



Sedgefield NEWS

January 2012



A Happy New Year from all at Sedgefield News

Sedgefield Citizen of the Year 2011 & two other special awards

The Mayor, Allan Blakemore presented an illuminated certificate and engraved glass decanter to the Sedgefield Citizen of the Year for 2011 winner, **Geoff Raynor** (2nd left, with representatives of the 3 organising groups).

He said that this year's winner has beaten off a number of strong contenders. He is a person who in one way or another will have helped almost every community group in Sedgefield. One of his most outstanding achievements this year has been his success in the Northumbria in Bloom awards as well as Civic Trust flower awards. He is a very quiet unassuming person who has lived in Sedgefield for a number of years and Allan gave him a personal thank you for the assistance he has given the Town Council and himself during his term in office. He certainly helped in putting Sedgefield on the map when the President of the United States came to dine in his premises.



A Special Achievement Award was given to Sedgefield Harriers. During the course of 2011 Sedgefield Harriers were named as the Athletics Development Club of the Year for the North East. English Athletics then recognised the work going on and awarded them the National Development Club of the year and on Saturday November 28th they won the United Kingdom Club of the Year award, ahead of Major City Clubs such as Belfast Harriers, Swansea Harriers and Edinburgh Southern Harriers. This is a truly significant achievement worthy of recognition by their home Town Council. **Ean Parsons** (right), accepting the Special Achievement Award, thanked the Town Council and said he was bowled over by the recognition, the best thing being the 150 young people who come along to the athletics, which gives tremendous satisfaction.



Finally the Mayor presented flowers to a member of the community who has given much over the years, former crossing lady, **Barbara Nicholls** (left, with Lesley Swinbank).



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email **John Fitzpatrick** at sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

If you are a social media fan, you can now follow

Sedgefield News on Twitter!

Our username is [@SedgefieldNews](https://twitter.com/SedgefieldNews) and we will be doing our best to tweet the latest news from the community.

Warning: this article contains science. For anyone who would rather read, say, "bunny rabbits meet gruesome ends" than endure science, have no fear. The science is at the end - just skip the last 2 paragraphs!
Jon Reeve continues his occasional series on science.

Haven't heard of Kromek? Read on ...

Kromek, the first tenant on NETPark is commercialising some cutting edge technology that has applications in security, industry, defence and medicine. It has grown rapidly since 2005 and is poised to become a well-known name the world over.

For 20 years the department of physics at Durham University investigated how to produce defect-free crystals of an intriguing and useful semiconductor. Defect-free crystals of this semiconductor are very good at detecting X-rays and gamma-rays (X-rays in medical imaging and gamma-rays generated in nuclear reactors and from outer space). Durham Crystals Ltd, a spin-off company from the University proved the applicability and now Kromek is selling products based on the technology with more to come.

If you have been through Durham Tees Valley Airport recently you may have had some bottle contents scrutinised by a piece of equipment with the Kromek label displayed proudly on the front. Using their X-ray detectors, this equipment can tell what materials are contained in bottles from their X-ray 'signature'. The equipment is so accurate it can tell the difference between shampoo and liquid explosive. The trials at our local airport have proved so successful, that the CEO of Kromek predicts that all UK airports will be using their equipment in a few months time!

That is not the only application of Kromek's technology in current use. At Japan's tsunami-damaged Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, Kromek's detectors are being put to use in detecting damaging gamma-rays coming from the core. For those budding astronauts amongst you who have been following the latest Mars mission that blasted off from Florida a few weeks ago, you will be interested to hear that Kromek's technology is being put to use in the latest Mars rover, called Curiosity. We shall probably be hearing a lot from and about Curiosity in about 8 months time when it lands on Mars.

An interesting application in development is medical imaging. Kromek are currently working on medical X-ray machines that provide 3-dimensional images. If you want to look out for it in future years, the technology's acronym is XRA.

The CEO of Kromek, Dr Arnab Bashu, was keen to point out that Kromek's success extends further still. To date, the company has 140 patents in semiconductors and has received international recognition from the US Dept of Defense in their Security SME of the Year award. There has been personal success for Indian-born, anglicised Arnab, who was awarded UK Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young. Watch out world, here comes north-east manufacturing pride born aloft by people like Arnab.

For those who eyes gloss over when the conversation turns to science here is a YouTube video link: http://youtu.be/kgE2Q_zjoZQ. For all you science nerds (and the intellectually curious) here comes the good stuff:

The technique for creating defect-free crystals of the semiconductor Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) is called vapour-deposition. The technique was nicely compared by Arnab to nature creating black ice on roads. Black ice is created when water vapour in the air hits a very cold surface (black tarmac) and deposits a layer of water ice. Over time this builds up into a substantial crystal of water ice that happens to be relatively defect-free and so absolutely clear. The alternative technique is called liquid-deposition and can be compared to making ice cubes in the freezer. It creates a crystal of water ice, but one with lots of defects in the crystal causing it to be opaque. Kromek's radiation detectors are CdTe crystals that need to be defect-free for high efficiency operation.

