

Sedgefield NEWS

December 2013



Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn
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A Merry Christmas to all our readers!

Bangers *DO* vote for Christmas!

We hoped the sausage headline might grab you! December's returning stall is just the latest success in our attempt to re-invigorate the Sedgefield Farmers' Market. Apart from those bangers, you'll find fresh fish, a whole range of meat (including special breeds), seasonal vegetables, cakes, bread ...

Sunday 1st December is the date, so no time to lose! And we've decided to keep the first Sunday of the month as our regular Farmers' Market day in the future, so when you're filling in those new diaries ...

Why not entrust your local Christmas card deliveries to 1st Sedgefield Explorers?

Their much appreciated service is running again this year, so if you would like your cards delivered (Sedgefield addresses only please), address your envelopes fully and drop them off at Number Four or Tickety-Boo on High Street, before 22nd December. The young people of 1st Sedgefield Explorers will take it from there. All donations given will be gratefully received and will be used to help provide Scouting opportunities for our young people.

Come together for the traditional Carols on the Green

With the Round Table and Sedgefield Churches Together, at 6.30pm on Friday 20th December, followed by mulled wine at Ceddesfeld Hall. Details of all Festive Season Church Services can be found on page 7.

To our wonderful team of distribution volunteers - Season's Greetings & 3000 thanks!

Every business and household in Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon, and quite a few in Fishburn too, owe you their grateful thanks.

We also wanted to let you know in good time that the Town Council's next edition of Sedgefield Extra will be included with the January edition of Sedgefield News. If this will be a problem for any of you, please get in touch with Judith Edgoose on 620244 and she will try to organise some extra help for your round.

*Public consultation on the future
of Sedgefield on pages 4 & 5
Seasonal Events on pages 6 & 7*

Fireworks

**PLEASE NOTE: the usual
New Year's Eve display will
NOT take place this year.**
Monies saved will go to the new
Community Chest to be used
for local good causes.

Halloween Howler!

The competition at Ceddesfeld Hall was a huge success this year with 30 entries of excellently carved pumpkin heads on display. Every effort was rewarded with a prize.

Five of the pumpkins were actually home grown for the competition by young allotment holder 9 year old Christopher Sellers, at his dad's allotment on our Winterton site.

Well done Christopher!

NB. Early Deadline! Please contact us by **December 10th** with your
January news & events. Text/call 07572 502 904 Email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com



Remembrance ceremonies

We would like to thank Michael King & Brian Whitehead for the usual high standard of Remembrance Sunday Service, where yet again there was a much bigger congregation.

On Remembrance Day, Monday 11th November, the Veterans held their annual Service at St Luke's War Memorial, Winterton, but this was slightly different from the standard service.

The theme was "Winterton hospital ex-service men who died within those walls." We have so far identified 34 such men from between 1903 & 1943, so we asked the children of Sedgefield Primary School Year 5 to make plaques with their individual names on (see photograph above). At the ceremony the children raised each card in turn and shouted out the name of the soldier, then the congregation repeated the name as loud as they could, so that it would be heard in Heaven where these men were waiting to know that *WE HAD REMEMBERED THEM*.

Later in the service two of the children, Mhairi Macolhoney and Sophie Thompson read a poem entitled "Why do we wear Poppies, Mummy." A party from Sedgefield Community College laid a wreath, alongside Cllr Chris Lines for the Town Council, Geoff Pinder for the Veterans and Harry Buxton for Neighbourhood Watch. Then Year 5 children each passed a Poppy Cross to Rev Michael Gobbett or Rev Michael Pullen to have them planted.

There was a goodly representation from NETPark as well as a good number of Veterans and public members. Thank you ALL. *David Hillerby, Sedgefield Veterans.*

Decriminalisation of Drug Addicts.

We received this very thought provoking article from the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and decided to give it an airing in Sedgefield News. We will publish the second half next month. Editor

I have been extremely lucky to have been a police officer for over 30 years, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief Constable, and I can speak first hand of what happens on the street and the problems faced by police officers and the public. Since leaving the Police Service and becoming Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington, I have also been fortunate to work with Chief Constable Michael Barton, who is determined to dismantle organised crime and make the county the safest place to live, work and visit.

