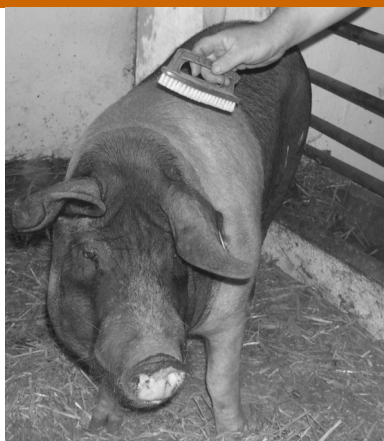


# Sedgfield News

Insert  
logo

By the villagers for the villagers of Sedgfield, Bradbury & Mordon  
October 2004



## Have you seen the little piggies...?

No, not a Beatles revival but news of a very successful breeding season at the Community College. Rosie & Duchess, rare breed British Saddlebacks sows from champion Rosette and Grand Duchess stock, have between them produced no fewer than 16 healthy, noisy youngsters! Gerard Lennox, (pictured admiring and grooming his charges) has big plans for the little farm, which also takes care of a ménagerie of rescued ducks, goats, geese, greyhounds and cats. He is very proud of the effect that the course has on his students - in fact a surprising number of them go on to work in one of the diverse branches of horticulture & agriculture. Plans for next year include the erection of 2 poly-tunnels so that a horticultural enterprise can be set up. They hope to be able to supply fresh vegetables to people who are unable to get out to buy. As for the little piggies, well, rare breed pork attracts a very good price! But with luck, there will be more where these came from.



Meet Duke - next year's big daddy! Also Ben & Jo, the beautiful greyhounds, & goats - Vera (the pretty one) & Tyrone - he's the one with his foot in the ducks' feed bin!



Next time in Sedgfield News: Coast to coast on a bike in one day?

## Work in progress at new SDP premises

**Would you like to learn something new at 58 Front Street?**

**Basic Computer Skills**

**or an Introduction to the Internet?**

Yes?? Then ring **Zoe or Maggie** on

01740 656953 to book a place

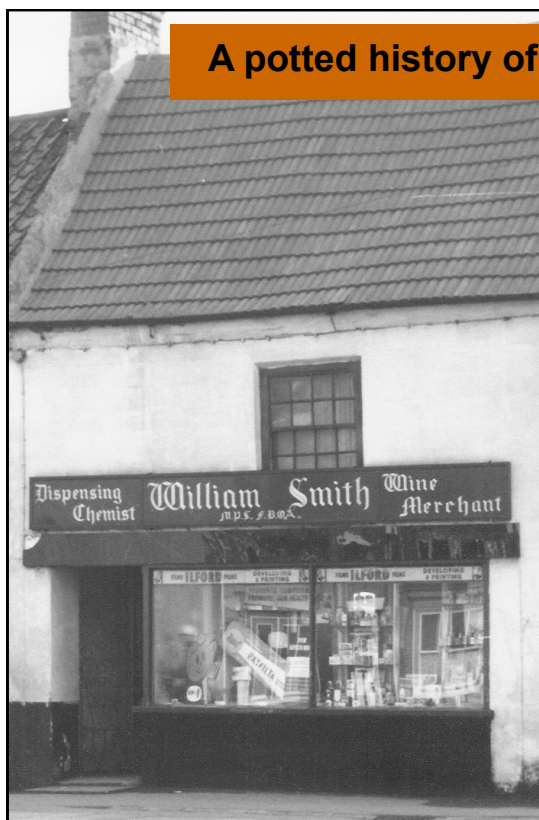
**Call us now!**

You can tell us what else you'd like to learn, so we can arrange more courses for you and your friends in 'the Zone' at no 58.



*Barclays volunteers Jane, Andrew, Dave, Trevor and Janice, 'getting stuck in' at 58 Front St.*

## A potted history of the shop at number 58



Until 1945, 58 Front Street was simply a cottage, but in 1945, pharmacist William Smith moved his business - notice it was a wine merchant too - from the old Co-op into the old cottage next door.

When he moved on in 1959 it became a Bread and Cakes shop, before standing empty for a while. Then from 1963-1977 Mrs Rita Saunders ran *Rita's* Hair Salon, before Mr Ronnie Mann opened his Turf Accountant's business in 1977.

Finally it was Sedgefield Jewellers, under the ownership of Mr Dave Wilson, from 1996 until early this year.

### Sedgefield Development Partnership AGM

will be held in Ceddesfeld Hall on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm

### DEFEND OUR VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT (SEDFIELD)



We are pleased to announce that the next meeting about Old Beacon Lane has been arranged for 7.00 pm on 18th November in the Parish Hall. We urge all residents of Sedgefield to attend. This issue could affect the whole of the village.

