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Sedgefield NEWS

July 2009

Volunteer recognised for work in the community over 30 years

At the Annual Awards Evening on 4th June, our very own 'unsung hero' Sandy Clubley (*below, centre*) was recognised for her outstanding contribution as a volunteer. The awards were presented by our MP Phil Wilson. The evening was the seventh held by the Volunteer Bureau, which is part of CAVOS, the CVS for the former Sedgefield Borough and celebrates 25 years of volunteering.

The award was given in recognition of Sandy's involvement with several community projects over many years, including the Lyric Singers and the Youth Choir and more especially for her work with Sedgefield News which has become a very special part of the fabric of village life and is seen as a valuable asset to our community.

This was a well deserved award, long overdue and I am very happy that Sandy's commitment has been recognised. The Trust is extremely grateful for the time, effort and expertise she puts into the Sedgefield News, and we are all beneficiaries of that. Although these awards have no monetary value they are coveted purely for the testimony they give to people who, freely and willingly, day by day make a difference to the lives of others.

Gloria Wills, Chair of Sedgefield Development Trust

'New' Hardwick Park opens this summer

The 18th century historical landscape of Hardwick Park has been restored to its former glory by Durham County Council, with funding primarily from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Historical features have been recreated, including the elegant Lake, the Statue of Neptune, the Temple of Minerva and the Gothic Tower. Many areas of the Park are rich in wildlife and the restoration has enabled many of these areas to be enlarged and improved. *continued on page 3*

Coast to coast ballad

Since May, thousands of young people have been singing in a series of events stretching between the west and east coast of England. Songlines: Singing Coast to Coast is the first project of its kind in the UK and there have been performances in towns from Barrow to Seaham, finishing at Hartlepool's 'Dock Fest' on Sunday July 5th at about 1pm. Songlines draws on the traditional West-East migration line across the North of England and celebrates the heritage of these towns and the people that live there.

The Songlines ballad, composed along the line, reaches Sedgefield on July 1st (see Diary page), when SLYC will welcome the puppet balladeer and perform a set of local songs, including their contribution to the new ballad. Then at Hartlepool Marina all the communities come together for one final performance, in which the entire ballad will be performed for the first time.

Were you a scout?

If you were, you'll want to read the article on page 7.

Send your news and views to
**sedgefield news@
hotmail.com**



Police warn of action on parking

At the PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting held on Monday 2nd June, a number of local residents expressed concerns about indiscriminate parking in Sedgefield Village. The following hotspot areas were identified:

Parking at Sainsbury's Store, North End Sedgefield

Parking within the confines of the Zebra Crossing on High Street

Parking at junction of East End / Front Street Sedgefield

During recent months Police have issued warning notices to motorists in those areas with a view to advising and educating motorists, however Police continue to receive complaints. Therefore, in the interest of the safety of pedestrians and other road users, and in order to address the concerns of the local residents, directed patrols will again be carried out by officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in those areas.

Police are warning that drivers found to be parked in contravention of any traffic regulation may be issued with a fixed penalty notice incurring a fine of £30.

Sedgefield Show

The Annual Sedgefield and District Agricultural and Horticultural Show will take place on Saturday 8th August. The Show, situated in the Robert Brown Showfield, West Park, Sedgefield, is in its 156th year and promises a full range of competitions, displays and exhibitions.

Entries are welcomed from anyone who would like to take up the challenge to compete in any of the categories, but remember, **all entries close on Friday 24th July**. For schedules, please see local businesses or contact Brian Woodward, Sedgefield Show Secretary on 620431.

This year's show will host many of the traditions that we have seen over the last 100 years and in 2009 we welcome the return of the Goat Show, the only goat competition at an agricultural event in County Durham.

A full range of competitions and displays include agricultural classes for cattle, sheep, horses, ponies, vintage tractors, small livestock and a dog show. For the second year, the heavy horse category will also feature.

The popular 'Build a Scarecrow' competition returns; entrants can compete for the Mr N and Mrs A Oliver Cup by dressing a scarecrow as a farmer, pop star, gardener, window cleaner, pub landlord or anything else ...and providing it with a name!

There will be several marquees with craft stalls, horticultural displays, home produce and handicrafts. Once again, by popular demand the Food Hall returns with a range of local and regional delicacies on offer. In the craft marquee there will also be a rug making demonstration to show the unique skill of 'proggy' mat making! A large number of trade stands are expected too, selling products ranging from replica farm toys, ride-on lawn mowers, to jewellery and bespoke wood carvings. We also hope to see the return of the Classic Vehicles and the Keith Turner & Sons Funfair.

Support from other organizations is always welcome and new ideas will always be considered. Without the continuing support of the many local businesses and individuals who take part each year, it would not be possible to hold a growing event of this size.

For further information, please contact Ian Mason, Sedgefield Show Chairman on 621841 or email ian@sedgefieldshow.co.uk.

'Getting Sorted'

A new programme of self care workshops for young people with Diabetes has been hailed a success by NHS County Durham. It provides education and support to young people between the ages of 12 and 17 years, to help them cope with the day to day problems that living with Type 1 diabetes can bring. Five further workshops have been commissioned, to run between 10am and 3.30pm on Sundays from 6 September by the 'Getting Sorted' team. They are looking for young volunteers in the 18 to 25 year group who have Type 1 diabetes to help this next programme. The workshops are held in various sports centres across County Durham, rather than in a clinical atmosphere giving young people the freedom to talk about any issues surrounding their diabetes. There are activities and games as well as advice on different ways of coping with the condition. 'Getting Sorted' co-ordinator Mary Maplesden said "the response has been very positive and enthusiastic! The young people have made more friends and all say they feel more confident in coping with life with diabetes because of the workshops." You can contact Mary on 07534749660.

