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Sedgefield NEWS

March 2008

Japanese view of Shrove Tuesday mayhem

On Shrove Tuesday we had an enthusiastic and delightful visitor to our Bed and Breakfast. Professor Norihisa Yoshida had come all the way from Japan just to visit our Ball Game! He is researching the folk football games of Britain, and has already visited football games in Kirkwall (Orkney) and in the Scottish Borders. He spent the whole day in Sedgefield taking photos and talking to people (though he did find our accent rather hard to follow!)

He really enjoyed his day and in particular he was delighted to see a bit more of the ball than he had in Scotland. Apparently they keep their ball well hidden in a scrum and run with the ball a lot – rather more like rugby – and he thinks that might be because the balls tend to be larger or heavier. He was also surprised that our game tends to be a “free-for-all”. Other games have two distinct teams with a goal each. Maybe in former times it was more like that in Sedgefield!

He has been to the Alnwick Shrove Tuesday ball game, where they use a normal sized, modern football. “Kirkwall Ba” is played at Christmas and New Year. In Duns the game is played on the first Friday in July, and in the rest of the Borders the games are played according to a rhyme which starts...

*“First comes Candlemas,
an syne the new moon,
The first Tuesday after that’s
Easern’s Een,
And the next Monday after that
is Hobkirk Ba’*

And so on - and on and on - they have a lot of ball games in the Borders!

The professor did however point out one thing that all these games have in common. Players *everywhere* celebrate their victory in the pub afterwards! JE



Through the hoop and they're off - then it's every man for himself for the rest of the afternoon!

Photographs from a selection taken by Professor Yoshida, in pursuit of his occasionally dangerous research project.



*The winner takes the ball - and a drink! **Stephen Whitfield** doing what ball game winners everywhere do - according to Professor Yoshida*



Netpark gets green light

The highly successful science park, which houses world leading research and business innovation facilities, has been given the go-ahead to expand, after a government admission that it had been wrong to limit it to just 13 hectares. The limit is now to be 26 hectares, with MP for Sedgefield, Phil Wilson suggesting yet further expansion if this stage is as successful as the first.

Sedgefield Development Trust - working hard for our community

At the Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 11th February, members were told that the Company is currently in a stable position.

The biggest change during the year was the addition of the **DIDO (Days In, Days Out)** project, which had enrolled its 100th member that very day.

Sedgefield News is doing even better this year, and reported healthy competition for advertising space; but **SedgefieldWeb** is suffering from a lack of personnel and is therefore in somewhat of a rudimentary state.

The educational facility, the Zone, has gone into abeyance due to the lack of resources coming from the Government but the space released at No 58 Front Street is now being utilised - and enjoyed - by a highly successful **Youth Drop-in**.

A dispute with its bankers had resulted in the Trust moving its account and it has succeeded in obtaining a compensation payment from the original banker. Finances are relatively healthy with some £7,000 in the bank but the company is solvent mainly due to obtaining a number of one-off grants.

The Trust's biggest problem is lack of people willing to put in some time to help run the various projects and to allow new work to be initiated; volunteers to help with the running of SedgefieldWeb and Sedgefield News would be most welcome.

If you have time or a particular skill to offer, please contact the Trust at 58 Front Street, 629011 or email sdt@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

At the meeting, in accordance with Trust rules, three of the directors stood down by rotation and were all re-elected to the board; they were Roger Clubley, Gloria Wills and John Fitzpatrick.

W.I enjoys '90th' party

The ladies of Sedgefield WI celebrated their 90th Anniversary in style last month, with 62 members attending a dinner at Hardwick Hall Hotel. The WI was established in Sedgefield village in 1918 and, with over 80 members, it is still going strong, with members attending lectures and demonstrations on many and varied subjects. After enjoying the meal and receiving commemorative pens, members watched as Mrs Dilys Cant (the daughter of one of the founders) cut the 90th Birthday cake -baked by Mrs Terri Larcombe and beautifully iced by Mrs Julie Latheron. Mrs Yvonne Houston provided the lovely floral display of yellow roses for the table. Everyone had such a good time; they are already planning how they might celebrate their centenary in 2018!

Sedgefield Development Trust Limited Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited will hold an **Extraordinary General Meeting** on Monday 21st April 2008 at 7.15 pm at No 58 Front Street, Sedgefield.

Business to be conducted

To consider and vote upon four Special Resolutions to change parts of the Articles of Association, namely:

1. Article 10.1 to read: "The minimum number of members elected to the board will be 3, one of whom shall be the Company Secretary".
2. Article 9.2, first sentence, to read: "One representative from each of the local Councils will be elected to the board, as a non-voting member, as follows:".
3. Article 21.2, first sentence, to read: "The Company may give notice to a member either personally or by electronic mail sent to him at his registered e-mail address."
4. To add to Article 21.4 the words: "General meetings will be notified to members by the insertion of a notice into Sedgefield News, failing that in the Northern Echo".

Fitness after Fifty

'Walking the Way to Health' Open Day at Ferryhill Leisure Centre on March 12th from 10am to 3pm.