### Citizen of the Year

Do you know someone who you feel has made an exceptional voluntary contribution and who really cares about this community?

You could nominate them for the Citizen of the Year Award, organised by the Rotary Club of Sedgefield with Sedgefield Development Partnership.

Pick up a Nomination Form from Sedgefield Development Partnership Office at the 58 Front Street or from Sedgefield Library.

If you can't pick one up yourself, call 629011 and we will post one to you.

**Last year's recipient was Derrick Lofthouse. Who will be the worthy winner of this honour in 2004?**

## A Cow for Africa!

The busy and ever imaginative residents of Bradbury & Mordon are raising money to send a cow to Africa. The idea is to pay for an in-calf cross-bred heifer to be sent to an African village, to strengthen the existing herd and to give milk. It seemed an appropriate way for a farming community here to give help & support to another local community many miles away.

The cost is £750 and the push for funds starts at the **Sale of Goods & Auction on Monday 11th October** (see Diary). The event is supported by the Rotary Clubs of Sedgefield & Newton Aycliffe, each having generously agreed to match the proceeds of the evening up to the value of £200. Organisers are looking for matched funding from other sources too. If you would like

to get behind this wonderful venture, you can get tickets and information from Mrs Elders on 01388 720502 or Mrs Burrows, 01388 720643.



## Games

Gamers out there will have noted the absence of our usual feature over the last two issues, but we're going to more than make up for that this time with a bumper report during what is a very busy month in our world. So, on to this month's new arrivals. There are loads of great games on their way, including the much anticipated Resident Evil Outbreak, and Conflict Vietnam from the creators of the Conflict Desert Storm series. Other up and coming games include Half-Life 2, Tiger Woods 2005, and the much anticipated Halo 2, which is already looking to be the best selling game of all time and it's not even out yet! Lately, we've been hugely impressed by another newcomer - Burnout 3 - and sales executive Adam Dawes has been checking it out in detail:

"With intense graphics and fast paced car action, this is an amazing game. It offers over 150 races and loads of cars, making it a 'must have' for Xbox and Ps2 owners. I have tried this game and was hooked after the first few races, or at least once I learned how not to crash so easily (though it's the crashes themselves that make this game unbelievable). The simulation is just brilliant. Burnout 3 gets a Retro World Games 10/10 rating."

To celebrate the launch of Burnout 3 we have a special competition for all of you gamers. BURNOUT 3 TAKEDOWN is due to start by the time you read this. Visit the shop to take part in the competition, based on this fantastic new game. You can also have a look at [www.retro-world.co.uk](http://www.retro-world.co.uk) to find out more and play games online. The arrival of new games continues apace and we know that a lot of people would like to know when to expect certain upcoming titles.

So, here are a few dates for your diary:

POKEMON LEAF GREEN/FIRE RED GBA; 1st Oct

HALF LIFE 2; 3rd Quarter

DONKEY CONGA GC ; 15th October

ROME TOTAL WAR PC; 15th October

GTA SAN ANDREAS PS2; 22nd October

CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 2005 PC; October

HALO 2 XBOX; 12th November

We could tell you a lot more, but space is at a premium, so we'll have to leave it there for this month.

Look out next issue for another large chunk of news from the busy world of gaming.

*Liam, Alan and Adam at Retro World Games.*

## Sports Update with Chris Lines

Last month's promise to broaden the scope of the sports report beyond news of Sedgefield's football teams reaped some reward, along with rumours of even more potential reward in the future. So, this issue we can turn to cricket for an update and in months to come we will have reports on the activities of our indoor bowls and table tennis clubs, along with an insight into the curiously named sport of motorgrass racing!

However, the last report also prompted a new correspondent to get in touch, and you can have one guess on the subject of that contribution?

Yes, that's right, we've got some more football news for you and of course it's very welcome.

But first to cricket and a summary of Sedgefield Cricket Club's recently completed season, which concluded with the end of a near 20 year association with the Durham County League. The Club bowed out in style. The 1st XI finished in their highest league position for over five years, while the 2nd XI also stayed in the upper reaches of their league and had a cup final pending at the time of the newsletter going to press. In addition, Sedgefield is one of the few clubs to have a 3rd XI and run four junior teams, so there is plenty of great cricket activity in the village.

The club once again hosted the final of the Captain Ramsden Shield, a highly respected cup for 1st XI teams across the region. The final has been held in Sedgefield for over 15 years and this year saw a victory for Lanchester over Whitburn. As one season finishes, preparations are underway for the next, when the club will make its debut in the NYSD.

Meanwhile, the main fundraiser of the year takes place at Hardwick Hall in November - look out for more details of that in the next newsletter.

