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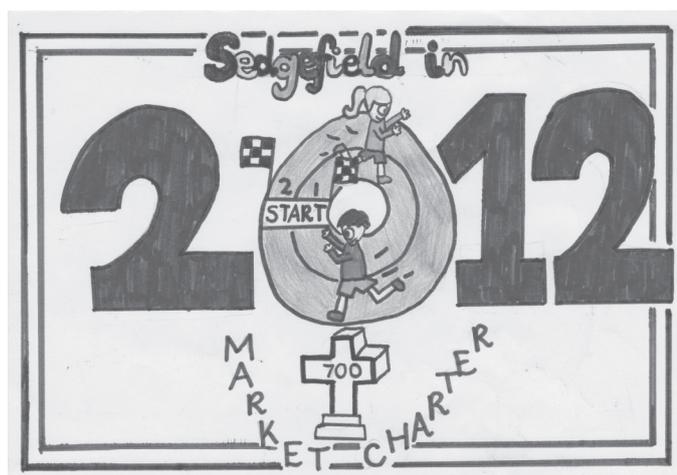


Sedgefield NEWS

February 2012

London 2012 & Sedgefield 700: the Sedgefield Village Games

Plans for the Sedgefield Village Games to celebrate the London 2012 Olympics and Sedgefield 700 are well underway. To start the ball rolling the Village Games Committee asked pupils at Hardwick Primary and Sedgefield Primary Schools to design a village games logo. The standard of entry was very high and the winners from each school were Charlotte Solly from Hardwick Primary and Amy Carr from Rectory Row. The judges chose Charlotte's entry to represent the celebrations and it is shown here. In full colour it is in glorious red, white & blue.



The Sedgefield Village Games will be held between June 17th and July 14th. On June 17th, when the Olympic Torch passes through Sedgefield, children from both primary schools will perform on the village green and there will be exhibitions in Ceddesfeld Hall and the Parish Hall, of school art and writing, along with an exhibition of Olympic themed photographs entered in a competition, as part of the Sedgefield 700 celebrations.

In the weeks before the closing ceremony pupils at schools in Sedgefield will take part in competitions as part of their school curriculum and performances and achievements will be recognised with awards as part of the Village Games.

Also during this time all sports clubs and organisations in Sedgefield are invited to stage an event as part of the Village Games. The event will be an open event which allow the club or organisation to showcase their sport or activity and invite non-members to participate. Performances and achievements will be recognised by the Village Games.

The closing ceremony will take place on the village green and at Ceddesfeld Hall on Saturday July 14th, only two weeks before the London Games start. At the closing ceremony clubs and organisations will be invited to showcase their club's activities in the ring and the awards from the games will be presented. There will also be cultural activities and performances.

Any club or organisation that wishes to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to showcase their club by being a part of the Sedgefield Village Games should contact Scott Hydon on 07883 886 305.

The Sedgefield Village Games have applied for the Inspire Mark from the organisers of London 2012. This will ensure our events are brought to the attention of London 2012 and given due recognition, especially on the day the torch visits Sedgefield.

The logo will be used in the Village Games Opening Ceremony when the Olympic Torch visits Sedgefield on 17th June and at the Closing Ceremony on 14th July. It will also be depicted on the memento that will be given to children under 16 years of age, and will be used in publicity about the Village Games. The ten short listed entries will receive a voucher from the Village Games Committee.

Important information about mementos

The Sedgefield Village Games committee will be giving a memento of the 2012 Sedgefield Village Games to children and young people under the age of sixteen on 31st August 2012 as follows;

- Any child who;
- * Is resident in Sedgefield Village
- * Attends school in Sedgefield Village
- * Is resident in Sedgefield Village but attends school elsewhere
- * Attends a pre-school group in Sedgefield Village
- * Attends a club or organisation in Sedgefield Village

Schools, clubs, organisations & parents are invited to register their interest and submit numbers of mementos required to **Ean Parsons at ean2005@hotmail.co.uk** or **Simon Hill at snhill@btinternet.com**.

Sedgefield Community College, Sedgefield Primary School and Hardwick Primary School will be asked to issue mementos in the first instance, therefore clubs, organisations and parents should only advise numbers for children who do not attend those schools.

There may be a need to check to ensure every child is included and that there is no duplication. The Sedgefield Village Games Committee may contact clubs, organisations and parents about this.

Sedgefield News would like to invite children to send in artwork, photographs and short pieces of writing about the Sedgefield Village Games, during the early part of the summer holidays, so that we can make the September News a special souvenir edition.