There is no place for Organised Crime in our society and it is my job to work with the Chief Constable to help him to achieve his goal. It is no secret that Organised Crime controls the illicit drug supply market and it would be fair to say that the majority of the monies being made by organised criminals are from drugs. With this in mind, we must consider different approaches to stemming the opportunities

available to suppliers and treating the addict as a victim and not a criminal, I know this is a view shared by the Chief Constable as we have debated this much over the last year. So why are the addicts victims?

Well, most are preyed on by bullies when they are reaching adulthood. The typical addict encounters problems at puberty, be it from problems in the home, community or school and they want to escape, or rebel. That is where the supplier comes in, usually someone who is uneducated, lazy, doesn't work and is used to resolving problems with their fists not through debate. The addict is now in the grasp of the supplier. They go back for more and become addicted to the drug they saw as an escape from reality. They start to build up debt with the dealer and once hooked, they have to feed their habit. How?

It generally starts with them stealing from family and loved ones. Some intend to pay this back and

don't see it as theft, but the reality is they never get that opportunity. Of course their families find out eventually, which leads to family fallouts and generally speaking the addict leaving home to live with their other addict friends.

Their habit still exists and they now have a choice - give up or pay for more drugs. The addict will build up more debt, but sooner or later the supplier will recover their money, with the threat of violence if they don't pay. The addict is left in no position but to steal - shoplifting, stealing from cars, burgling from sheds or houses, but they steal to pay for their drugs. Some even turn to prostitution and sell their bodies to pay for the drugs - that is the power heroin can have over you, and the fear the dealer can bring. I have learnt that the addict is a victim, with the drug pushers and suppliers being the real offenders. *Ron Hogg*

To be continued in the January edition.



A ghoulishly good time at Willowdene!

Visitors to Willowdene Care Home were in for a spooky treat as the home enjoyed their Halloween celebrations. Ghoulish decorations were up in the entrance, grounds, reception and lounges, and staff and residents wore fancy dress.

There was entertainment from Dale Meeks, former Emmerdale star and winner of Celebrity Stars in their Eyes, followed by Halloween themed refreshments and party food served to resident, staff, visitors and family members.

Care Manager, Alison Kelly said "It's been a lot of fun and great to have family, friends and visitors join in our party."



Beginners Spanish

I am delighted to inform you that a beginners' course in conversational Spanish will start on 2nd December and run for 10 weeks on Mondays (excluding Christmas & New Year) from 7 - 8 pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. A few places are still available, so please get in contact or come along on the 2nd and join the group. I am waiting for the right numbers of people interested in intermediate and advanced level Spanish, so do please contact me to register your interest. Then, hopefully, a higher level course can start in January.

Dr Carlos Jimenez-Novoa. 07740103455 / email carlos1849@icloud.com

Blooming Neighbourhood Awards

Success for Sedgefield yet again at the It's Your Neighbourhood awards ceremony held on November 13 at Eaglescliffe Community Centre. The RHS awards, given to projects of all shapes and sizes under the Bloom banner, are divided into categories 1-5, described respectively as Establishing, Improving, Developing, Thriving and Outstanding. Sedgefield won a grand total of nine awards, all in the top two rankings. Hardwick Primary School, Hardwick Park, Winterton Allotments, Malton Terrace Herb Garden, the racecourse and cricket club were all considered to be Thriving. The residents of Claremont Grove again won Outstanding for their neighbourly support in maintaining such high standards even when some properties were unoccupied. Vee Cooper and Barbara Smith were given particular commendation for their work at Crispin Court, also Outstanding. The judges were very impressed by the swift transformation of the area alongside the church wall in Rectory Row, another Outstanding project. Masses of overgrown ivy and tree roots were cleared and replaced by colourful planting, all donated by Sedgefield residents.

At the awards ceremony, a delightful delegation of reception class pupils from Hardwick Primary once again stole the show, while the variety of projects and organisations awarded proves the community commitment to making Sedgefield so blooming lovely.

County Durham Plan Pre-Submission Consultation.