In the world of football, we're going to concentrate on the Black Lion team this month, now sponsored by local companies Parsons Containers Ltd and U Hold The Key. Last season, the team enjoyed great success in the Trimdon and District Sunday League, finishing as Division 2 League Champions and Cup Winners, and being narrowly beaten in two other cup finals. This term, the Black Lion has moved on to the Durham and District Sunday League, joining Division 4, and the team got off to a great start with a convincing 4-0 cup victory over Premier Division Spennymoor Quinns in the first game of a hectic August schedule.

Results since have been somewhat mixed in the league, but the team is going great guns in a number of cups and has recorded a notable away win over Bishop Auckland Belvedere in the County Cup. Everyone in the club is confident that this will turn out to be another successful season. Look out for more on the Black Lion and the other teams in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

**Meanwhile, don't forget to send any other sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com) and get ready to hear all about motorgrass racing next month!**

# Community Safety

## Community Force Officers become Neighbourhood Wardens

Some 10 years ago Sedgefield Borough Council set up the embryo Community Force which operated until the end of 2000 when a Government grant of £13.5m of matched funding was given to local authorities.

The Council's share was used to slowly introduce Neighbourhood Wardens, the first one in the West Ward of Newton Aycliffe followed by two more at Dean Bank and Ferryhill Station.

This resulted in a marked improvement in behaviour and it was decided that the Community Force personnel would become Neighbourhood Wardens.

The Community Force was on call for 24 hours of the day but it became difficult to justify cover from 10pm to 6am. So, from 3<sup>rd</sup> September the Neighbourhood Wardens will be accessible to the public from 9am to 5pm each weekday with a mobile response unit 5pm to 10pm. Hours will, however, be flexible to work around community needs. There is also a mobile CCTV camera available to cover hot-spots (it has already been used to watch over the club).

**So now, meet neighbourhood Warden for Sedgefield, Timothy Spearey...**

First a short pen picture of myself.

I'm 56yrs old, married to Carol for 32 years with a son and daughter and one grandson, and I have been operating in Sedgefield Village for about 3 years, first as a Community Force Officer and now as your Neighbourhood Warden. With the change of role come some extra powers and I would like to explain a bit more about that. I can now use fixed fines to deal (mainly) with Dog Fouling and Litter, so I would like to let everyone in Sedgefield, Mordon and Bradbury know that I will be looking out for people who don't behave responsibly and clean up after their dogs.

There are free Dog Bags in the Library and Council Offices and from the Mobile Library. I will have a limited number with me when I am on patrol, and will also have supplies at my office in Ceddesfeld Hall. **They are free and you can have as many as you need.**

If I do find anyone out for a walk and leaving behind the remains of their pet's dinner then I will ask them to clean it up. If they decide not to, my gift to them will be a request to pay a fine!

I hope to organise a 'surgery' soon, where anyone can look in for a chat or to let off a little steam, so watch out for dates and times. In the meantime you can contact me on 01388721351 Ext 8853. Until then, thank you for your co-operation.

*Yours, Tim*



*Timothy Spearey,  
Neighbourhood Warden for  
Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon*

## Your Medicine Cabinet: is it time for a clear out?

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust is encouraging us to clear out the cupboard and take old prescription medicines and over the counter remedies to your local pharmacy, to be disposed of safely.

**Out of date and unused medicines can be dangerous, especially for children and the elderly.**

It's a sad fact that many poisoning cases occurring in the home involve medicines.

## Reported Crime in Sedgefield from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> September

13 incidents of damage were reported, 4 of which involved motor vehicles; one person was arrested in connection with damage to a garage. Smashed windows stand out as a frequent occurrence.

5 thefts and 3 burglaries took place, and two people were arrested; one for the theft of a quad bike, which was recovered, and the other in the house burglary described by PC Todd.

## PC Todd reporting

I'm pleased to say that the criminal doesn't *always* get things his own way. Take the other week for instance. A wanted criminal from Wolverhampton area was staying in Sedgefield, contracted to work on a local building site. However, on his very first night here he picked the wrong house in The Orchard to burgle! He was chased very promptly and caught with the occupier's wallet on his person. Well done to those involved.

## Pub Watch

It is with regret that I announce that Peter Hamilton has resigned as Secretary and withdrawn the Hardwick Arms from Pub Watch. He has been a great support to me since he joined 2 years ago.

Pub Watch is still very active and well supported by all the other licensed premises. I look forward to working with the new Secretary, David Owens from Ministers. Till next time,

*Keith*

## Meet Nurse Elizabeth Green , training to be a Nurse Practitioner

I have been one of the surgery's Practice Nurses for a number of years, and am currently undertaking further training to qualify as a Nurse Practitioner. I am in the third year of a BSc. (Hons) degree via the University of Lancaster, which incorporates the Nurse Practitioner Award approved by the Royal College of Nursing. But what will it mean, and what will it enable me to do?

