

Sedgefield News

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current month's
colour

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

October 2005

A tale of two buildings: controversy over plans for Ceddesfeld Hall

Ceddesfeld Hall, the much loved home of Sedgefield Community Association, needs an upgrade. On that, no-one disagrees; on disabled access alone it is clear that the management faces considerable challenges.

However that is not the point which is exercising the minds of those who have contacted us since news of the application was published.

Their concern can be summed up with one word - why? Not

why does the SCA wish to invest in the future of Ceddesfeld Hall? That is well understood. The question is why does the Town Council wish to take the business of the Parish Hall to a smaller facility at Ceddesfeld Hall? In a small town with an expanding population, do we really want less public space?

In the Sedgefield Community Appraisal 2002 - a full population survey - the future of the Parish Hall was seen as a problem in need of an urgent solution. In recent years, because of noise nuisance due to poor construction of a previous extension, it became less and less possible to use the Parish Hall for the kind of events which used to give huge enjoyment as well as raise substantial amounts of money for many organisations. Many of those surveyed wished to see the Hall improved so that this once thriving facility could be enjoyed by future generations.

The Appraisal also highlighted concern that too many publicly owned community assets had already been sold off. What future is envisaged for the land the Parish Hall now stands on?

Footnote. For residents of Homebryth House the Parish Hall is one place they get to independently. For some poor eyesight or walking difficulties mean that crossing the village unaided to Ceddesfeld Hall is out of the question. Independence matters to them.

The same must apply to someone living near to Ceddesfeld Hall: yet another reason to invest in both?

Sketch plans submitted for Planning Permission show a frame structure, designed to mirror Shute House, at the opposite end of the original building, and clad to match.

It would house two function rooms (the upstairs one could be subdivided and has a small balcony) and a kitchen. A lift would be incorporated into the old building and improved toilet facilities would replace the old kitchen.

The dimensions of the extension are approximately 14.9 metres wide (plus end staircase) by 9.3 metres deep (plus kitchen offshoot).

The new building would have a cellar for storage, linked to the existing cellar for access to the lift. To achieve this, the existing building would be underpinned, requiring significant sub-structural work.

7 trees would be removed and the storage compound would go. Bike racks would be provided, and 12 parking spaces including 3 disabled (there are currently 25+). The footpath through the grounds would be diverted.

The decision on the application will be made by Borough Councillors in committee. **Comments are invited from the public up to October 4th**

Former Mayor of Sedgefield, Derrick Lofthouse writes...

I wish to add my support to the concern of many residents who are worried about the consequences of the closure of the Parish Hall and the current plans to relocate the facilities to Ceddesfeld Hall.

I visited the Borough Council offices to see the proposals for myself and, judging from the volume of documents, reports and drawings, much has already been done (though at what cost I shudder to guess). Some of the reasoning behind the exercise appears to make financial sense, but I submit that a number of very important factors have been either overlooked or quietly disregarded.

Chief among these factors is the completely inadequate provision for concerts, plays, and large public meetings or catering functions.

The actual seating capacity would in fact be less than the Parish Hall if a permanent and workable stage were included and this is absolutely necessary if the hall is to be used by the Players, Lyric Singers and the WI, or others for dances etc. It has been suggested that the Community College could accommodate these activities, but

given its restrictions and its distance from the centre of the village this is not realistic.

I am also concerned that noise transmission will become as much a problem here in the future as it is now in the present hall.

28 years ago I was involved in the alteration and refurbishment of the Parish Hall. It is interesting to re-read a paragraph from the re-opening concert programme:

"A long-standing need in Sedgefield has been a large hall - a need highlighted even more in recent years by the village growth and community development. We needed a hall capable of satisfying this need - a hall where large scale social functions could be held, ranging from dinner dances, concerts and public meetings..."

That work partly fulfilled the need, but after almost 30 years our population has increased even more than we anticipated and if we are to look to future years we should be planning for more than a "tack-on" job of limited size.

In conclusion I would ask that information on other options is made available and a public meeting arranged so everyone is aware of the alternatives.

New Opportunities at the Zone

Paralegal Training

Accredited through the National Association of Paralegals & run for Sedgefield Development Partnership by the Headland Development Trust

10 Week Foundation Course

Aimed specifically at volunteers, community workers and members of committees, who have not undertaken any formal structured training, and would like the opportunity to do so.

Units on Community Involvement, Jargon Busting, External Sector Controls, Constitutions, The Concept of Charity, Management Committees, Key Management Roles, Accountability, Running a Meeting, Conflict Management, The Way Forward

26 Week Intermediate Course

Aimed at anyone who has successfully completed the foundation course and wishes to gain a legal qualification as a Community Sector Paralegal. The programme covers: Law & its sources, How law is administered, Constitutions, The concept of charity, Contracts, Negligence, Occupiers' Liability

Taster sessions will be organised soon, prior to starting the courses. To express your interest please contact **Jackie Young** on **01429 420302**, email jyoung.hdt@btconnect.com

Skills Builder

Do you know anyone who longs to hear the words, "Congratulations, we'd like to offer you the job"? Or "Well done on your promotion, you really deserved it!" There's no doubt that getting and keeping a job is a crucial skill for both adults and school leavers.

