

Sedgefield News

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By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon
November 2004

'Insane' cyclists go coast to coast!

Tim Lowe and his brother Colin are very keen cyclists, regularly punishing themselves with long distance rides, time trials and circuit racing at Croft. In March, after they completed the Workington to Sunderland coast to coast route over 2 days, Tim came up with the bright idea of trying "the impossible" - completing it in a day! Colin took some persuading but eventually agreed. Tim takes up the story...

After a lift to Workington to stay the night in a guest house, we awoke at 7am next morning to gale force winds and heavy showers, hardly the weather I had in mind when I suggested a 'summer' bike ride. Within 5 minutes of hitting the road we were soaked to the skin, but at least the wind had dropped and we pressed on, making good time to Penrith for a tea stop and to dry our socks out in the public loos! Along the route the question from other cyclists (usually sheltering from the rain), was always the same; "How many days are you doing it in?" Our reply - "today" was met with a mixture of admiration and sympathy or claims of insanity!

Most of them were taking 4 days, which really brought home the mountain we had to climb.

Next stop was the cafe at the top of Hartside Moor, one of the highest points on the route and a stiff climb; then onwards to Consett for another quick stop. Then Sunderland was looming in the distance. Just after 7pm we arrived on Roker seafront, exhausted but triumphant and extremely happy.

Our ride time was 9 hrs 10 minutes for a distance of about 125 miles - we were well pleased.

We were collected by car and asked what our next challenge would be - there and back in a day? I don't think so!

Colin & Tim - proud & delighted to reach 'the Roker end'!



Spec-wearers come up with the goods

Duncan & Elizabeth Maw are delighted to have already received many pairs of old spectacles for **Vision Aid Overseas**. Their message is - thank you - keep them coming! More next month on how they will be put to good use.

Fireworks: the new law *will* be enforced

A word of warning from Beat Sergeant Brian O'Connor as Guy Fawkes' night approaches

With November 5th just a few days away, the Emergency Services are preparing for the expected spate of calls. Misuse of fireworks can cause both alarm and distress to both people and animals

The Fireworks Legislation 2004 now prohibits the possession of Fireworks by persons below the age of 18 years in a public place. Any person under 18 years simply found in possession of fireworks in a public place will be prosecuted. Police will be contacting Retailers licensed to sell fireworks, as they have a crucial role to play by preventing fireworks falling into young hands.

Our aim is to ensure that children and young persons are protected from injury by fireworks.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable Guy Fawkes' Night, why not attend the Fireworks Display at Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds at 6.30pm on Saturday 6th November?

Fit for Fun!

At **Sedgefield Primary School**, as part of our current initiative and on-going commitment to encourage all our children to participate in some sort of sporting activity to improve health and fitness in a fun way, we invited Skipping Workshops into school last month to give a demonstration of routines. This company introduces traditional skipping games into the school playground which inspire the children and provide fun and strenuous physical activity. It worked, as you can see! Many of our children stayed back after school to attend a practical workshop where they learnt new skills and routines. We purchased some longer ropes for the playground games boxes and over the last fortnight have sold 80 skipping ropes to pupils. The playground is now a hive of activity every break and lunchtime!



Brilliant photo! But there is one issue that could spoil the fun in any playground, so, dog owners - please note this plea from the school

There has been a worrying increase in the number of incidents of dog dirt on the school playground and playing field since the school returned from the summer break. We understand that this is due to dogs being exercised there after school hours. **May we therefore advise everyone that dogs are not to be brought onto school premises at any time.** The local Dog Warden has been contacted and is advising us in ways to remedy the situation.

Wacky yellow sculpture brings success in green competition - again!

A group from **Sedgefield Hardwick School** enjoyed a visit to Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire as finalists in the Yellow Woods Challenge for a second year! The competition was to collect as many Yellow Pages as possible, to encourage recycling, and to use them to make a sculpture. Their entry 'Swampy' the crocodile filled the school hall and certainly appealed to the judge, who this year was Neil Buchanan, the presenter of "Art Attack".

Six pupils - Abigail Lennox, Hannah Duffy, Megan Till, Andrew Lawson, Ben Hetherington and Max Potter - two staff, Gill Coulson and Anne Burns and Sedgefield Borough's Sustainability Officer, Ruth Clayton, began their exciting journey at 5am. The first leg of the journey was by mini bus to Newcastle Airport, driven by Mr Lennox, a parent who had scoured Sedgefield at 4.00am, looking for the 'misplaced' bus keys! We all boarded the 7.10 am flight to Bristol where taxis were waiting to whisk us to Longleat. We were thrilled to discover that we had won second prize in the national competition and were delighted to



Swamped by Swampy! Proud pupils view their prize-winning work

receive £500 prize money as well as having a stand of trees dedicated to us in Fox and Parrot Woods at Craghead.