These detectors can also identify the material that the particles of radiation penetrate. They can measure the energy of an incoming particle of radiation accurately and from the detection of many radiation particles, build an energy 'profile' of the material which can be matched to many known substances, including explosives. We will know that the science has arrived when one of Kromek's machines appears on an episode of CSI!

Correction

My apologies go to the talented people who work at NETPark for a couple of mistakes in the last article. I wrote NETpark, an obvious error which a few eagle-eyed readers may have spotted. Secondly, NETPark is owned by Durham County Council and has developed strong partnerships with Durham University and the Centre for Process Innovation around NETPark.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The big event takes place over the weekend of 28-29 January, but it's nothing to do with MPs, celebrities or sport; just feathered friends and over half a million people across the UK spending an hour recording the birds they see from their window.

The resulting information helps the RSPB form a comprehensive picture of how well, or not so well, each species is doing. School children and teachers are also taking part, with the Big Schools' Birdwatch happening between 16th & 30th January.

You can request a free Big Garden Birdwatch pack over the phone by calling 0300 456 8330. Or visit the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch for more information and to submit your results online.

Christmas Treat for seniors

On Monday 5th December, 50 of our senior residents of Sedgefield were invited once again to join Richard and Wayne and the staff at the Hardwick Arms for a complimentary three course Christmas Meal.

The event was arranged through the DIDO Project which is supported by Sedgefield Development Trust. Gloria Wills said 'Even though the economic situation for businesses is so bad the boys still thought about the older people at Christmas and put themselves out to treat them to a really lovely meal. We sincerely hope their business continues to be successful. They deserve it.'

Doris Wilson & Dulcie Hedley at the Hardwick Arms Christmas lunch



Blocki's boys make it a hat-trick!

In the Bishop Auckland Town Hall quiz on 7th December, Mike Blocki's team registered an emphatic 15 point victory, making it three wins on the trot, following second place in 2008 and joint first in 2007. The winning team was Mike Blocki, Brian Lowes, Tony Bland, Andrew Canning, Graeme Oram and John Race. 38 teams took part and all proceeds go to a local charity.

Watch Manager, Kim Ashton retires from Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service

Retiring after, amazingly, 32 years service at Sedgefield Fire Station, I ask myself, "Where did all that time go?"

I feel extremely proud to have served the local community and to have had the good support of many dedicated and committed fire service personnel from Sedgefield both past and present, as well as the wider community. I'm also delighted to have been associated with the Station achievements in recent years, from bravery awards presented to Sedgefield firefighters, to winning the County Durham and Darlington Road Traffic Collision Extrication Competition on no less than three occasions. We currently have two Fire-fighters from Sedgefield on the Service Team, competing at national level. There have been many changes over those 32 years, in the personnel, equipment and training of retained firefighters, as well as changes to Sedgefield village itself. It's interesting to note that even though the population of Sedgefield increased over the years, thanks to national and local initiatives we have managed to significantly reduce domestic fire incidents and I'm proud to have taken part in those initiatives.

Life will not be the same for me without 'the bleeper', but at least I can look forward to some unbroken nights' sleep from now on!



Windows on Wynyard

Although Snapshots of Sedgefield made its last appearance for a while last month, I couldn't resist including this wonderful photograph, kindly loaned to Sedgefield Local History Society by Brian Stephenson. Members recently completed a history of Wynyard Hall and hope to compile a future publication focusing on workers at Wynyard. This 1924 picture, entitled The Bothy Group, shows a group of gardeners, listed on the back left to right as Fred, Joe, Philip, Bob, Alf, Ted and the enigmatic 'Myself'. If anyone can supply further information about these fine fellows or any others who worked at Wynyard, especially if you have photos or documents relating to them, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact me on 01740 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk



Teachers became pupils!

As part of the Children in Need fundraising drive, teachers of Sedgefield Community College reversed roles with students for a day. For one day only students were permitted to attend school without their normal school uniform whilst staff all wore the students' uniform. Fortunately the role reversal theme did not extend to students issuing their teachers with detentions!

The money raised (£1267.82) will be shared between Children in Need, Teenage Cancer Trust and Guide Dogs for the Blind.



What's not to like when you get a chance to relive your youth?

Editor's plug for the Round Table's

Rock 'n' Blues Club

Garry Jacobs sings this club's praises very persuasively, so I finally took the plunge last month (though minus the high heeled sneakers I may have been found wearing way back!).