They tell us we should all try to take 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five times a week, and what better way to do it, particularly 'older adults', as we over 50s are now called, than by taking regular walks? The network of walking groups in our towns and villages encourages people to enjoy recreational walks together in the local countryside. Groups of 'chattering walkers' are now a common sight around our footpaths and lanes, with twelve groups meeting weekly to benefit from a good walk & talk session with old and new friends.

Most walks are 3 - 5 miles long, but there are shorter ones for those who lack confidence or feel they may not be able to keep up. We will look for ways to help you build up your fitness gradually and we all help each other. Part of Sedgfield Borough's 'Fit for Life Programme', our Open Day is a fun event where you can join other 50+ like-minded people to try a range of fitness activities to suit all abilities. The day will start with a taster 'health walk', approx 2.5 miles long, starting at 10am from the Ferryhill Leisure Centre Car Park. Afterwards in the Ferryhill Leisure Centre there will be demonstrations of low impact gentle aerobics, step aerobics, line dancing, using gym equipment, indoor bowls, curling, & trampolining. Leisure Centre staff and community fitness instructors will let you try new things under their guidance. We also hope to bring together people interested in recreational cycling for shared days out in the coming year. If this appeals, come and talk to us.

Admission is free, although you will be able to donate to local charities during the event, and volunteer walk leaders from the area have been invited along to tell you about their groups. The event is designed to share ideas about being more physically active, doing new things and most importantly making new friends. If you would like to know more, come along anytime between 11am and 3pm. You've nothing to lose but a little of your time - and maybe a little weight! If you can't make it, contact Jim Nutt or Liz Jordan on 01388 816166 for a chat and details of local opportunities to help you lead a more active lifestyle.

Sedgfield group show us the way on an away day at Morpeth.

Photo by Ian Hunter



A plea for deliverance!!

Is there anyone out there who would be willing to join our team of "standby" deliverers of Sedgfield News? We have many willing helpers, but recently, many of the standby team have become permanent or semi-permanent, leaving nobody to fill in when people are on holiday. Some of our helpers also deliver vast numbers of 'Newses', which is great, except when they can't do it for any reason! If you can help, even just once in a while, please contact Judith Edgoose on 620244. Thank you!



101's Tim Lowe branches out

Tim Lowe will perform his first ever solo acoustic show at Shamrock's (formerly O'Neills) in Durham.

He will be playing some very different songs from the usual 101 set, but of course including some 101 'faves'.

This is by no means the end of 101 who are heavily booked for the remainder of 2008 (see below for march). Tim explains "a solo show is something I have always fancied doing and when this gig was offered to me it was too good an opportunity to turn down. I have been working on a selection of songs that work in the acoustic format and am confident that it will sound great! You can rest assured that 101 will always be my number one priority and this is just a sideline. Thanks to everyone who supported our recent well attended gig at The Black Lion and if you can make it to this one I would be very grateful."

101 Gigs in March

- 01 - Ye Olde horseshoe, Crook
- 05 - Shamrocks (O'Neills), Durham
- 07 - The Cleveland, Redcar
- 08 - The Penny Black, Hartburn
- 09 - Bar Luma, Sunderland
- 15 - Camels Hump, Middlesbrough
- 16 - The Normanby, Normanby
- 17 - Private Wedding, Berwick
- 22 - Pelaw Inn, Gateshead
- 23 - The Station Hotel, Redcar
- 27 - The Gold Medal, Low Fell
- 29 - The Vane Arms, Sunderland

Sedgfield Methodist Church
Spring Musical Concert
on **Saturday 10th MAY** at 7.00pm
with LIRICA, Sedgfield Lyrics
Youth Choir, Sedgfield Handbell
Ringers & supporting acts.



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Update

Members will recall that we took a decision to not seek a new venue for our first Panel meeting of the year (in Feb) but wait until April (8th) when we can enjoy the surroundings of the newly refurbished Parish Hall. We believe that this is still viable, & look forward to a good attendance.

Residents' Concerns - whenever one talks to people in the village it's not long before the issues of anti social behaviour (really just an extension of inconsideration for others), alcohol related nuisance (causing damage, fear, noise etc.) & drugs (evidence of use, related fear of users/suppliers) crops up. Immediately, the Police in general, as well as our local team are singled out for blame "for not doing anything about it", usually this is accompanied by the phrase "no I don't bother (reporting anything) as nothing ever happens - it's a waste of time".

Well the truth is there really are "results" from the Police, both locally and from the wider Borough area and there is a good record from Crime Prevention, but the information is usually not under our noses and in some instances the Police will not be able to inform us (even at N/Hood Watch meetings) for very good reasons. The truth continues; as residents we do experience problems in all these areas we regularly moan or worry about, and they are very real problems that the Police & Borough (Community Wardens) know about; but in their job they are all limited by priorities which as reported to you in the past are only successfully identified by telephone records from the public i.e. the residents of Sedgefield, ringing in.