Well, a Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced education and clinical skills for the provision of health care. Since the 1990s nurses have been taking this step and offering a wide range of services for the whole family, providing information, advice and treatment for the benefit of health. Patients who have been cared for in this way have expressed great satisfaction with this new approach to health care.

### Why Choose a Nurse Practitioner?

Nurse Practitioners can assess a patient's health or illness and go on to treat and manage the problem in a streamlined way. They can take a holistic approach to health problems and extend that approach to the whole family unit, and also advise on a whole range of health issues, promote healthy lifestyles and can plan and support a programme of care designed to meet an individual's needs.

### What Services are provided by the Nurse Practitioner?

This is probably best explained by taking a look at what I do here at the surgery. Currently I offer advice and treatment for children and adults of all ages during both health and illness. Where appropriate, I will take a full medical history and conduct a physical examination to diagnose and treat common health problems and illnesses, and I support and monitor some patients with chronic diseases. A lot of emphasis is placed on educating patients in skills they need for independence and self-care.

I still use many of the skills gained as a Practice Nurse, which include family planning, cervical smear and sexual health services. I work closely with the team of doctors and nurses at the surgery, and minor illnesses and injuries may be referred to me. The reverse is true too - any conditions requiring more specialist assessment will be referred by me to either a GP, or another member of our multi-disciplinary team including district nurses, health visitors, midwives, podiatrist and the Community Mental Health Team. Some referrals can also be made to health professionals at Sedgfield Community Hospital and to secondary (hospital) care providers where appropriate.

I run the Teenage Health Clinic as usual on Monday afternoons (term time between 3.30pm – 5pm) with support from the school nurse. Outside these hours, any young person may request a confidential appointment with me or any other member of the surgery team. If you are unsure whether your problem is suitable for the Nurse Practitioner to deal with, our receptionists will be pleased to direct you, or else you can speak directly to me for advice.

Telephone consultations are welcome, as always.

During completion of my training I will continue to be supported and guided by one of the GP partners at the surgery. If you have any concerns, please feel free to request either a telephone or surgery appointment. I look forward to being able to help.



### The Stroke Association

As part of our campaign to raise awareness among the general public of the risk factors for stroke, we would like to hear from groups or societies interested in hearing a short talk on the subject.

Please contact  
**Pauline Penderleith**  
 Education, Training &  
 Information Service Officer,  
 at North Tees Hospital  
**01642 383113** or email  
**Ppenderleith@stroke.org.uk**

### Blooming Lovely!

Sedgfield in Bloom and Aycliffe Village hosted the Northumbria in Bloom Presentations at Hardwick Hall in September and it's well done Sedgfield for winning the best small country town trophy.

The Sedgfield in Bloom committee thank all the sponsors and helpers; and the businesses and residents of Sedgfield who helped to make the town look so lovely all year round. Congratulations must also go to our neighbour Fishburn for winning best voluntary project and to Stockton for best city award.



## Signs of progress at Hardwick Country Park

Regular visitors to Hardwick Park will have noticed that the Rustic Bridge and Cascade are finally complete. The footpath round the northern end of the Serpentine is open again and a temporary path has been put in to give access to the new bridge. There is a good view from the top of the bridge over the cleared bed of the lake and you can now see the extent of the area that will eventually be flooded to form the lake.

Work is ongoing to fill in the gap in the dam, which will then be faced with concrete and a new cascade built to imitate the original.

*Right - the Rustic Bridge and Cascade*



## Feeling chilly? So was Meg Clubley, on a recent visit home, until her thoughts turned to the fruits of the English countryside in Autumn

If you're a bit of a rosé drinking sun worshipper, then you're probably feeling a little bit cheated now that autumn's here and summer barely happened. One thing this summer did boast, however, was plenty of rain and October is going to bring an almighty glut of ripe fruit and mushrooms. Anyway, what better excuse to crack open a big juicy red, light the fire and indulge in some serious comfort eating!

But the perfect autumn meal is a blend of indulgence and resourcefulness and now is the time to look for some food for free. Hedgerows are loaded with brambles, the perfect addition to this year's abundant apples or pears for a delicious dessert. Maybe you grow your own fruit or have access to windfalls - all the better. If you know where to look for edible mushrooms, then you are indeed fortunate; the more locally you can find them, the fresher and tastier they'll be. What we need is an 'end of summer consolation menu', so let's make a start, with

### **Goats Cheese and Walnut Salad.**

Keep the salad simple, as the goat's cheese and dressing are quite rich. I'd use a base of rocket leaves. Grill the goat's cheese under a hot grill so it's runny in the middle and just charred on the outside. Throw broken walnuts over the hot cheese and drizzle with a dressing of olive oil, white wine vinegar, salt, pepper, a tiny drop of honey and a teaspoonful of pesto.