As one of a bunch of blues-mad teenagers I danced the early 60s away to Long John Baldry, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker, The McCoys, Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames ... and I had thought those days were long gone. Ok, it may be a teeny bit more sedate than those heady Redcar nights (*yes really!*) but on Blues night the Parish Hall actually does have a great club vibe: good musicians, friendly company - even a little dancing pit, front of stage.

The next gig, featuring 'King King' with support from BlueBuds, is on **February 18th**. Get your tickets early and you'll save enough for a pint of the local real ale at what they refer to as "Round Table prices"!

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Details from the Christmas Meeting held on 13th December 2011 Remembering Jeanette Garbutt

Meeting: Details from Durham Police Authority Group meeting, held on 28th Nov.

- In 2012 a Police & Crime Commissioner will be appointed, the Police Authority will disband and a new structure will be formed.
- Good solid reductions in crime have been achieved this year despite budget restraints.
- Alcohol is involved in more Police work than any other issue. It is responsible for costs of £55 billion each year (nationally) in Police, NHS & Local Authority services.
- Durham Police are totally committed to Neighbourhood Policing.
- PCSOs provide more than 50% of "intelligence" to Durham Police. Their contribution to the public and Durham Police's achievements were highly praised by Deputy Chief Constable Barton.
- PACTS have proved successful. They are now able to be more flexible in how they are organised and managed in different localities (DCC Barton). They are still essential to get local public input to decision making on priorities for Policing in their local area.

Police Priorities for 2012 / 2013 are:

1. Tackling anti-social behaviour in partnership
2. Reducing the impact of alcohol abuse on people and communities
3. Protecting vulnerable people from harm

Community Liaison Officer: Neil Langthorne asked members to visit the National N/H/Watch website and to consider signing up to their e-petition relating to Scrap Metal thefts. Neil pointed out that DCC Barton values the work done by N/H/Watch members highly also. In support of this he would like members to be signed up to "voice connect" and that he wants the (street) N/H/Watch contact to be briefed by the Police officer who attends any crime in a street covered by N/H/Watch.

Crime Prevention Officer: Mark Pheasant gave details of the Winter Nights project and reminded everyone of the need to take basic prevention measures (lights, curtains, doors - locked etc.). Mark is available to visit any member of the public to give advice on home security if contacted.

Police - Local Crime Report: Keith circulated his report covering the two months up to the meeting. He discussed the crimes recorded and gave more details about arrests made and relevant information to our locality; which members found most valuable. The state of the Youth shelter, due to vandalism, was discussed; PC Todd acknowledged the damage caused.

Police Crime Report from 12th Oct-13th Dec 2011 stated that there were: 235 calls to the Police (81xTraffic; 15xCrime; 139 x other). 15 Crimes recorded (3 Burglaries, 9 Thefts and 3 of Damage).

Youth Provision: Laura Sloan who is now in Sedgefield to promote a Sedgefield Youth Work project was introduced to the meeting. C/man Ken Saiger invited Laura to explain her role and explain to members what she hopes to achieve. Laura is leading the project initially for 6 weeks starting in January and is focussing on getting a drop in centre working again. Below are the details of the drop in for the first 6 weeks of 2012.

Sedgefield Youth Work project is holding 6 young people's drop in sessions at Sedgefield Parish Hall running on a Friday night, starting on Friday 6th January 2012 6pm - 8:30pm until Friday 10th February. Activities will include issue based work such as alcohol, games, arts and crafts and cookery. The sessions are aimed at young people 12-19 year old. For further details please contact Laura Sloan on 01740 620 861 or laura.sloan@durham.gov.uk C/man thanked Laura and wished her every success.

Meeting Closed (next meeting 14/02/2012) & PACT opened by Keith

Footnote: Many thanks to Margaret Stewart for the excellent food enjoyed by all after closing the meetings. Keith and his colleagues at the Police Station were delighted that members didn't have big appetites consequently they too enjoyed Margaret's excellent cooking once again.

Telephone Numbers

Remember if you don't contact them, the Police/Council Community Team will **not** know that a problem exists

Local Police: 0345 60 60 365 or 101 (see page 5)

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

PC Todd reports

You may be aware of two serious incidents which took place recently; one in Durham Road near Turner's garage and one in West End. In the West End incident a male dressed in black grabbed hold of a handbag from an elderly lady. Her fighting spirit resulted in her being pushed to the ground but the coward ran away empty handed. The second incident took place only minutes later in the bus shelter near Turner's garage. This same male grabbed a purse from a lady's hand and made good his escape. Was it worth the £8 taken? Thankfully, this type of crime is rare in Sedgefield but it is a timely reminder that not everyone wants to enjoy the Christmas spirit and ask that you remain vigilant and report any suspicious persons/activity. Bye for now. Keith

P.A.C.T.