The Zone can help. Here, trained staff can offer a 'Skills Builder' programme to help people apply successfully for a job or promotion. Learn to use the Internet to look for information and jobs. Understand and interpret those complicated job advertisements. Learn the best way to complete application forms, write a good CV and covering letter. Be confident that you can sell your skills and use the right words at an interview. Know how to listen, so you can make the best use of the interview.

Have you heard about the National Test? A recognised qualification, equivalent to GCSE level, can be taken in English or Maths. The Skills Builder programme helps people to brush up their skills so they are fully prepared for taking the tests. Passing the National Test is a great way to open the door to that elusive new job or promotion.

If you'd like to find out more about these opportunities, or to speak to a Careers Adviser, call at 58 Front Street on Thursdays from 9.30am - 12noon. Or ring Carol Smith 07764269251 or Martin Hearn on 01388 443133 and find out what we can do for you. **It's free and it's fun!**

Elaine's Great Run

Well I did it - the Great North Run in 2 hours, 35 minutes and 48 seconds, that's just under 12 minutes a mile.

The experience was amazing, running with so many people - not to mention with Scooby Doo and his friends, Batman and Robin and man-sized bananas, all raising money for worthy causes! The day was much hotter than I would have liked but that didn't dampen my spirits too much.

I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout my training, fundraising and the run itself. I'd especially like to thank the Sedgefield News for publishing my articles, and 2nd Sedgefield Brownies, Carpets at Home, Evolution, the Hope Inn and Parsons Containers for their very generous sponsorship.

Last but not least, thanks to my friends and family for keeping me focussed and motivated and never doubting that I would complete the run.

So far I have raised almost £1,100 for Cancer Research UK, with a few more pledges still to come in. It's not too late to sponsor me - just log onto my webpage:

www.justgiving.com/elainesgreatrun

Thank you! *Elaine MacIntosh*

...and there's running for all (yes, ladies too!) right here in Sedgefield

Sedgefield Running Club is not only for the experienced, but for novices too. A pace is set so that whatever your level you can build up stamina to run for longer and then faster. Although I have been running for years, a squash injury last December put me out of sport for a while and getting fit again has been more difficult than I imagined. A formal club environment is helping with motivation.

Don't be put off if you see a group of lithe and fast runners around the village on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings. Just cast your eye further down the road and there I'll be with a few others trying to catch up!

Don't forget it's best to check with the Doctor before starting any exercise but don't be shy. Have a go and see how you feel - I would certainly enjoy some more company at the back of the pack!

Jeanette Ives

Spotlight on... Sedgefield Library

Children gathered for a party at Sedgefield Library in September, to celebrate the success of the craft sessions organised by Library staff during the summer holidays. Children had enjoyed a feast of craft activities on the theme of pirates, such as mask making, collage work, paper maché models and finger puppets; they made pirate hats, eye patches and swords and dressed up as pirates. Each session catered for up to 12 children and these were supplemented by extra days catering for more children, offering entertainment by special guests, including magicians and a ventriloquist.

The whole scheme culminated in the pirate party where professional storyteller Eileen Glenton (*pictured*) entertained the children in true swash buckling style, with her special brand of pirate stories. Library staff provided party food and joined in with pirate games to make the day a really memorable one.

Many of the children attended in fancy dress and Senior Librarian Jayne Owens said she had been overwhelmed and extremely pleased at the way the children had entered whole heartedly into the spirit of things. She thought the scheme had been successful in encouraging children to enjoy using the library.

What's more, the fun continues.
(See above right).



*All ears!
The story-telling
was magic*

... Autumn half term events in the Library

Crafts sessions with a spooky / bonfire night theme, are on Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th October from 10-11.30am
Please Note: Craft sessions require a £1 advance booking fee
Regular Library events, the **Teenage Reading Group** and the very popular **Rhyme Time**, are listed on the Diary page

Drama Festival - you might just make it...

In the early 70s a local theatre manager talked of setting up a local drama festival. The Players, fed up of waiting, started their own and now the Sedgefield Festival of One Act Plays has reached its 30th year. Long may it continue!

The Festival started on September 27th and if you are reading this early enough, you might just catch the last couple of plays or the Final Adjudication and presentation of awards on Saturday 1st. We can only apologise if your Sedgefield News arrives too late.

Tickets £6 (Concessions £5) Saturday night £4 (inclusive of buffet) from Selections and members of the groups, or telephone 620091

SPYS youth section took the stage on Monday and on Wednesday and Thursday Sedgefield Players appear in two very different plays. In the hot seat this year is Colin Dolley, GODA, a fine, fair adjudicator. The festival is sponsored by Process Control Equipment Ltd. *Full report in November.*

Singing the choir's praises!

On Sunday 4th September we were fortunate enough to attend a concert in our community centre, featuring Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir and guests! What a night! To celebrate getting his degree at Leeds university and passing an audition to attend Sir Paul McCartney's world famous Liverpool School for the Performing Arts, ex 'Lyric' Thomas Guest contacted choir leader Sandy Clubley and some past choir members and this choral feast was arranged. Now I'm not sure if Sandy is a paid up member of the miracle workers union (they need help at Sunderland F.C Sandy, but maybe they are beyond help!) but after having her 26 strong choir together for only two rehearsals on Saturday and Sunday, it was "on with the

show". Ceddesfeld was packed with family, friends and music lovers and what a show. With a mixture of modern, traditional, church and international numbers the choir gave us some beautiful and spellbinding harmonies. Thomas entertained us with three numbers and demonstrated why he got the place in Liverpool. All too soon it was coming to an end but not before the uplifting "Rhythm of Life" rocked the hall! If you qualify as "youth", Sandy and SLYC would love to welcome you to choir on Friday evenings in Ceddesfeld Hall. If (like me) you are 'just' out of that age group, do the next best thing. Come and support SLYC next time they give a concert. I promise you a magical, uplifting and joyous evening. PH

Don't forget our Time Capsule competition.