So the message is simple; if you are not happy about a matter that you feel needs to be sorted by either our Police Force or our Neighbourhood Wardens, then you need to pick up the phone and record the issue. You can remain anonymous, you do not have to leave your details, but if you want a progress report or feedback you will need to ask for this and leave your details. Not everything will work smoothly but if it is important to you and our community it is worthwhile being persistent!

The number to ring is **0845 60 60 365**. The response from this number is very much improved these days, & whilst you will not initially speak to a Police Officer, if this is what you require you can ask & you will get transferred to one. (If you want our local officers ask if one is on duty).

Tapes for the Partially Sighted

Another appeal for your unused audio tapes; give them a second life and help the partially sighted. Many thanks to Fiona Avery, who so very kindly responded to our last appeal by giving us tapes plus two cassette players. Fiona, your kindness is greatly appreciated.

We produce a tape every month that is an audible version of the full contents of the current Sedgefield News. If you have any surplus tapes don't throw them out let N/H/Watch put them to good use - give Ken Saiger a call on 01740 620056 & he will be happy to make arrangements to collect if necessary.

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

To contact **Local Police**: To report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to Police, call 0845 6060365 (*it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no.*)

For advice & assistance call **Crime Prevention Officer** Neil Langthorne, on 01325 742714

More from the Post Bag

THE LONG AWAITED BUS SHELTER. 2006 - 2008

Blast the horn and clash the drum,
Yell "**HALLELUJAH**" - our bus shelter's come!
We were beginning to think we had no hope
Particularly when ours came second to the Co-op
We really have had a long cold stand
The 'slow mills of power' have needed a hand
Now no more shivering in the rain, No more frostbite or chilblain
No more wishing, sighing or moping
At long last we declare our overdue shelter OPEN

The 3 Mutineers (combined age 226 years!) Names and addresses supplied

PC Todd's report

Since the start of the year four vehicles of various types have been stolen from Sedgefield village and other types of plant and machinery have been stolen from farms in the surrounding area. Please be aware of persons acting in a suspicious manner in and around the village, and record any registration numbers.

Some morons seem to think cars were invented for them to damage at their leisure! Recent instances have occurred in Queens Drive, Thurlow Road, Chestnut Road and Hawthorn Road. Any information may be useful in catching the persons responsible. Other crimes reported include theft of number plates from a vehicle in The Orchard and two garages having had doors forced open.

I would like to thank Mr Young, who used his tractor to help me remove a fallen tree in Durham Road during the windy spell.
Until next time, Keith

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Golden Lion.

There were no reports of incidents during the month or during the Ball Game; congratulations, by the way, to Stephen Whithers on his win!

I owe an apology to Leanne Seaman from the Hope Inn, for referring to her as Michelle in last month's edition.

The new Dental Health Centre

Sedgefield News has been informed that due to unforeseen construction delays, the new Dental Health Centre project in Sedgefield is running 3 months behind schedule. However, the Burgess Hyder Dental Group is happy to say that the demolition work on the site at the corner of West Park Lane and Durham Road is now complete. They expect completion of the new project by early summer and are happy to receive early expressions of interest for NHS registrations.

Anyone interested in registering with the practice should contact them at their Ferryhill centre on 01740 651124.

Please look out for a detailed update in the next edition of Sedgefield News.

Burgess Hyder Dental Group
providing dental healthcare centres of excellence for South Durham and the Dales.

Incinerator to go ahead after appeal

The Planning Inspector gave permission for the small low capacity waste incinerator at Bolams' Salters Lane premises. After being provided with a wealth of technical data he was confident that the scheme should not give rise to unacceptable public anxiety about emissions. The company must draw up and adhere to a clear code of practice and is limited to operating Monday to Saturday from 7.30am to 5.30pm. The inspector described the scheme as a 'completely different kettle of fish' to large scale municipal incinerators.

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum

Meeting held 4th February 2008

Following an appeal, permission has been granted for the installation of chimney and incinerator for the disposal of animal waste at Bolams. Thanks to the many residents who attended and provided support at the appeal but special acknowledgement and gratitude must go to the extraordinary effort and outstanding performance of the Winterton resident who represented the Village Residents.

However, there is evidence from this and other communities that, to have any impact on issues that affect us, we need to come out in force as a community to make our feelings felt.

A group of residents had met to discuss the consequences of the Variation of Premises Licence for Hardwick Hall Hotel and made a presentation to the meeting. The proposal is to increase the area outside the hotel building for the use of amplified music in marquees or open-air which could be played until after midnight throughout the year; it amounts to an area of land at the front equivalent to 174% of the size of the current hotel building and a further area of land at the rear amounting to 245% of this building.

Hardwick Hall presented a draft Noise Control Action Plan at the Town Council Meeting on Feb 11th which they propose will control noise levels, limit fireworks & pyrotechnics & prohibit amplified music at fairground rides. Objectors may attend a mediation meeting with SBC officers and Hardwick Hall representatives on Feb 20th prior to the hearing on Tuesday 4th March at 10 am at the Council Offices in Spennymoor.