Mordon's got talent!

Calling all budding entertainers - singers, dancers, jugglers, fire eaters... Mordon Village Hall have over the years put on some excellent pantos but they would like to put on a variety show in October featuring "Songs from the Shows". We would like to hear from anyone able to sing, dance, juggle - or who would simply like to perform. We will hold a meeting/audition on Sunday 12th July at 3.30pm at Mordon Village hall to gauge interest. Please come along. If you can't make it please contact Wendy & Dave Sayers on 01388720677 for more details.

The adventure starts here!

Get down to Sedgefield library this summer and you'll find a magical challenge waiting for you! As a Quest Seeker, there's a cool 'moving image' membership card, fold-out poster and stickers (including some smelly scratch and sniff ones!) to collect when you visit the library as part of your Summer Reading Challenge 2009. And it's all FREE. Sedgefield Library will launch the Quest on Thursday 23rd July with a day of crafts and activities. Come along to the library and start your quest.

Charity notices

Come & buy...

I am holding a greetings card sale to raise funds for **North of England Children's Cancer Research**. Come along to 1 The Orchard on Friday 10th July, anytime between 9 am and 5 pm for a chance to buy Phoenix Trading greetings cards and gift wrap and have a coffee. All money raised will go to this worthwhile charity. For a brochure please call me on 622839.
Alison Etheridge

Wears will run for Zoe's Place this year

Sue and Colin Wears are taking part in the Great North Run on the 20th September this year for the charity Zoe's place. This is a hospice in Middlesbrough that looks after children under five years of age with a life threatening or life limiting condition such as cancer. It is funded solely from donations and the care given is free. If you would like to sponsor Sue the form is at the Clifton lodge Vets in Sedgefield. Sue and Colin would like to thank all the previous years sponsors for their very generous donations and hope to match it again this year for the children and their families who greatly benefit from this charity.

If any one would like more information about Zoe's place contact me at the Vets on 622126.
Sue Wears

Vintage good fun

Sedgefield village centre was alive to the throb of engines great and small when the Butterwick Hospice Vintage Vehicle Rally arrived in town on June 16th.

Petrol-heads young and old poked their heads into gleaming engines and sighed with envy over fine old sports models or the old Norton bikes and the more spectacular, if slightly younger, procession of motor-trikes. There were fond smiles too, for quaint old vans and tractors.

Meanwhile, children took the opportunity to have a whale of a time on bouncy castles and roundabouts, while dads and grandads won balloons for them with a show of strength or aim. The generally relaxed and happy atmosphere made for a very pleasant stroll out on a summer's evening. Altogether it really did have an old fashioned air - and it was all in a good cause too.

Festival success for Sedgefield

Sedgefield Players production of Sue Wilding's "Some People Talking" won second place at the recent Wakefield Drama Festival. Adjudicator Russell Whiteley commended the sensitive playing of all four cast members and the smooth choreography of the scene changes which kept the audience riveted throughout. Group chairman Norma Neal won the Best Actress award for her stunning performance, showing depths of emotion as well as hilarious moments of comedy. Viv Jacobs was also nominated in the best actress category, Terry West for Best Actor and Walter Howell Best Director. Originally set in a bar, the play moved to various locations, simply evoked by the cast, all of whom played multiple roles.

This was the Players' second visit to Wakefield Festival, which takes place in the Theatre Royal and Opera House, built in 1894 by Frank Matcham, who also designed Newcastle Theatre Royal. The winning production at Wakefield was John Godber's "Bouncers" by Tickety-Boo Theatre Company from Pontefract and third place was taken by the Halifax Thespians with "Home" by David Storey. Sedgefield Players' next project is their own drama festival of one act plays in September, when groups from the region bring a variety of productions to the parish hall for a week of friendly rivalry and high class entertainment.

Continued from front page:

the opening of the restored Hardwick Park

Access: There are new easy access routes for pedestrians and specific routes for cyclists and horse riders; we would ask all cyclists and horse riders to respect other park users whilst in the park. Entry to the Park will be via the new Visitor Centre and car parks. There is the opportunity to sponsor a memorial seat in the Park, so contact the office for details.

Dogs: There are now areas of the Park where dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. This is to ensure the safety and comfort of all users, whilst also protecting the wildlife in the Park. Please clean up after your dog. A "poop and scoop" area can be found next to the main car park and we would encourage people to take their dogs there before entering the main park.

Visitor Centre: A brand new Visitor Centre has been built. This will open this summer, offering an exhibition to interpret the history, past and present of Hardwick Park. An education room for use by school groups will be available, as will public toilets with baby change facilities. It is hoped the café will be open later this year.

Helping Out: We are looking for volunteers (of all ages), who can help us to manage the Park. At the moment we will run task days on the first and third Wednesday and the second Saturday of every month. The tasks will be wide ranging and generally vary from week to week. Full training will be offered in use of hand tools and safety equipment will be provided. We are also looking for assistance with the running of the Visitor Centre and helping out with education activities.

Holiday Fun at Hardwick Park

Every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays there will an activity available in the visitor centre for families to enjoy. These activities will be art & craft based and will vary from week to week. The sessions are just drop in throughout the day and everyone is welcome. Small charges may apply to cover material costs (maximum cost £2 per child).

22 July – Bird Box Making. Come and build a house for our feathered friends. You can take it home or leave it for us to put up in the park.

29 July – 'Tree' Shirt Designing. Learn all about leaves on trees then create your own nature inspired designs on t-shirts.