Sedgefield News and the Friends of Hardwick are offering a prize of a £20 W H Smiths voucher for the best suggestion for what to put in a Time Capsule, to be located at the Temple of Minerva.

The winner will be invited to take part in the opening celebrations of the newly restored Hardwick Park.

The closing date is Monday 31st October. Send entries to

**Sedgefield News,
58 Front Street**

Sedgefield TS21 2AQ

or e-mail them to

snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Vote for the Citizen of the Year

Use the nomination form inside this issue of Sedgefield News

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch

Membership

The AGM of Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch will take place on Tuesday 11th October (see notice on Diary page). Whilst it would be nice to think there may be one or two amongst our current members who might like to assist with the running of the group, it is actually more important that the residents of Sedgefield let us know that they want a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to continue to exist even if they don't feel able to assist - even on an ad-hoc basis.



So if you feel the group are beneficial please try to get along to this particular meeting or let us know directly that you want us to keep going – for the benefit of residents!

Please Be Aware of Sneak Thieves

Sneak-in thieves will enter through unlocked doors and windows often when the occupier is in and steal anything they can lay their hands on. The most popular items being, handbags, mobile phones, purses, cash.

There are measures you can take to prevent becoming a victim of a sneak in burglary. Whenever possible keep both front and rear doors locked at all times. Consider the use of a door chain if you require the door open for ventilation. If it is not possible to keep all doors locked consider an alarm/alert, which will sound when persons enter your property. Never leave the key in the door or leave valuables on display or within easy reach of doors and windows.

If anyone would like to purchase any crime prevention equipment or would like any advice please contact

Sarah Norman, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer on 01325 742755

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

This is an initiative designed to reduce bogus callers in the area. The scheme allows anyone who feels vulnerable to nominate another neighbour to check callers to their home. Basically the resident shows the caller a card, without entering into conversation with them, which states:

I do not recognise you. Please go to (house number) who is my nominated neighbour.

They will check your identity and return with you

The nominated neighbour would then check their authenticity and return with them.

There are still some Nominated Neighbour Packs left. If you would like one, please contact Sarah Norman on 01325 742755

From crime into treatment - new drugs initiative

A new programme aimed at getting adult offenders out of crime and into treatment has been launched. The '247' County Durham Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) aims to support people with drug problems out of offending behaviour and into treatment. The 11 strong team will motivate and support problematic drug users as they present at any point in the Drug and Alcohol Action Team system from arrest to release from prison. A major part of the new service is a new helpline which will provide support and advice on all aspects of drug use. Drug users, carers, their friends and family members as well as professionals who need help will be able to call the dedicated phone number - 24/7.

The confidential helpline number is 0844 770 12 13.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau at the

Advice and Information Centre is open on Thursdays 10am – 1pm

Warning

If your gas supply is ever turned off by unauthorised persons, a qualified Gas Fitter should be called before the gas is turned back on.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a householder turn the gas back on WITHOUT first checking that ALL appliances are turned off

PC Todd reports

Garages have become the latest target for low life who are keen to relieve you of your possessions. Electric drills, grinders and hand tools have all been removed. Please check your own security before they do it for you.

I have long admired the displays of goods for sale in various high street shop windows. Recently someone took a fancy to some of these items and smashed a shop window to help himself. We are waiting for the results from CCTV and forensic evidence to catch him.

A car was stolen from the Gables area early one morning and found burnt out in Middlesbrough later the same day. Four youths were seen running away. **Think security, before going to bed.**

Bye for now, *Keith*

Tim's Tips

Key ICE (a contact number In Case of Emergencies) into your mobile phone.

Dark nights are closing in - wear something light coloured when out at night.

Remember on your way to and from school - dropping litter is an offence. If you are caught you can end up with a £50 fine.

The 2005 Directory of Community & Voluntary Organisations and Businesses

in Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon

is available from
Selections, the Post Office,
Sedgefield Library,
the Community College,
and Sedgefield Development
Partnership Office
at 58 Front Street

Price £2

HEALTH MATTERS

Nurse Practitioner Elizabeth Green writes...

I would like to extend my gratitude to those of you who so kindly helped me progress through my training as a Nurse Practitioner. You may remember me writing in this newsletter last year explaining a little about this training and what it would mean for you as patients of Dr. Jones and Partners and what it means for us at the surgeries too. Well, with a huge sigh of relief, I'm happy to say that I concluded my training earlier this year and graduated as a Nurse Practitioner (BSc Hons) from St. Martin's College in Lancaster (affiliated to Lancaster University) in July. I am currently working from Sedgefield surgery, piloting ways to deliver this new service in the most effective way. Hopefully, this can then be extended across our whole practice. In the meantime, it may be useful for you to know how and when you can choose to see me as a Nurse Practitioner as an alternative to either a doctor or practice nurse.