At a recent Crime Watch meeting it was agreed that speeding along Spring Lane would be tackled by the Beat Team. You have been warned.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Nag's Head. Drug identification swabs were handed to licensees by Police as a tool to assist in the detection and prevention of drug misuse in licensed premises. Anyone found using or in possession of drugs will receive a ban and their details given to police.

Police Message

From CPO Neil Langthorne

At 4.50am on Tuesday 13th December the occupants of a house in The Orchard Sedgefield, reported someone in the porch of the property. A prompt police response to the incident resulted in a male being arrested nearby. Please ensure you keep your doors locked at all times and make this part of your routine.



Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum

There was no Forum meeting in December as it has been agreed that the Forum will now meet bi-monthly, alternating with the Neighbourhood Watch Group so that the police can still hold PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings on a monthly basis. So the next Forum meeting will be on January 9th 2012 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall.

*On December 6th DCC (Durham County Council) held a planning meeting and whilst it is not the final decision DCC have recommended refusal of the proposed wind turbines for Spring/Foxton Lane. The final decision will, however, be made by a planning inspector as the developer has gone straight to appeal on the grounds of 'non determination' i.e. DCC did not consider the proposal in the statutory time period. So we will all have to be ready for another appeal hearing to try to protect our community from the impact of this proposal.

*The same meeting considered the application for a new supermarket on Salters Lane Industrial Estate and granted permission for the project. There is still considerable concern regarding traffic increase as a result of the plan; hopefully the developer can solve any traffic problems!

*Residents are remaining alert to noise disturbance in the village and an email address has been established with a request that anyone experiencing noise from any commercial establishment in or around the village should record information on the site i.e. date, time, type of noise and origin of noise if known. The email address is p5tp.sedgefield@hotmail.co.uk so please use the facility and help to protect our environment from noise disturbance.

Christmas wishes to everyone and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Housing provider to tackle unemployment

As youth unemployment breaks the 1 million mark and the UK's wider unemployment reaches a 15-year high, one of County Durham's largest registered housing providers is taking bold steps in an effort to tackle the problem across south Durham.

livin (formally sbh) recently announced a new image and strategy for the company and has wasted no time in appointing an Employability Co-ordinator, Helen Johnson (pictured right).

The social housing company has set itself the ambitious target of supporting over 100 people into training and employment over the next three years. Tenants will be offered one-to-one support through a series of bespoke training packages as well as help to develop basic skills such as interview techniques and CV writing. Younger tenants will also be supported through new interventions, including the internationally recognised training programme The Duke of Edinburgh Award, in partnership with the DurhamGate development. Up to 60 young people a year will be supported through the programme which is part of the company's 'first steps' approach to get young people into training and employment.

Helen Johnson says their aim is to help tenants who are out or work or who have never worked, into training and employment. Visit livin.co.uk for more about the employability programme, or contact Helen on 0845 505 5500



New local Police number (see poster on left)

An easy to remember non-emergency police number was launched in our region in December. You can now call 101 for non-emergency issues such as minor traffic collisions, criminal damage or if they want to speak to a local neighbourhood officer about an issue affecting their community.

Calls to 101 will cost 15p per call, no matter what time of day it is, or how long the call lasts. This means everyone calling the police will know exactly how much a call will cost them, whether they're calling from a landline or a mobile phone. Calls are free from public phone boxes.

People should continue to call 999 in an emergency - when a crime is in progress, there is danger to life or violence is being used or threatened. Local councils should still be contacted on their existing phone numbers for issues such as dog fouling or litter.

Sedgefield in Bloom

Plans are already well under way for exciting blooming projects for 2012, but more volunteers, in whatever capacity, would be welcomed with open arms. This year, as well as entering Northumbria in Bloom, Sedgefield has been invited to take part in Britain in Bloom. In 2009, the last time we participated in the national competition, Sedgefield won silver. It would be great to turn that silver into gold.

The economic cuts we are all suffering at the moment have thrown greater responsibility on to the voluntary sector so fund-raising is more crucial than ever. Members of the Sedgefield in Bloom team run successful coffee mornings, as well as planting, weeding, litter picking and undertaking major projects like Winterton Community Garden and refurbishment of planted areas all around the village. We have also had fantastic support from the local primary schools, Community College and our generous band of sponsors and supporters. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in the council offices and a dedicated band of Bloomers meet every Wednesday morning to complete gardening tasks around the village. Regular updates appear on the Sedgefield in Bloom Sponsor Board outside the parish hall.

If you would like to help keep Sedgefield blooming beautifully, please pop in to the council offices or contact one of the following;

Anne 620723

a.m.petty@btinternet.com

Norma 620091 norma@neal.myzen

Ian 622532 ISSutherland@aol.com

or Angela 621273 [an-](mailto:angela.simpson@sedgefield.net)

gela.simpson@sedgefield.net

Courses at Ceddesfeld Hall

These non-accredited courses launched by the SCA, last 5 or 6 weeks and provide a flavour of subjects that you may want to pursue in more detail in the future.