### **Wild Mushroom Risotto with Smoky Bacon**

If you can't find genuinely wild mushrooms, dried Ceps or Porcini make a good alternative. They can be mixed in with some cultivated ones; and it's always a good idea to adapt dishes to local

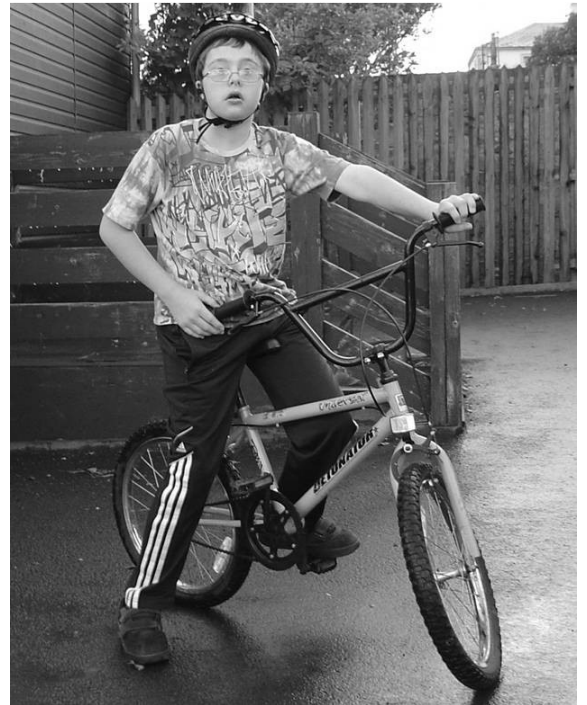
ingredients - why buy imported pancetta if you have amazing smoked streaky bacon available locally? Crisp up diced bacon in a sauté pan without oil, then reserve it. Heat plenty of olive oil in the same pan, add finely chopped onions and sauté gently until golden and soft, then add the roughly chopped mushrooms and soften. Add a generous glass of white wine (*this recipe is best cooked slowly so you may want to pour yourself a glass at this point*). Once the wine has reduced and been absorbed, return the bacon to the pan and add Arborio or Carnaroli rice, a small cup per person, and stir-fry briefly. Gradually add chicken stock, twice stock to rice, a cup at a time, allowing each cup to be more or less absorbed before adding the next. The rice is ready when it's creamy but slightly firm in the middle. Take off the heat, stir in a healthy lump of butter & serve with generous gratings of parmesan. After a rich starch-loaded dish like this, you'll want something light for dessert, so instead of pie or pudding you could try **Apple & Blackberry Fool**, with all the luxury and flavour of cream and fruit but without the heaviness of pastry.

**As for wines**, Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire is the classic goat's cheese match (Sancerre or Pouilly Fume) though a crisp nutty Vernaccia from San Gimignano in Italy would match both cheese and walnuts. Those with expensive tastes and cellars can reach for an aged Burgundy for the Wild Mushroom Risotto, but a good Chianti will also have the right balance of fruit, acidity and earthiness. If you like a dessert wine it will need plenty of acidity to cut through the creaminess of a fool and stand up to the bite of the apple. Try either a sweet Vouvray or a South African late harvest Chenin Blanc. © mlc04

## **Max says “thanks for all the fun”**

In the October school holidays my son, Max Tinkler, will be doing a sponsored cycle ride in aid of 'Sedgefield out of School Fun Club'. Max has attended the Fun Club for over eight years, since he was five. He is now fourteen and is leaving the club. The bike ride is a farewell 'thank-you' gesture for all the years he has enjoyed there.

Max has Downs Syndrome and very limited communication skills, but the Fun Club has always welcomed him and ensured that he has been given the same opportunities as every other child who attends. He has always loved watching videos in the TV corner and playing with the large selection of toys available. He has produced many wonderful 'creations' in the arts and craft sessions and as he got older the Playstation became a firm favourite. Max particularly enjoyed the school holidays when he was eager to take his packed lunch and play football outside. He has been on various trips out but always liked swimming the best. It has been lovely to see how the other children have



helped and befriended him. Max has needed extra support and we are grateful to the various organisations which have helped to fund staff over the years. The Fun Club is not run by the County Council as many assume. It was set up by parents and is run as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The Club's Management Committee are all volunteers and all money generated is ploughed back into the club to provide high quality childcare in pleasant, safe surroundings. Situated behind Rectory Row Primary School, the Fun Club is open from 7.30am-9am and 3pm-6pm Monday to Friday during school terms & 7.30am-6pm in school holidays. They are always looking for local people to help out on the management committee!