From the editor. Last month I appealed for new ideas for articles and Allan Smart's book review was the first response. I had my flashback to childhood a few days later, so by co-incidence we have two book articles from one street, White House Drive. An idea was born. Is anyone else up for giving us an insight into who reads what in **your** street? We could call it (very creatively!) -

Books from our street

Nothing to Envy Real lives in North Korea, by **Barbara Demick**, Pub Granta, 2010

Barbara Demick is an American journalist based in Seoul, capital of South Korea, employed as a correspondent by the Los Angeles Times. She won the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for her book in 2010; in my opinion, deservedly so. I hope if any Sedgefield reader of this review assimilates her scholarship they will agree with me. I have read the book many times and so have my son and daughter. Many people will find it upsetting; it is a moving tribute to an uncomplaining populace under a draconian government, isolated and ignorant of what is happening in the rest of the world. My main reason for introducing this book to Sedgefield readers is because of the recent death of "The Great Leader" - Kim Il Sung (or Kim Jong Il) and the naming of his 28 year old son as successor. No surprise there. The public expressions of grief have been shown on television. Read this book and learn just how much a fake it all is. After all, the North Korean people have had plenty of practice with their "grief". North Korea is one of the most repressive and secretive states on earth. Spying is encouraged, the media is government controlled and "Gone with the Wind" is a "dangerous", banned book. In the 1990s, millions of innocent people died; a result of state organised famine. Barbara Demick is a dedicated, hard-working, very brave journalist and I commend "Nothing to Envy" to readers. I hope that the two Sedgefield men who served in the DLI during the Korean War will dip into this book. There will be few surprises for them. *Allan Smart.*

Thanks to Dandy by **G. O'Connor**

Emerging from the cover of the trees at a high point on the Red Kite Trail near Gateshead recently, I came across a scene that was a powerful reminder of my very favourite childhood book. The Victoria Garesfield mine is now only suggested by its long ago shaping of the landscape and the presence of two lines of ex-pitmen's cottages. Allotments tumbled down to the tree line, bursting with the signs of fruitful labour and loud with the hungry calls of chickens and geese. Whinny banks - the old name for the gorse clad, gently undulating fells of our north country - were shining in the winter sun and I was transported back to the pages of a small green-backed book. Much battered by the attentions of my little sister after I left home, it was rescued when I had children of my own to read to.

I grew up in the North Riding, sandwiched between the foothills of the Cleveland uplands and the vast complexes of ICI and the Dorman Long steelworks. County Durham was a foreign land - certainly to my mother, who could never reconcile herself to our choosing to live in it (some age-old family loathing which I never understood.) The story of the little pony that changed the lives of the family which took him in when he and an injured miner were finished at the pit had a powerful impact. I'd go so far as to say it helped shape my world view. I have certainly come to realise over the years that I've lived here, that it is in large part thanks to Dandy that I love, and feel at home in, the countryside of County Durham that lies north and west of the fertile farmland, market town status and ecclesiastical importance of Sedgefield. The pictures painted in Gladys O'Connor's simple story are treasure to me. *SJC*

As an afterthought, I Googled 'Thanks to Dandy' and discovered that it's listed as a 'Pony Book'. What rot. It's nothing short of social history!

Free science days for kids

The London Science Museum brings two Half Term Family events designed to inspire and excite young people about science, to

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Geodesic Domes with Dr Jonathan Hare

Wednesday 15th February, 10am - 4pm

The history of Geodesic domes - with Dr Jonathan Hare, a scientist who has featured on BBC Rough Science, Hollywood Science and COAST TV series. A chance to build one of these large spherical structures, like those at the Eden Project in Cornwall and the Epcot Centre in Disneyland in Florida

Solar Cars & Green Power with Solar Active

Thursday 16th February, 10am - 4pm

Making solar powered models to show how green power works.

Both events are free, but please call **01388 60261** to book your place

Music at Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Friday 3rd February, 1pm - 2pm

Lunchtime Concert

Love & Music

Anna-Marie Jackson accompanied by George Hetherington in a programme of memorable songs.

Tickets: £3.00

Wednesday 15th February, 8pm

BBC Folk Duo of the Year

Nancy Kerr & James Fagan

A scintillating mix of traditional and contemporary acoustic music drawn mostly from English and Australian traditions. They are renowned for their breathtaking instrumentals, strong harmony singing, original and wonderful live performance.

Support: Loose Connection.

Tickets: £10 / £8 concessions

Wednesday 22nd February, 8pm

Flossie Mallavialle

Chanteuse Flossie Mallavialle reinterprets the songs of Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel with accompaniment from Paul Donnelly and Chris Parkinson.

Tickets: £10.00 / £8.00 concession (includes light French supper)

To book tickets, call the box office at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, on

01388 602610

Email: bath@durham.gov.uk

Mordon & Bradbury Grand Christmas Draw

The Annual Draw was held in Mordon Village Hall after the Whist Drive on 8th December.

There were over 40 assorted prizes which had been kindly donated by local businesses and villagers. The draw raised a grand total of £547 for the village hall charity.

Wendy Sayers, Chair of the Village Hall Association would, on behalf of the committee and trustees, like to thank all businesses, villagers and friends who generously donated such wonderful prizes, and everyone who bought tickets, for their much appreciated support.