A questionnaire put to the meeting revealed the following policing priorities:

1. Make communities safer through effective neighbourhood policing and tackling anti-social behaviour, working in partnership with other agencies.
2. Reduce harm to our communities caused by alcohol and drug abuse.
3. Protect vulnerable people from serious harm e.g. abuse, assault, injury.

A councillor emphasised the need to report incidents and get a crime number as policing resources are based upon this data.

Next meeting: Monday 3rd March in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30p.m. Everyone is welcome; we had 20 residents at the February meeting.

Agenda & Minutes will be available from the Town Council Office and available to read in the library as well as on village websites (one week prior to the meeting).

Award for Sedgefield nurse

Congratulations to staff nurse Julie Oakes, who works in mental health services for older people at Sedgefield Community Hospital. Julie has been recognised at a special awards ceremony for mental health care workers from County Durham, Tees Valley and North East Yorkshire. She was highly commended for her work in creating a therapeutic garden for patients with dementia.

Trust chairman Mrs Jo Turnbull said: "Julie recognised the importance of a pleasant environment for people with dementia and has created a wonderful garden that patients, their carers and staff can enjoy together."



More of

Your Letters⁵

This month an impassioned plea came from a 17 year old who took issue with last month's letter 'Let's do something about this'. Unfortunately there was no space for the very long letter she sent, but she has allowed me to sum up her arguments. I hope I do them justice. Ed.

"I am compelled to defend the youngsters who are repeatedly tarred with the same brush. From personal experience, I know exactly how that feels. I no longer 'loiter' on the streets, but my friends and I I used to, because there was absolutely NOTHING else to do. Whilst not defending the unacceptable and yobbish behaviour which provoked Mr Wood's letter, I feel much more will be achieved by supporting young people than by constantly criticising them.

Support should be rallied for the young, who don't get much say in village life, because when interesting activities and safe facilities are offered (eg Mobile Movies, Sedgefield Players Youth Section) they are taken up with enthusiasm. Why not ask young people what they want? It'll be a win-win situation! We are all equal and things should be fair, regardless of age and the pre-conceptions we have of one another.

So, Mr Woods and like-minded individuals, **let's INDEED do something about this**, for the good of everyone. Maybe some of our elders could tell us what they did for fun when they were young; there might be inspiration in the answers!

Finally, do you really think that threatening to take the law into your own hands can be defined as 'respectable' behaviour? As a budding policewoman, I'd hate to think this disrespect reflects the public's attitude! Perhaps we could all show a little more respect, to the police as well as to each other.

Name & address supplied.

Sedgefield Racecourse

Next Fixture

Tuesday 11th March

First Race: 1.40 pm

Last Race: 5.30 pm

SPORTS UPDATE

6

I've received loads of sports news during the last month, which is fantastic. The sporting community is not trying to take over Sedgefield News, but there's so much to tell everyone that it seems a shame to miss anything out, and the last thing we want to do is discourage contributors. Thanks to everyone who keeps me updated with news. Keep that news flowing, though be aware that I may need to edit contributions a little more in the future!

Durham Area Disability Leisure Group (DADLG)

Lynne Watson has been in touch to let us know about the Durham Area Disability Leisure Group. DADLG provides a range of leisure, sporting and social opportunities for children and young people who have sensory, physical and/or learning difficulties. Almost 150 families use the service, along with special needs schools, colleges and youth groups in the area.

The range of the current programme of activities is staggering: two weekly trampoline clubs (Durham and Sedgefield); football coaching (including the opportunity to play in the FA Ability Counts League); horse riding; specialist cycling; quad biking; bowling; dinner/quiz/fancy dress social evenings; family BBQs; new age curling (can someone enlighten me about what new age curling is?); music/dance projects; theatre visits; family fun days; sporting events; bushcraft; archery; weekend residential activity centres (climbing, abseiling, zip-wire, kayaking, caving and more); and fundraising. Blimey!

As if DADLG isn't busy enough already, this year the group is also taking part in the Great North Walk on 29th June (in Herrington Country Park in Sunderland) and the Durham Big Ride on 21st September.

The group relies on assistance from a wide range of volunteers and supporters and Lynne has asked me to pass on thanks to a few people and organisations: Alf and Tony Walton from Quad Sport Leisure for their unbelievable kindness, patience and generosity over the last 10 years; Christine Lawson from Barclays Bank who tirelessly drags her whole family to the walk every year and has raised well over £3,000 in sponsorship; UPS – in particular Geoff Platt and John Grady for their generosity and

volunteer support; David and Chris Lodge; the committee of Sedgefield Welly Hoyers (now there's a sport that isn't often covered within these pages); and Dave Nicholson from Nicholson's Transport. All have contributed massively to DADLG and that is hugely appreciated.

For information on how to become a member or volunteer of DADLG, or help raise funds, contact Lynne or Andrea on 0191 389 1666.

Football

The Sunday league season is now more than half way through and there have been mixed fortunes for the Sedgefield teams. I'll try for an update from the Black Lion for next month; for the moment, I'll focus on St. Edmund's and Crosshills.