**Eileen Blackett** For information, or if you want to sponsor Max, contact the Club on 623565.

## A brief on 'unfriendly' commercial wind stations

Wind technology is promoted as being 'environmentally friendly' with claims that it reduces carbon emissions from power stations by displacing fossil-fuelled sources. Contrary to this view, much evidence suggests that the supply of electricity from wind stations promote little if any saving in carbon emissions. With the annual increase for electricity of about 1 to 2%, many hundreds of large wind turbines need to be deployed each year just to keep abreast of the annual demand. Carbon emissions savings from the present wind stations were a miserly 0.08%, although UK emissions have been increasing by about 2% a year. Large government subsidies are needed to make wind stations economic. The cost of installing a 1MW wind turbine is said to be around £1 million, not counting the cost of backup plant. A wind turbine operates at about 30% of the time; therefore 1MW of installed capacity would earn approximately £60,000 per year. Under these conditions it would take most of the operational life of a turbine to pay off the investment. The government encourages the Industrial Wind Station Developers, through a massive hidden subsidy paid by the consumer via the Renewables Obligation Certificates and the Climate Change Levy. Clearly these large subsidies encourage large-scale developments on sites of marginal wind levels. At the present time, only a small proportion (0.3%) of the electricity comes from wind power, more energy coming from

other renewable sources and the overwhelming part provided by conventional power stations. A major weakness of current wind technology is its requirement for large areas of land over which to harvest the wind energy. It is evident that as the size and number of turbines grows, their deployment will inevitably carpet the countryside. The implications of siting large numbers of 100-130 metre-high structures on hill-tops, near to woods, private dwellings, public roads, footpaths and bridleways, or close to wildlife migration routes and feeding, breeding or resting areas, are potentially serious. The deployment of these machines, with their massive concrete foundations, access roads and substations is already destroying wildlife. The wind industry is itself seriously discussing the danger presented by wind turbines to birds and bats. The influence of low-frequency noise emissions on the breeding and nesting habits of wildlife is poorly understood, but it would be surprising if it did not have a negative affect on the activities of some species. Health problems in humans living close to wind turbines have recently been documented, the symptoms ranging over headaches, migraines, nausea, dizziness, palpitations, tinnitus, sleep disturbance, stress, anxiety and depression. These symptoms were attributed to the effects of low-frequency sound emissions. Equestrians have demanded a 2.5-3.0 kilometre

separation distance between horses and wind stations because of the disturbance caused. Property prices have also seen dramatic falls close to these sites. It is therefore not surprising that there now exists a growing number of individuals and groups who for aesthetic, environmental, technical, financial or leisure reasons are strongly opposed to what they perceive as the philistine desecration of the countryside and wildlife habitats. Unless the interests of country dwellers, visitors and wildlife are protected more actively by politicians, health and safety authorities, local councils, wildlife organisations and the general public, the actual and perceived dangers associated with the inappropriate location of commercial wind stations, render many beautiful, productive and interesting regions of the country virtual 'no-go' areas. In their present form commercial wind stations are expansive in nature and environmentally unfriendly. Their spread across the North of England adversely affects the quality of both human and wildlife habitats, degrades local residential and leisure amenities, and kills large numbers of birds, bats, and possibly other creatures. This situation will worsen as commercial wind station numbers increase, and with what benefit to communities in the surrounding areas? None. A more aggressive energy conservation policy would be a more effective ways of reducing man-made pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases.

*Name & address supplied*

### from the Editor

The author of the above article takes a strong stance against the creation of more wind farms. In the interests of balance we hope to publish an equally strong article stating the case *for* this form of energy production. Please let us know what you think about an important issue which, as part of the ongoing discussions on global warming, must concern us all.

### Another of Your Letters - on Wind Power...

In reply to JH Fitzpatrick's letter about wind farms, I would like to point out that not everybody finds them an eyesore. Personally I find them fascinating and quite beautiful, and would be pleased if I could see them from our farm. Having discussed the issue with friends and with many of our bed-and-breakfast guests, I know that I am not the only one to feel that way! Far more important to me is the question of whether they are as efficient a design as they could be, and whether our money is being used genuinely to research the best ways of providing alternative energy (whether global warming is a natural phenomenon or not, fossil fuels are going to run out) or just to appease the "Green" enthusiasts.

*Judith Edgoose*



## ***Excellent GCSE results this year at Sedgefield Community College***

Staff and students can again be proud of their achievements in a year when no student is leaving without a qualification and students from Sedgefield Village did exceptionally well against their targets.