5 August – Mini Mow. Make your own Mini Mow by decorating a pot and sowing grass seed.

12 August – Cloud Climbers. Decorate, build and fly your own wooden glider.

19 August – Wheelie Bugs. Learn about mini beasts then build and decorate your very own wheelie bug.

26 August – Kite Making. Build and decorate your own kite, then learn how to fly it in the Park.

For more information, details of education sessions or room hire, please ask a member of staff, or contact us at:

Hardwick Park Visitor Centre, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 2DN
Tel: 01740 621505 Email: hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk.

Girl guiding - a call to volunteers

Girlguiding in Sedgefield is looking for adult volunteers to work with the Rainbows, age 5-7, Brownies, age 7-10 and Guides, age 10-14, all meeting weekly in Sedgefield. Guiding today is about girls and women learning together, sharing experiences, trying new activities and getting involved in their community. Girls develop new skills and have experiences that benefit them throughout their lives. In particular we need additional adult help for the Rainbows and Guides to allow the girls to continue to enjoy the fun of guiding.

Do you enjoy a challenge? Could you get involved in guiding and discover an extraordinary world of fun, friends and adventure? All volunteers are fully supported by experienced leaders and tested training programmes.

As Girlguiding begins its centenary celebrations contact us and find out more about guiding here and how you could get involved.

Call Jane Vaslet, Sedgefield Division Commissioner, tel 01740 630745

Thanks -

Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon

A final total of £3,962.94 was raised during this year's Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection. This amount will be further increased by approximately £300 as a result of the completed Gift Aid declarations made on £1,200 of the amount collected. Thank you to all who contributed to this substantial amount, which will be used to help improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people. Thanks also to our team of dedicated volunteer collectors who gave their time and effort to this very worthwhile cause.

David and Margaret Glass

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club, Rectory Row, Sedgefield

Summer Holiday Club

Open Thursday 23rd July – Friday 4th September
(Closed bank holiday)

Open to ALL children aged 4-12yrs.
Cost: £15.15 full day,
£8.70 half day (any 5 hours).

A variety of activities based around the theme of the week/organised trips.

Book now to avoid disappointment. Places must be booked and paid for in advance. Phone 01740 623565 for booking or further details.

Community SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Items from the Meeting held on 9th June 2009

- 1) Town Councillor Allan Blakemore provided guidance and help to the Panel regarding financial support in meeting the room hire costs incurred in holding Panel meetings. Allan was warmly thanked by C/man Ken Saiger and members.
- 2) Community Force Officer Tim Spearey provided a comprehensive report and made a very strong request to members to report dog fouling and to encourage other residents to do so. This ongoing problem is much complained about by residents and members of NHWatch but not much reported by them; his report showed only 2 such reports in the last 10 weeks! A formal request was made to Tim for a dog bin at junction of Old Durham Rd/Salter's Lane opposite Turner's garage to resolve one of the problems in his report. Tim agreed to progress it.
- 3) Village Constable Keith Todd circulated copies of his report for the period 14/03 - 9/06/09 showing only 10 recorded crimes: 1 Burglary, 4 Thefts (2 car related) & 5 of Damage (3 car related) in the village. Many questions from members including events that did not appear on the crime list, some of which Keith was not personally aware of, including serious intimidating verbal abuse to a young lady (due to alcohol) at a local pub. Keith explained again the difference between recorded crime and recorded incidents/calls, to remind members that he does not present recorded incidents to the meeting as it is impracticable to list all those relating to our village. This was understood and appreciated by members. However there was a strong request to be informed of the number of incidents/calls made in the village to the Police in the two month period between Panel meetings. Members feel they are in the dark regarding numbers of calls to the Police and yet they are continually told by the Police "there is not the evidence recorded - people must ring in". Further discussion about data analysis took place but members re-iterated they don't want that sort of detail; just a simple number - how many calls to the Police last period from our village to get a clearer picture. CCTV was discussed. Strong view from the C/man and many others that overall it is a major factor in making people feel more secure in the village and is much valued.
- 4) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & Crime Prevention Officer - Neil Langthorne is presently fulfilling both roles prior to becoming our Community Liaison Officer. Crime Prevention: Neil reviewed current crime trends in our area and village, welcomed our continued low "Crimes" but warned of his concern for one particular crime issue in our area which could come here - Sneak in Crime. The consequences of this are extremely damaging to the individual victim; sadly, usually the most vulnerable of people. Neil urged people to be on their guard and to make it difficult for people to get in through open windows, unlocked doors etc. especially whilst at home and feeling fairly secure. Lock up, secure it, make it difficult for the thief - keep them out. Neil brought along various crime prevention devices which were made available / sold to members as appropriate after the meeting and members thanked him for his efforts.
- 5) PACT meetings. Chair of Residents Forum Julia Bowles raised the difficulties of holding all PACT meetings within the Residents' Forum & suggested it would be better to hold 6 at the Residents' Forum and 6 on alternative months at the bi-monthly N/Hood Watch meetings, as it was felt the N/H/Watch was actually a more relevant meeting for setting Policing Priorities. Vote resulted in unanimous Yes from members present. Neil agreed to take proposal back to local Sergeant.
- 6) Your Police - Have Your Say meeting 6/6/09 held at Sedgefield (Community College). Unfortunately on 6th June N/H/Watch were away at Keswick on the first of their 2 Carelink Bus trips of the year, so attendance was minimal. Julia Bowles attended as a resident and Chair of Residents' Forum and had been mandated to speak about issues of nuisance and in particular drink related problems spoiling the village and the quality of life for many residents. Julia reported on the meeting and her request (from the Forum supported by N/H/Watch) for controls to be put in place to restrict drinking in public places in Sedgefield - these would not stop the café culture/beer gardens but would control the streets, the green and other such areas. Supportive response from Chief Constable who said they were trying to support what people wanted for their community - this one sounded as though it was "pushing on an open door". Allan Blakemore advised there was not enough evidence to support this approach confirming that the Town Council do not support this and expressed concern for local pub business. Julia pointed out that it would help the pubs by getting people to drink on licensed premises and in their designated areas and should prevent supermarket fuelled cheap booze consumption (especially underage) in public areas, leading to public nuisance, damage & littering. Allan pointed out that such an arrangement could not be resourced by the Police. Julia informed meeting that Willington had already implemented such an arrangement with support from their local authorities using only two PCSO's; from start to implementation it took 3 months. Anti Social Behaviour problems there had improved dramatically. Members gave total support to Julia as Chair of Residents' Forum to write to Chief Constable to identify the way forward now. Meeting closed very late at 8.30pm. C/man Ken Saiger thanked everyone for good turnout and a lively meeting. He thanked Keith who once more had turned out for the members & residents on his day off; much appreciated. Finally Ken thanked Neil for turning out on his Wedding Anniversary, & providing members with relevant "freebies".

