywhere from Chile to China, the chances are it has been air freighted. Sea transport is much greener but of course it's not very practical for bringing in fresh, unadulterated food. Supporting Fair Trade schemes complicates your decision-making too, but the vast majority of imported food is produced with nothing but supermarket profits in mind.

It helps of course, if you cook to suit the weather. In the middle of winter, no-one expects to find locally grown asparagus. It tastes so much more wonderful in early summer when it comes fresh from the English fields. It's warm weather food - just as a warm spicy red cabbage casserole is tailor made for cold winter evenings.

So what's in season this month?

Your appetite for roots might be a bit jaded, but **celeriac** is a little used and delicious late winter root which makes the most wonderful mash! When the sun shines, grate it and mix with lemon juice, mayonnaise and Dijon mustard for a lovely, spring salad.

Brightest and best for colour and flavour is **Yorkshire rhubarb** from the Rhubarb Triangle - an area of West Yorkshire farms bordered by Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford. It's not just a pie or crumble filling these days! On the BBC website you can find such glamorous recipes as:

Roast duck with rosti potatoes and a sauce of rhubarb and red port: Braised Iranian-style pigeon with rhubarb; and last but not least, Rhubarb vodka. Your editor is much aggrieved by the fact that her Sloe Gin is down to a final mouthful. This could be one way to bridge the gap!

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents Forum

The meeting on 22nd January 2007 was the first since November, hence no report last month for December. The meeting opened with a presentation from Durham County Police Road Casualty Reduction Officer – very informative and very, very thought provoking – how many of us can say we never break the speed limit? Several ongoing issues and actions on new issues were discussed.

Two important issues will affect our community – the proposed additional 10 wind-turbines on Butterwick Moor and proposed medium secure mental health unit on the old community hospital site. As always there are differing opinions on these issues so please take every opportunity to get information and give your views.

There had been some considerable noise problems from Hardwick Hall over the Christmas/New Year period and you will probably have seen letters on the subject. The Forum is still in communication with Hardwick Hall with a view to an agreed resolution.

As we have mentioned before Local Government changes are in progress so keep an eye on that. We are all expected to have a view and an opportunity for input. There will be Town Council elections in May and with that in mind the Forum intend to host an open meeting to give prospective candidates an opportunity to 'meet the community' and of course give the community opportunity to meet them. Watch out for the date in April and come along. Minutes and agendas are published on the village web sites, are in the Library and available from the Town Council office.

Every one is welcome to Forum meetings. Meeting dates are on the notice board and post office window. Next 2 meetings: March 26th, April 23rd.

Sedgefield Farmers' Market Report

The wide range of produce at our Market always makes a visit worthwhile. Lovely fresh fish and shellfish, organic vegetables, organic soups, home-made preserves, farm produced cheeses, delicious home-made cakes, farm-reared pork and bacon, poultry, eggs, the lowest priced, freshest vegetables anywhere, organic beef and lamb, delightful baskets and pots of spring flowers and bedding plants were on offer today and thoroughly appreciated by our customers.

Together we refused to allow a damply cold, grey morning spoil an excellent Market. The sun eventually came out to reward everyone's patience. One very pleasant feature of Sedgefield Farmers' Market is the unhurried, relaxed atmosphere in which shoppers can wander round the stalls, meet stallholders and discuss their produce – such a change from supermarket shopping. Stallholders are rightly proud of their products and enjoy discussing them with customers who know they are getting expert advice. Families appreciate the leisurely shopping in Sedgefield's village green setting. Children can play; there is plenty of room for pushchairs, wheelchairs, senior citizens and very new citizens! Do visit the Farmers' Market on **Sunday 11th March** – there's a warm welcome for all.

Lunar Eclipse this month

There will be a total eclipse of the Moon on the night of 3rd/4th March. A lunar eclipse happens when the Moon passes through the shadow cast by the Earth. They can only occur at the time of the full moon and there are two or three every year.

You do not need a telescope to view the eclipse although a pair of binoculars can be used to get a closer look.