Sedgefield Town Council has discussed the Pre Submission draft plan and made the following response to Durham County Council; Whilst the County has clearly taken some account of Sedgefield's response of December 2012 to the Preferred Options Report and made some useful changes, there is much disappointment that DCC have not changed their position on the major housing allocation. The response of December 2012 was based on substantial public consultation including a questionnaire and several open public meetings, thereby reflecting the views of Sedgefield residents. Since then the Town Council has moved forward with the preparation of a Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan and a Steering Group has been established to lead on this. As you can appreciate, this demonstrates the importance that the local community continues to place on ensuring that they have a real impact on determining their future. This response to the Draft Plan is underpinned by the comprehensive consultation of 2012, ensuring that the town council's position is fundamentally robust and consistent with the feelings of the local community. I enclose a summary of the responses from the community consultation. The consultation was well received and almost 10% of households in Sedgefield responded. I also enclose a Detailed Schedule of Responses to the Topics and Policies, prepared by Integer Consulting that sets out the response made on behalf of Sedgefield community and agreed by the Town Council and Sedgefield Together Community Partnership.

It is recognised that a significant number of the draft policies deserve the support of the Sedgefield community and these are acknowledged in the earlier report. At the same time there are several policies and proposals of major concern, some of fundamental importance to Sedgefield's long term future as a sustainable community, as follows:

Housing Allocation and Distribution

Overall the position on housing allocations has not changed following the responses made in December 2012 and April 2012. It is noted that the overall number of new houses proposed in the county has increased to 31,400. The allocation in Sedgefield has now increased to 450 dwellings all to be delivered in the short term. It is also noted that Policy 4 sets out a housing requirement in Sedgefield for 470 houses. There remains overwhelming support for a smaller housing allocation than the 450 units proposed in the plan, with a majority of residents supporting, in principle, no more than 300 units over the plan period, in order to protect the qualities that make Sedgefield special and support its allocation as a secondary settlement. It should be noted that many residents remain reluctant to support even a reduced number of new dwellings but understand that there is a need to build new houses in the county.

There is concern about the impact of any significant number of new dwellings on the existing infrastructure to cope with any anticipated increase, with particular reference to local schools and health services, all of which are already operating almost at full capacity. This view for a smaller allocation is also supported by evidence in the supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan that indicates that the capacity of sewage treatment works is unable to support more than 300 new dwellings. Northumbria Water has made no commitment in the short term to deal with this shortfall.

The supporting guidance set out in Policy 30 to ensure that the comprehensive development of the Eden Drive site pays attention to the character of Sedgefield is welcomed. This site has much to commend it as a location for a limited amount of new housing but is considered unsuitable for development on the scale proposed. Although the site may have the physical capacity to accommodate 450 units, we strongly question its desirability on village planning, site planning and environmental grounds. The need for this site to be recognised and dealt with as a strategic housing site as set out in our previous comments has still not been recognised in Policy 11.

There is clear support for distributing the housing across several sites in and around Sedgefield that could provide development of a scale and character that would enhance the qualities of Sedgefield.

The debate on housing numbers is likely to intensify following the recent submission of an outline planning application at Wynyard, north of the A689. This proposal, which was submitted after the community consultation exercise was completed, is for almost 1,000 dwellings with ancillary facilities and is in accordance with the agreed Master plan for Wynyard Park. The proposal may put additional strain on Sedgefield's services and the impact on the local transport infrastructure is a cause for concern. Further, the nature and phasing of the development, with a range of executive, family and retirement homes may result in a reassessment of demand for similar developments in Sedgefield.

Executive Housing

It is noted that the revised Policy 13 on Executive Housing now sets out criteria for the development of executive housing on sites in the county in addition to Lambton Park. This is not a key issue for Sedgefield at the present time and there is currently no appetite for 'executive housing' on any significant scale in the village. Given the existence of a fairly wide range of private housing within the village, the proximity of Wynyard Park and the confusion that abounds over the definition of 'executive housing', this is understandable.

NETPark

The appropriate development of NETPark as a specialist, high quality 'niche' facility on a modest scale and strictly restricted to R&D activities can be supported. It is noted that the land allocation set out in policy 24 for NETPark has been reduced but there remain fundamental concerns about the

sustainability and long term impact on Sedgefield of the much larger development that may materialise in the longer term. There are strong reservations regarding the allocation or reservation of a significantly larger area.