Telephone Numbers

Sedgefield Community Warden Tim Spearey 623654 or via Chilton Control Room: 01388 721351
Local Police **0345 60 60 365** CPO & Community Liaison Officer, Neil Langthorne 01325 742714

PC Todd reports

Vacation now over, I have researched the crimes and incidents reported to the police over the last few weeks. During May, 9 crimes were reported, most relating to damage to or theft from motor vehicles. Areas which suffered include East End, Rectory Row, Chestnut Road, Matfen Court, High Street and Winterton Cottages. Tools and a quantity of lead and copper pipe were stolen from a garage in Station Road. On a lighter note, a camera has been found containing holiday snaps, possibly taken in Australia. Contact me for more details.

PACT meetings

Starting this month the PACT meeting will alternate between the Sedgefield Residents' Forum and Neighbourhood Watch Crime Panel. It is felt that we will be better able to target a wide cross-section of the community within such well established forums. Time and venue remains the same: 7pm - Fletcher Room Sedgefield Parish Hall. On July 6th PACT will be part of the Residents' Forum meeting. At the last meeting it was agreed that priorities remain parking (see article on page 1) and litter, especially around public seating. priorities will be reviewed next month.

Pub Watch At the meeting held at the Black Lion in May, a male was given a written warning regarding his unacceptable behaviour in a member's premises. The June meeting was held in Ceddesfeld Hall. No incidents were reported which required further action by members. Until next time, **Keith**

Jottings from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum, June 1st '09

Another meeting with lots of issues and information and this month we welcomed a couple of residents from Mordon who are addressing the issue of wind turbines in the area. The Mordon residents, like most others, are not totally against wind turbines but want a sensible and rational distribution of developments. The Forum agreed that it is essential that there is a well thought out and agreed strategy for the siting of any turbines and the Forum will support residents in our neighbouring communities.

Another issue brought to this month's meeting is the Racecourse licensing application which is to not only to renew their existing licence for various events but to also extend it to a further 5 acre area. There is also concern regarding the helicopter rides operating from the Racecourse and the rumour that they may be applying for permission to hold a third car boot fair each week

A priority which is always highlighted in any consultations or discussions is the need for youth provision in the village. We understand there is a Youth Forum trying to address the issue but there is never anyone able to give information at the residents' meeting and there doesn't seem to be reports easily accessible anywhere else. The Residents' Forum will try to get some update for our July meeting.

We understand the Durham County Council (DCC) Cabinet meeting will be discussing the issue of car park charging at Hardwick Country Park at their next meeting in June we are hoping that there will be action taken so that local residents are able to park at the Country Park without being charged.

We are still seeking to get answers to the many questions residents have put regarding the granting of planning permission for 330 caravans near Hardwick Country Park. We sent a list of questions to our MP Phil Wilson in the hope that he could get some answers for us. He forwarded our letter to Government Office for the North East (GONE) they have replied stating that they can only comment on planning issues and are not able to answer the majority of our questions so we will wait for a reply from our MP, hopefully with some answers. We will put all correspondence in a file in the Library and Town Council Offices so that anyone can keep up to date with information.

As we highlighted in last month's jottings there is wide concern about the 'atmosphere' in the centre of the village on some occasions. Many residents find the large groups of drinkers around the village very intimidating. The village green seems to be becoming a focal point for such groups on warm days and evenings and residents can feel intimidated or at least very uncomfortable with many 'locals' avoiding the village centre. The Forum, with other partners, will continue to push for action.

Despite much publicity by DCC there is still considerable confusion about the new unitary structure and how things will now operate. The new Area Actions Partnership Boards were scheduled to be in place and the first meeting to be held by the end of June; this has now been delayed until July. If, as a community we wish to have a say it really is important that we 'engage' with the new structure.

As always all issues discussed are in the minutes of the meeting which can be accessed in the Library or Town Council office at least one week before the next meeting. And remember any residents can be on the Forum email list to receive all information by contacting jane@sedgefield.net and leaving your email address.

Next meeting 6th July 7 pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall – everyone welcome.

Free high quality wigs for people living with cancer

North East patients who are living with cancer in the North of England can now access free high quality wigs from local salons thanks to a new initiative. People who may have lost their hair through treatment for cancer can now choose their own wig from a number of participating salons across the region which will be paid for by the local NHS.

This pioneering service, which ensures patients across the North East and Cumbria have access to the same quality and service when receiving a wig, is being used as an example nationally for other regions across the country to develop the service.