Later, having been fed and watered, we had time to visit the attractions. The safari was a great success, especially the monkeys who immediately jumped on the roof racks of passing cars. The snoozing lions and the baby giraffes were

popular too. We also managed to increase the mileage we'd travelled that day, by getting lost in the maze! After eight action-packed hours it was time to retrace our steps and catch the flight home, finally reaching Sedgefield at 11.00pm. The day had been such a success that even before the plane had landed the children were planning what next year's entry would be!

Rumours quashed - there will be *no* Primary School closure!

from Paul Elwell, Chair of Governors, Sedgefield Primary School

Many Sedgefield parents will recall the hiatus last spring, when the County Council announced that it was reviewing the arrangements for delivering primary education in the village, with an undeclared implication that the two primary schools could merge.

Following representations to the County they announced that no changes were planned for Sedgefield. However, it appears that some people in village are unaware of the Council's decision, and a rumour that Sedgefield Primary (Rectory Row) is to close continues to be circulated.

Residents should be aware of the high standards of education being delivered by both schools. Their good performance is of prime importance to the County Council. Central to the issue are the results from the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). These are used by the Government as a measure of the performance of both the Education Authority (County Council) and schools. Both Sedgefield schools have significantly exceeded the national and County averages.

The high achievements of both schools are in no small way due to the healthy competition that exists between them. Any reduction in these attainments would be a blow to both Sedgefield parents and the County Council, who it is understood would not be prepared to risk upsetting the situation by introducing unnecessary changes.

The excellent achievements of the two schools means that they will both continue to serve as two of the jewels in Durham's primary education crown.

Three fundraising success stories

Butterwick Hospice

An evening of musical entertainment featuring Flossie and the John Wrightson Band, was held in the Parish Hall on the 9th October to raise funds for the Hospice at Bishop Auckland. Organised by Joan Edmundson, the evening raised £1000 in profit and a cheque for that amount has been handed over to the Butterwick Trust. Thanks to everyone involved.

Church Tower Abseil - funds shared out

A cheque for £1027.25 was handed over to the Friends of Sedgefield St Edmund's Parish Church at the annual meeting in the Welcome Room of the church. It was half share in a recent abseil of the church tower, the second highest in the Durham Diocese. A similar sum has helped swell the funds of Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School.

The presentation was made by the organiser of the abseil Mark Cant, whose son Matthew was the youngest taking part. The aim of the Friends, which has charity status, is to help provide funds for the upkeep of the fabric of the church and preserve it for future generations.

Future plans include another abseil next year shared with the charity supporting research into Parkinson's disease. Anyone interested in joining should contact Mr Mutch on 622302.

'A Cow for Africa' update

The auction and sale of goods held in Bradbury raised a magnificent £545 through the sale of produce and donated items. The Rotary Clubs of Sedgefield & Newton Aycliffe added £450, which will allow the charity to send a cow and a number of goats. We hope to double this funding yet again by an application to Rotary International. The organisers thank everyone for their time & generosity

Santa Claus seeks Black Belt!

Preparing to do his annual collection for the Baby Unit at North Tees, Kevin Cook is appealing for a large (60 inch) black belt, to put the finishing touch to his very bulky costume. Call 621629 if you can help.

Sedgefield Learning Borough

Do you need help using a computer?

Come to our drop in sessions at 58 Front Street, on Thursdays from 9.30-12noon, and get help with Documents, Databases and Spreadsheets Making a Greetings Card Setting Up an E-mail Account Learning More about the Internet ...and much, much more

Family Learning

A range of activities & programmes where parents, carers, grandparents, children and teachers are involved in learning together; designed to help you enjoy learning, have fun and keep up-to-date with your child's learning. Examples are:

Helping in School

The Importance of Play

Reading Together

Numbers Together

Family Safety

Music Together

Maths & English Workshops

Let's Talk

Most courses run for 10 weeks and can be held in a venue close to where you live and at a convenient time for you.

There is no formal test.

For more information contact

Katie, Maggie or Zoe on

01740 656953

We look forward to seeing you

Community Safety

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crimewatch Panel

Minutes of Meeting held on 12th October 2004

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of 10/08/2004 were approved.

2. Matters Arising: Item 7 Phone Stickers, due to uncertainty regarding permanent new telephone numbers this item remains on hold. Item 8.1 Personal Alarms, after explanation from C/man it was agreed that 1) these could be offered (free) to Nurses at North Tees and 2) the age limit for free issue to Village residents is reduced to 60yrs. & over. Item 8.3 Thorpe Thewles, no further action as no one has contacted Ken Saiger.