I'm grateful to Andrew Watson for bringing me up to date on the progress of St. Edmund's. In short, so far so good. At the time of writing this, the team is lying third in the Premier Division of the Durham Sunday Football League. There have been some good performances and top scorer is Craig Mason.

Once again, St. Edmund's have been performing very well in cup competitions and have reached three semi-finals. By the time you read this, they will have played the first of these, against Bishop Auckland Beehive in the Heart Foundation Cup. They have also reached the last four of the League Cup and Staffieri Cup (St. Edmund's were finalists last year). Good luck to the team in all of those matches – look out for results and further news of fixtures in future sports updates.

Now we turn to Crosshills FC. It's been an interesting season to say the least. I have been holding out for some good news to report before writing about the team – it's been a long wait.

Crosshills FC started out full of confidence, with its strongest squad for years. Early optimism faded into consternation and then frustration as match after match slipped by without a win. The application was always evident on the pitch, but silly mistakes and variable fitness levels (!) contributed to a frankly terrible first half of the season.

Up until 20th January, the team was still searching for a league victory. On that day, something seemed to 'click' and Crosshills registered a 6-1 win. The following week, the

with chrisjlines@aol.com

team came back from 3-0 down after 80 minutes to win 4-3. Two more consecutive league victories followed and the team is now playing well, full of confidence and plotting a course to the upper reaches of the 4th Division. It's a funny old game!

Youth Football

I'm in debt to Ryan Towler for the latest update from Sedgefield Youth FC. Following their success in the inaugural Sedgefield News Sports Awards, the club went on to even more glory at the Sedgefield Youth Awards at the start of February.

The team was runner up in the Team of the Year category, while manager Ian Parkin was named Adult Leader of the Year and Stephen Lock won the 'Extra Mile' award. It was a great night for the club – they are now on the lookout for a large trophy cabinet and I am feeling inadequate in not having had an actual physical award to hand over to them last month!

On the pitch, Sedgefield Youth FC have played three games so far this year (as of 20th February). They won the first 2-1 against Aycliffe Youth, but then suffered a 6-2 defeat to Great Ayton (incidentally, Ryan scored his first goal for the club during that game), followed by a 3-1 loss against Eaglescliffe Elementis. The good news from the last game is that Ryan Brown returned to action, fit again after a broken arm. More news from Sedgefield Youth FC in future issues.

Sedgefield Harriers

Sedgefield Harriers have been in action throughout January and February. At the Northern Counties Cross Country Championships at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 26th January, which included teams from South Yorkshire to Liverpool, Hull and the North East, the Harriers men's team was 45th overall. The team included Gary Hetherington, Ian Blakemore, Richard Bayles, Peter Carden, Ean Parsons, Scott Hydon and Richard Fearnside. The Harriers women had three runners – Gail Bell, Anne Hydon and Helen Parsons. For the juniors, Andrew Lawson, Ben Hetherington and Joe Potts ran in the U13 boys.

On Saturday the 9th February the Harriers had both men's and women's teams at the prestigious Signals Relays at Lobley Hill in Gateshead. The men's race was six stages of two miles each and the

team of Gary Hetherington (11:16), Peter Carden (13:07), Roger Whitehill (12:52), Matthew Jones (13:24), Ean Parsons (13:58) and Scott Hydon (13:36) finished 18th overall in 1:18:13. The women's was in four stages over the same distance. Anne Hydon (14:12), Amanda Hetherington (14:42), Marie Walker (15:25) and Gail Bell (14:01) finished 12th in 58:20.

On Sunday 10th February the Junior Harriers had a strong turn out at the North Yorks South Durham Cross Country event at Stockton. The U13 boys' team of Scott Kiffen, (8th overall in 7:34), Ben Hetherington (14th/8:20) and Sebastian Reichel (15th, 8:27) finished third. In the U11 boys and girls Matthew Walker was 9th, Adam Flatters 14th, Calum Johnston 17th, Elliot Bourdais 20th, Josh Hetherington 21st, Matthew Bowman 22nd, Tom Flatters 29th, Megan Devine 30th, Ellie Gaines 31st, Alexander Wall 38th and Harriet Wall (age 8) 43rd.

For the seniors Anne Hydon was 14th in 16:56 for the women and for the men Gary Hetherington was 11th in 27:08 (3rd vet.) and Scott Hydon was 61st in 33:42.

To round off a truly memorable year, the Junior Harriers were crowned Junior Sports Team of the Year for Sedgefield and 14 year old Jonathan Baines picked up the Junior Sportsman of the Year award. This village is picking up sports awards galore. In truth, that's why I didn't get any made for the Sedgefield News Sports Awards. I felt sure plenty of silverware was heading to the village and didn't want people overwhelmed (that's my story and I'm sticking to it). Both Junior and Senior Harriers meet at Sedgefield Community College at 6.30pm on Wednesdays. For more information visit www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk or call Ean Parsons on 07771 828568.