Whilst the scope and ambition embraced by Durham's vision for a new economic future is in large measure to be applauded, there are long-running concerns as to the sustainability credentials of this particular site as a strategic employment location, remote from high quality public transport and physically divorced as it is from the University. These concerns were articulated by the Panel that examined the Regional Spatial Strategy for North East England in 2006 and the Secretary of State restricted the allocation to 25ha accordingly. To this must be added the longer term impact that a much larger development at NETPark would have on the future character and function of the village. It is noted that the expansion of NETPark is already being advanced as a justification for an increased housing allocation here. The community has welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the development of the County Durham Plan and ask that both the community feelings and the Town Council's views are taken into account at this final stage of the County Plan.

The closing date for the consultation is Friday 6th December.

All residents may respond if they wish, to Durham County Council, Spatial Policy Team, Room 4/24, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ, or they may visit the Durham County Council website.

Sedgefield Residents' Forum Jottings *from November*

The Forum held a very quick AGM as there were important issues to discuss. Of particular concern was that after 2 months we were still awaiting feedback on issues which County Councillors had agreed to get answers, in particular the cost of the so called 'agricultural' entrance to East Park. County Councillors had submitted their apologies for the meeting so it was agreed to request updates. The County Durham Plan (CDP) was discussed and the proposed re application by Hardwick Hall for a 2 day Hardwick Live event for next and subsequent years; the Forum needed to submit a response to both. A response to the CDP was agreed and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Eric Pickles (Sec. State Communities & Local Government) questioning the principles of 'Localism' in light of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The importance of people getting involved with the village Neighbourhood Plan was highlighted; considerable concern was expressed that the CDP continued to ignore views given by residents of Sedgefield and despite the Neighbourhood Plan having to conform to CDP the Forum strongly believes that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to clearly reflect the wishes of Sedgefield Residents. **Make sure you have your say. There will be a questionnaire & various meetings. Your voice CAN make a difference.**

Have you heard the statement that Margaret Mead made a long time ago? *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".*

The Forum also requested that Town Councillors seek updates on our suggestion to purchase a portable speed monitor for the village and explore the possibility of a scheme by which residents can come together to enable bulk (cheaper) purchase of gas and electricity.

Next meeting:7pm January 6th 2014. Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.

County Durham Plan (CDP) Residents' Forum response

Our Forum is appalled that once again the views of the Sedgefield community regarding the CDP have been ignored, in what appears to be the favour of developers and those wanting to sell land for development. It has been shown that those proposing to sell some of the identified land have no understanding at all of our community. We have stated at each of your consultations that Sedgefield cannot cope with the numbers of homes proposed. Our aim is to protect and enhance our community; we will whole heartedly support growth towards this aim but would remind you that local authority planners some time ago stated *"The point has now been reached at which further new housing could begin to affect the character of Sedgefield village"*. The proposals in the CDP would result in large scale remodelling of our community and to date residents have objected to such actions.

Sedgefield is currently in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan which will involve a further comprehensive survey of community views, and we will make further comment when those results are known. But in the meantime we cannot support the CDP in how it impacts on Sedgefield.

Media reports seem to show the whole process across the County is a top down approach with consultation paying only lip service to community views so that DCC can tick boxes, making a mockery of the so called localism agenda. There appear to be areas of the County where further house building and development is wanted; such areas are being ignored whilst areas that are at maximum before there are adverse results are having developments foisted on them, obviously purely in the name of financial profit and not the good of communities. This smacks of the old Category D era.

As a final comment, we have had feedback from residents who attended DCC consultation events and looked online, that the response document provided by DCC is far too complicated for residents to express their views; this is obviously a barrier to people being included.

Julia Bowles, on behalf of Sedgefield Residents Forum. Written correspondence c/o 6 Hardwick Road, Sedgefield, TS21 2AL.