3a) Treasurer's Report: Details of Premier & Current Account balances were provided to members.

3b) Secretary's Report: Correspondence had been: received from - Town Council, Co. Durham Foundation, CAVOS, Durham Police, & National N/H/Watch; and issued to - Town Council, Co. Durham Foundation, & Durham Police.

4. Representative Reports: **4a) Village Constable:** PC Keith Todd circulated the Crime Report (1/8–12/10 2004) which detailed **32** reported crimes; summarised as **10 Theft**, **3 Burglary**, **10 Property** related & **9 Vehicle** related.

Keith provided members with further details, his concerns and aspects of on going activities to reduce crime in the village. Members were particularly concerned at the ongoing anti social behaviour from young persons and drink-fuelled crimes (not just the young). Keith confirmed that some out of village youths were being transported to and from the village by their parents and causing major problems; following contact some of the parents are not overly concerned!

Noise from the recent function at the Race Course produced much debate and anger. The C/man advised members & the Town Council representative present that this is more properly a matter for the Village Forum to pick up & resolve.

Following the confirmed report of over 100 phone calls to the Police not recorded (by the Police) regarding the noise issue the C/man again reminded the Police that the installed Ring-Round system is simply not being used (by the Police) to residents and this is to the detriment of N/Hood Watch and all the residents of Sedgefield village. Sarah Norman in acknowledging the difficulties experienced advised of progress hoped for in training more Officers in the use & benefits of Ringmaster.

4b) Crime Prevention Officer: Apologies received from Neil.

4c) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Sarah reminded everyone for the need for increased home security in the dark nights, use of lighting & timers, operation DARC, & her hope to have timers/lamps available to purchase at the next (December) meeting.

4d) Community Force: Tim distributed copies of Task log for our Village and responded to queries from members. Tim described in detail his work in the village and how he is able to liaise very effectively with Keith to improve some of the longer standing areas of concern to members.

5.0 AOB: **5.1** A member raised 2 traffic issues that the C/man advised should be raised with the Road traffic group of the Village Forum. **5.2** A member brought to PC Todd's attention details regarding older teenagers at the old cemetery. **5.3** The C/man recorded the Panel's thanks and appreciation to PC Todd & Sgt. O'Connor for their efforts at rounding up youths involved with anti social activities in Wykes Close recently, and their ongoing commitment to prevent repeat events.

Raffle Held after the meeting raised £20.00.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th December 2004 at 7pm in Parish Hall.

Minutes of the AGM held 12th October 2004

1. Apologies Now recorded separately as at all Panel meetings

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of 14/10/2003 were approved.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Reports: **4a) Executive Committee:** The meeting C/man circulated a written report for the year ending September 2004 on behalf of the Executive prepared by C/man Ken Saiger. The report was endorsed and adopted by members present.

4b) Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer circulated written details of the audited accounts for the year ending 31/08/2004 to all present. The audited accounts were endorsed and adopted by members present. The C/man recorded his thanks for the excellent work by the Treasurer during the year; members gave a resounding show of their appreciation to Cassie for her work over the last two years as she stood down from the post due to work commitments.

5. Election of Officers: No new nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary were made; existing post-holders offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected. Phyllis Hillerby was proposed, seconded and elected to the post of Treasurer. All in post Executive members agreed to stand for another year and were duly re-elected. Due to two resignations during the year and with no new nominations for the Executive Committee there are two vacancies.

Elected:

Chair - Ken Saiger

Vice Chair - David Hillerby

Secretary - Joe McKenna

Treasurer - Phyllis Hillerby

Executive Committee -

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and:

Sheila Ewbank, John Fawcett, Jeanette Garbutt, Wilf Garbutt, Phyllis Hillerby, Mary Hodgson, Sue Small & Cassie Wilson.

6. Constitution Amendment: The circulated amendments 5.0 (a,b&c); 7.1 (a&b) and 8.5 approved by the Executive were adopted by members present.

7. AOB: The acting C/man David Hillerby reported to members that Ken Saiger was recovering from his operation in hospital and due to his health problems he had not been able to nominate a Street Contact of the year. David felt this was indeed appropriate and enabled him to make the award instead to the most deserving member of our Panel, Ken Saiger.

This was supported resoundingly and Ken Saiger was awarded with the "Chairman's Award for 2004".