In the main, I can see you with any minor illness that you might normally have chosen to see a doctor for. I am usually able to assess, diagnose and treat such minor illnesses without having to refer you to another clinician, so that you will be able to leave the surgery with all that you need. I can arrange referrals to specialists

if required, or I can refer you within the surgery to GPs and nurses also if that is appropriate for you.

I am **not** a replacement doctor, and there may be times when a condition is not appropriate for me to deal with. Complex problems should continue to be handled by the GPs. In addition, my nursing background is extremely important to me and will not be forsaken. I am a firm believer that nursing care is special, and I intend to build on the established foundations within our nursing team to complement my practice in this new role.

That leaves only two things left to say. Firstly, if you are not sure if I can help, all you need to do is ask. Whilst we try our best to help, please bear in mind that this role is new to us too, and there may be one or two hiccups until we get it right – your suggestions are always welcome. Secondly, thank you whole-heartedly to the many 'patients' who have allowed me to 'practice' on them during my training – without you this just wouldn't have been possible. Thanks also to everyone at the surgery who has helped me along the way, and to my extended family for their invaluable support over the last 3 years. Looking forward to seeing you.

Elizabeth Green

Influenza Vaccination Campaign

Due to national shortages, the first batch of influenza vaccination supplies for 2005 will not arrive in the practice until 10 October. The Department of Health recommends that patients over the age of 65, and those of any age who suffer from the following chronic conditions, are vaccinated:

Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attacks, Diabetes Mellitus, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Asthma

Additionally, vaccination against pneumonia is advised for all of the patient groups above, less asthma.

If you have not received a personal appointment from the practice, and you fall into one of the above categories, please ring your surgery- 620300 - to arrange one. The priority for the practice is to vaccinate these patients first. Patients who do not fit the categories will be asked to wait until the end of the campaign.

Sedgefield Development Partnership will hold its AGM

on Monday 14th November in Ceddesfeld Hall at 8pm. You are all warmly invited, particularly to take part in an informal post AGM discussion -

"Refreshing Our Agenda"

In almost 5 years since its launch the Partnership has carried out many of the projects the community asked it to do. Now we need to identify new or renewed priorities for Community Projects. We are asking you to think ahead and join us for this important discussion so we can be sure that our aims are truly yours.

Long service awards

At the Annual General Meeting of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust on 8 September, the theme was "A Year of Achievement" and at the end of the meeting, members of staff with 25 years service were presented with certificates and gift vouchers to the value of £100. They were praised and thanked for their commitment to the people they care for and their dedication to the NHS.

Patients have their say

People across the area have given Sedgefield PCT their views on local health care services by taking part in a national survey, answering questions about hospitals, GPs, opticians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and other therapists. Though the PCT performed well overall, there were two areas of concern; having to wait more than two days for an appointment to see a GP, and other patients being able to overhear discussions at GP reception areas. The PCT has put in place an action plan to address these areas of concern.

Health care awards

An Award scheme has been launched to recognise outstanding contributions to health care in the area. **But you'll have to act fast! The closing date for entries is the 30th September.** Nomination forms are available in PCT offices, GP surgeries, dentists, pharmacies, opticians, health centres & the community hospital.

CORRECTION

Our last issue referred to changes to Saturday morning GP services. Some of the information given was incorrect. Please note corrected phone number and opening hours -

Urgent Care Centre

01388 455 455

Mon-Fri 6pm – 8am

Weekends: Sat 8am – Mon 8 am

NHS Direct is available 24/7

Telephone 0845 4647

TRAINING DAY -

Identifying Training Needs

Thurs 20th Oct: 9.30-3.30pm

A course for people volunteering and working in the community.

The day will help you to identify future training needs by exploring skills and knowledge already there.

To reserve a place, please contact

Sedgefield Community Empowerment Network on (01325) 307219.

Sports Update: *Chris Lines is back next month*

Sedgefield Crosshills Hotel F.C FIXTURES

Sunday 2nd October - Away to Chilton C.C.

Sunday 9th October - Presidents Cup - Home to Durham Victoria Bridge -
Kick off - 10.30.m

Home games meet at school for 10am

Away games meet outside Crosshills for 9.30am

Sedgefield Runners are up & running!

There's been a great response to the appeal for runners to start a running club in Septembers Sedgefield News. We began on 7th September, and have met each Wednesday since at 6pm. Now we've started on Sunday mornings as well; we meet at 8.30am outside the cricket club gates and take it from there.

There are experienced runners as well as fitness runners. It's not all about racing (see page 2). We have runners and joggers who just want to get fit and stay fit.

We will also be getting together at 8pm on the last Wednesday of each month (probably in a local hostelry!) to develop the club. We really want to get a club going that appeals to everyone, young & old, male & female, experienced and new starters. **If you're interested contact Ean Parsons on 07771 828 568 or ean2005@hotmail.co.uk**

Aikido Contact

Anyone interested in Aikido please contact Dan Crosby on 01740 621071.

Chris has been slaving away at the **Seve Trophy** - nice work if you can get it! Expect a full report with backstage gossip next month. As ever, email chrisjlines@aol.com



The village pump's back!

Pupils from Year 6 at Rectory Row School enjoyed an unexpected spell in the sunshine in September, when they were invited to watch the installation of the restored Pump on the Village Green. It was removed a short while ago to be renovated as part of the scheme to produce a Heritage Trail for Sedgefield, which will start at the pump.