The Sedgefield Plan Progress report from the Steering Group

The steering group has made excellent progress on this important community project. The website will be ready during December and we have designed a questionnaire for the Community Survey. Unfortunately we underestimated the work required and missed the deadline for the December Sedgefield News but you will receive it in January. The four topic groups we are gathering information on are Housing, the Economy, Infrastructure, The Community & Environment, for which we welcome more volunteers. *David Bowles, Chairman*

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel



send their best wishes for a **Happy, Safe & Secure Christmas and New Year!**

We recommend that you take extra care during the dark winter months. Lock your doors even when you are at home and try not to leave your house unlit after dark. Use light timers, draw your curtains, and don't leave valuable or desirable items on show.

If you are going away, ask a trusted neighbour to draw curtains, put mail & papers out of sight and generally keep an eye on your home.

Don't forget to update your Flask in the Fridge with your latest script. It could make all the difference.

PC Todd

Vehicles have become easy targets again recently with tyres damaged in Hornby Avenue, window smashed and Sat Nav taken from a vehicle in Hardwick Hall car park, a window smashed and wallet taken in Eden Drive, Number plates taken from a vehicle in Elm Avenue and number plate and front grille taken from a Ford Focus in Chestnut road. A white van with a roof rack was seen acting suspiciously in the area of Elm Avenue after an attempt to remove the number plate from a vehicle but the number plate broke. Any sightings or information on this vehicle would be useful to us.

A vigilant resident from Queens Drive was able to recover his mountain bike recently after a scrap man removed it from his garden and had driven off in the direction of Stockton closely followed by the resident. Eventually the vehicle stopped in traffic and the resident was able to confront the scrap man and recover his bike. An investigation is continuing for the offence of theft.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Dun Cow. Members agreed to issue a written warning to a female who abused staff in the Crosshills. Anti-Social drunken behaviour will not be accepted in any member premises and action will be taken against offenders.

PACT meeting

A PACT meeting was held directly after the Residents Forum. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Police Team should continue to focus their attentions on the Wykes Close/Eden Drive areas where youths have caused a nuisance to residents. *Season's Greetings, Keith*

Useful telephone contact numbers

Local Police 101 CPO Duncan Gill 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

Parking Shop 0191 3846633

ADVICELINE (CAB) Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm 08444 111 444

from a Mobile 0300 330 06 50 TYPETALK users 08444 111 445

December Events Diary

Sunday 1st

Christmas Farmers' Market from 9.30am on the Village Green

Monday 2nd

Local History Society Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm. Dr. Tony Nicholson "Frances, a Victorian with a Russian connection."

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends. Carols & Mince Pies.

Tuesday 3rd

Neighbourhood Watch Christmas Meeting in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

Sedgefield Garden Club 7.30pm Ceddesfeld. Christmas Party with Faith Supper

Wednesday 4th

Sedgefield WI. Parish Hall 7.15pm. Sedgefield Handbell Ringers followed by a Pooled Supper. Members' comp a small bell. Visitors welcome. £3.50 inc. refreshments

Friday 6th

Sedgefield Village Veterans Christmas Fair Parish Hall 9am - 12 noon. With Sedgefield Handbell Ringers. Stalls including cakes, tombola, raffles. All welcome.

Sedgefield & District U3A. 2pm, Parish Hall. Christmas Picnic. Members Free - Guests £2 at the door. For info call Brenda on 629574. Look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 7th

Cricket Club Quiz Night presented by Peter Burnip. 8 pm start

Tuesday 10th

Ladies' Club. Ceddesfeld Hall. Christmas Social & Buffet.

Friday 13th

Country Market. Parish Hall 9.30-11am. Coffee, cakes, cards, gifts, plants.

Live Music Xmas Party Sedgefield Cricket Club, 7.45pm. Main guest, Happy Cats. Also John Wrightson Band, John Weighell & Billingham Silver Band. Admission £10, includes Xmas buffet. Tel 621347

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th

Lyric Singers, Lirica & SLYC Christmas Concert 7pm, Parish Hall. Details opposite.

Monday 16th

Meditation Group at St Edmund's church. 7 - 7.30pm. All welcome.

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends. Christmas meal out.

Friday 29th - Monday 30th

Sedgefield Players present Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood.

For details see opposite page.

Not meeting this month

Family History Group. Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club.