Pantomime delights

Accompanied by energetic cheering, booing and singing along from their enthusiastic audience, Sedgefield Players, with their youth group SPYS, recently gave a series of unforgettable performances of their home grown version of Cinderella. The youthful talents of Luke Maddison as Buttons and Holly Atkinson as Cinders shone, alongside accomplished performances by panto veterans Terry West and Thomas Guest as ugly sisters Fatima and Eugenia. Encouraged by their obnoxious mother, Viv Jacobs as Baroness Hardup, both were determined to win the hand of Prince Charming, played with thigh-slapping gusto by Sarah Legender, assisted by the ever faithful Dandini of Jessica Sadler, aged 17. SPYS Robert McGuinness and Conor Davies brought the house down as blundering bailiffs Smash and Grab, failing miserably to collect the rent from Baron Hardup, played by David Jasper, who co-wrote the panto with Thomas Guest. David also supplied the song lyrics to music composed by his 18 year old son Tim, who led the band on keyboards. Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, played by her real-life mother, Sarah Atkinson, with her hopeless apprentice fairy, Cheryl (Jacqui O'Meara) created a hilarious comedy duo.

Other parts were taken by members of Sedgefield Players and SPYS, the youngest aged 7, while the girls of Fishburn Dance and Drama, choreographed by Gill Rowe, provided excellent dance numbers. With superb costumes and outstanding backcloths created by director Walter Howell, Sedgefield Players' Cinderella was a truly memorable panto, setting a standard to rival many a professional company. *Norma Neal*

Sedgefield Round Table

Christmas on the Green

Friday the 23rd of December saw the annual Carols on the Green.

As always, proceedings were lead by our local Churches, with Fishburn Brass Band providing the musical accompaniment. It was well attended again this Christmas by young and old, with some of the children helping with the readings. Singing around our village Christmas tree the Friday before Christmas is another tradition that makes Christmas time feel special in Sedgefield.

The Round Table are proud to be part of this tradition by providing the tree and helping organize Carols on the Green every year, so we would like to say thank you to everyone who attended this special event.

Rock & Blues Club

People ask how we manage to keep raising the blues club bar; the answer is by booking bands of the calibre of King King, who headline on February 18th. In the writers' poll of Blues Matters magazine, they were not only voted best band but also best album of 2011. Not bad!

King King will be very ably supported by The Bluebuds from Fishburn, so not only international quality, but it couldn't get much more local either!

Check out our new website to get a flavour of both acts (Google Sedgefield blues), then hurry to the Post Office to buy your tickets before they sell out, as they will.

Round Table bar with real ale at silly prices, proceeds to local charities and top class entertainment, all on your doorstep. It really can't get any better.

Garry Jacobs



A red letter day for Tim

On the day Tim Jasper passed his driving test, he also won the John Caden Cup for giving Outstanding Service to Carmel College during his time there (playing regularly at Mass, helping the Music Dept., assisting at evening meetings for parents & charity fundraising etc.).

What made it even more special for him was that Father Caden was actually there to present it to him.

"Help! I need somebody ..."

We're looking for a volunteer to take over delivering Sedgefield News to **Crispin Court, plus the section of Rectory Row from opposite the Social Club to Stockton Road.**

It's a short round, just 35 copies in all. If you are "the one that I want" please contact Judith Edgoose on 620244. Thank you.

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Home Security - a Brief Reminder

It is all too easy to forget about the open window, the unlocked door. Your forgetfulness is the chance the thief or burglar is waiting for. Make it your habit to keep doors and windows locked even when you are in the house.

Don't become complacent – think security – just take the time to routinely practise some simple crime prevention measures.

House unlit after Dark - use timing switches to turn on lights or a radio around the house while you are out, make your home appear occupied.

Door Callers, Trading Standards, Police & NHWatch urge everyone to not buy at the door. Why not display a NHWatch No Cold Calling Home sticker and ignore uninvited callers - especially those who ignore your notice. Stickers are still available free from the Town Council Offices (next to the Doctor's Surgery).

Bogus Callers & Walk in Theft can happen to the least expecting & often to someone who is usually careful. KEEP THE DOOR CHAIN OR DOOR BAR ON AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY, WHEN ANSWERING THE DOOR. IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT. DO NOT ALLOW ENTRY WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT OR NOTIFICATION. A LOCKED DOOR PREVENTS UNWANTED VISITORS

Garden Security, mark valuables with your post code using a simple UV pen: lock tools, toys, bikes, etc. away, preferably out of sight.

Flask in the Fridge

Please remember to update your data sheet inside the flask, following any change to either your medication or to your health. It is vital, if the Emergency Services are called and refer to the information, that it is accurate & up to date. This is for your benefit only. A simple method is to put your most recent prescription in the flask (as long as it has all your current medication on it).

Meeting: The 1st meeting of Neighbourhood Watch in 2012 is Tuesday 14th Feb, at 7pm in the Parish Hall. If you want to keep crime low in our village; if you have views on what our local Police should be doing; come to the meeting & share your views.

Ink: Rather than waste good ink, Ken Saiger has available for collection by anyone interested, 2 Printer Cartridges, 1 x Colour ref. RET0052 & 1 x Black ref. RET050. Please give Ken a ring on 621896 if you are interested.