Cake Decorating for Beginners

starts Monday January 9th for 5 weeks

IT for the 21st Century

starts Thursday 12th January

1.30-3.30pm for 6 weeks

French Conversation

starts Thursday 2nd February

4.00-6.00pm for 8 weeks

Intermediate French

starts Thursday 2nd February

6.30-8.30pm for 8 weeks

Digital Imaging

starts Thursday 1st March

6.30-8.30pm for 6 weeks

More details from Wendy Gill (620206)

or Pat Buckley (620607)

And so 2011 draws to an end. As ever, the year has been packed with great sporting moments, internationally, nationally and of course here in Sedgefield. Outside of our part of the world, highlights for me have included: England's inexorable rise to the top of the world test cricket rankings; the performances of Mo Farah and Dai Greene in the world athletics championships (and my money is still on Jessica Ennis grabbing a gold in London 2012); the domination of the world of golf by European players, led by Luke Donald, Rory McIlroy and Lee Westwood (not to mention Darren Clarke and his fairytale win in the Open); the open water and pool successes of Keri-Anne Payne and Rebecca Adlington (appalling overlooked by the 'experts' who shortlisted candidates for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award); and last, but the opposite of least, the achievements of cyclist Mark Cavendish in the Tour de France and world road cycling championships. Oh, and a quick word for Jonny Wilkinson. He may have retired from international rugby union following a very disappointing world cup, but nothing will ever tarnish that moment in 2003 when he secured the Webb Ellis Cup for England with his right boot. He was an outstanding player and a great role model for any aspiring sports person.

Meanwhile, here in Sedgefield, there has been success at many levels on and off the field of play. Sedgefield Cricket Club has had an outstanding year. The club facilities have been significantly improved, while all of the teams have performed brilliantly. Sedgefield Squash Club continues to field competitive men's and women's teams, while at the same time introducing more and more young people to the sport. Sedgefield District Rugby Union Club now has a new pitch adjacent to the cricket ground, the result of a huge amount of hard work. So far, the team has been performing admirably on that new pitch. The village's three Sunday league football teams are now all in the top two divisions of the Durham Sunday League, a great effort for a relatively small community. If you have read the front page of this issue of the Sedgefield News, you will already know that the awards keep piling up for Sedgefield Harriers - Northern Echo Local Heroes Team of the Year, North East Development Club of the Year, England Athletics Development Club of the Year and now UK Athletics Club of the Year. Blimey! It's a miracle that the Harriers have found time to do any running, given all the awards ceremonies they have had to attend. Happily, there are quite a lot of them now and the juniors in particular (now numbering over 150) are starting to achieve some great results at events both in the region and further afield.

So, sport in Sedgefield is in rude good health and I think we've got a lot to look forward to next year, not least plenty of sporting elements to the Sedgefield 700 celebrations and a visit from the Olympic Torch. Oh, and then of course there's the Olympic and Paralympic Games themselves (not actually in Sedgefield unfortunately, but no less exciting for being based in London village).

Football

While noisy neighbours Sedgefield Social Club FC and Sedgefield NetPark FC continue the battle for bragging rights in the first division of the Durham Sunday League, as ever St. Edmund's FC set the standard. After a great start to the season, the team is currently at the top of the premier division, having won eight and only lost one league game so far. Out of 21 games in all competitions, St. Edmund's have won 19 and lost only two, scoring 82 goals and conceding just 27. Here's hoping the team can maintain that form and secure some silverware this season.

Sedgefield Harriers

Over the usual mudbath of a course that is the North East cross-country championships, this year held at East Cramlington and hosted for the first time by Blyth RC, Sedgefield Harriers' U13 girls team won the club's first medal at the event. The team of Hannah Featherstone, Rebecca Mott and Ellie Gaines finished sixth, seventh and 22nd to finish third team behind Jarrow & Hebburn and Darlington AC. The result was the highlight of some quality performances by individual Harriers. Abie Hearmon finished eighth in the U17 girls, Jonna Baines finished 10th in the U20 men's race, Jamie Addison 42nd in the U13 boys, and Ben Hetherington 18th and Sam Hearmon 27th in the U17 boys. In the men's senior race Ean Parsons finished 186th and Jason Catterall 207th in a field of 292.

Sedgefield Harriers held their annual dinner and awards presentation night at the Hardwick Arms in Sedgefield on 18th November. Guest for the evening was Olympics bronze medallist and English marathon record holder Charlie Spedding who grew up in nearby Ferryhill. Charlie gave an enthralling account of his career and his 1984 Olympics race. The dinner culminated in the presentation of awards with Runner of the Year going to the Harriers' own Ferryhill flyer Jason Catterall who competes in everything from 100m to half marathon, with plans for a full marathon in Sunderland next May. Diane Baines won Club Member of the Year for all of the background work she does at the club. A new award of Volunteer of the Year also deservedly went to Diane Baines who is the type of individual that an active club just can't do without.