Squash

Great news from Sedgefield Squash Club, recently awarded £10,000 in funding from the 'Awards for All' scheme. It is desperately needed to upgrade and develop facilities at the courts and carry out essential work on the gas supply. On the court, the Durham & Cleveland leagues have one month

of matches remaining. All Sedgefield teams continue to perform well this season, with the 1st team currently leading the 4th division at the time of going to press, the 2nd team in second place in the 5th division and the 3rd team second in the 6th division. Final league results will follow in the coming months.

The ladies' friendly team are thoroughly enjoying playing their matches against other clubs in the Durham and Cleveland area and have won both of their matches, beating Norton at home and Aycliffe away. The ladies' friendly team comprises of Sue Smith, Sharon Brown, Maureen Cameron, Kate O'Donnell, Jane Skilbeck and Karen Wilson.

The club now runs a Junior Ladder for those attending coaching sessions on a Saturday morning, courts being set aside on a Sunday night for juniors to book and play their matches.

Three coaches recently completed the second weekend of their two part level 2 coaching qualification in squash, enabling them to coach juniors and adults. Hopefully this will encourage new members and improve the skills of existing members. The club holds

competitions throughout the year. The winter season saw the turn of the individual handicap competition and annual sports day comprising of golf in the morning followed by squash in the afternoon and a meal on the evening. The individual handicap competition concluded with Chris Rowsby beating Richard Slee in a tight match with the final result being 3-2 in games. The sports day golf was won by Neil Hetherington and the squash by Stephen Rowsby. Congratulations to all winners and to Derek and Anne Jepson who won the annual holiday competition.

The club has gratefully received funding from two local businesses and is still looking for fundraising support through way of sponsorship. This requires companies to supply their own advertising sticker, to be placed on either court. The club asks for a fee of £100 for a year's worth of advertising. If you are interested please contact Mick Carr on 01740 621139. For more information about Sedgefield Squash Club, please contact Chris or Julia Rowsby on 01740 621125. That's all (in fact quite enough) for this month. Send any sports news to me on chrisjlines@aol.com

Ever fancied learning to dive?

Sedgefield Divers is a SCUBA Diving club that has operated in Newton Aycliffe for 25 Years. The club has over 30 members, ranging from novice divers to those with over 25 years experience, all brought together by their passion for diving. Local diving takes place from Redcar to Eyemouth and St Abbs in the Scottish Borders; we have trips to various other UK sites and usually a couple of trips a year abroad diving. It doesn't matter what

experience you have, we teach anyone from the age of 14+ from scratch to elementary diver, open water diver, club diver, dive leader and beyond to instructors and dive masters. We are a non profit-making club, existing simply to make diving enjoyable and accessible for all our members in a safe and friendly environment. We meet at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre every

Thursday evening at the Pool (9pm). Adults and Children 14+ with Parent / Guardian are welcome. Details are available at www.sedgefelddivers.co.uk or you can contact us by email - dive@sedgefelddivers.co.uk - or call Club Secretary Paul Simmons on **07968217425**



Youth Football Fixtures

02 Mar (A) v South Park Rangers (b)

16 Mar (A) v 21st Allstars (b)

30 Mar (H) v Beechwood Youth

Kick-off times 10.30 to 11.00am

EASTER FOOTBALL COURSES

Newcastle United Foundation is running football courses during the Easter Holidays - **Monday to Friday 7th to 11th April at the Community College**, again on the 'new pitches'. Over 40 children took part in the course at half term. The Easter course is again five days, 10am to 3pm for children from aged 5 to 14 years. Football is the dominant sport for the week, but to cater for girls and boys we will introduce some multi sports, including netball, basketball, cricket, tennis.

The cost will be £45 (£43 for a Junior Magpie) and for every family member there will be a discount of 50% meaning that two children in the same family can book on for £67.50. There's a gift for every youngster, and one child and three members of the family will win a 'special prize' in a draw on the last day of the course.

AND THEY'RE OFF! FILLIES & COLTS TO GET HITCHED AT THE RACECOURSE!

As it's a jump racing track where most of the horses are geldings, there aren't many colts and fillies to be seen at Sedgefield Racecourse, but all that's about to change, because the racecourse has gained the official go-ahead to hold weddings.

Wedding receptions have been taking place for a few years, but now couples can go all the way after approval was given for not only civil marriages, but also civil partnerships, baby naming ceremonies and renewals of vows.

General Manager Jill Williamson said "Sedgefield Racecourse makes an unusual and interesting venue for a wedding or civil partnership. There is plenty of room inside and out, so no one feels cramped.

We are even introducing a new 100-seat fine dining restaurant during the spring. The main function room – the Pavilion Suite – provides fantastic views across the Durham countryside, a picturesque setting that offers a wonderful backdrop for photographic memories.

We've hosted wedding receptions for some time, so it is just one short step to stage the official ceremonies too. Most of the other venues in County Durham that are approved for civil weddings and partnerships are hotels, so we're offering something just that little bit different." Dianne Weir acts as wedding coordinator. She can be contacted on 01740 621925 or email dweir@sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk.