Telephone Numbers: Local Police: 0345 60 60 365 or 101

Durham County Council Wardens: 0300 123 70 70

Police Crime Prevention Officer: 01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer, Neil Langthorne: 01325 742755

Police Crime Prevention Officer, Mark Pheasant: 01325 742714

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum January meeting

The meeting reviewed the issues raised at the last meeting in November 2011 and were pleased to hear that we had finally received a response from Durham County Council (DCC) regarding the Cunningham Court s106 monies. We have had apologies for the maladministration and delay on this issue (as suggested by the Local Government Ombudsman) from DCC Chief Executive and DCC Head of Planning and are informed that there will be full consultation with residents from the Cunningham Court area regarding progress and development of the woodland area – we will keep everyone informed and make sure all the monies are spent for the benefit of our community.

The Spring Lane/Foxton wind turbine application will go to a Hearing where an Inspector will decide on the outcome on February 28th and 29th, the venue is yet to be announced but we need as many as possible to get along and show our community concern. Individual comments had to be with the Inspector by January 10th but there will be opportunity at the hearing for our community to put our case. Please give your support, it is really important to try to stop this application and its impact on affected residents and our village as a whole.

It was understood that we had no Town Council representatives at the meeting as the Town Council meeting was on the same night (we had changed the Forum meeting because the first Monday of the month was too soon after New Year), however, concern was expressed that we seem to lack information from several relevant sources ie. feedback from issues raised in November 2011, information from the Area Action Partnership (AAP) particularly relating to how Sedgefield community is benefiting from AAP work, information from Sedgefield Together Partnership on their intentions particularly relating to requests made by the Forum.

Parking issues on Rectory Row and speeding in Spring Lane are still active issues. We have also been made aware that some residents in Butterwick Lane are experiencing persistent, disturbing noise problems from the 'energy centre' at the Community College.

We have had a further request from our GP practice for people to come forward and be part of a 'Patient Panel'. The Patient Panel has existed for quite some time now but they are looking for new and different representative particularly younger people, people under 60 and people from different ethnic groups. Please give it some thought and if you want further information contact the Practice Manger Helen Letts at the surgery or email helen.letts@gp/a83054.nhs.uk. The next Forum meeting will be on March 5th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall. Don't forget you can get minutes of the meetings and lots of other village information by registering your email address with jane@sedgefield.net.

PC Todd reports

The New Year has started on a positive note with few crimes being reported. Anti-social behaviour is also down compared to last year. I hope that this Jubilee year crime levels remain low and everyone is able to enjoy the many events taking place. The few crimes that have been reported include, in December, a Burglary at the Racecourse, a window smashed in Melgrove Way and a car damaged in Wykes Close.

In January a barrier was damaged in the Industrial Estate and a quad bike stolen from Bradbury. Local shops have also had items stolen, including champagne!

Until next time, Keith.

P.A.C.T.

At a recent Residents Forum meeting it was agreed that the Beat Team would focus their attention on Spring Lane. Motorists be aware that if you drive at speed along this road you may end up with a £60 fine.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Crosshill. Incidents of drunken behaviour by a couple of males were reported in the Golden Lion, Hope Inn and Black Lion resulting in a male receiving a warning letter. Verbal abuse of any kind towards staff will not be tolerated. Having consumed too much alcohol is not an acceptable excuse. It may have been a holiday period for some over Christmas but drunken behaviour like this spoils the enjoyment for everyone.

Sadly, the Hardwick Arms has closed for the time being. Hopefully it will open again soon. We wish Wayne and Richard all the best in the future.

Sedgefield Together Community Partnership Neighbourhood Plan

The Sedgefield Together Community Partnership, working in partnership with the Town Council is committed to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan but we are awaiting the government's model / plan and also the Durham County Council's (DCC) strategic policies and plans which form the Co. Durham Plan. Meantime, however we are using the Co. Durham consultation process to identify what is wanted in Sedgefield and it is hoped this can then become the basis of the new Neighbourhood Plan.

Your opportunity to be involved: The next Sedgefield Together Open Event is Monday 27th February at 7pm in the Parish Hall. This will focus entirely on the housing aspect of the Co. Durham Plan and our new Neighbourhood Plan.

What type of houses should be built? *Starter homes, bungalows, social housing etc.*

Where should they be built? *DCC have already indicated possible sites but are there others we think preferable?* When should they be built? *Timescales, etc.*

We need to build a proper plan / proposals and arguments based on sound planning grounds if we are to influence the County Council Plan.

All are invited to come along.

The Cherry Stones

Musings from a seasoned people-watcher

Sandwiched as it is between the Co-op and the hairdressers, my favourite watering hole was crammed, on a cold late Tuesday afternoon, everywhere awash with pre-Christmas activity, everyone looking like Russian sailors on shore-leave used to look before the collapse of Communism, weighed down with bags of all colours and descriptions chattering away yet with a haunted expression on every face.

I sat musing at table 3, a two-hander ideally positioned with a commanding view, custom built for the endless delights of people watching. Big-Brother not a patch on this place. Surrounded by people in extremis, needing respite from the fray, sipping the universal medicine, hot tea or black coffee. Munching on a sticky bun, I wondered if the Ante-room to heaven would be like this. I am a patient man, fortunately, and I can wait for the answer. I don't have to know just yet!