The Supporter of the Year award - for someone who gives most time to supporting a runner - was shared between Gareth James and Vivienne Parsons. Time trial winners were Jonathan Baines and Gail Bell, with best improvement from Jason Catterall. Grand prix winners were Graeme Addison and Gail Bell. Jonathan Wallace received a special award in recognition of six years service to the club committee.

Junior awards presentations night at Sedgefield Cricket Club on 26th November proved to be a highlight of the year. The young athletes who took part in the evening by talking about their experiences of being a part of Sedgefield Harriers in the past year showed that their talents extend far beyond running, throwing and sprinting. It was a great example of how confidence and skills can be developed through sport. As usual there were a lot of awards to get through and the strength in depth of the club was demonstrated by the achievement and presentation of Academy Awards certificates. The individual awards were also eagerly awaited. The winners were: Girls field performance - Lucy Robertshaw; boys field - Oliver Larcombe; girls track - Hannah Featherstone; boys track - Liam Welsh; girls cross-country - Abi Hearmon; boys cross-country - Ben Hetherington; most improved in Ean Parsons' group - Sean Haycock; most improved in Scott

Haydon's group - Sam Hearmon; most improved in Marie Walker's group - James Raw and Aimee Barlow; most improved in sprints group - Joseph Dredge; most improved in throws group - Matthew Jackson. The accolade of Junior Club Person of the Year went to Rebecca Mott.

Cycling

Don't forget that Sedgefield will host its first ever cyclo cross race on Sunday 8th January 2012 and adults and juniors of all experience and ability are welcome to try out this exciting sport.

Event HQ will be Hardwick Park visitor centre, with race start times as follows:

Under 12s: 10.30am (ride for 15-20mins, short course) - free entry

Under 16/14s/Novice Ladies: 11.15am (30mins race, full course) - £3 entry

Senior/Juniors/Veterans/

Ladies: 12.30pm (50-60mins race, full course) - £10 entry (£5 for TLI members). For full details visit www.neccl.co.uk or call Ian Dunn on 01740 620574.

Sedgefield Rugby Club

Training re-starts at 7.30pm on January 5th at the Community College.

Players of all abilities are welcome, including beginners, so why not shake off the Christmas Pud with a new sport with a great social side?

January fixtures

2.15pm Kick Off

8th Home to Seaham

14th Away to Chester-le-Street

28th Home to Seghill

All welcome

DURHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GET INTO FOOTBALL

**Do you have a disability?
Know someone who does?**

Durham FA supports an extensive Disability Football Programme for all talent and experience levels

**Hearing impaired,
Visually impaired,
Cerebral Palsy,
Amputee & Learning Disability
Footballers**

**Fridays 1 - 4pm at Queens
Campus, Stockton, TS17 6BH**

**Call Nicola O'Donnell
0191 387 2928**

or Keith Nobbs: 01429 86259

Sedgefield Parkrun

Sedgefield Harriers proudly announce an exciting new development for the local community

Parkrun is an international non-profit organisation that boasts over 100 runs in Denmark, Australia, Afghanistan, Poland, South Africa, Iceland and the UK. The closest Parkruns are currently in Albert Park, Middlesbrough and Maiden Castle outside Durham, but the hope is that Sedgefield will soon have one of its own. It will be a 5km run/jog/walk held every Saturday at 9.00am in Hardwick Park – the hope is that this free to enter, weekly event will encourage more people to exercise and improve health and fitness. To make this exciting event possible, Parkrun relies on volunteers from the local community. If you feel that you could assist out on just three Saturday mornings each year to help get Sedgefield Parkrun up and, er, running, then you are invited to a volunteers' evening on **Tuesday 24th January**, from 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

It's important to bear in mind that you do not need to be a member of a running club or a keen runner to get involved. You could be someone who enjoys walking your dog around the park, or perhaps you are retired and looking for a new challenge. Anyone can volunteer (Parkrun would like to attract helpers who can turn out as often as once a month too), as long as they have the enthusiasm to support others and help establish what could be a fantastic new event for Sedgefield.

Parkrun is a unique experience that has a real feel good factor for both participants and volunteers. If you would like to play a part in this exciting adventure, please email Jane Spink on janespink2001@yahoo.co.uk and go along to the volunteers' evening – make it one of your New Year's resolutions!

Boxing

During 2011, South Durham Boxing Club was able to build on previous success, as several boxers gained recognition for themselves and the club at the upper levels of amateur boxing.