It isn't possible to predict exactly what the Moon will look like because the condition of the Earth's atmosphere can have a big effect. The Moon will gradually be covered by the Earth's shadow and a larger and larger part of it will become dark – this stage begins at 9:30pm UK time though you may not notice anything for 15 minutes or so. By about 10:45 the whole of the Moon will be in the shadow. During this stage (totality) the Moon is unlike to be completely dark – some light, bent by the Earth's atmosphere, reaches the surface and makes it shine with the colours of sunset. Just as sunset colours can vary from day to day, so the colour that the Moon shows is differs from one eclipse to the next. Totality finishes just before midnight so you have plenty of time to look. You may also notice that the colour of the Moon changes during the total phase of the eclipse. You may even see something as beautiful as the picture on this webpage – <http://antwarp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap000726>

Happy sky watching! *Tim Randall*

Planetarium Star Party

Come to the party at Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory on Saturday 17th March, from 7:30pm through the night, weather permitting. But don't turn up in fancy dress as your favourite star – terrestrial or otherwise! This is an event where members of all the regional astronomical societies come along to show the general public – and each other – the wonders of the night sky through their own and the planetarium's telescopes. Refreshments will be available inside the planetarium, as well as respite from the night air. **PLEASE NOTE: the event will be rescheduled if it's cloudy and/or raining. Tel 01642 365119 for up-to-date information.**

MARCH Diary

Announcements in the Diary are free to non-commercial organisations

Sunshine Corner

Bible stories & fun for pre-school children. **Fridays 10am – 11am**

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall Saturdays 3rd & 31st March

Doors open 7pm - Eyes down 7.45
Cash Prizes, Bar open
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club Quiz Nights

The final two of the season!

Saturday 3rd March

compiled by Chris Bunting

Saturday 31st March

Quiz master John Bryant

Both 7.30 pm for 8 pm start

Bar opens 7.30 pm for 8 pm start
Everyone's welcome!

Local History Society

7.45 pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday March 5th

Dr David Mason, County Archaeologist. **The 2005**

Excavation in the East Park

Everybody welcome!

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 6th March

in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Mr Fiby talking about **Orchids**

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 7th March

Pilates – Exercise for every age

Elaine Sigsworth

Members' competition a pretty mug

Visitors welcome (fee £1)

Sedgefield Civic Trust

The next meeting will be held on

Thursday 8th March

at 7pm in the Parish Hall

Everyone welcome

March at the Library

Tickle Time: songs & rhymes for babies & their carers

Monday 5th & 19th March

2.15 - 3pm

Rhyme Time: stories, songs & rhymes for under 5's

Wednesday 7th & 21st March

10am - 11am

Toy Library / Stay & Play

Wednesday 14th & 28th March

10am - 11am

Book circle

Wednesday 21st March 2 - 3pm

The library is also hosting more adult learning sessions with Edna Oswald. Please ask at the library for more details.

Sedgefield Village Veterans

meet at 7pm on

Thursday 8th March

The Old Board Room, Parish Hall

Everybody welcome

Sedgefield Show

The next meeting is on

Thursday 8th March

At 8pm in the Nags Head

Everybody interested welcome

Sedgefield WI

Coffee Morning in aid of the

Mayor's Charity,

Sedgefield Community Hospital

Saturday 10th March

10-11:30am in the Parish Hall

Stalls & Raffle,

Entrance 50p (inc. tea or coffee)

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 11th March

on the Village Green

Sedgefield Town Council

meets **Monday 12th March**, 7pm

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 19th March at 7.45pm

in Ceddesfeld Hall

"Methodist Miscellany"

Vic Branfoot

New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th March

In the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

Nostalgia

Demonstration by Jean Gibbons,

Northumberland and Durham

Demonstrator

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 22nd March

at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall

Cape Wrath by Tony Crease

Everybody welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night

Saturday 17th March at 8pm

Main guest – **John Wright Band**

Also featuring – Blue Mood and

John Wrightson Band

Admission £8 includes buffet

There are only a limited number of tickets available

Tel 621347

The Cricket Club is available for hire for private parties. To book, ring 620927

Residents' Forum

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Monday 26th March

The Sedgefield Players

present **Ladies Day** by

Amanda Whittington

at 7.30pm on

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

29th, 30th & 31st March

in Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tickets £6 (Concessions £5) from

Selections & members of the

Players. Tel 620 091

By kind permission of Nick Hern Books

This is The Players' entry to the

Isle of Man Easter Festival 2007

101 Gigs in March

04 The Crown, Brotton

09 Shaftoes, Beamish

10 Ox Inn, Stanley

11 Royal Oak, Wrekenton (6pm)

15 The Clarendon, Redcar

16 The Lord Nelson, Stockton

17 Ye Olde Horseshoe, Crook

18 The Normanby, Normanby

24 Hallgarth, Darlington (Wedding)

30 Manhattans, Stockton

31 The Station Hotel, Redcar

Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory

Pyramids in the Sky

Friday 2nd March 7:30pm

What's Up in the night sky?

Friday 16th March 7:30pm

Public Observing outdoors

Every Friday in March at 9pm

Telescope Club

Friday 27th March 7.30pm

in the Planetarium.