As I sat, shopper's snippets of conversation drifted through the air, all on a recurring theme: "I've tried everywhere", "I can't find one for love nor money", "Eeeh! What will I do", "It's the little-uns, they just expect now-a-days. I don't know what I'm going to do". Anguish seemed the prevailing mood and I was left wondering, whatever happened to "Peace on Earth and Good Will to All Men"? *MB*

Countdown to Digital Switchover

With the arrival of 2012, the clock is now ticking on the last few months of analogue TV in the North East. Although most people already have digital on at least one household set, there is still plenty of time for those who have yet to make the switch, which happens in September.

The Switchover Help Scheme, which offers help to older viewers and those who need extra support, will be writing to all eligible people in the spring. Digital UK's regional team will be on hand to provide help and advice to anyone who needs it. We are also working with local councils, charities and other bodies to ensure that everyone is ready for switchover.

Don't forget those other TV sets! Latest research suggests around 20% of households in the North East still watch analogue services on at least one set, even though most people have digital on their main TVs. Digital UK is therefore reminding viewers to check out all their sets, including those in bedrooms, kitchens - even garden sheds - before BBC2 analogue switches off on September 12th, followed by all other analogue services 2 weeks later, on 26th September. For technical advice and information about how to convert individual televisions to digital, please contact the **Digital UK Advice Line on 08456 50 50 50** or visit digitaluk.co.uk. For advice about the **Digital Switchover Help Scheme call 0800 40 85 900** or visit helpscheme.co.uk

Help on Public Transport for learning disabled

The Bridge Card is a scheme run by Durham County Council and enables people with a learning disability to alert staff on public transport that they may need more time to count money out, remember to get off at the correct stop or be properly seated before the vehicle pulls away, by producing a card with the Bridge Card logo on. On the reverse side it allows them to write their name and a contact to call in case of emergencies.

A pilot in Durham City has been launched whereby the bridge card is displayed in the premises window of the Town Hall, Clayport Library, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Bus Station so that people with a learning disability know they can go in for help and advice if they feel intimidated or in need of help. Members of the public can find out more about the Bridge Card Council on 0191 3725386 or email passengertransport@durham.gov.uk.

What makes life worth livin'?

When **livin** ran a competition to ask that very question, the company's new twitter page was inundated with responses. The winning tweet, posted by tenant, Evelyn French, said:

"Good health, happiness and warm sunny days." Delighted with the prize of an iPad 2, Evelyn said: "I enjoy browsing the internet and can't wait to get to grips with the iPad. I will use it to contact my sister, who lives in Mauritius and my friend in America, as well as to play music."

To view all entries, visit livin's official twitter page @weare_livin

Below: Alan Boddy presents Evelyn with her prize



Another initiative from livin takes the form of a £500 donation to County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted. livin regularly calls upon the services of the charity to convert its tenants' magazine and information pamphlets into audio format for its blind and partially sighted customers. The donation will help produce a talking newspaper to be sent every week to sight-impaired residents, allowing them to keep up to date with news and useful services available in the area. For more details call 0191 386 8175.

Send your news, views and adverts to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com before February 15th for the March edition and if you would like to follow **Sedgefield News on Twitter** our username is **@SedgefieldNews**

I did give advance warning that I would make some mention of darts in this issue. Of course, there is much debate about what status darts has in the world – is it a sport or a game? Let us consider its sporting credentials. Darts can boast: players blessed with great technical ability and capable of precision marksmanship; controversy, thanks to the schism at the top of the game, resulting in two separate world championships; the finely honed physique of the competitors, ensuring that they have the ideal centre of gravity for leaning forward at the oche; garish sponsors' logos all over the shirts of the players; overhyped TV coverage employing an overkill of statistics; passionate, committed fans; and ridiculous nicknames. Sure, darts has much going for it, but it is worth noting that it presents a distinct lack of athletic endeavour – hearing a commentator boast with no apparent sense of irony that a player will walk nearly a mile during a long match just serves to reinforce that point. For me, it's a great, hugely entertaining indoor game - no more, no less. For the record, this year in the PDC world event, Brit Adrian 'Jackpot' Lewis retained his title, while in the BDO version, Christian 'Lipstick' Kist from the Netherlands was triumphant.

On a less enjoyable note, the plight of Darlington Football Club has been distressing to witness. I used to go and watch the team regularly as a kid and I remember ramshackle Feethams with great affection (possibly rose tinted!). I can't say the same about the Darlington Arena, the building of which has played a big role in the club's downfall. As I type this, Darlington FC has just been given a lifeline by its administrator and somehow managed to field a team against Fleetwood. There were nearly 6,000 of us at the ground for that game, which was a great turnout and show of support for the plight of the club, but still meant that the arena was only relatively close to being a third full. That in itself demonstrates the extent to which it was a folly to build it in the first place. Anyway, the club has been given leave to continue operating for another two games, after which if significant immediate investment has not been found, Darlington FC will be no more, after 129 years. I'm hoping that by the time you read this, a minor miracle has occurred.