PC Todd reporting

Once again the young persons of our village and their friends are letting themselves down. Like many bored teenagers before them, they claim "there is nothing to do". However, the difference this time is not just the gathering of gangs of youths in certain parts of Sedgefield. It's the noise, litter and general unruly behaviour, sometimes alcohol fuelled, which draws our attention. Damage to garden fences and to a vehicle which had been jumped upon will not be tolerated. I and other officers will be out in plain clothes and in uniform to catch anyone misbehaving. Police action will follow, so be warned! Areas to avoid are Ceddefeld Hall, Wykes Close and the area around the ponds.

Until next time, **Keith**

Keep healthy this winter

The Primary Care Trust is encouraging all over 65s to have a 'flu jab to avoid becoming ill this winter, as 'flu can be so much more severe for the older generation.

The advice also applies to anyone who has chronic heart or chest problems, kidney disease, diabetes or problems with the immune system.

Below - It didn't hurt a bit!



Progress around Hardwick Park

Work on the Lake & Dam was delayed during August due to the bad weather. Now it is progressing, the pouring of the concrete for the Dam facing is about to take place. The water control chamber behind the Dam is almost complete & the Bottle Pond is to be restored. At the edge of the Lake it has been necessary to cut into the slope on the Temple side to get the correct profile. The two inlets on the eastern side have been excavated.

Work on the Gothic Seat, Gothic Ruin & Temple is due to start on 1st November. The Gothic Seat will be a total rebuild, including the steps. The lower level of the Gothic Ruin will be re-pointed before the Tower is built up to full height; the foundations are soft, so the ground has been stabilised. Some original stone will be used for the rebuild of the Temple but a lot of new material will be sourced from Dunhouse Quarry (English Heritage has agreed this). William Ainley's of York have been chosen to do the stonework for the buildings.

The siting of the Heritage Resource Centre has been adjusted by about 4 metres south to avoid mature beech trees, & the building, and the exhibition & interpretation work in the Resource Centre is going out to tender.

Archaeologists have been looking inside the Temple and have found floor tiles and the remains of lath & plaster work. There is evidence that the outside render may have been coloured. The Bono Retiro has been excavated; window & door arches are to be reconstructed & brickwork stabilised. Further investigation is required following the discovery of an under-floor heating system running from the fireplace. The Bath House has been found to be on a bigger footprint than expected and more investigation will also be done at the Round Pond. Looking to the future, next year will see work on the Serpentine River and Round Pond, the Circuit Walk and the Grand Terrace.

Bad luck comes in threes!

Two hours after landing at Naples Airport the three of us had discovered that we had just one suitcase between us! We made our way to the hire car pick up point took the route recommended on our RAC route map. Fine if we had gone out of the correct exit but no. After a few minutes we stopped at some traffic lights. There was a loud **bang**, the rear window shattered, a hand reached through and grabbed a handbag. A fleeing figure could be seen jumping on the back of a motor scooter which drove off in the opposite direction.

500 Euros, credit cards, passport and mobile phone all gone. What to do? Fortunately, the locals were very different to the robbers. A couple on a motor scooter stopped to help. They lead us to a service station where they flagged down passing Carabinieri and explained what had happened. An English speaking colleague was summoned and in the meantime the staff of the service station had vacuumed out all the broken glass from the car. We were lead to the police station to make statements and were told we were lucky as the window was probably smashed using a gun handle!

Afterwards they guided us to our hotel – it was dark by then and the place looked very different. Next day Avis provided a replacement car without a quibble, but our luggage took two days to arrive. From then on though, we had a marvellous holiday, visiting Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Sorrento, the Amalfi Coast and Salerno, and our flight home was uneventful. And the third bit of bad luck? One of us spent a week taking photos...with no film in the camera!

John Fitzpatrick

New Improved SedgefieldWeb

In a bid to improve the online experience, the Home page and Main Menu of your community website have been merged, reducing the 'clicks' required to get the info you need. Comments will be much appreciated.

Almost every day brings new messages, dates for the calendar, information & photos of events, people and places. So if you want to know what is happening, when and where, let your mouse be your guide. Go to **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk** for 150 pages of local news & information; you are sure to find what you want. If you have anything of interest to others, send it to tim@sedgefieldweb.co.uk or drop it in to our office at 58 Front Street

Tim Randall

November BANDSTAND

101 Gigs 06 - Ox Inn, Stanley

07 - BLACK LION, S'FIELD

13 - Garrick, Stockton

18 - Cleveland, M'brough

20 - Penny Black, Hartburn,

27 - Princess Alice, M'brough

28 - Normanby, Normanby

Nirvada 11 - Three Tuns, G'shead

26 - Wheatsheaf, Spennymoor

30 - Elgins, Redcar

Sports Update with Chris Lines

There we were last month, promising news of table tennis, motorgrass racing and goodness knows what else, and here we are now with something completely different! That's the thing about sport in Sedgefield. There's such a variety of activities to choose from that sometimes we simply have to change course abruptly and report the hottest news we've been sent.

