



Sedgefield NEWS

June 2010

Hardwick Park: a Royal opening

After several years of hard work and commitment by many and a comprehensive programme of restoration, Hardwick Park was officially opened on Tuesday 11th May by HRH Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO. The day started off well with glorious sunshine only to let us down with a downpour just as the Duke arrived, however the programme was adjusted to accommodate and he spent the early part of his tour looking around the Visitors' Centre and its various exhibits and met with officials from Durham County Council and Heritage Lottery, and our own Chairman of the Friends of Hardwick. The Friends had raised the money, thanks to Northern Rock Foundation, for the replacement statue of Neptune which now stands elegantly on its plinth in the Serpentine. The Duke was introduced to the sculptor Keith Maddison who was commissioned by the Friends to do the work. The Friends are also active volunteers in the manning of the Visitors' Centre and practical work supporting the Rangers in the Park itself.

The Duke said it was a great pleasure for him to come to Hardwick to see all that had been achieved, especially as he was interested in history, architecture and landscape. He said it was a nice place to spend time, that there was plenty to see and do, and it would bring pleasure to thousands of visitors over years to come. Children from Hardwick School presented him with a gift of a picture. The Duke was driven around the Park in a golf buggy and was able to see all the restoration projects first hand. There is still much work to be done but the progress is nevertheless impressive.

Guests were treated to a buffet lunch which was excellent and was provided by the resident caterers of the Park Café Creative Management Services Limited.

Neptune looks on as the Royal seal of approval is delivered (insert - the Duke's dated signature)



Update - sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Work is now in progress to rebuild, update and simplify Sedgefield Development Trust's community website. The website administrators request that you now send to the above address, fully up to date information for your group's page, along with any other requests, eg. for links to other related websites.

Below. If you recognise yourself on the stage here at an Award ceremony for Winterton Hospital, you will be interested in the reunion plans outlined on page 2 ...



Preparations for Britain in Bloom



Sedgefield in Bloom involves a lot more than one visit by a team of judges to see how pretty we are. We are very lucky to have a head start with a beautiful church, village green and conservation area. But it's not just about looks. The judges are very keen to see community involvement, local people enjoying and making use of their environment and contributing towards its maintenance and improvement. It would be impossible to show this just by letting the judges walk around, looking at the attractive displays. The village green is very important to Sedgefield life, but the judges can't always be here to see what goes on, so the Sedgefield in Bloom portfolio aims, amongst other things, to show community involvement in events throughout the year. The farmer's market, Mediaeval Fayre, Butterwick Hospice vintage car event, the Ball Game, weddings and other events in the church; simply sitting in the sun or having a drink outside Cross Hill - all show the green as an important focal point today, as it has been for centuries. The fireworks display, Easter Egg hunt, treasure hunts and barbecues in Ceddesfeld Gardens all contribute tremendously to the lively community spirit we have in Sedgefield.

Local businesses give enthusiastic support to Sedgefield in Bloom, not only through generous sponsorship, but also by providing attractive displays outside their premises. Other organisations including youth groups, WI & Round Table, also contribute to Sedgefield's success. The Sedgefield in Bloom sponsor board in front of the parish hall will acknowledge all that generosity.

We have won awards in Northumbrian in Bloom several times and are proud to have been nominated for the national event. Britain in Bloom sets even higher standards, so you will see improvements to all the entrances to the village; new bright blue and yellow sign boards with colourful planters beneath them, all the roundabouts planted with trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and topiary. Head gardener Stephen Young and his assistant Norman Willis are working hard to put all this in place, helped by long-standing members of the Bloom committee and newcomers like me, some of them councillors, all volunteers.

Bloomers, in their colourful T-shirts, have been busy planting, weeding, fundraising and litter picking - not just on one day a year; this is a year-round commitment. When judges visited in April, after the bad weather, there was not much colour to be seen. Members of Sedgefield in Bloom had produced an excellent display of photos showing events from the previous year, including the Snowman Parade, schoolchildren planting tubs, the mayor digging at the new allotments, as well as attractive village gardens and community activities.

Northumbria in Bloom judges return on July 20, followed by the Britain in Bloom judges in August. Sedgefield in Bloom will highlight developments in Hardwick Park, plans for Ceddesfeld Gardens, the Community Garden in the Winterton allotments, the involvement of schools, as well as pointing out the beautifully improved entrances to Sedgefield and floral displays in the village centre. After months of planning, applying for permission and licences to plant, we hope that we will have achieved the WOW factor the judges are looking for.

If you would like to join the growing band of volunteers, donate plants, send in some photographs of the village looking lovely - or pick up and bin litter when you see it - you'd be helping to keep Sedgefield in Bloom. If you'd like to help the community working beautifully together, call at the council offices (621273) or contact angela.simpson@sedgefield.net or me, norma@neal.myzen.co.uk (620091)

Britain in Bloom fundraising events

Don't miss our **"Blooming Marvellous Treasure Hunt"** on Thursday 3rd June Ceddesfeld Hall grounds, with prizes and cream teas. Maps £1 from school or Council Office.