Squash

Individual handicap competition Sedgefield Squash Club's first major competition of the season, the individual handicap, reached an exciting conclusion on 6th January, with Stephen Rowsby facing 12 year old Oliver Walls.

The match was played using "American scoring", up to 15 points for each game. Stephen as club number one, had to start on minus 41 points in each game. This resulted in a gruelling game for both players, with the lower handicap player needing to avoid any costly mistakes while trying to catch up on points with their opponent. Last year's winner Stephen was fully aware of the mountain that he needed to climb and the tactics required. However Oliver, as befitting his national ranking of seventh in the UK at U13 level, was not going to be fazed and was able to win the first game 15-6. An exciting second game saw Oliver only three points from match victory, when Stephen got a second wind, and with a spell of error-free squash, dominating at the front of the court, he pulled the game back to win 15-12. Although the momentum seemed to have tilted in Stephen's direction, Oliver regained his composure for the final game and came back fighting with some superb shots and won 15 to minus 12. Congratulations to Oliver, who marked his first trophy at Sedgefield with an impressive overall display, and left the large number of spectators in no doubt that there will be more silverware to follow.

Mid-season teams' report

Following last season's successes for Sedgefield's teams in the Durham and Cleveland leagues, this term has proved to be more challenging, particularly for the men's teams. The loss of a couple of key players from the first team, has had a knock-on effect to the strength of all teams. Currently, the first team lie second from bottom in the Division 2 having won two and lost five matches, although individual praise should go to Robert Pearce who is fourth in the individual player points table for this division. The second team, having won promotion last year, are third from bottom in Division 3, having won three and lost 5 matches, while the third team hold a mid-table position in Division 5, having won four and lost three matches. Meanwhile, the ladies' team, having won promotion last year, are consolidating their position in Division 1, having won three and lost three matches. Marie Priest currently sits in fifth place for individual player points.

Cycling

Bright and unusually warm January weather gave the riders competing in the first cyclo cross race held in Sedgefield perfect conditions to try out the new course at Hardwick's East Park. Three races were contested on Sunday 8 January as part of the North East Cyclo Cross League, with Ferryhill Wheelers promoting racing at this new venue.

Racing commenced with a strong field of 24 in the under 12s race. Riders as young as three years old on balance bikes and other young local riders trying racing for the first time, competed alongside more experienced riders on a shortened but challenging course. Nick Hamilton led from the start and was unchallenged to finish first, but further down the field there was some competitive racing, encouraged by some vocal parents and spectators.

In the youth race, held on the full 1.5 mile course set out for the seniors, a field of nine settled down into three groups fairly quickly, with Elliot Davison of Hetton Hawks finishing two minutes clear of Joe Howard, Joe Mann and Finlay Robertson, who had a sprint finish for the next positions.

The main race saw 50 riders line up for the full course under darkening skies.



Squash club chairman, Mick Carr presents the club handicap trophy to Oliver Walls

Cycling continued

Kenny Haswell of Blackhawk Bikes pulled out an immediate lead and held it throughout the race to finish well clear of next placed man Colin Ash, also of Blackhawk Bikes. The remaining top 10 places were very closely fought on the course that was riding very fast with excellent ground conditions and a group of riders lapping consistently together made for an exciting race. Tom Stockill of Malton Wheelers finished third, with top junior Scott Gerrard in fourth. The event was sponsored by Durham County Council's sport and leisure department, which meant all entrants in the children's races went away with a goody bag and spot prizes for their efforts. Competitors enjoyed the relaxed surroundings of the Hardwick Park Visitor Centre and helped keep up a brisk trade at the café all day.



Above: Christine Hearmon, Marie Walker and Jo James competing in the Gerry Kearsley Winter Handicap

Sedgefield Harriers

It was a cold and foggy morning for this year's Gerry Kearsley Winter Handicap, staged by Sedgefield Harriers. A field of 64 runners took to the route on trails around Fishburn and Bishop Middleham with handicaps, based on 10k times, ranging from zero for a previous 10k time of 60 minutes to a top handicap of 21 minutes. First back was unattached runner Greg Swinbourne with a run time of 53:23 and running off a handicap of one minute. Fastest man over the course was Will Horsley of Elvet Striders in 37:06 and fastest lady was Sedgefield Harrier Gail Bell in 43:42, both winning the 'Sedgefield for Sport' trophy donated by Eamonn Murtagh which was awarded for the first time. First Sedgefield Harrier man in the handicap was Richard Fearnside and first Sedgefield lady was Sarah Duell.

The Handicap worked well, with the majority of runners returning in a ten minute spread. Presentations were held in Fishburn Club for the first time and the Harriers were delighted to have Gerry Kearsley's brother Tony present to award the trophies.

Sedgefield Harriers juniors have a number of runners who have progressed well through school cross countries to represent their counties. These are Rebecca Mott (Ferryhill), Kieran Walker (Wheatley Hill), Jonathan Baines (Bishop Middleham/New College, Durham), Hannah Featherstone (Billingham) and Abie Hearmon (Red House/Sedgefield). They will now represent Cleveland & Durham schools at the inter-counties at Kirby Stephen on 4th February.