A new base has been laid and is an attractive setting for the pump which we hope will continue to be an important landmark in Sedgefield for many years to come. As part of the scheme, the "bullring", a vital part of the Shrove Tuesday Ball Game, also been reset and made more attractive.

A tale of two buildings

...continued from front page

A short history of the debate

The Parish Hall has been extended or altered eleven times since the first part was built in 1848.

In 2002 Sedgefield Town Council concluded that "the Parish Hall is now in need of major building work". When plans for a new hall on the same site, but separated from the neighbouring building, were displayed along with some alternative options in Sedgefield Library, 93% of comments were in favour of the complete rebuild.

The Town Council called a public meeting in February 2002 and in a packed Parish Hall the proposal to rebuild on the present site was endorsed by a large majority. However, the Town Council had already started to explore the alternative option of building at Ceddesfeld Hall, and a month later officers of Sedgefield Borough Council (the planning authority) informed another public meeting that policy relating to listed buildings meant that there would be a presumption against extending Ceddesfeld Hall, unless it could be shown that there was no realistic alternative.

Meanwhile, the SCA executive, with the onerous responsibility for managing the building, was grappling with problems which have been made more acute by the need to comply with the new Disability Discrimination Bill.

At the 2004 Annual Town Meeting,, Councillors undertook to publicly exhibit the new proposals it was developing for Ceddesfeld Hall, alongside those for the Parish Hall, which had already received public support.

Then at this year's Annual Town Meeting, under some pressure they repeated this commitment and also stated that they would present yet another scheme, based on the redevelopment of the building which houses the Town Council offices, the Advice & Information Centre and the Public Toilets.

The public exhibition to compare the options has not taken place though the public has been given a brief opportunity to view the Ceddesfeld Hall submission - an extension to a listed building on parkland of national significance (see page 8).

Still the only scheme to receive the public's endorsement is a complete rebuild of the Parish Hall.

Cook's Corner

Smoked mackerel bruschetta

Serves six as a starter or snack

225g (8oz) ready to eat smoked peppered mackerel fillets,
skinned and flaked

2 red peppers & 2 yellow peppers

1 x 340g (12oz) packet of fresh or frozen garlic bread slices

olive oil, salt and black pepper

Parmesan cheese shavings, to garnish

Preheat the grill

Grill the peppers, turning frequently until the skin turns black. Once blackened, place in a plastic food bag and secure the top.

The steam from the peppers will help to remove the skins

Cook garlic bread according to instructions

Remove the skin from the peppers, discarding stalk and seeds.

Cut into long thin strips

Place mackerel into a bowl & stir in peppers

Top each piece of garlic bread with strips of pepper and flakes of mackerel

Drizzle with olive oil, season & top with Parmesan

Place under grill for a few minutes.

Recipe taken from a 'Seafish' leaflet

Our wine correspondent Meg recommends a crisp Pinot Grigio - from Italy of course - to go with this delicious, nutritious dish

Thomas Henry Harris, 1916-1944

Prisoner of War of the Japanese 1942-44

Tommy Harris married Annie Isabel (Tissie) Penna, sister of Dorothy (nee Penna) Jones at Easington on June 4th 1938. Tommy worked as a Stoneman at Fishburn Colliery and because Tissie suffered from asthma they moved in with the Jones family at 9 Beech Oval, Sedgefield.



On the 19th January 1940 Annie Isabel (right) was born, but Tissie died 3 days later of a Cardiac arrest due to asthma. Tommy was heart-broken, but a few weeks later was even more distraught when he received his call-up papers and had to leave his little girl behind with her Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Harold. Tommy went off to war and was



The unfortunate baby, Annie

posted to Malaya with the 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery. There he was captured by the Japanese and forced to work on the Burma Railway. Who knows what terrors and hardship he had to endure before he finally succumbed. He died on the 11th January 1944.

Meanwhile, back in Blighty, little Annie was growing up with her devoted family of Joneses. She was in her 12th year when on the 6th January 1953, she suffered a burst appendix, was rushed into Sedgefield General Hospital where she died. January was not a happy month for the Harris family.

My thanks to Sue Small, great niece and Ruby Close (nee Jones) niece, for these anecdotes and photographs of the Harris family. David Hillerby

Sedgefield's Other Unique Garden

Northumbria Gardens Trust recently held a "Joseph Spence Day", which started at Ceddesfeld Hall for the very good reason that the gardens are the only surviving example of a design by Joseph Spence, who was an able and innovative garden designer in the early phase of the English Landscape tradition. He was also first to translate an influential book on Chinese gardens.

These skills were brought to the North East of England in 1754 when Spence was installed as a Canon of Durham Cathedral, a position he enjoyed until his death in 1768. In Durham he developed a circle of friends and for them he indulged in his favourite pursuit of gardening and garden design. His most notable influence in the region was in the great landscaped parks of Auckland and Raby Castles.

He designed a number of smaller gardens in County Durham for friends and his own home. Ceddesfeld Hall was formerly the Rectory, and for most of Spence's time in Durham the living of Sedgefield was held by Robert Lowth, a fellow prebend of Durham Cathedral and his next-door neighbour in The College in Durham. The present house is a 1792 rebuilding of the old rambling medieval rectory that Lowth occupied.