Hairdresser Trevor Sorbie was able to lend a hand to the project with his wealth of experience, advising on the quality of the wigs which will be provided. The patients also carried out their own research on potential salons. Ann Fox, nurse director of the North of England Cancer Network said: "We are delighted to be involved in this work. Many people feel their hair is their identity and losing it through cancer is incredibly traumatic. We hope this initiative will mean they are able to find a beautiful wig which they can have fitted and styled by specially trained hairdressers to make their experience the best we possibly can."

Haircut fundraiser

Katie Burkill and the other library staff featured in last month's Sedgefield News raised a final total of £567 for Multiple Sclerosis. They send their thanks to everyone who supported them.

NGS Open Gardens

Sedgefield Residents will be opening their beautiful gardens to the public for charity on Sunday 19th July between 1-5pm. Details from Town Council

Offices. Posters throughout the village. A chance to see some extraordinary gardens. Collect a programme from 12.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall, where cream teas will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Northumbria in Bloom judges will be in Sedgefield on Tuesday 21st July. Anyone who can help tidy the village green would be very welcome. Call Town Council Offices - 621273.

Farmers' Market - "Tea anyone?"

If you feel like reviving the art of Afternoon Tea then Sedgefield Farmers' Market will be invaluable. Carol Clark's home-made bread is perfect for dainty sandwiches. I decided to use Carol's white and whole-meal loaves and was

delighted with the results, as were my guests on Sunday afternoon.

Cooked meats from Sedgefield's Number Four were just right too.

When selecting cakes I was almost spoiled for choice at the market.

The new cake stall "Crumble"

specialises in beautifully finished individual cakes which are lovely little gifts too.

Burtree Farm also tempt with mouth-watering cakes and biscuits. The Northumberland Lass stall will provide a lot of choice for the would-be host or hostess as they have hand-crafted pies too.

Whether you decide to include cheeses, home-made chutneys and jams, salad, strawberries, maybe some home-made fish pate using Duane Patterson's fish, there are plenty of afternoon tea possibilities at Sedgefield Farmers' Market and you have the added and real pleasure of telling your guests that everything on the table has been home-made and locally produced. We will be delighted to see you again on the village green, on the second Sunday as usual - July 12th.

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

As I type this, in rugby union the Lions are working out how to even up the series with South Africa after defeat in the first Test, the British F1 Grand Prix has sped by, golf's US Open and athletics' European Team Championships are into their latter stages, and the All England Championships are just about to begin at Wimbledon. Yes, a summer of sport is well underway. Much as I will enjoy all of the events just mentioned, for me the contest I look forward to most is cricket's Ashes, which start in Cardiff on 8th July (the venue is a sore point – Durham CCC's Riverside should be hosting a Test in my humble opinion). After the drama of 2005 and disappointment of the following series, the current form of both teams makes it hard to predict the outcome, but if it's anywhere near as exciting as the previous Ashes series in England, then we're in for a treat. We could even see three Durham players in the England squad, as Steve Harmison and Graeme Onions are both showing outstanding form in County Championship matches and must have hopes of joining regular Paul Collingwood. Closer to home, there are exciting developments underway at Sedgefield Cricket Club. We have the full story here, plus plenty of other village sport.

Cricket

As you may have noticed, walking past the clubhouse, extensive work is being carried out on the first phase of a project to update and improve the

facilities at Sedgefield Cricket Club. The initial plan is to build new changing rooms for all players and officials. When breaking through into the club from the extension, a new kitchen will be provided, allowing the existing tea hut to be removed from the site. The second phase will include upgrading facilities within the clubhouse, where full refurbishment is needed. Meanwhile, phase one frees up a lot of extra space which will be put to good use. An extended patio area at the front of the building will be completed by the time this newsletter is out, and an open invitation (as always) is extended to everyone to see for themselves the standards the club hopes to achieve. A fundraising exercise is now in operation to support the building of the phase two development. On the cricketing side, the senior teams have had a mixed start, but first, second and third teams are all competing well. They are supported by several excellent juniors who continue to thrive, making the most of a great group of youngsters whose development is there for all to see. The club's future looks to be in very good hands.

Three of the club's most improved juniors are playing at county level for Durham and are highly thought of by their coaches. All four junior teams are performing very well at under 11, 13, 15 and 17 levels. The club considers itself to be a community resource and although there is no annual membership system, non-members are encouraged to go along and enjoy the cricket or social aspects of the club.

July/August fixtures:

1st team: 1.30pm on Saturdays

11th July: Barnard Castle
18th July: Wolviston
8th August: Middlesbrough and
Sunday 9th August: Seaton Carew

2nd team: 1.30pm on Saturdays

4th July: Wolviston
1st August: Darlington R.A.

3rd team 1.30pm on Sundays

5th July: Marske
26th July: Darlington R.A.

Under 17s: 6pm on Mondays

6th July: Richmondshire
3rd August: Hartlepool

Under 15s: 9.30am on Sundays

19th July: Wolviston
2nd August: Darlington R.A.

Under 13s: 9.30am on Sundays

5th July: Seaton Carew
12th July: Newton Aycliffe
26th July: Norton
9th August: Hartlepool

Under 11s dates to be arranged.

The 1st and 2nd teams also play a 15/15 competition based on the professional version of 20/20. Players compete in club colours and the atmosphere is enhanced with the usual razzmatazz, music of choice greeting each new batsman. Dates in July are 2nd, 9th and 22nd from 7pm. Finally, Sedgefield Cricket Club's annual club BBQ will be held on 11th July from 7pm. A live band will perform and food will be provided by Trevor Robinson. Tickets are £8 – call 621531/620373 for details.