Regular meetings

New Generation Church

Service on Sundays, 11am, Parish Hall

NECP Concertina Workshop

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Eddies@4

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's. Informal service for 2-6 yr olds. 621125

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, 5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

Bridge Club

Sunday & Tuesday, 7.30pm, Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. Jen 620434

Sedgefield Players

Parish Hall, 7.30pm Sundays & Weds. SPYS: 7-17 yrs Sunday 6.30pm. 620091

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45. Spaces for 2+ yrs. Call 620923

Fishburn Art Group

Youth & Community Centre, Butterwick Rd. 9.30am -12 noon, Mondays

Community College Bowls

Mons 6-8pm. Carpet Bowls/Short Mat Individual coaching. No age limit. 623198

Sedgefield Mags

1st Monday of month in Nag's head at 8pm. Contact 07966029434

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls

Ceddesfeld Hall. Tues & Thurs mornings 8.30-12 Beginners welcome. 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for elderly & disabled. Ceddesfeld Hall Tues 9.30-12 Wed 10-12.30 Thur 1-3.30

Craft Club

Swinhoe Rm, Ceddesfeld Hall, 2nd/4th Tues 7.30-10pm. 620656. All welcome

CAB Advice Sessions

Sedgefield Advice & Information Centre Fortnightly Wednesdays 10am-1pm

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1pm in the Methodist Church Hall

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wed 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall (Mon 1st wk of m'th) Beginners welcome 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Contacts, Bob, 07831270892 - Mel, 07530315331

Sedgefield Acoustic Evenings.

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8.30pm. 1st Fri/4th Wed. Informal singaround, all welcome.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact Carl on 07775644598

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small friendly group 10am -12 Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays 9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/ toast & chat

Lyrics Choirs

Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall. SLYC 6pm Adults 7.30pm New members welcome.

Sedgefield Library

Open: Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
 Thursday 10am - 6:00pm
 Friday 1pm - 7pm
 Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Tel: 03000 269521

Craft Club Thursdays 5th & 19th
 December from 10am-12

Back by popular demand;
Hand Massage

Friday 13th December 1pm - 3pm

*Sedgefield Library, in association with
 Age UK, presents:*

'Stay safe online' 10:30am - 12:30pm
 Thursday 12th December

*Great advice on web security & safe
 online shopping. Places are limited, so
 book early and don't miss out!*

Sedgefield Social Club

Concert Room available for functions.

Tel: 01740 620591 for bookings.

Events in December

Saturday 7th: Ray Peachey

Saturday 14th: Ray Denton

Saturday 21st: Elliott

Xmas Eve: Debbie

Saturday 28th: Rose

New Year's Eve: Ben Dillon

Cover charge £1.50 per person

Members & Guests Welcome

COUNTRY NIGHT

Monday Dec 16th: Dave Cash
 Cover charge £3 pp All welcome.

www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk and
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Sedgefield Area Churches Together Festive Services

St Edmund's, Sedgefield

Carol Service, Thursday 12th December: 7pm
 Christingle Service, Sunday 22nd December: 4pm
 Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass: 11.30pm
 Christmas Day, Eucharist: 8am and Family Service: 10am

St Catherine's, Fishburn

Carol Service: Wednesday 18th December at 6pm
 Christingle Service on Christmas Eve: 4pm
 Christmas Day Eucharist: 10am
 Sunday 29th December, Parish Eucharist: 10am

St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Mass: 8pm
 Christmas Day Mass: 10.45am

Sedgefield Methodist Church

Family Carol Service, 22nd December: 10am.
 Christmas Day Worship: 10am

At other local churches on Christmas Eve -

St Michael's, Bishop Middleham,
 Crib Service at 4pm & Midnight Mass at 11.30pm;
 St Mary Magdalene, Trimdon Village,
 Carol Service at 5.30p; Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

Keeping up Sedgefield's Festive Traditions...

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir, Lirica and The Lyric Singers

bring you a feast of festive song and seasonal refreshments, at their
 Christmas Concerts on Friday 13th & Saturday 14th December in the
 Parish Hall at 7pm (*please note the early start!*).

Tickets are £5 (£4 for under 16s) from Tickety-Boo, Audrey Lofthouse on
 01740 620625 or any choir member. We look forward to seeing you there!

When the feasting is done, come back to the Parish Hall for Panto fun with Sedgefield Players in "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood".