Spence drew two plans of the quite extensive gardens which stretch eastwards to encompass much of the modern Thurlow Grange. The first, of the garden as it was, show significant features within the boundaries; the three descending terraces of the old formal garden south of the house, the mound to the south west corner (next to the path past the school field) and the large pond with its straight edged symmetry. The second was a 'proposed' plan, dated 27 July 1756, showing the same features but opening up to the east (towards 'Thurlow') to include an eastern canal. The upper terrace is retained but its boundary wall and lower terraces are removed. Near the house three informal clumps of flowering shrubs and flowers are shown, this planting was carried out some time later. Trees were planted to soften the formal walled boundaries which on the western side had a path weaving sinuously down to the mound via 'open groves' with

viewpoints from which the church tower could be seen. Much of this can be seen today. Spence shows a 'hid canal' at the southern boundary which seems to have been an existing feature and proposed screening it from the house by an ash-grove split into two clumps. The canal would seem to relate to the mound from where it could be viewed axially. The existence of the canal, evident in the hollowed ground, has also been attested to by older residents of Sedgefield who noted how the hollow filled up with water in rainy weather. Like all the water features here it may have had its origins in the medieval rectory fishponds. He also proposed a narrow serpentine lake (not built) which would end at Hodgmore Hill near the intersection of the present day Eden Drive and Thurlow Road. It was to have been lined by a shady walk and the hill was to have a thicket planted.

Spence's advice on the kitchen garden was largely ignored and the garden was later extended south leaving no room for a path round the 'field canal' (pond). The north wall of the kitchen garden still survives, but it is unknown whether the other sides had walls or hedges.

The present day attractive but rather municipalised landscape does contain a layered history of landscape features. The undulating trees and shrubbery margin to the sloping lawns owes much to Spence's proposals, but a date for their execution is more difficult to determine.

The rectory estate did continue to Hodgmore Hill as shown by the 1857 Ordinance Survey map and, although Spence's serpentine river was not executed, the vantage point the hill affords of the open countryside and of the church tower to be enjoyed returning, are fully exploited in a tree-lined walk and a small garden set beside the wooded hilltop.

The SCA's application for a substantial grant in the region of £50,000 is timely but it is to be hoped that if it is successful, some sensibility towards Spence's design will be shown.

John Fitzpatrick

The plan obtained from Yale University is unclear at the scale we would have to use, but you can study it on

www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

The Red Planet

The Internet is a wonderful source of information and misinformation. Recently e-mail messages have been circulating suggesting that Mars will be exceptionally close to the Earth this year. **These messages are actually two years old!**

In August 2003, Mars was as close to Earth as it would get during that year and that was the closest approach for 50 000 years. This year Mars will reach its closest in late October and early November – about 43 million miles (70 million km). At this time it will be opposite the Sun in the sky and therefore due south at midnight. Because of this, the event is called opposition. The naked eye will show the red colour of Mars and can be used to follow its apparent movement amongst the stars. The word planet comes from the Greek for 'wanderer' because whilst stars appear to stay still, relative to one another, planets wander slowly across the sky. They change position only a little from night to night but over a week or two, the change is noticeable.

With binoculars, the red colour will be even more obvious and it should be seen as a tiny disc. A small telescope may show some dark markings, white polar caps and perhaps even signs of dust storms. A medium to large telescope can show plenty of detail but only if the Earth's atmosphere is still. Drawings and photographs produced by amateurs are still considered important to astronomical research.

Mars is currently under close scrutiny from two NASA

Exploration Rovers, which have taken many images and examined rocks in minute detail since landing in January 2004. They are looking particularly for geological evidence of the effects of water. A European spacecraft, Mars Express, in orbit around Mars since December 2003 and thousands of detailed, stunning photographs have been taken. It is currently using radar to search for water below the Martian surface. We can confidently say we won't be invaded by Martians, but Mars has much to offer to the dedicated and casual observer alike, and even mouse-clicking astronomers can explore it in detail. See your Community Website **www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk** for more information and links to other relevant websites.



Developing science and learning in Sedgefield



Farmer's Market Update

The September Farmers' Market was the busiest to date though I don't know if this was because of the extra stalls, the lovely weather or both - I'm not quite sure. Anyway, **David & Ann Mellanby** finally caught their breath after selling all those vegetables - those of you who have bought from Mellanby's know they are worth queuing for!

It was Michelle Mason's first ever market, which, take my word for it, is a daunting prospect! Her handmade cards were very popular you can be assured that she will be back in October.

Skinningrove Country Wines will be here this month, assuming the relevant licence is approved. They produce a wide range of wines including Apple, Nettle and Elderberry (their Cowslip's my favourite). I hate to mention the 'c' word - Christmas - but a bottle of wine from Skinningrove could make an ideal gift!

Have you seen the media coverage recently on Burtree Farm? Lea & Robert Darling have been great supporters of Sedgefield Farmers' Market and we are very pleased and proud that their Sticky Toffee Pudding won Supreme Champion in the national Great Taste Awards 2005. What an achievement!

Farmer's Market Prize Draw

As a thank you for your support we will be holding a free prize draw for a massive basket of goodies - all donated by the stallholders.

All you need to do is come along to the market before 12noon and write your name and address on one of the special entry forms.

The Mayor, Cllr Maxine Robinson has kindly agreed to pull out the winning form at 12.15pm.