- Jeff Saunders Jnr remained unbeaten during the year and won the North East Senior Championship belt at both 60kg and 63kg.
- When Jeff gave up his North East 60kg belt, James Archer took on that mantle, demonstrating the strength in depth within the club. He then went on to qualify as the North East representative at the national senior ABAs.
- Daryl Clemett, at 74kg, won the North East Senior Novice Championship. He was only beaten in the final at national level and is now ranked number two in England.
- At 54kg, Matthew Tenby became the national champion at senior novice level and became North East Boys Club Champion.
- Lee Milburn's development continues, the highlight of his year being his defeat of the European silver medallist at his weight.
- Jay Hughes reached the final of the schoolboys national ABAs and is now ranked number two in the country.
- Declan Fosco has become the two time junior national champion at 81kg.
- Bradley Saunders, winner of 12 national titles during his amateur career, has reluctantly decided to turn professional and is awaiting his first fight early next year. Injuries during 2011 gave him no chance of proving himself ahead of the London Olympic Games and he is looking forward to progressing at the next level throughout 2012.

Look out for updates from Sedgefield Boxing Club in Sedgefield News over the next year.

That's all for this month and this year. Next month, inevitably, I will devote some space to darts. For now, all the best for 2012 – it's going to be a very special year in the world of sport. As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Could YOU be a contributor to Sedgefield News?

Chris has made Sport his own, and although Snapshots of Sedgefield is 'resting', we have recently gained a Science correspondent.

There must be others out there with enthusiasm for a topic that we could all share. In years past we have had Wine & Food, Green Issues and Book Reviews. We can always run a taster column to see what the response is, so if you have an idea, please get in touch with the Editor via

sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com



January Events Diary

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 4th January

Parish Hall 7.15pm

"Teesdale & Weardale Mountain Rescue" - Steve Owers

Members' competition;

Your favourite casserole recipe

Ginger wine & mince pies will be served

Visitors welcome, fee £2.50

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 7th January

8pm start. Presented by Chris Hancock

Eddies@4

Sunday January 8th

Informal service for 2-6 year olds

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's

Contact J Rowsby, 621125

Farmers' Market

Sunday 8th January

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 8th & 22nd January

1pm Ceddesfeld Hall. All levels welcome

Contact 01642 588197

Residents' Forum

Monday 9th January

7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 9th January

Carrier Bag Sale - Margaret & Dessa

& Monday 23rd January

The Amish People - talk by Nancy Smart

Local History Society

Monday 9th January

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall.

Gordon Morris: Local castle architecture,

features Durham, Raby & Barnard Castle

New members welcome

Ladies Club

Tuesday 10th January

The Amish People - talk by Nancy Smart

Tuesday 24th January

Evening out

Sedgefield Village Veterans

AGM: Thursday 12th January

7pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Everyone welcome

Happy New Year from The Veterans

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 12th January

8pm in the Nag's Head

Show Planning Meeting

Parish Hall Country Market

Friday 13th January

Lyric Singers & SLYC

We welcome members & new starters on

Friday 13th January

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 14th January

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Family History Group

(Branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 16th January

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Tim Brown: "Two Train Tragedies"

see www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

for details, or telephone S Hall 620367

Visitors always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th January

AGM at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Sedgefield & District U3A

Friday 20th January

2pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

Monthly meeting & talk by Dr Ray Manning on "Foods that Fight Cancer"

Come along and find out what

U3A has to offer you

Live Music Night

Saturday 21st January

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Main guest Prelude: also featuring

These Sonic Fruits, John Weighell and

The John Wrightson Band

Admission £10, incl. buffet. Tel 621347

Parkrun Volunteers Evening

Tuesday 24th January

7.30pm at Sedgefield Parish Hall

January in

Sedgefield Library

The library will reopen after the

Christmas holidays on Tuesday 3rd Jan

Rhyme Time Wednesdays 4th & 18th

10-11am

Craft Club: Tuesdays 10th & 24th

10-12pm

Tickle Time: Mondays 16th & 30th

2.15-3pm

Book Circle: Wednesday 18th, 2pm

Smoking Club every Thursday

10- 11.30am

Coming soon, short craft course.

Watch this space!

Please send your

February Diary dates

by 15th January to

sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Coming up in March

Sedgefield Mayor's Charity

Dinner Dance

at Hardwick Hall Hotel

4th March 2012

Contact the Advice & Information Centre

for details and tickets

This service is free to non-commercial organisations

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 - 12.00

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

Round Table

Sporting, social and charitable events.

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members

welcome. Contact Rob on 629079

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head

New members welcome.

Call 629070 or 620562

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

at Sedgefield Community College

10am-12 noon, term-time Fridays

Tea, coffee, homemade cakes & biscuits

All profits to charity

Lyrics Choirs

2 Community choirs welcome new members.

Ceddesfeld Hall, Fridays.