It's on from Friday-Monday 27th-30th December every evening at 7pm, with a
 Matinee at 2pm on December 28th. Tickets are £6, concessions £5,
 from Tickety Boo, on 621771 or online at www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk
There's a 10% discounts for groups of 10 or more

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers will be providing the entertainment
 at various events during December, including Sedgefield Veterans' Christmas Fayre
 and this month's WI meeting. *See diary opposite for details.*

Event publicity: www.sedgefieldweb.co.uk & sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Sports UPDATE with Sports Editor CHRIS LINES

When I was a lad, the BBC Sports Review of the Year was already a national institution - one of those programmes that everyone I knew tuned into. Of course, the key moments in the show were the prize presentations, leading to the final moment, when someone was crowned Sports Personality of the Year, but what was also really enjoyable was the detailed round up of annual highlights from all the major sports, and some of those that have less of a profile.

Fast forward to now and Sports Personality of the Year 2013 (or #SPOTY13 in social media parlance) will now doubt devote a large chunk of its running time to pander to the modern obsession with individual 'personality', whatever that means. While I am all for celebrating the country's amazing individual sports men and women in depth, I think it is a real shame that the showpiece sports programme of the year by our national broadcaster will probably only mention in passing some amazing achievements in loads of sports and by many teams. The 'review' is still a central part of the show, but in recent years much less actual airtime is devoted to it and it has to be fit in around relatively long profile pieces on each shortlisted personality and regular plugs for the telephone voting. A few years ago, Durham County Cricket Club won its second county championship in a row, yet neither the team nor its outstanding coach Geoff Cook was given a single mention in SPOTY. I suppose my point is that this particular show has always been hugely popular with TV audiences, so I wish the BBC had stuck to their guns (and its name) and continued the tradition of using the programme to deliver a genuinely comprehensive review of British (and a bit of world) sport over the last 12 months. 2013 would be a good opportunity to revert to that approach, as, unlike in the previous few years, it's pretty obvious who is going to win this time. I'm looking at you Andy Murray. Rant over.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers recently held their annual awards events, celebrating club and individual successes over the last year. First up was the juniors' awards night, which was to a great degree organised and presented by the young Harriers themselves, with a little help/hindrance from the adults. Special guest for the evening was Teesside based Team GB sprinter Richard Kilty, who presented all of the awards and spoke about his career to date, offering some inspirational words of encouragement to everyone in the room. Every junior who completed the England Athletics Academy Awards programme was presented with a certificate, as were all of the children who ran the Mini and Junior Great North Runs to raise money for Back the Track.

Richard Kilty presented the following awards:

Boys Cross Country Performance of the Year; Kieran Walker
Girls Cross Country Performance of the Year; Abie Hearmon
Boys Field Performance of the Year; Michael Chilvers
Girls Field Performance of the Year; Kate Carmichael
Most Improved in Ean Parson's Group; Charlotte Scurr
Most Improved Scott Hydon's Group; Rebecca Hall
Most Improved Sprinter; Joseph Dredge
Boys Track Performance of the Year; George Pilkington
Most Improved Thrower; Rory Pilkington
Most Improved U11 Boy; Daniel Buckle
Most Improved U11 Girl; Anna Haycock
Girls Best Track Performance of the Year; Hannah Scarborough
Most Improved Multi-Discipline Group; Hannah Scurr
Club Person of the Year; Sean Haycock.

A week after the junior event, the senior awards night and annual dinner was held in the Parish Hall. A highlight of the Harriers' year, the event was organised by club members Anne Gladwin and Caroline Hirst and was a big success.

Special guests were Peter Barron, editor of the Northern Echo, Mel Carr, Mayor of Sedgefield and John Stacey, North East regional development officer for England Athletics. Peter, Mel and John presented the following annual awards:

Club Member of the Year; Marie Walker (for the third time)
Club Runner of the Year; Gary Thwaites
Volunteer of the Year; Kev Archbold
Individual Performance of the Year; Matthew Jones
Newcomer of the Year; David Round
Supporter of the Year; Alan Tait
Men's Club Grand Prix; David Greatorex
Women's Club Grand Prix; Tracy Brown
Men's Club Time Trial; Paul Weir
Women's Club Time Trial; Abie Hearmon

The club also made a special presentation to club chair and founder Ean Parsons in recognition of his ongoing contribution to the club. There was a record list of nominations for awards and a record number of votes were cast in 2013.