So it is that this report is going to be dedicated to the sport of squash.

The most that the majority of us know about squash in Sedgefield is that it all seems to happen in one rather non-descript brick building, from which every now and again we hear funny grunts and other noises. Well, how wrong could we be? The club has been in touch to set the record straight and provide a review of its very lively programme.

Sedgefield Squash Club is a hotbed of activity, despite being a small organisation with limited facilities.

Situated in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall, membership can be arranged through Chris Rowsby (tel: 621125). The club runs three men's teams, two women's teams, as well as various junior teams. Last year, the under-13s team was joint winner

of its age group in the region. This year, the women's first team will be challenging for its championship, having amalgamated with Durham Ladies. The best placed men's team is in Division Three, though three years' ago the team finished third in the County Premier Division.

Even more exciting, **Sedgefield Squash Club can boast a world champion** among its membership.

Faith Sinclair, who lives in Shincliffe, but who has played at Sedgefield for the last eight years, won the title in the over-50 age group in Helsinki in 2003. Her reign will continue until 2006. Faith was also voted Women's Player of the Year (in Durham and Cleveland) for the season 2003/4.

Currently, the club does have a handful of current County players in the adult section, but the great news for the future is that it has loads of successful juniors – there are seven County players at present and a couple of University players.

The club runs an annual championship, individual and team handicap competitions, and monthly leagues. There is also an annual golf day, a presentation evening (with the emphasis on families) and other popular social events.

If you are interested in taking up the sport, the club does offer coaching sessions. The coaches are qualified, but offer their time in a voluntary rather than professional capacity. Specific beginners groups take place on Saturdays (5pm - 6.20pm) and the club is always on the lookout for new members, particularly in the juniors section. Additional junior coaching for intermediates and advanced players occurs on Mondays from 4.15pm. Age is no barrier to membership and suitability is more determined by the ability to swing a racket effectively! So there you are – squash is thriving in Sedgefield. Next month, we will return with some updates from our various football teams and, after miserably failing to deliver on the promises made last time, we'll be showing great 'bouncebackability' to bring you the long anticipated news about the now near mythical sport of motor-grass racing!

STOP PRESS. Some late news has just come in about Sedgefield Cricket Club's third annual sportsman's dinner. This will take place in the Coleman Suite at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday 19th November. Guest speaker is former Durham, Lancashire and England opening batsman Graham Fowler, and a £30 ticket will get you a great meal and entertainment until the early hours. To find out full details about the dinner and to book your ticket, contact Malcolm Dawes on 620514.

As ever, if you have any sports updates for the newsletter please send them to chrisjlines@aol.com.

A fascinating history of the shops on Front Street is emerging, thanks to Mr Butler, who used to do much of the signwriting. He has given us a detailed account, full of interesting snippets, which we will be sharing with you soon.

WINDCATCHING-EYECATCHING

Cruising along the A19 past Hartlepool, it's hard to ignore the two majestic figures pirouetting in the distance. However, to a minority of the public, wind turbines are completely at odds with the sacrosanct British landscape. (According to the British Wind Energy Association 74% of the British public are in favour).

However, ignoring the dissenters would be naïve and disrespectful. So let's examine some of their principal arguments from a slightly different perspective - the health one.

Turbines are noisy and the 'swooshing' of the blades can be harmful to health - this is a MYTH.

Sited at least 300 metres or more away from the nearest home, the noise of the wind itself buffers the sound of the rotating blades. They emit the same level of noise as a flowing stream 50-100 metres away. Indeed, no human being on the planet has ever been harmed by the normal operation of the 68,000 installed turbines across the globe.

The most crucial health argument of all is about the climate, which IS changing, due mainly to the release of heat-trapping carbon dioxide gas from our burning of coal, gas and oil for energy. A report commissioned

by the Department of Health in 2001 on the impacts of Climate Change, concludes that, because of the displacement of other harmful gases like sulphur dioxide as well as reductions in carbon dioxide, outdoor air quality is likely to improve with the introduction of various mitigating measures such as wind power.

Alongside our drive for 'cleaner and greener' is a longer and healthier lifespan. If the impact of climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity today, why are so many of us relying on aesthetic and nuisance arguments to place our health, environment and future generations in more danger?