Tel: 01642 365119

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Friday mornings

in the Parish Hall

St Edmund's Church

Book Baptisms & Weddings on

Thursdays: 6.30 - 7.30pm

... and in April ...

Local History Society

Monday 2nd April

A talk by George Flynn

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 3rd April

Trevor Rogerson on Fruit Growing

Your Letters

A Tale of Two Meetings

During the last month we have attended two Public Meetings in the Parish Hall, both of which had been arranged by the Town Council, in order to give the residents of the village more information and a perspective on forthcoming proposed projects that will impact on the community in the years ahead. Quite a contrast.

The Mayor opened both meetings with a brief introduction as to how the evening should progress, through presentation (15 minutes) and questions and answer, to finish within approximately an hour or so. The first meeting lasted an hour, the second an hour and a half plus, and could have continued. In the middle of January Care Principles presented their case for why a unit for up to 64 patients should be built on the old community hospital site to provide a secure specialist mental healthcare centre to treat and, hopefully, return to society some of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the wider community of the north of England. At the end of January E.On delivered their plan to extend the already approved development of seven turbines at Eden Walkway by a further 10 turbines to be erected at Butterwick Moor on the edge of the village boundary to the east. Care Principles presentation was considered, sensitively thought through and professionally delivered to an audience with many reservations on what to expect. They had clearly done their homework on the area and delivered a plan specific to Sedgfield and its association with mental healthcare and had not resorted to the more natural 'one size fits all' offer of today's big business. They took the trouble to bring four experts in their field to cope with any questions that local residents may have and answered most of the concerns in their initial fifteen minute presentation before the question and answer session began.

On January 31st, E.On made their

presentation to a meeting of similar size, but where there was greater concern as to the overall impact the E.On project would have on both the immediate countryside and the residents of the adjacent communities.

From the very outset it didn't look good. Whilst Care Principles sent four experts to explain and develop their case, with a laptop computer and projection screen together with comprehensive backup literature for the assembled masses to take away with them, E.On delivered a man with a laptop balanced on a box on a chair on top of a table, projecting at a crude angle onto the magnolia wall of the Parish Hall. He brought nothing to the meeting specific to the surrounding area, choosing instead to present broad figures and examples on how the area and beyond would be improved and enhanced by the erection of a further 10 pylons within our vicinity. Contradictions and confusion abounded, the gathering became more and more agitated at the vagaries and promises on offer and the overall feeling was one of being patronised which lent little to a meeting that was intended to bring us explanation and reassurance.

From a position of little more than a passing interest I have several reservations and concerns about the Windfarm project. I have a major sneaky suspicion that the opposing camps are selective with the truth in terms of their desire to convince, placate, frighten or intimidate the locals in pursuance of their relevant goals.

I still don't know why these turbines need to be erected in unspoilt countryside and not ten miles down the road on the wastelands of Seal Sands. (Can it be that there is less wind down there?). I still have no real understanding from either side of the argument as to the visual impact of these ten turbines on the local communities. I haven't a clue about the efficiency, in real terms, of wind power and the effect and contribution (or otherwise) it will

have on the local environment or the national wellbeing and/or our future lives in general.

But after attending these two meetings with an open mind I am sure of two things. I believe that Care Principles will bring an honest and transparent operation to the area that will benefit the north east in general and the local community in particular, in terms of restructuring care in the community.

On the other hand I have grave concerns as to the integrity of E.On and their proposed windfarm that 'will benefit us all', if there wasn't massive Government funding and the inevitable payback to their shareholders regardless of where their turbines are erected.

Ray Barron

Windfarm supporter gets a word in edgeways!

I live on Butterwick Road and am, it seems, one of the few residents of the area who are in favour of the Butterwick Moor Wind Farm.

I was disappointed in the poor presentation by E.On at the Parish Hall on February 1st, but I was equally disappointed by the behaviour of the very vocal anti-windfarm protesters.

I do agree that they have a lot of valid points, but interrupting other speakers, shouting out and frankly, in some cases, being rude is not to my mind an acceptable way of putting one's opinions across.

In fact, it can be counter-productive – I was so annoyed at being told that 100% of the residents of Butterwick were against the Wind Farm that I immediately wrote to the Council to express my support!

Judith Edgoose, Todd's House Farm

Aids Awareness support appreciated

I should like to thank everyone for their help and support at the coffee morning I held in December in aid of AIDS Awareness in Lesotho. So far the coffee morning and recipe books have raised over £1400.

Vanessa Morrell



DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS
ASSOCIATION

the community-based regeneration network

**Copy for the April issue of Sedgfield News by
March 15th please to 58 Front St, Sedgfield, TS21 2AQ:
phone 01740 629011 or snews@sedgfieldweb.co.uk**

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