The number of higher grades has improved too. From 57 predicted, we actually had 108 A & A\* grades, while the number of students achieving 5 A-G grades was significantly above the national average.

**Two of our students, Andrew Charlton and Jayne Moyle, were in the top five in the UK from 23,111 entries!**

In English the predicted grades were exceeded, with 57% gaining 5 A\*-C grades in Literature; 51% in Language. 100% of ICT students gained A\*-C grades and results in Business Studies were also very good

We didn't do quite so well on the 5 A\* - C overall targets. You will appreciate this is the target most affected by the overall ability of the year group, and the potential of groups of children changes from year to year. Also it is now difficult to compare schools, because if vocational courses rather than academic ones are taken, they are equivalent to 4 A\* - C in one subject. So a student could get 4 A-C in Performing Arts and Drama GCSE! We think a better measure would be 5 A - C including English and Maths so that's what we have published.

The college would like to congratulate Andrew Charlton, who achieved 12 A\* - C (2 A\*, 6 A, 3 B, 1 C) and the following students who all gained 11 A\* - C Grades: Martin Brennan, John Burns, Nicole Chalmers, Laura Goldsworthy, Gemma Holmes, Emma Jacques, Laura Kemp, Joanne McHale, Jayne Moyle, Emma Rowsby (1 A\*, 6 A, 3 B, 1 C), James Stubbs, James Walton and Emma Wood. Yet another 12 students achieved 10 A\* - C.

Overall, a pretty good haul, so well done everyone; staff, students - and not forgetting the parents!

### ***A walk in the sunflower forest***



**Children from St. William's RCVA Primary School** had a great time planting sunflower seeds in front of the school during summer term. The seeds were given to St.

William's by Sedgefield in Bloom, and bloom those seedlings certainly have!

Our children have come back this term to a wonderful forest of plants, still growing skywards!

Walks through the 'forest', shade on sunny days, inspiration for sketching and poetry - all from your seeds and our tender loving care.

**Thanks for thinking of us once again; do come and see our forest if you have time.**

# October DIARY

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

## 29<sup>th</sup> Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays

Sponsored by Process Control  
Equipment Ltd.

In the Parish Hall

**Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Durham Dramatic Society:**

The Proposal by Anton Chekhov

**Statement Drama Company:**

What are you doing in there?

by Shel Silverstein

**Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Final Adjudication**

by Mike Kaiser of the Guild of  
Drama Adjudicators,  
followed by buffet, bar and party

**PLEASE NOTE!** Tickets,  
available from Selections, will be  
needed for Saturday night

## Town Councillor Surgery

**Monday 4th October**

at 6.30pm

in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

## Local History Society

**Monday 4th October**

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

**John Askwith**, archivist for the

Weardale Railway Trust, on

"The Weardale Railway

Heritage Line"

*Guests & new members welcome*

## Charity Fashion Show

**Tuesday 5th October**

**at 7.30pm**

in the Parish Hall,

Tickets £5 from

Jayne's & Chic Hairdressers

*In aid of the*

*Great North Air Ambulance &*

*Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust*

## Sedgefield W.I.

**Wednesday 6th October**

Parish Hall at 7.15pm

**"Harvest Supper"** followed by

Bring and Buy Harvest Stall

Competition: a Necklace made

from Fruit/Vegetables/Seeds

## A Mother & Toddler Event

will be held in Sedgefield Library

on **Wednesday 6th October**

starting at 10am;

stories & games for the children

& a coffee morning for the mums

## Tiny Steps at St Edmund's

**Wednesday 6th Oct at 1.30pm**

Singing & Stories for pre-school

children & carers - *All welcome*

## Community Hospital

**Harvest Festival Service**

in the Hospital Foyer

**Thursday October 7th, 1.30pm**

## Sedgefield Farmers' Market

**Sunday 10th October**

9.30am to 1.30pm

*Local traders always welcome*

Please contact Bob Harris on

**07977 231815** for details

## Sedgefield Neighbourhood

**Crimewatch Panel AGM**

and bi-monthly meeting is on

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

at 7pm in the Fletcher Room,

Parish Hall

## Afternoon Bingo

**at Ceddesfeld Hall**

**October 15th**

## Sedgefield & District

**Round Table Autumn Fayre**

**Saturday 16th October**

10am-12.30pm

in the Parish Hall.