Junior Harriers

Last month, I reported that Scott Kippen became Sedgefield Harriers' first North East athletics champion when he claimed victory in the U15 boys 400m at Gateshead Stadium. Scott went on to take silver medal in the 200m in a time of 25.21 secs, behind Ian Shevlin of Tynedale Harriers. Also picking up medals for Sedgefield were Joe Potts in the U13 Boys 200m who took silver in 31.71 secs and Gemma Varley in the U20 women's 5000m, who also won silver in a time of 21 mins 49.84 secs despite being only 16. There were superb performances all round from the junior Harriers who showed strength in depth throughout the weekend of athletics. This performance of one gold and three silver builds on the one bronze won by the club at the North East Championships in 2008 and bodes well for the future.

Senior Harriers

Four Sedgefield Harriers took part in this year's London Marathon in April. Regular marathon runner Rosie Sims produced the performance of the day to record a superb personal best of 3hrs 32mins and 42secs. Ian Blakemore, who broke a leg just before last year's marathon and has spent a year coming back, finished in a good time of 3:16:44. Ean Parsons produced a personal best to finish in 3:33:43 and Graeme Cherry ran 4:22:19 despite not having much time to train due to work commitments.

Just over a month later, 11 Harriers tackled the Edinburgh Marathon on a day blessed with blue skies and soaring temperatures. The Firth of Forth seemed like the Mediterranean – great for the spectators but not so good for the 8,000+ competitors. Like everyone else, the Harriers took to the scenic course, out from Prince's Street, around Holyrood Park to Leith and on via the sea front to Preston Pans and beyond before turning about, finishing on Musselburgh Racecourse after 26.2 miles.



Photo: A study in Taiji 'form practice'. It's Joe Harte, who we wrote about last month. We had no space for the photo then but include it now for its calm & sculptural quality.

Despite the temperatures, Gary Hetherington ran 2:43:02 to finish in 31st place in a strong field of UK runners. Ian Blakemore (3:11:47), Richard Bayles (3:16:33) and Scott Hydon (3:25:55) beat the 3:30 mark, while Ean Parsons (3:30:09) and Rosie Sims (3:31:54) defied the heat to run personal bests and beat their London times. Also running for Sedgefield were Anthony Long (3:38:50), Gail Bell (3:40:18), Matthew Jones (3:41:38), John Haycock (4:04:01) and Graeme Cherry (5:04:02).

Don't forget, Harriers stage their popular Summer Handicap for the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy on the evening of Thursday 9th July, over 6.5 miles on tracks from Fishburn and around Bishop Middleham. The race is open to all and starts at 7pm (runners need to register by 6.30pm on the night). Anyone over 15 interested in taking part contact Ean Parsons: 07771 828 568: ean2005@hotmail.co.uk

The Harriers would like to thank outgoing mayor Tim Jeanes for his very kind donation from the Mayor's Charity Fund. It will be well spent on equipment for the junior section, encouraging further participation by young people in athletics in Sedgefield.

Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club's annual presentation evening held on the 24th April at Ceddesfeld Hall was a huge success. The club would like to thank adult and junior members, a total of over 60, who attended. A great night was had by all.

Congratulations to all competition winners who were recognised on the night.

Club Champion, Jonathan Slee

Club Plate, Gary Hetherington

Ladies' Champion, Linda Cummings

Ladies' Plate, Jane Larcombe

XL Champion (40+), James Larcombe

Junior Champion, Stephen Rowsby

Junior Plate, Jamie Kilday

Under 13 Champion, Robert Pearce

Under 13 Plate, Oliver Larcombe

Mini Squash (Joint Winners), Oliver Larcombe & Joe Potts

John Rowntree Cup (most points during season in internal leagues), Darren Young

Pairs Handicap (held earlier in the year), Gordon Peden & Maureen Cameron

Team Handicap (held at the beginning of the season), Stephen Rowsby, Gordon Peden, John O'Donnell, Andrew Cannings & Robert Pearce.

The club continues to attract new members. If you are interested please contact Chris Rowsby on 01740 621125.

Football

No sooner has one football season finished than preparations begin for the next. Pre-season training for St. Edmund's FC and Sedgefield NETpark FC starts on Sunday 5th July at the Community College, from 10.30am. Both clubs welcome new players. For St. Edmund's contact Phil Shann on 621258 and for Sedgefield NETpark FC contact David Ryder on 07515 020766.

Finally, as part of their training effort and to raise some money for a deserving cause, a group from Sedgefield NETPark FC will be cycling the Coast to Coast route (Workington to Tyneside) from 24th–26th July. David Ryder, Malcolm Dickenson, Peter Sedgewick, Andrew Smyth, Craig Provett, Marc Stanley, Richard Bland, Darren Bill, Paul Stanley, Ian Blakemore, Michael Pyle and Nicky Walker will be pedaling to try and raise over £1,000 for Butterwick Hospice. To sponsor them, visit www.justgiving.com/sedgefieldnetparkfc2009.

Cheers for Beers

The seventeenth annual Ceddesfeld beer festival will be held on Friday and Saturday 3rd & 4th July. Regular winners of the CAMRA north east real ale club of the year, the Ceddesfeld beer festival has become a permanent date in the village calendar. Fourteen beers can be sampled this year, featuring small (and not so small) breweries of the north of England. There are beers from Mordue, Hambleton, Darwin and our very own Durham brewery, together with some of the finest beers from around the region, and they include one brew that pays tribute to a very old Sedgefield tale - Darwin brewery's 'Durham pickled parson'! There's a BBQ on both evenings and live music from CeddesFolk on Saturday. Opening times; Friday 7pm - 11pm and Saturday 6pm - 11pm.