If you have any queries about the market don't hesitate to 'phone me on 0774 3337960. *Joanne Martin*
Farmers' Market Co-ordinator

The next Farmer's Market is on Sunday 9th October from 9.30am till 1.30pm on the Village Green.

Community College Excellence: *Lynne Ackland writes*

Last year I urged you to be proud of the college and to work with us to improve and develop. I would like to thank you for your support and confidence. I'm delighted to tell you that this year's GCSE and National Test results have again exceeded all targets and achieved the accolade of being one of the most improved schools in the LEA. 64% of our students achieved 5 or more A*-C Grades at GCSE, and those living in the area covered by Sedgefield News did incredibly well, with over 80% gaining 5 A*-C Grades.

Our National target, based on the ability of the students, was 51%, so we beat it by miles! This result is based on GCSE and not vocational qualifications (in other words, we don't send students out with GNVQ Arts and Drama and then claim excellent results): we value a broad, balanced education. So all our pupils did better than expected according to their performance at primary school! The primary schools are fantastic so we have 'added value' to their already superb results. In fact we have the greatest 'value added' of any secondary school in the Locality. Also, 95% of our students left with 5 GCSEs and *all* left with *some* qualifications. Prospects of success are good.

For the second year running we had the student with the highest

mark in the UK in ICT (in all schools, including the Independent sector). Congratulations to **Rachel Lock**. She receives a scholarship and help from IBM.

SATs results were also excellent. In science, 83% achieved the highest level (5+) in all of Durham, with 80% gaining this level in Maths and 89% in English. Our National targets, set from performance in primary school, were in the mid 70s, so again we did incredibly well.

Many students gained exceptional grades. Teaching and associate staff, students and the Governing Body are 'proud to bursting' with these results. We have all worked hard to get to our rightful place in the top 10 highest achieving North Eastern Schools. **Be proud!**

Membership of our Sports College and Community

Association increases every day - another sign of success. For details of events, to join the modern gym, or to book any of the facilities, contact the manager, Gillian Myers on 621097.

I believe the education of all our students is very important. Because our school is part of the community, we welcome your comments, questions & sometimes, criticism. Please don't hesitate to ring me on 625300 or e mail office@sedgefield.durham.sch.uk

October Diary

Announcements on this page are free to non-commercial organisations

Local History Society

Monday 3rd October

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

"Pits, Pockmarks and Heggerleas –

a History of Cockfield Fell"

Chris Lloyd of the Northern Echo
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Garden Society

Tuesday 4th October

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Shrub Maintenance by Ian Lacey
All Welcome

Tuesday 1st November

Herbaceous Plants

Talk & slides by Mr Dinning

Sedgefield Library

Rhyme time

Stories, songs & crafts for under 5's

Wednesdays 5th & 19th Oct

from 10-11am

(Teddy Bears' Picnic on the 5th - National Bookstart Day)

Tiny Steps at St. Edmund's

Wednesday 5th October

1.30pm Singing & Stories for pre-school children & carers

All welcome

Sedgefield W.I.

Wednesday 5th October

7.15pm in the Parish Hall

Speaker Mr G Hughes

"Cragside"

Bring & Buy Harvest Stall

Members' competition

a Turnip Lantern

New members always welcome

Planetarium shows

Friday 7th October 7.30pm

What's up in the Night Sky?

Friday 21st October 7.30pm

Deep Impact

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

from 9.30am - 1.30pm on

Sunday 9th October

on the Village Green

Please contact Joanne Martin

Tel: 0774 3337960 for details

Sedgefield Library

Teenage reading group

Monday 10th Oct

3.30 - 4.30pm

Town Councillor Surgery

Monday 10th October

6.30-7 pm in the Council Offices

Neighbourhood Watch AGM

Tuesday 11th October

at 7pm in the Fletcher Room

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Mayor's Quiz Night

Friday 14th October

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tickets £4

(includes pie and peas)

from Town Council Office

Round Table Autumn Fayre

Saturday 15th October

In the Parish Hall

Sedgefield Cricket Club

LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

Saturday 15th October at 8pm

Main guest - 'Stony' - also featuring

Nebula & the John Wrightson Band

Admission £7.50

(includes buffet)

Telephone 621347

Club available to hire for private parties, free of charge

Family History Group

(part of Cleveland FHS)

Monday October 17th

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

"They arrived in chains"

Mr Norman Welch

New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield and

District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th October

Parish Hall at 7:30pm

"Picture the Music"

Carolyn Lawson

NW Area Demonstrator

All Welcome

Sedgefield Primary School

PTFA

Wednesday 19th October

7.30pm Rectory Row school hall

"Chocolates for Chocoholics

Party"

£1.50 entrance (inc glass of wine)

Pay on the door - *all welcome*

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Country Market

Fridays, Parish Hall: 9.30 - 11am
Excellent value home baking, eggs, garden produce & crafts

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 20th October

Parish Hall at 7:45pm

"Durham's Biodiversity Action Plan"

Andy Lees, Durham Wildlife Trust

Further details on 620811

All welcome

Positive Youth Project

Film Nights

Friday 21st October

6.30pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall

Family Film (title to be arranged)

All ages welcome, but under 8s

must be accompanied by an adult

Also at Mordon Village Hall

Saturday 22nd October

Trafalgar Night

Saturday 22nd October

8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tickets £14 (includes dinner) from

Town Council Office

Halloween in Hardwick Park

Friday 28th October

Join the Fun from 6 - 9pm

Quiz Night Returns

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Saturday 29th October

8pm (bar open from 7.30)

New teams are welcome so why

not give it a try? Enjoy the

competition in our friendly

smoke free atmosphere

Contact Phil Hartshorn (620224)

for more information

Looking Ahead...