Farmers' Market

The February market basked in lovely bright sunshine and there was a real sense of spring in the air as customers took time to stroll around, chatting with stallholders.

Some recent additions had gathered alongside the more well-known producers. Very welcome indeed was the return of Ian & Margaret Grainger's **North Country Lass**, with their delicious range of hand-made, sweet and savoury pies and pasties, both large and small. Beers from the **Darwin Brewery** run by Keith Thomas and delicious **Embleton Hall Yogurts** are already settling into a wide customer base.

Well-known local names were doing good business: **Larberry Farm** selling organic beef and lamb, **Burtree House** with free-range poultry, eggs and cakes, **Broom Mill** pork and bacon farm, **Rushyford Game**, **Pickled Pink Preserves**, **Weardale Organic Soups**, **David and Ann Mellanby** selling one of the region's finest range of vegetables, and **Ing's Nurseries**. Alongside were **Paterson's Fresh Fish** from Eyemouth and **Shire Honey** from York. Finally our guest stallholder **Ann Clement** was demonstrating and selling Australia's most natural 100% organic skincare.

It was a great Farmers' Market and stallholders are very much aware that its success is due not just to an excellent range of products, but to the support of our loyal & new customers. If you have not yet visited the Farmers' Market you will be most welcome next month. See you on March 9th!

Civic Dinner and Dance

hosted by the Mayor of Sedgefield, Councillor Dudley Waters, will take place at the Hardwick Hall Hotel on **Friday 7th March** starting at 7 pm for the Mayor's Champagne Reception. Dinner will be served in the Coleman Suite, followed by dancing to The John Wrightson Band. There will be a tombola and auction with proceeds towards Marie Curie Cancer Care and local charities.

Tickets are £26 each from the Council Office. Cheques are payable to "Sedgefield Town Council Mayor's Charity". Further details from the office.

March Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations⁹

March @ Sedgefield Library

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March

Coffee morning & fun quiz for adults. Share a story, quizzes & refreshments for children from 3pm

Tickle Time

Mondays 3rd, 17th & 31st
2.15-3pm

Junior Reading Group

restarts Monday 3rd from 5-6 pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 5th & 19th, 10-11am

Toy Library

Wednesdays 12th & 26th, 10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 19th at 2pm

Jewellery making session

Wednesday 26th 1-3pm. Places are limited, so booking is essential

Musical Martinis

Songs from the shows with Eileen Glenton
April 2nd at 2pm Free, but seats must be booked in advance

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Ladies' Circle

2nd & 4th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Viv on 629079

Country Market

will re-open after Parish Hall refurbishment.

Mother & Toddler Group

Methodist Church
Mondays from 1.15 - 2.45 pm
Term time only. Call 620572

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church Hall
Vacancies for children aged 2+
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs 9.15-11.45

St Edmund's Church

Weddings and Baptisms can be arranged in church on Thursdays at 6.30pm.

Looking ahead -

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 1st April
Richard Barnes
Plants from the Ends of the Earth

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 5th April

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 1st March

Doors open 7pm Eyes down 7.45
Cash Prizes. Bar open

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 1st March

Quiz Master Ron Hughes
8pm start
Everyone welcome

Local History Society

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday 3rd March

Ian Stubbs from the Dorman Museum - **Personalities of the Iron and Steel Age**
All welcome

Residents' Forum

Monday 3rd March

in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 3rd March

8pm in the Nag's Head
'Sedgefield Mags' run a bus to all Newcastle United home games

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 4th March

7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Potentilla National Plant Collection

A talk by David Goodchild

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 5th March

7.15pm, Methodist Church Hall
(Please note change of venue)

Stotty and Spice Cake

with Bill Griffiths
Members' competition - a Kitchen Gadget
Visitors welcome - £1.50

CeddesFolk Traditional Acoustic Session

at Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm on

Wednesday 5th March

Join our line up of fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 6th March

7pm at 6 Wykes Close
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th March

Days In Days Out (DIDO)

Tuesday 11th March

Ceddesfeld Hall at 1.15pm.
(The Line Dancing Group meets beforehand at 12 noon & dancers must join or be members of DIDO)
Tel Gloria 622447 or Linda 620857

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 13th March

Meeting in the Nag's Head at 8pm
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Players

"Raise the Rafters" on

7.30pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday 13th - 15th March

with songs & sketches, with jokes old & new; With us around, you won't feel blue!

£7 (£6 concs) inc. pies & peas!