Stalls, Refreshments, Tombola

**Proceeds to local good causes**

*Door to door collections week*

*commencing 9th October:*

*books, tins, useful bric-a-brac*

## Sedgefield

**Family History Group**

**"Quarter Sessions"**

by Norman Welch

**Monday 18th October**

7:45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

*New members interested in*

*Genealogy are always welcome*

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

in the Parish Hall

**"Florarama"**

Joan Laidlaw & Audrey

Swinburne from

Newcastle Flower Club

*Everyone welcome*

## Sedgefield Races

**Next meeting**

**Wednesday 27th October**

First race at 1.50pm

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October** in the

Fletcher Room at 7.45pm

## Country Market (WI)

**Fridays in the Parish Hall**

from 9.30-11.00am

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

*Tea & Coffee served*

## Sedgefield

**Methodist Church**

Play School and charity

Coffee Mornings

**Table Tennis Club**

Tuesdays from 7.30pm

**Mums & Toddlers**

Mondays, 1.30-3pm in term time

## Mordon & Bradbury Diary

## Bradbury Methodist Church

**Harvest Festival**

**Sunday 10th October at 6pm**

Help us celebrate at this  
traditional service. Bring harvest  
gifts if you like - or just  
yourselves!

## Auction & Sale of Goods

for Send a Cow to Africa appeal

**Monday 11th October at 7pm**

Stalls & refreshments

Entrance £1

## Halloween in Mordon

Spooky fun on this  
great night out for all the kids

**Sunday October 31st**

## Autumn ruminations from the rural fringe

"What a difference a few fine days make!"

This quotation, from a farming magazine in a difficult season a year or so ago, is as apt as I write now, in the first week of September this year, as it ever was. This morning I looked out of the bedroom window at bales of straw basking in glorious sunshine just below the Community College playing field. A week ago sodden wheat was sprouting in the field (that's grains starting to grow in the ear before the crop is cut) and a month ago there were silage bales up to their middles in water in a field over the road. We had a six foot wide torrent of water across our front lawn; something I have only seen a handful of times in fifty years. So we know it has been wet!

Now, in an Indian summer, the headlines about crops rotting in the fields have melted away while hurricane Frances pounds Florida and hits the news. At least we have some sunshine here before the economic storm. Reports in the farming press of tanker loads of cheap milk flooding across Europe from new member states and new deals between supermarkets and dairies bring the fear of another downward twist in dairy farm incomes. The cereals that are worth saving have mostly been harvested, but many arable farmers are still rushing desperately to catch up in their busiest season of the year. Next year's oilseed crops are being sown while the more unfortunate souls plough last year's ruined efforts into the ground. What state the potatoes are in after their waterlogged interlude we'll all have to wait and see. At least pesticides help ward off blight, the potato plague which caused the Irish famine in the mid 1800's. It rotted away many crops here until chemicals helped control it and it's still a risk. The sprouted wheat, having gone through the grain drier using costly oil, will go at a low price for animal feed. Where would it go if we were all vegetarian? By the time you read this, perhaps next year's cereals will be sown and the remnants of the Florida hurricane will have blown over here to drench us again, watering in the cereals and washing out the potato harvest!

**Sam Edgoose, Todds House Farm**

## PM responds to a resident's concerns

Thank you for your letter concerning the issue of Old Beacon Lane.

As your letter makes clear, at a recent meeting of interested parties (the Police, Sedgefield Town and Borough Councils, local residents and Durham County Council, chaired by my agent John Burton) there was complete agreement on the medium and long term strategies for the problems associated with Old Beacon Lane. It was agreed that in the medium term, a temporary alternative stopping place for the Gypsies and Travellers who use the lane would be found, and that in the long term a more permanent transit area would be developed to prevent the lane being used for temporary encampments.

As you recognise, the parties could not agree on the course of action to be taken at the present time, but John Burton subsequently met with Councillor Manton to make clear the views of the Sedgefield residents, and to strongly advise Durham County Council to take action in respect of Beacon Lane. I am hopeful that this meeting will result in the DCC taking prompt action to resolve the situation at Beacon Lane. However, I have been assured that at no time has Durham County Council suggested that Old Beacon Lane will be used as an official stopover site for Gypsies and Travellers. Indeed their intention with the medium and long-term solutions is sufficient evidence in respect of their intentions towards Old Beacon Lane.

The types of problems being experienced at Old Beacon Lane are not peculiar to Sedgefield, and exist on a national scale. It is for this reason that the government through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are reviewing the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers, and will be issuing new draft guidance for consultation later this year to assist local authorities. A parliamentary select committee is also presently investigating the issue. I am encouraged by the fact that there is an on-going dialogue to try and resolve the issues around Old Beacon Lane and that agreement has already been reached on the medium and long-term solutions

Yours sincerely,

**Tony Blair**

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**DEVELOPMENT  
TRUSTS  
ASSOCIATION**

the community-based regeneration network



SEDGEFIELD

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