Sedgefield NETPark FC 10th anniversary

Sedgefield NETPark FC is planning to celebrate its 10th anniversary in style. The club is organising an evening with ex Newcastle and Sunderland players John Beresford and Eric Gates at Sedgefield Cricket Club on Friday 30th March. Both players will talk about their experiences with club and country and take questions from the floor. Tickets for the event are £20 each and include pie, peas and chips. For more information and to buy a ticket, please contact David Ryder on 07515 020766.

That's all for this month. As ever, if you have any sports news send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Sedgefield Development Trust Limited

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 13th February 2012 at 7.45 pm in the Boardroom of the Parish Hall.

Any special or general resolutions proposed must be with the Company at its registered office no later than 12 noon on Friday 10th February 2012.

All nominations for Directors must be with the Company Secretary by latest noon Friday 10th February 2012.

This AGM is an open, public meeting.

SDT is owned and controlled by the community.

Sedgefield Development Trust is a company limited by guarantee; Company Number: 4312745 and is a registered charity; Charity Number: 1100806

February Events Diary

This service is free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 1st February

Parish Hall 7.15pm.

Craft demonstrations by members & friends. Members' comp. - item that shows good use of 50g of leftover wool
Pooled supper & 94th Birthday Cake
Visitors welcome, fee £2.50

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 4th February

8pm start. Presented by Ron & Paul

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 4th February

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Eddies@4

Sunday 5th February

Informal service for 2-6 year olds
4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's
Contact J Rowsby, 621125

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 6th February

Cycling in America - Peter Howe

& Monday 20th February

Action for Children

Local History Society A.G.M

Monday 6th February

Norma Neal,

The History of Wynyard Hall

New members welcome

Parish Hall Country Market

Friday 10th February

Farmers' Market

Sunday 12th February

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 12th & 26th February

1pm Ceddesfeld Hall. All levels welcome

Contact 01642 588197

Ladies Club

Tuesday 14th February

Handbell Ringers

Tuesday 28th February

AGM. Cheese & Biscuits

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting

Tuesday 14th February

7 pm in the Fletcher Room - Parish Hall

ALL Welcome

Sedgefield & District U3A

Friday 17th February

2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Monthly meeting, with Clare Hopps
on Sadberge Dogs Trust

New members always welcome

Live Music Night

Saturday 18th February

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Main guest Vin Garbutt : also featuring

Loose Connections and

The John Wrightson Band

Admission £10, incl. buffet. Tel 621347

Family History Group

(Branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 20th February

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Arthur Dodds,

The History of Espionage

see www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

for details, or call S Hall on 620367

Visitors always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 21st February

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Susan Davies from Hamsterley

"What's my line"

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 23rd February

7.45pm Parish Hall - everyone welcome

For details contact Steve Ashton on

01740 620559 sashton@teeswildlife.org

Sedgefield in Bloom

Friday 24th February

Coffee morning in the Parish Hall,

10-11.30am; with home-made

refreshments, cake stall, books,

crafts, tombola, raffle

101 gig at The Black Lion

Sunday 26th February at 8.30pm

February in the Library

Rhyme Time: Wednesdays 1st & 29th

10-11am

Craft Club: Tuesdays 7th & 21st,

10-12pm

Tickle Time: Monday 15th, 2.15-3pm

Book Circle: Wednesday 18th at 2pm

Children's activities during half term.

Please contact Library for details

Regular Events

Bridge Club

Meets every Sunday & Tuesday at 7.30pm in
Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. For
more information call Jen - 01740 620434

Winterton Wayfarers

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

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for the elderly & disabled at Ceddesfeld Hall
Join us for Tea or Coffee and biscuits on
Tuesdays 9.30 - 12; Wednesdays 10 - 12.30
Thursdays 1 - 3.30

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45.
Spaces for children 2+ years Contact 620923

Sing for Health

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

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wednesdays 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall

(First week of month - Monday)

Beginners welcome, contact 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head

New members welcome.

Call 629070 or 620562

Round Table

Sporting, social and charitable events.
1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members
welcome. Contact Rob on 629079

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon, Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & latest Fishburn gossip!

Fridays 9.30am - 12noon

Tea, coffee, toast & conversation

Ready Steady Grow

At Sedgefield Methodist Church., term time
Fridays, 9.30-10.30am. For Parents, Carers &
Children. Crafts, Songs, Bible stories,
Refreshments. Call Margaret Glass; 621618

Cupcake Café

Sedgefield Community College, 10am-12,
term-time Fridays. All profits to charity

Lyrics Choirs

2 choirs welcome new members. Ceddesfeld
Hall, Fridays. 7-18yrs at 6pm; Adults 7.30pm

Please send your

March Diary dates

by 15th February to

sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Coming up next month

Mayor's Charity Dinner & Dance

Friday 2nd March at Hardwick Hall Hotel

Tickets £26.50 - to include 4 course meal and dancing to 'Remember When'

- from the Council Offices.