Rafters Bar at The Hope Inn

Tickets from Selections, members or call 621000/ 621091

Mobile Movies

A film for all the family

Friday 14th March

at Rectory Row Primary School
Entry £1.50 all ages

No need to book but under 8's need an accompanying adult
Films to be confirmed shortly before each showing. See posters & flyers

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night

Saturday 15th March at 8pm

Main Guest: Flossie. also featuring the John Wrightson Band,
Archie Brown &

Pat Rafferty and Michael Woods

Admission £8 including Buffet
Telephone 621347

NB The Cricket Club is available for hire for private parties, normally free of charge. To book, call Jane on 629616

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 17th March

7:45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Crime & Punishment in County Durham

with Maureen Anderson
New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 18th March

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

"If You Want To Get Ahead"

Demonstration by Paula Wells

North West Area Demonstrator

All Welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 27th March at 7.45pm

Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall

Durham Wildlife Trust

Jim Cokill Director of the Trust

More details from

Steve Ashton 620559

All Welcome

Lunch break litter

When, oh when is the Headmistress at Sedgefield Community College going to wake up and smell the coffee! As a parent of a student who attends the college, I have to say that her rather bizarre attitude to both school rules and pupil behaviour leaves a lot to be desired and is basically a joke.

Parents recently received a newsletter informing us that, among other things, the school was taking a stand against pupils leaving the grounds during lunch time and that, as the rules stand, only year 11 students or people going directly home for lunch would be given lunch passes.

However this system has obviously failed miserably. Residents who choose to visit the village between 12.30pm - 1pm often have to avoid large groups of pasty/pie, bread bun eating, coke swilling, smoking litter bugs, who think nothing of throwing half eaten food, crisp packets, sweet wrappers, milk, coke or other drink cartons wherever they see fit. Anyone who dares ask them to pick up their rubbish gets a mouthful of abuse or bad language. It also does not take rocket science to work out that many are not year 11 pupils! However no matter how much residents complain, both to the school and shops concerned, regarding litter amongst other issues, nothing seems to be happening in respect to tackling the problems. Maybe if students were more considerate, used rubbish bins provided around the village and didn't hang round certain shops in large intimidating groups, residents wouldn't mind the lunch time break quite so much.

Walking through the Sedgefield after the lunch time student 'rampage' it is appalling to see what little respect pupils from the college have for residents or village surroundings. Someone needs to seriously address this problem, before the village ends up looking like a permanent rubbish dump.

Name and address supplied.

Taxi service

With reference to the letter published in February, I would like to point out the reason for not being able to recruit taxi drivers. Firstly, Sedgefield Borough Council has taxi licensing rules which are as follows. The driver must have the following: 1. CRB Check (police check) 2. Medical Examination. 3. Driving Licence clearance; any endorsements Speeding, Drink Driving, Dangerous Driving etc., the driver has to go in front of the council. 4. Insurance cover.

All the above has to be cleared before the driver can be licensed; it all costs money (not cheap).

It was then made compulsory that any existing drivers would have to take a Driver's Theory test as well as a driving test before their licence would be renewed - more cost to licence a driver. All the above was then applied to any new drivers.

In December a meeting was held at Sedgefield Borough Council where Taxi Drivers/Operators could attend but could not speak out, regarding the Driving Test and Theory test. What the Operators/Drivers were looking for was to scrap the Driving Test and Theory Test for all existing drivers and new drivers. It was agreed by the council that they would put on hold the test for existing drivers until 2009.

This does not solve the problem of getting new taxi drivers, and this is why Turners Taxis cannot get drivers and give the professional service we have given for 30 years. Turners Taxis would like to point out that we do still offer a Taxi Service but are limited on cover, so do still give us a call.

Ann Harris, Turners Taxis.

Safety at A689 junction

Whilst the road layout changes at the junction with the A689 at the east end of the village have made a major improvement to the safety of road users, I believe that two significant problems remain. Firstly, when waiting in the central refuge to turn right, I have on several occasions been "double-banked" by

a vehicle that has pulled up fully alongside my car on my left hand side, and has completely blocked my view of the traffic approaching at high speed from the left. This is usually followed by the driver making gestures for me to pull out. Clearly there is a potential for a major accident in this situation, particularly if inexperienced drivers are faced with this problem. Secondly, I have witnessed drivers still using the opening to turn right into the village from the A689. Recently a car missed me by a couple of yards whilst doing so. Although the root of both these problems is dangerous driving, I believe both problems could be alleviated by extending the central reservation to make the gap in the central refuge only one lane. This would prevent the double-banking that I have described, and provide further discouragement for vehicles to turn right illegally into the village.

Mike Ashwell

Reader responds - twice

1. Tick Tock, Slap Slap...

How different we all are!

Recently I stayed overlooking a modern marina. I'd nostalgically looked forward to hearing the slap-slap of halyards against masts, which I'd found lulled me to sleep when staying at sailing clubs years ago. There was none, all the ropes being held within those modern masts. I was really disappointed! May I suggest the "Sedgefield local" invests in different types of earplugs when it's windy? I find them very useful on occasion, deadening unwanted noises, making them more distant, until they bother me not at all.

2. Result (caravan park)

Yes, total agreement with all the points made.

Even in this very short time the viability of such a venture being a success has taken a knock, with the cost of living, fuel price rises etc. The fact that if this site IS developed, and fails to be viable, it will be classed as a BROWNFIELD site, is horrifying.

Averil Fuller



the community-based regeneration network

Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association

The DEADLINE for copy for inclusion in the April edition of Sedgefield News is MARCH 15th.

Contact us at 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 629011: email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

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