Then there's a **"Blooming Lovely Coffee Morning"** on Monday 7th June from 10am at Sedgefield Police Station.

Hardwick Primary School reception class visit Butterwick Road allotments (left) to witness the growing cycle of plants They will also visit the Sedgefield in Bloom community allotment at the new Winterton site, to start a programme of events running up to the judges' visit in August.

Students Take Pride. Students from Sedgefield Community College showed off their community and country pride by supporting both Sedgefield in Bloom and The Big Tidy Up by undertaking a litterpick. Year 8 students set off from Sedgefield Community College at 11am on 23rd April into the centre of the village to pick litter on & around the village green. The village, Sedgefield Community College, Sedgefield in Bloom, residents and retailers all benefited from the area being cleaned. Durham County Council initiated and co-ordinated, officers from Altogether Greener Civic Pride & Neighbourhood Wardens were also involved as were students & staff from college and a PSCO.

Winterton Reunion

It is 10 years since the closure of Winterton Hospital, and a group consisting of Karen Lane (nee Ferguson),



Tom Fielding & Dot Smith (was Turton) are making plans for a get together. The reunion event for staff, families and friends of Winterton Hospital will take place on **Saturday 11th September** at 7.30pm in the Coleman Suite at Hardwick Hall Hotel. Tickets are £20 per person for the venue and buffet, and rooms are available for people travelling from afar. Please email one of the team for more information.

Karenlane@tevv.nhs.co.uk
Dotturton.nhs.net
tfiel18183@aol.com

Two Summer Trips

The Annual Senior Citizens' outing to Redcar will be on Wednesday 7th July. If you would like to go, please add your name to the list in the Post Office, the Town Council office, or with Margaret Stewart or Billy Cooper, by Sunday 4th July at the latest. \cost to DIDO members is £2, to non members, £3.

The Town Council coach trip to Skipton is on Wednesday 14th July, leaving the Parish Hall at 9am. Tickets are £9.50 per person, from the Town Council offices.

Donation thanks

Joan Seymour thanks the Wives & Friends, the Methodist Church Women's Fellowship and Ferryhill WI for donations following her talks on India. *Due to lack of space, the rest of Joan's news will appear in July.*

Sedgefield Development Trust would like to thank the Mayor, Sheila Sutherland, for her donation of £150 for DIDO.

Snapshots of Sedgefield

Many thanks to Sonny Jemison, who came up with some more information about April's cricketing photo, taken in 1933/4. On the back row, Sonny identifies, from left, G. Hutchinson, ? Snowball and P. Trenholm in stripes, not Captain Ramsden as we said. He is the gentleman 5th left in tweed jacket and cravat. Front row second left is J.D. Davison. May's school trip to London, unsurprisingly, produced no feedback, thanks to Vic Wright's photographic memory.

This month's photo is kindly supplied by Nancy Wells and it shows St. Edmund's Women's Guild, formed by Canon Wykes for the young wives of the church. They originally met in the old church hall, now Turner's garage, before moving to the parish hall. Nancy, Guild secretary at the time, is the young lady in the mini skirt on the front row. Next to her are Mary Barron, Annie Wearmouth, Mrs M. Carr and Libby Carr. At the end of the row is treasurer Gladys Stacey. Can anyone name the other three ladies? We have 2 queries on the middle row, too. From the left, there is Mary Nokes, Molly Icton, Evelyn Nokes, then a query, followed by Mrs Castling, Hetty Jopling, Jean Jones, Mrs Telfer and other query. On the back row, Nancy can name everyone from Grace Bayston on the far left to Hazel Finch, Edna Atkinson, Margaret Terry, Doreen Hartshorn, Carol Stacey, Win Brooker/Fenner, Rene Wright, Mrs Ord, Maud Wardale from the Post Office to Margaret Armstrong, nee Smith.

Sedgefield Local History Society is very grateful for the many kind donations already received. If you have photographs or documents you would like to loan or give, or if you can name our missing ladies, please contact me on 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk



Afghanistan insight for Community College students

The Northern Echo has been running the 'Swift and Bold' campaign selling green bands in support of injured 3 Rifles soldiers in Afghanistan. **Sedgefield Community College** obtained 200 of these bands and sold them within 3 days, raising over £400.

From May 10th – 14th, Major Chris Lawton from 3 Rifles came into school assemblies to talk to students about 3 Rifles' recent tour of Afghanistan. He also received a cheque for £420.29 from Mr Davison, (see photograph) towards the appeal.

Students were able to gain some insight into life in Afghanistan at the moment and life in the army in general, especially interesting as there are several ex-students who have served over there.