Wheelchair Rugby

The North East Bulls wheelchair rugby team (pictured below) recently competed in their first Super Series in the national division one.

So far, the Bulls have found it tough adapting to this new level (they were promoted at the end of last season) but the club continues to represent the North East at this top level of competition in the sport. The team is keen to attract new players, (especially someone who can help them score more points!) and trains twice a week at the community college. All are welcome to go along and give it a go, including those people not in wheelchairs. Just drop the club a line to thomasgsmith@hotmail.co.uk or find the club on Facebook to ensure they have equipment there for you.

Also, following the success of last year's anniversary tournament, the club will hold another, bigger event on 14th & 15th December at Sedgefield Community College. Five teams from across the County will compete in a tournament, with action from 9am until 6pm on each day. Entry for spectators is free and the event will be a great opportunity to see the game for anyone who hasn't done so.



Squash

For the third year running, four schools recently took part in both the Sedgfield primary schools mini-squash competition and pre-competition coaching. Stephen Rowsby toured the schools and James Larcombe organised the round robin competition, which involved Trimdon Juniors, St. William's, Trimdon, Hardwick Primary Sedgfield and Sedgfield Primary. The competition's ninth year was the closest ever and it will be very difficult to better it: going into the final round, only 15 points separated the schools (with a maximum of 55 points for winning a match) and the title wasn't decided until the final game. Each team had 5 players, including a younger player (Yr 5 or below) and at least one girl, though most teams had 2 or more. Ex competitor, Oliver Larcombe helped organise and referee the competition, aided by old hands among the teachers.

Top individual scorer was Robert Peacock, St. William's, with a maximum 33 points, but close behind were three players from different teams: Ethan Byrne, Trimdon Juniors, Annie Pickard, Sedgfield Primary and Harry Peterson, Sedgfield Hardwick, all with 32 points.

The morning competition was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game, as well as more experienced players. Winners St. William's will now represent the area in the Durham & Cleveland inter-primary schools competition early in 2014. Final results: 1st St. Williams 142 pts (three wins); 2nd Sedgfield Hardwick 133 (one win); 3rd Sedgfield Primary 132 (one win); 4th Trimdon Juniors 122 (one win). Anyone who wants to take up the game (or to practice for their next competition) is very welcome to turn up on term-time Saturday mornings for club coaching at Sedgfield Squash Club, in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. The club offers a free taster session.

The North East Junior Squash Championships at Pontefract saw a healthy entry of 15 players from Durham & Cleveland including four members of Sedgfield Squash Club. In the Boys U19s Sedgfield was represented by Rob Pearce, in the U17s by George Peden and in the U15s by Oliver Walls and Dan Toas. Oliver reached the final of the U15s, losing narrowly (3-2) to long-time rival and England player Michael Mattimore from Northumberland (11-9 in the fifth game). At the British Closed Championship in Manchester, two competitors from Sedgfield, Rob Pearce (U19s) and Oliver Walls (U15s) both qualified for the first round, avoiding the need to play through qualifying stages. However, the challenge of having to play top seeded players proved too great and saw both playing in the plate. Rob lost his next game against Yorkshire's Tom Bamford 2-3 in a tight game. Oliver battled through to the final of the plate competition which included a semi-final win against England number two ranked Curtis Malik, before losing narrowly in the final 2-3 to fellow Durham County player Michael Andrews.

Cycling

Sedgfield man Neil Hetherington recently completed a coast to coast cycle ride for charity, covering 100 miles from Arnside in the west to Seaton Carew in the east in under eight hours. Neil raised over £900 for a pancreatic cancer charity in memory of his friend Roy Hamilton who lost his battle with the disease last year. Neil is grateful to the friends who rode with him and pushed him on, to Graham Parnaby for planning the route and to Colin of Sedgfield Taxis who drove the team to the start in his minibus and then drove it as a support vehicle during the ride. That's all for this month. As ever, if you have any sports news send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.



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