Our poor comprehension of the level of risk seems compounded by our capacity to ignore the motto of thinking globally and acting locally.

In the North East, electricity consumption is rising approximately 1.5% per year. Wind power is only a part of the answer to meeting the increased demand. We could also substantially improve the energy efficiency of our homes and use healthier means of transport with no cost-low cost solutions. While there are many grants and incentives available to us, we could all do so

much more.

Creating potentially hundreds of jobs in the renewable and energy efficiency sectors would also seem a good way of bolstering the North East economy as well as people's well-being. Local communities can also benefit from windfalls such as community trust funds, better energy tariffs and lease or sale of land to develop local, sensitively sited wind farms.

While the government, NHS and local authorities should do all they can to improve public health, they cannot ignore the health of the planet on which we all depend. To disregard renewable technologies would be a bad mistake. We therefore welcome the harnessing of wind power to the benefit of people in Sedgefield Borough, especially those communities in greater need.

Neil Barnes,
*Public Health Improvement Team,
Sedgefield Primary Care Trust*

Disclaimer: These views are not necessarily the views of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust.

Further information on the wind energy debate can be obtained from

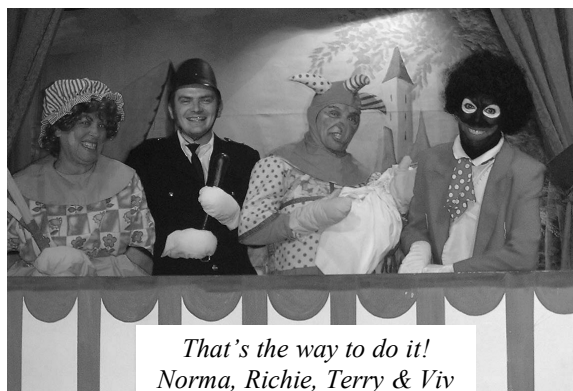
www.bwea.com & the associated campaign: "Embracing Wind Energy"
www.embracewind.com

Drama Festival news

Overall winners at the 29th Sedgefield Drama Festival were Cliffe Theatre from Eaglescliffe with 'A Man of Letters' by Tim Firth, and the Best Actor trophy went to Eaglescliffe's Barrie Robinson for an expert display of comic timing.

The Festival showcased 3 original works, two of which premiered here. 'Die Kinder' by award-winning writer Liz Sharp from the Wirral, was performed on the opening night by Sedgefield Players Youth Section (SPYS). The Peter Young Quach for Youth and the Cameo Award (Alex Tate) were awarded to the production.

Sedgefield's Richie Parry won the Adjudicator's Award for his immense contribution to the Festival as Stage Manager and for his direction of the second original play



of the week, 'The Him and I'. Set in a mental hospital, patient Jim seeks solace and advice from his guardian pixie, Graham, who resides in his thumb. Richie also provided the voice of Graham off-stage.

Sedgefield Players performed the third original piece 'That's the Way to do it!' by Alan Butler, late of Saltburn 53 Drama Group, but now carving a career in writing (2 more of his plays will be broadcast on Radio 4 in December). Set in a Punch and Judy booth, the play was commended for its very convincing setting, costumes and believable puppets. Norma Neal as Judy won Best Actress, opposite Terry West as Punch and Viv Jacobs as Golly. Richie Parry popped up again as the policeman, the crying baby and the barking dog, so next time he serves you in the post office, please note, you are in the presence of a multi-talented performer!

Norma Neal

Sedgefield Players
will present

CINDERELLA

by Alan Frayn

as their seasonal
offering this Christmas.

Full details in next
month's Diary



Developing science and learning in Sedgefield



“A place where brilliant ideas turn into successful businesses”

Top research units lead the way as NetPark opens for business.

Last month, two of the University of Durham's top research units became the first tenants to move into the new NetPark science and technology complex. Both are world-class research projects in astronomical instrumentation and digital enterprise technologies, and have been operating from the NetPark Research Institute at Joseph Swan Road, Sedgefield, since early October.

The University sees the move as an excellent opportunity to channel more of its research into the economic regeneration of County Durham and the wider region. They estimate that scores of jobs could be created at NetPark out of its research activities alone over the next few years.

We also expect news soon of the first companies to move into the NetPark Incubator. Preparing to open before the end of the year, the Incubator is already attracting a wide range of growing science and technology businesses from around the UK, hoping to benefit from onsite research support and close links with the region's Universities.