Library Fundraising

Staff at Sedgefield Library would like to thank everyone who supported their MS awareness week so generously. They managed to raise £295 for the MS Trust and Society.



Community SAFETY

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Shed & Garden Equipment - Security Alert!

Many people take a great deal of time and effort securing their house and the property within, whilst neglecting the valuable property in the shed or around the garden. Often the shed is unlocked or so insecure and run down that it poses no problem for even the amateur thief. During the summer we regularly experience an increase in theft from garden sheds and the garden itself.

What can you do?

1. Ensure your shed is in good condition.
2. Fit a good substantial lock to the shed door. The fitting for the lock should be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws or coach bolts fitted. Don't forget the hinges should be secured also with non returnable screws or coach bolts. The lock should be 2.5" in width and made of hardened steel. It should be a closed-shackle type which will reduce the risk of the lock being forced or bolt-cropped.
3. Fit shed windows with a grill and a cover (internally to thwart prying eyes).
4. Security mark property such as lawnmowers, garden furniture, even tools.
5. Never leave items unattended, even to pop into the house. You may only be gone a few minutes, but they might be gone forever.
6. If you leave items such as cycles in your shed make sure they are security marked and secure them to the shed's structure, just as you would if you were leaving your cycle in a public place.
7. Install either a Dusk to Dawn or a PIR Security Light to light your garden.
8. Install one of the many low-cost security alarms available and readily useable in a shed location.

Alarms: Sedgefield's Crime Prevention Officer has previously demonstrated (at the NHW meeting) very useful alarms including a wireless PIR/alarm unit and a unique alarmed padlock - both available at reasonable cost; and of course there are numerous similar devices readily available from normal retail sources. Just having a clearly visible deterrent in place really does help to deter the casual thief, who will try elsewhere.

Sedgefield Police Community Consultative Group: This year's spring meeting was held on Monday 26th of April in Ceddesfield Hall; as stated last year these meetings are open public meetings. This year the meeting was chaired by Durham Police Authority Officer Lucy Hovvels. Alongside Lucy was our very recently appointed Divisional Chief Superintendent Andy Reddick, accompanied by Chief Inspector Vicky Martin and our two South Area Community Team Inspectors - Bill Bentham & Andy Neill.

In the audience were some of our village Councillors, local residents, local members of Neighbourhood Watch along with Councillors & other interested parties from other areas (Shildon, Ferryhill, Spennymoor etc.) covered by the South Durham Police Area. The meeting was excellent both in terms of the frank and open dialogue between those attending and the Police and for the detailed information provided by all Police Officers present.

The Police provided evidence that despite Sedgefield Village's recent car related crime epidemic they have been very successful at reducing and detecting crime in our areas. It was also very clear that there is a huge amount of work done by our Police that is not seen and cannot be seen by "us the public", but which became evident when discussions took place during the meeting.

Topics raised by the audience after the Police report included Scrap Metal Crime; Sex Offenders; Public Order; Drugs; Neighbourhood Watch; Illegal Motorised Bikes; Off Road Bike Facility in Sedgefield; Speeding; & finally, Dog Fouling. From the comments raised by the audience, dog fouling appears to be prevalent elsewhere in our area; however on learning about Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood Watch's failure to obtain a real commitment to help, following their written request to Durham County Council, Police Authority Chair Lucy Hovvels offered her assistance to look into the matter with a commitment to try and obtain a better response for the village.

The meeting closed with the public feeling reassured that both the Police and the Police Authority are fully committed to achieving further improvements in crime reduction, crime detection and the provision of support for the most vulnerable in our community.

Flask in the Fridge: Please remember to update your data sheet in the flask, following changes to either medication or your health. If Emergency Services are called and refer to the information it is vital that it is accurate & up to date. It is for your benefit only. Recent information from the ambulance service is that they are finding the information in the Flask is not always up to date!

Telephone Numbers - Local Police: 0345 60 60 365

Community Warden, Tim Spearey: 623654 or via Chilton Control Room: 01388 721351

Police Crime Prevention Officer Keith Lownds, 01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne, 01325 742755

PC Todd reports

Over the last two months I have been asking for vehicle owners to secure their vehicles and remove any property from within. I am happy to report that the crime wave came to a sudden end when a male was arrested at his home address in the Trimdon area and some of the stolen property was recovered. He recently went to court having been charged with over 50 crimes of theft from insecure vehicles and received a 26 week custodial sentence.

Not all the crimes were committed in Sedgefield as his target was all the local villages, but I take this opportunity to thank all the residents who co-operated with the police investigation and vehicle owners who secured their vehicles making it harder for this male to commit his crimes in the first instance. When interviewed he stated that Sedgefield was an easy target. There are other criminals out there with the same intent. Don't be complacent. Don't forget to lock your car doors.