Fashion Show

by Jayne, hosted by Sedgefield WI

Tuesday 8th November

7.30 in the Parish Hall

Tickets £1.50 (inc refreshments)

from Jayne's or tel. 621049

Town Council Christmas

Shopping Trip to York

Wednesday 23rd November

Tickets £7 from Town Council Office

Bus leaves at 9.30am

Other events in November

5th Ceddesfeld Fireworks Display

14th Sedgefield Development

Partnership AGM

19th St Edmund's Church Fayre

and in December

9th & 10th Lyrics' Concerts

visit www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk

for up to date listings

Your Letters

Slow Down

I make this appeal on behalf of the residents of Winterton Cottages, numbers 1 – 10. Will motorists please slow down when approaching this stretch of road. Due to the increased traffic flow, with the recent development of Winterton Park, it is extremely hazardous for them getting in and out of their cars. Safe parking outside the cottages is limited because of the delay in the completion of the promised car park on the old allotment site, next to the cottages. *J Bellas*

Sponsored Walk for Breast Cancer Care

On behalf of our grand-daughters Francesca, Georgina and Allana, we would like to thank everyone who supported them in their sponsored walk in September.

It was a perfect day for walking and the girls, with family and friends completed the circular walk from Sedgefield, to the pond in Bishop Middleham. Everyone enjoyed it and the two hours it took to complete passed very quickly. With the generosity of family, friends, local businesses, donations from Sedgefield Rotary Club and Round Table, the amount collected to date is £1,500.

The initiative for the walk came from the girls and we think the whole project has benefited them in many ways. Thanks again.

Jack & Doris Pattison

On behalf of our grandma Joan Merrington

Joanie was the post lady in Sedgefield for 37 yrs and after a short illness passed away on 29th June. So we would like to thank all the people who helped her and us while she was poorly. We would like to thank the lovely staff at the community hospital, the district nurses and carers who came in to look after grandma before and after her stay in hospital, and to our doctors with special thanks to Dr Hearmon who went out of her way to help. Daddy and auntie Sandra would also like to thank Father Caden for the kind words he spoke and to everyone, family and friends who attended the funeral service at the crematorium.

Our grandma was loved and respected by everyone who knew her and she will be greatly missed, so this is our little way to say thank you to everyone who cared for her. It's nice to know that when help is needed it is there.

Ben & Thomas Merrington

A quick note of thanks

A big thank you to everyone involved in making the recent Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir Reunion Concert such a fantastic success.

Two days of wonderful rehearsals took place, old friends were reunited, and it ended with an amazing concert on Sunday evening.

See you all at the next reunion!

Thomas Guest

A thank you from Helen and her family



On June 1st 2005, my daughter Helen Jepson underwent a bone marrow transplant at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle following several years of treatment for a cancer. She was in remission from the disease and the bone marrow graft was successful. Unfortunately, she died on 24th July from other unexpected complications.

The match for Helen's transplant was found from the Anthony Nolan Trust Register and as such this gave her the chance of a normal and healthy life. I would like to thank all of Helen's family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances who responded to my request of cash donations in lieu of flowers at her funeral. Monies donated exceeded £2,700, which I have forwarded on to the Anthony Nolan Trust.

My wife Ann and I have derived much comfort from the hundreds of cards, letters and words expressing the love and respect they had for Helen. The fact that others may benefit from these generous donations is what Helen would have wished and it's on her behalf that I thank you all.

Derek Jepson

"There is great concern in the village about this planning application. Residents of Sedgefield have not been adequately informed or consulted about a proposal which could adversely affect village life in the years ahead."

Norma Neal, Chairman of Sedgefield Players, continues...

Residents living close to Ceddesdes Hall fear that increased usage will add to the noise pollution they suffer already and that parking spaces will be inadequate. Villagers also feel that the visual appeal of the building will be spoiled. The beautiful parkland setting will also suffer, as several mature trees will have to be felled to make way for the extension. Regular users of the existing Parish Hall include award winning local drama group, Sedgefield Players and accomplished choral society the Lyric Singers. Both are concerned that the planned extension does not include a stage and therefore would not allow performances of any kind to take place. Other users include the WI, Country Markets, a monthly craft fair and a childrens' dance group. The Parish Hall is also used for weddings and other celebrations though its use has been somewhat curtailed in recent years because of soundproofing problems.

A petition against the planning application is now circulating the village and will be presented to Sedgefield Borough Council at the beginning of October. If you wish to add your name to the list, look out for the petition in local establishments or contact me on 620091 or Becky Rowe on 629068.

Reflections

If you're walking past the Library towards the Parish Hall, look up and you will see a pair of ladies' shoes hanging over the telephone wire. Not that I want to encourage people to throw shoes, but it does remind me of Mother Shipton's Cave, where objects are strung up, turning to stone in front of your eyes, due to the high mineral content of the water. *Jane Mann*