We might think of a start-up business as quite a small venture, maybe consisting of just one or two people, but it will often need quite a large amount of space. With 1700 square metres of mixed office and laboratory space, the Incubator allows a company to design its own premises with just the right mix of office and laboratory space, in a fully self-contained unit, which can be adapted as the business grows. There are other attractions

too; specialist services like business mentoring, legal & administrative support and IT service packages; market research, intellectual property management, specialist manufacturing advice - all on offer at NetPark. Durham County Council's Financial Incentives for Business scheme can give help with international joint venturing and assistance in securing venture capital or other financial support.

Incubator manager Peter Vaughan is proud to be able to say with confidence that it will provide the best environment of its kind in the UK. With all this and a scenic parkland setting close to excellent local facilities, it looks certain to succeed in attracting a new community of technology based businesses to the area.

Catch A Falling Star

On a clear night, if you watch the sky for 10 minutes, you are almost certain to see a falling star. Often called shooting stars, they are actually meteors, tiny specks of material which enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speed and burn up due to friction with the air. Many of these particles, most no bigger than a grain of sand, are associated with comets and are probably either material lost from a comet nucleus at some time in the past or material left over from the formation of the Solar System. When a particle begins to enter the Earth's atmosphere, it heats up until it becomes incandescent then burns away completely. All this happens 50-65 miles above our heads. The few that are big enough not to burn away before reaching Earth's surface are called meteorites, which are not particularly rare, though most are never found because they land in the sea or far away from human habitation.

Meteors associated with comets appear in sufficient numbers to cause meteor showers, the dates of which are well established. Some are known to have peaks of activity varying from very exciting to quite disappointing.

Meteor showers are named after the area of the sky they appear to come from; the **Orionids**, which appear to come from the constellation called Orion, and are believed to be caused by Halley's comet, started showing on 2nd Oct and continue until 7th November. Later in the year the Leonids and Geminids are likely to be most active and meteors may be seen as often as one or more per minute.

Taurids should appear between 1st Oct & 25th Nov, peaking 5th & 12th Nov; **Leonids** from 14th - 21st Nov, peaking 17th Nov; **Geminids** from 7th - 17th Dec, peaking 13th Dec and finally, **Ursids** from 17th - 26th December, peaking on the 22nd. (See Diary for local Planetarium dates). *Tim Randall*

November DIARY

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

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 1st November

from 6.30 - 7pm
in the Council Offices

Local History Society

Monday 1st November

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Local historian David Butler
will give a talk entitled
"Grave and

**Commanding Beauty:
Visitors to Durham and their
impressions of the City"**

Guests & new members welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 2nd November

at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Fred Wynn, with a talk on
Carnations

All Welcome

Tiny Steps at St Edmund's

Wednesday 3rd November

at 1.30pm

Singing & Stories for
pre-school children & carers

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 3rd November

Parish Hall at 7.15pm

Christmas Crafts -

Demonstrations & Sale

Competition for members is
'An Unusual Pin Cushion'

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Saturday 6th November

QUIZ NIGHT

presented by John Bryant

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 14th November

9.30am to 1.30pm

Local traders always welcome

Please contact Bob Harris on

07977 231815 for details

Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium & Observatory

At Thorpe Thewles (formerly Castle
Eden Walkway Country Park) with a
72 seat auditorium

Friday 5th November 7.30pm

**What's up in the Sky
this month?**

Friday 19th November 7.30pm

**The Lord of the Rings:
Cassini explores Saturn**

All public shows £3/adult,
£1.50/children and concessions
Please be seated 15 minutes before
performance starts

Tel 07140 630544 to book seats

www.planetarium.btinternet.co.uk

SPYS Showcase

Sedgefield Players Youth Section
present an evening of

Drama, Dance & Song

Fri & Sat 12th & 13th Nov

at 7pm

Tickets £5 (£4.50) from Selections
or members of the Players

Sedgefield

Family History Group

Monday 15th November

at 7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Carol Cook

"Bits, Bobs Bygones"

*New members interested in
Genealogy are always welcome*

Sedgefield Development Partnership AGM

will be held in Ceddesfeld Hall
on **Tuesday 16th November**

at 7.30pm

All are welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 16th November

7.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall

Open Meeting

Flowers for Christmas

with Lyn Constable,
National & North West Area
Demonstrator, Judge & Teacher
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield

Community Hospital

November 17th at 1pm

in the Hospital Foyer

"Christmas Fayre"

All are welcome

Sedgefield Races

November meetings

Tuesday 9th November

First Race at 12.50pm

Tuesday 23rd November

First Race at 1pm

*There will also be a Farmers'
Market at this meeting*

Defend Our Village Environment

Public meeting on

Old Beacon Lane

Thursday 18th November

7pm in the Parish Hall

*We urge all residents of Sedgefield
to attend as there are issues that
could affect the whole of the village*

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 25th November

at 7.45 in the Fletcher Room,
Parish Hall

Kevin Bayes of the RSPB

Teesmouth International

Nature Reserve

Sedgefield

Twinning Association

Saturday 27th November

at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Wine-tasting evening & dinner

All Welcome

Tickets £7.50 - Inc. main course
& dessert with min 4 wines to
taste; from Nancy Wells,
14 Queens Drive **Tel: 620467**

Country Market (WI)

Fridays in the Parish Hall

from 9.30-11.00am

Excellent value home baking,
eggs, garden produce & crafts.