Age 7-18yrs, 6pm & Adults, 7.30pm

Your Letters

From Spring Lane Action Group

A big thank you to Councillors John Robinson and Allan Blakemore, MP, Phil Wilson, and all who supported us at the Planning Meeting in Durham (unfortunately, some were unable to speak, due to time constraints). Fortunately, the application was refused on the Planning Officer's recommendation.

However, our fight goes on, as Wind prospect have gone to appeal because of 'Non- determination' and the decision will now be made by the Planning Inspectorate, not familiar with our area or situation. As Lambs Hill turbines have now been passed, Sedgefield, slowly but surely, is being surrounded. Please continue to support us all you can. The next stage is vitally important, as that decision will be final. Once again, thank you.

Charity Coffee Mornings

Macmillan Cancer Support which also provides Macmillan nurses has been our favourite charity over this past year and even longer. The Friday coffee mornings which take place about once a month have raised over £1260 and we hope also provided a social event in the Fletcher room of the Parish Hall.

Bronwen Lee, Sylvia Dea, Kathleen Heasman and I would like to thank all participants, helpers and donors for their time and contributions.

This is in addition to amounts raised by The Biggest Coffee Mornings in the World organisers, also in the village. The next coffee / tea morning will be on 17th February.

Grateful thanks, *Carole Morgan*.

Thanks for a lovely surprise

Barbara Nicholls (Barbara Lollipop!) wishes to thank the Town Council for the lovely floral display presented to her at the Wine & Cheese evening. Being totally unexpected made the presentation all the more special.

Parking

To add a little data to Mr Hillerby's advice on parking; at 0916 on Wed 9th November in the Parish Hall car park, only 4 of 27 cars in marked spaces were parked "nose-out".

R Smeeton

Fight night fans

My wife and I recently spent an evening supporting the South Durham Amateur Boxing Club at Hardwick Hall Hotel. The night was attended by hundreds of people of all ages. The atmosphere throughout the evening was electric. We were fortunate to see 11 local young men pit their wits against opponents of equal status from other parts of the North East. The skill shown in all the bouts was a testament to the coaching staff, and their discipline, respect, and commitment were key reasons for their success. I regularly notice these lads pounding the pavements mornings and evenings most days, this training obviously prepares them for fight night. Seeing these young men with girlfriends, family and friends when the entertainment was finished, I noticed the pride, confidence and satisfaction in their face. A most enjoyable night was had by all, and my wife and I will be first in the queue when the next event takes place.

Raymond Lower.

Hardwick Park Gate Opening

At a recent small ceremony Mrs Elsie Roper unveiled a plaque on the gate pillar at Hardwick Park. Michael Rudd, the Chairman of The Friends of Hardwick, in welcoming people to the event said that the gates were replicas of those once sited at the original entrance to Hardwick Park in Durham Road, Sedgefield. The replicas would not be at the Park but for a number of people who he thanked. In particular Park Manager Sara Fortune; The Friends of Hardwick - Treasurer John Hannon, Secretary John Fitzpatrick, but especially Vice-Chairman Tom Stubbs, who realised the importance of the finding of the original gates and who has seen this project through from the beginning; Tony Smith who painstakingly drew the design for the gates from the originals, adjusting the size to accommodate modern vehicles, and who as Manager of Hardwick Park Restoration Project, organised this particular project; Peter Coverdale, the stonemason from Bowes Moor who built the pillars - based upon Neptune's plinth; James Godbold who painstakingly constructed the gates at his forge in Egton on the North York Moors; and The Pilgrim Trust, especially the Director Georgina Nayler and Trustee Tim Knox. The Pilgrim Trust funded the £40,000 cost of making and installing the magnificent replica gates. However, the ceremony would not have taken place were it not for Mrs Elsie Roper of Sedgefield, who very kindly donated the original gates to the Park. The originals had been saved from destruction by her late husband, Mr Ben Roper.

Happy New Year, ten years past

Don't let ageing slow you down,
It's too hard to speed back up.
The years you enjoyed wasting,
Not wasted when you were a pup
Love looks forward, regret looks back,
Anxiety has eyes all over its head.

Go on and be crazy,
A famous person once said.
Everyday we run scared,
keeping up with it all,
Yet our years are just a horizontal fall
Life is a rollercoaster;
eat a light lunch
The art of living is a dance,
sometimes a punch.

It's not the years in your life,
It's the life in your years.
Make them pay, make them play,
Enjoy your festive cheers.

I don't suffer from insanity,
I enjoy it, it's a blast.
The time to begin most things
Is ten years past.

The Unknown Poet



SEDFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Corporate & Business Mail

Company Secretary, SDT

7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield,

TS21 2JN

Email: sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Community Lawyers & DIDO:

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Sedgefield, TS21 2EG

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15th January is the Deadline

For February's 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

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