Country & Western Fun Evening

Saturday 17th March in the Parish Hall

Tickets £6 to include Pie & Peas Supper. Bring your own drinks!!

Sedgefield Inner Wheel Spring Coffee Morning

Friday 23rd March, 10am - 12 noon

in the Parish Hall. Great coffee, delicious scones, tombola & raffle

Your Letters

Retirement thanks

I would like to thank the children, parents, governors, PTFA and all the staff at Sedgefield Primary School for their terrific generosity on my retirement.

I have enjoyed my unbelievable 25 years at the school and have met and taught many, many lovely children - some who are now grown up with children of their own.

I have worked with so many teachers and support staff over the years, who succeeded in making the school the place it is. I am sure that the same good practice will be carried on and the school will go from strength to strength in the coming years.

Once again my thanks go to all for their kind donations, and gifts. Most of all, my thanks to the pupils past and present of Sedgefield Primary, who made my job enjoyable and rewarding.

I had a wonderful and emotional send off from the present pupils and staff on December 14th. It was a day I will not forget.

Sandra Cummings

With sympathy

Spare a thought for local man, Wilfred Garbutt and his daughter Gabrielle, who have just lost their wife and mother, Jeannette.

Like myself, Jeannette was welcomed into the community; the village was small then, with no new estates so through time we got to know all the names and where everyone lived. Wilkinsons' bus trips all over the North East made everyone more close. Wilf and his wife were nearly always with us and on most occasions Wilf would be driving one of the buses.

Seventy years is a long time being here. Jeannette may have been French, but she was more of a native of Sedgefield. I was a Brummie for 20 years, but 50 on top of that makes me more of a North Easterner.

Mr L J Butler

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Corporate & Business Mail

Company Secretary, SDT
7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield,
TS21 2JN

Email: sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

To bring your sedgefieldweb page up to date, email John Fitzpatrick at sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

Community Lawyers & DIDO:
07899 022 133; Hare Hills Lodge,
Sedgefield, TS21 2EG

From The Spring Lane Action Group

LATEST ON SPRING LANE TURBINES

The Public Hearing will be held on

TUESDAY 28th & WEDNESDAY 29th FEBRUARY

at **SEDGEFIELD CRICKET CLUB**

from **10am - 6.30pm**

Please try to attend. This is our last opportunity to have our objections heard. The Inspector's decision will be final.

Dangerous & Illegal Parking at School Times

Support for Mr Quarmby's recent letter.

My children have attended Sedgefield Primary for the last 8 years and I have to drive to school so I know first hand that there is no need to park illegally. There is ample safe parking close by; just walk a few strides to school!

The problem increased after Barbara, our fabulous and fearless Lollipop Lady, retired and this selfish parking and dropping off makes it difficult to cross the road safely. The repeat offenders are well known local parents and grandparents who seem to have a blind spot to the danger they are causing to our children.

We urgently need stronger enforcement by Police, yellow zigzags on the other side of Rectory Row and traffic calming (as outside Hardwick) - plus strong signage; yellow lines on Burton Mews or resident only permit parking; and naming & shaming of regular offenders - photos, number plates and names in Sedgefield News or the School newsletter!

I have seen several very near misses over recent years; this action is required NOW before a child is seriously injured or killed.

Mrs A Nelson

Spectacular fundraising!

On behalf of the New Yorkers, a big thank you to people who donated prizes and who attended the Christmas Spectacular on December 16th & 17th. £800 was donated to the Great North Air Ambulance.

An uplifting experience

I would like to express my sincere thanks to fellow SCA members who gave me support when the lift stopped between floors, trapping me. It was our Garden Club Christmas Party that evening, which was almost over by the time I was released! I was 80 the day before and I do not know how I could have coped without their encouragement as I steadily got colder and colder. Eventually I was forced to sit on the cold floor of the lift, my legs having turned to jelly. I am especially grateful to Garry Jacobs, who was tirelessly up and down from attic to ground floor trying to move the lift, and to Barbara, who eventually reached me with cups of tea to give me strength, and John, doing his best with extra steps. The Fire Brigade arrived, but it was a very cold 90 minutes before I was finally helped out of what had become an icebox, with all the draughts in the lift shaft. To you all, a big thank you.

Nancy Wells

Editor's note. Another letter on the above subject has been received, but the editorial team felt that it should be addressed to the SCA rather than to the community at large.

Other letters which name, or imply, an individual are also problematic and we do not wish to repeat past errors. One such letter, perfectly reasonable in all other ways, has been put aside this month.

Yet another problem has arisen on a particular type of antisocial behaviour and, after serious thought, we agreed we could not publish this reader's concerns, firstly for fear of the consequences to the individuals involved, and secondly, because we know that some children read the News. We have referred this letter to the Police, who are already aware of the problem.

We very much dislike rejecting letters about the genuine concerns of readers, but must reserve the right to do so.

15th February is the Deadline for March News.

Email copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com Text or call **07935 447 455**

or post to **The Editor, 55 White House Drive, Sedgefield, TS21 3BU**

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship.

Please send contact details with correspondence.