Round Table Diary

Last month's article was written before Mediaeval Fayre so I'd like to start by thanking all those who entered the Round Table's lollipop, splat the rat or fishing competitions. We raised £327, all of which will be spent on community service and contributions to local charities and good causes. Many of you may also remember us making our usual heroic contribution to the success of the Tug of War. We were saving ourselves for putting away the stalls later that afternoon, anyway, it's not the winning it's the taking part that counts.

On the social side we began the month with an enjoyable (how could it be otherwise?) Scalextric competition and beer-tasting quiz at Ceddesfeld. We also had a splashing time learning to play water-polo at Newton Aycliffe under the guidance of our multi-talented chairman, Carl. A photograph of the event exists but I am not sure the people of Sedgefield are quite ready for it. So enthused are we by our visit to the baths that we are currently planning a charity swimming event, so please be prepared to give generously in the coming weeks.

Help to keep up the work of Scouting

1st Sedgefield Scout Group has been in existence for many years providing a significant number of young men, initially, now young women also, with access to high quality, challenging, fulfilling activities, as well as providing a place to go once a week where friendships have been created and talent developed. There must be hundreds of young people who grew up in the village for whom Scouting has played an important part in their lives.

Today we have 4 groups belonging to the Scouts. The Beavers, catering for children aged 6 – 8, the Cubs which works with children aged 8 – 10.5, Scouts, providing activities for young people aged 10.5 – 14, and Explorers which work with young people aged 14 and 18. In total 75 children and young people are part of the Sedgefield Scout Group, drawn from the village and surrounding areas. There are also 15 volunteers who, on a weekly basis, run the groups and take part in local and district activities. Sedgefield Scouts plays an active part in the life of the community. They regularly support the Mediaeval fair, the annual service of Remembrance and deliver Christmas cards for the community. Since 1967 the Scout group has owned their own building, the former Methodist Chapel in Station Road. The group now faces some large costs to refurbish the building and to ensure that Scouting can continue to support the young people of this community in the future. Two of the major items needed are a new heating system and new windows. The heating system will cost in the region of £20k and windows about £10k. Whilst it is hoped that some funding can be raised from grant making bodies, we need to raise quite a large sum ourselves. Various fund raising activities are planned and applications are being made to external bodies for support, but we need your support. This is a call to all former Scouts and their families. Would you be willing to make a one off donation to the Scouts to help with the costs of renewing the heating system? If we cannot raise the money and get the work done before this winter, then it is unlikely that we will be able to operate over the winter months.

Please support us and future generations of young people, so that they may enjoy the benefits of Scouting as you did. Please send any donations to: The Treasurer, 4 Milbourne Court, Sedgefield, TS21 2JD, making cheques payable to 1st Sedgefield Scout Group.

Thank you, Geoff Tonks.

July Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 27th June

Please note, no bingo in July

Eyes down at 7.30pm

SLYC 'Songlines' Concert

7 - 8 pm in the Methodist Church

Wednesday 1st July

ADMISSION FREE

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 1st July

Join our fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 1st July

7.15pm in the Parish Hall

Margaret Hedley

Women of the

Victorian Pit Village

Members' competition - a family heirloom

Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

The Lyrics Singers

SWING

with the Alex Ord Trio

Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th July

Tickets from Selections

or call 620625

Ceddesfeld Hall

Beer Festival

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th July

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 5th June

4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the Welcome Room at St Edmund's

Residents' Forum plus

PACT meeting

Monday 6th July

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm

Local History Society

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday 6th July

Lesley Bentham

"Yes, we do have National Costumes!"

All welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

The July meeting is a trip -

Contact Suzanne Hopper on

01429 882250

NB. No meeting in August

Sing for Fun

A lighthearted singing session for all, from 1 - 2pm on

Wednesdays 8th & 22nd July

Methodist Church Hall, North End

Farmers' Market

on the Village Green

Sunday 12th July

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 12th July

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

(Tutor group meets at 1pm on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

Sedgefield Town Council

Meeting - 7 pm Council Offices

Monday 13th July

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

AGM

Monday 15th July

New members always welcome

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Wednesday 15th July

7.30pm at 28 White House Drive

All welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 21st July

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Members' evening with

faith supper

All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 23rd July

Meet in Parish Hall Car Park at 6.30pm for a visit (details to be arranged). More information from

Steve Ashton on 620559

All welcome

NB. No meeting in August

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 23rd July

8pm in the Nag's Head

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Community

Hospital Garden Party

Saturday 25th July at 2pm

Entertainment by

Spennymoor Town Band, plus

Children's entertainer, stalls, raffle..

All welcome

Sedgefield Area

Churches Together

Family picnic

12 noon - 2pm **Sunday 26th July**

in Ceddesfeld hall and grounds.

(1st weekend of the

summer holidays)

Games/activities. Faith picnic.