Tea & Coffee served

Wind farms a curse?

I would like to put forward the opposing view to Mr Fitzpatrick's letter.

In the first instance the problem of cost comes into focus. Although wind farms may be expensive, the cost of the alternative nuclear power stations needs to include the massive outlay for research and development, waste disposal and accident liability, all paid for by the tax payer.

Next there is the issue of global warming itself. Mr Fitzpatrick's letter mentions that global warming is a natural phenomenon, which it is to a certain extent, but due to the damage that we have done to the atmosphere by releasing billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into it that rate of change has accelerated immensely. Data collected by many scientists around the world shows a definite correlation between the rate of increase in CO2 levels and average rise in temperature, which is what has focused the world into looking at other ways of producing energy. The fact is that our current supply of coal oil and gas is finite, and when it does run out we need to have alternative methods of producing the unimaginable amount of energy that we demand. Nuclear power may be that solution, but this also comes with its problems, such as the disposal of hazardous radioactive waste. Mr Fitzpatrick says nuclear power 'surely is a much more effective & non-co2 producing alternative to coal oil and gas.' It has been shown in a study (Institute of Applied Ecology in Berlin) that a nuclear power station indirectly emits between 376 billion and 1300 billion tonnes of co2, releasing 4 to 5 times more co2 per unit of energy produced as renewable energy

sources (New Scientist, 18/09/04). This therefore cannot compete with supplies such as wind farms that have no co2 emissions associated with them' directly or indirectly. The renewable energy production of the UK currently stands at less than 1 % and in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol we need to have reduced our co2 emissions by 8% by 2010. But how is the government supposed to achieve this target when proposals to develop the renewable energy supply and reduce carbon

dioxide are being protested against? People may not find the wind farms aesthetically pleasing, but surely they should be preferred when compared with the destruction of animal's environments, rising sea levels and major changes in the world's oceans.

Or maybe we should just build a nuclear power station at Castle Eden Walkway, which would of course be *much* easier on the eye.

Would that keep everyone happy?

Rachel Bell

A message of thanks

Dear friends, A fantastic weekend! I was *stunned* that day, September 25th. 4'clock on a Saturday afternoon and there must have been over 100 of you there in the parish hall for tea!

It was a lovely and uplifting way to say Goodbye to us, with excellent food in enormous quantities and an opportunity to speak to so many of you. I was particularly delighted by a card so many of you had signed, and drawings from the current crop of Sunday School children.

Some of you have contributed to the parish's gifts to us without knowing what they would turn out to be. A magnificent vase of flowers and wine for Alison, a stole specially designed and made by a friend for me, and a very substantial cheque for us both. We have also received numerous cards – thank you very much for each one. The cheque means that after a long, wet summer we can have a holiday somewhere warm and exciting. Marrakesh. - the Atlas mountains - Sahara, maybe. It becomes possible because of your kindness. Thank you.

The stole was designed specially for the occasion. A music stave in gold

thread twists sinuously up and down, with blues of the sea and the sky and the water of new life. On one side are the notes Alison sings, opposite those I sing at the same magnificent moment, to the words "Praise to the holiest in the height" in Elgar's setting. There is a Galilean fishing boat, and opposite it Hartlepool Renaissance, the boat we have sailed in on clergy pilgrimages several times. There is a phoenix of resurrection and a dove of the Holy Spirit. There is a scattering of silver dots depicting notes, perhaps, or splashes of water, or spangles of joy, or someone plain dotty! It is very personal to us and a work of art, too. Then there was 26th September - singing! Thanks to everyone who put so much time and energy into the splendid choral evensong which took place on the Sunday evening? Evensong is no longer most people's entertainment of choice, but believe me, it was another fun event, buoyant, joyful. It affirmed the human spirit before the mystery of life. Excellent! Again, my deep thanks to all concerned.

Alison joins me in our thanks, and in wishing you all God's blessing.

Martin King

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the community-based regeneration network



**Copy for December by Nov 15th to
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