Further details from

Judith King 620910 or

Vanessa Morrell 629834

July @ Sedgefield Library

Tickle Time

Monday 6th & 20th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 8th & 22nd, 10-11am

Toy Library

Wednesday 1st & 15th, 10-11am

Summer Reading Challenge

Quest seekers is launched on

Thursday 23rd July. *More on p.3*

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Country Market

Friday mornings, Parish Hall

101 gigs in July

03 - Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough

04 - The Ox Inn, Stanley

05 - BLACK LION, SEDGEFIELD

11 - The Grand, Bishop Auckland

12 - Wheatsheaf, Sunderland(4pm)

17 - The Ship, Marske

26 - The Normanby Hotel,

30 - THE GOLDEN LION

(Tim, solo acoustic)

31 - Duke Of Cumberland, G'head

Coming up in August

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

No meeting in July

Next meeting 17th August

in Sedgefield Library

Sedgefield Development

Trust Limited

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on **Monday 17th August 2009 at 7.15 pm at No 58 Front Street, Sedgefield.**

Business to be conducted

To consider and vote upon a Special Resolution to change parts of the Articles of Association of Sedgefield Development Trust Limited, namely paragraph 3.1.1 of the Company's Objects. The intention is to widen the area of benefit to include Fishburn in addition to Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. The proposed new paragraph 3.1.1 will read: "to bring together individuals and groups to address the needs and desires of the whole community living and working in the communities of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Morden and Fishburn."

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

Optometrist bows out

After six happy years being the local optometrist I have decided to pass the baton on to someone else. This is an entirely personal decision; I just want to take on fresh opportunities and challenges. My time serving the people of Sedgefield and surrounding area have been very happy and fulfilling. The kindness and affection that you have all shown me has been wonderful and much appreciated. I am passing the practice on to Mr Alan Young. He has twenty years' experience in the optical world, mainly in Stanley and Consett. He is looking forward to meeting you all and I am sure you will give him a warm welcome to the village. I am intending to stay in Sedgefield for the foreseeable future. This village is now my home and I will remain active in the local church, ladies circle and other village activities.

Finally, I just want to thank you all for the past six years.

Elizabeth Maw

Elizabeth has given Sedgefield News a lot of support for a number of years with advertising, on which we are of course, financially dependent. Our thanks and very best wishes Elizabeth. We hope you'll keep in touch. Ed.

A mystery no more!

The boy in last month's photo is Barry Hutchinson, now vicar of St. Cuthbert's Church on Holy Island. I'm grateful to Maureen Grey and John Whiteman, who both recognised him. Back in their Fishburn days, he was a very good friend of John, who remembers three sisters; Doris, who married a fireman and moved to Norton, Eileen, who married a man with the first name of Gibb and Rita, who never married and stayed in Fishburn. Barry was also friendly with Bill Smith, brother of Phil, now of Number Four and Abbracciare; and Stuart Booth of Trimdon Grange. If any of this has pressed memory buttons, you might like to get in touch and fill in more details. I hope to contact Barry on Holy Island when we get back from holidays and maybe reunite him with the photo - and the book! You can contact me on 620091 or email direct to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com. Thanks again to Maureen and John.

Norma Neal



Your Letters

It looks bad...

For the last year, the old Reeds & Rains estate agents building has remained empty and derelict, an eyesore in a prominent position on the High Street. Surely there must be potential demand to use this and to generate some revenue for the owner. Does anybody know who is responsible for its current state and what the plans are for this site? Does the Council have any influence over its appearance? If the village is to attract people in to support existing businesses it needs to paint an image of a thriving community, and the state of this building, and the Secret Garden next door are doing nothing to help. It would be interesting to hear a response from the owner.

Name and address supplied

Lost and Found

I recently found in Sedgefield a small black digital camera. I handed it in to the police but it seems no-one claimed it. I am therefore spreading the news that it has been found and is available for return in exchange for suitable proof of ownership. Anyone interested please call Sedgefield 620304.

Name and address supplied

Sedgefield racecourse

At the recent residents' mediation meeting for the new premises licence application, held on 3rd June at Ceddesfeld Hall, the applicants (Sedgefield Racecourse) raised the issue of a letter in the Sedgefield News alleging that the Racecourse had plans to introduce a 3rd car boot fair (auto jumble) day on their premises. This was flatly denied by the Racecourse representatives and we are pleased to report that the Manager of the Racecourse, at the request of the Sedgefield Residents' Association, agreed to write to Sedgefield News to confirm this fact. We look forward with anticipation!

As an aside, the major part of the application was an increase of the licensable area which the racecourse would be able to resort to using, up to a total of an estimated 80 acres, from the current approximately 17 acres - this fact of course has not been widely broadcast. A hearing about the New Licence application is set for 10am, 18th June 2009 at Easington Council offices.

Mark Cant

No Cold Calling

I appeal to all who display the No Cold Callers logo to help maintain the integrity of the scheme. Organisers made a lot of effort to make Sedgefield a "No Cold Callers" area, but time after time a caller says that no one else has objected to the unsolicited knock and, indeed, that they are made welcome. My last unwelcome caller had the effrontery to say that it only applied to comen! If you have put up a No Cold Callers sign but are in fact happy to talk to cold callers, please, please remove your notice so that we stop this confusion arising.

R Smeeton

Congratulations

I am writing to congratulate Sandy Clubley who on the 4th June at the Volunteer Awards Evening run by CAVOS was given a highly coveted Special Recognition award. I was at the event purely in a support role for several individuals and the quality of the nominees was astonishing. Some people and their achievements! It really put us ordinary folk in the shade listening to their achievements in their unflagging support of the communities they live in. It was a surprise to hear some of Sandy's activities called out (I hadn't known she had done so much) and also that she was up for an award (as it had been kept quiet) but completely deserved all the same. A lady who had been nominated from a charity I have connections to remarked that she was glad she hadn't received an award as she would have had to give it straight to one of the finalists as they were so awe-inspiring: and this coming from a lady who is no slouch when it comes to giving up her time wholeheartedly for others. So I hope all readers of this lively publication will take a moment to thank Sandy (just a private thought or prayer) for all her efforts in making Sedgefield a much nicer place to live.

Jonathan Reeves

Deadline July 15th

For August edition please send copy to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com or to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011

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