Other crimes reported recently include theft of wheel trims in East End, theft of drain covers in Beaumont Court, graffiti on walls in Front Street and damage caused to vehicles in Thurlow Road & West End. *Until next time, Keith*

P.A.C.T. meeting

There was no meeting during May. Therefore the priorities remain the same: the Bus stop, High Street (outside Co-op) and the Bus stop, Front St (outside Theakstons). Action will be taken against offenders parking within these areas. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th June during the N/H/Watch meeting.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Social Club. There were no reports of any incidents within member premises requiring further action.

NHS Walk In Centre

You find yourself in a dilemma - you or a member of the family have had a bit of an accident or you are not feeling too well; it's the weekend or a Bank Holiday, the surgery is closed and you can't decide whether it is an Urgent Care issue or A & E.

Well, did you know that Stockton NHS Healthcare Centre is open 8am - 8pm every day, including Bank Holidays?

It is about 500 yards past North Tees Hospital on the same side of the road. We had an excellent experience there, were seen very quickly by a GP, and given a prescription there and then. We could access a 24 hr chemist and the whole visit took no more than 30 minutes, including journeys. The phone number is **01642525480** or go to the website, www.stocktonnhshealthcentre.nhs.uk
Gloria Wills

Sedgefield Borough Homes - important changes to our services

Please note that **Sedgefield Borough Homes** has recently closed the local housing office in Trimdon Village, enabling us to bring in a more personalised service called **'on the phone and in your home'**. This is in response to extensive consultation with local people, which identified that they preferred to access services by telephone or via an SBH officer visiting their home. Alan Boddy, Director of Corporate Services for SBH says, "We have always been committed to delivering high quality services direct to our local communities, but we are always looking for ways to improve. I'm delighted that people will now have more opportunities to access services directly via home visits, on the phone and through the SBH website."

SBH will give regular updates as new services are introduced. However if you wish to arrange a home visit please contact SBH on **0845 505 5500**.

Some Frequently Asked Questions about Choice Based Lettings

Sedgefield Borough Homes now allocates properties through the Durham Key Options (DKO) Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Scheme. Of the 410 properties advertised so far, the overwhelming majority have been let to applicants who already lived within the former Sedgefield Borough Area.

In the Trimdon, Fishburn & Sedgefield areas, 32 properties have been advertised, generating a total of 212 bids. Prior to the introduction of CBL, SBH experienced some problems letting certain property types, such as one bedroom bungalows in the Trimdon and Fishburn areas. Since the introduction of CBL, demand for this property type has increased as people have become more aware of availability.

What is Durham Key Options?

The scheme is an open and transparent way to let properties, allowing you to see for yourself the number and type of properties available. DKO is a partnership of housing providers throughout County Durham who agreed to adopt common lettings criteria for assessing applicants. This means there is less confusion for applicants, as no matter which partner you contact for re-housing, your circumstances will be assessed in exactly the same way.

What is Choice Based Lettings?

CBL is a way to let properties that involves advertising all available properties and allowing you to express an interest in (or "bid on") any that you wish to apply for. Properties are advertised in a variety of ways and you can bid using several different methods. Properties are advertised on a weekly advertising cycle which runs from Thursday until Tuesday. The properties advertised will remain the same throughout this period, so you will not have to check every day for updates. By seeing what properties are advertised each week, you will not only be aware of each and every property available, but also have the opportunity to bid on properties that you would like to be considered for (subject to eligibility).

Who are the DKO Partners? The DKO partners are Sedgefield Borough Homes (SBH), Dale and Valley Homes, Derwentside Homes, Teesdale Housing Association and Durham County Council. So, should you wish to apply for housing and are eligible to join the DKO Scheme, you will be registered to apply for homes not only with SBH but also any property managed by other partner landlords. For example, should your reason for re-housing be to provide support for relatives living in a particular area, you can now do so without the need to complete another application form. A small minority of SBH applicants have done just that to help them move to other parts of County Durham. To be able to take part in the DKO scheme you must first complete one of the DKO application forms, which are available from all SBH local offices.

How is need assessed? DKO operates a banding system to assess needs in line with government guidance. To find out more about this system you could contact your SBH (or DKO) Local Housing Office, pick up a DKO User Guide or go to www.sedgefieldboroughhomes.co.uk or www.durhamkeyoptions.co.uk

Where are properties advertised? Properties are advertised at www.durhamkeyoptions.co.uk and in the DKO Property Paper

Is bidding easy? Yes! Bidding allows you to choose where you want to live. You can bid in a variety of ways depending on your needs - by automated phone line, by Text Message or by Internet.

What other options do SBH tenants have to move to another property? Why not try a mutual exchange? You too will be able to advertise your property and, if a suitable and eligible match shows interest in your property, you may be able to apply to exchange properties rather than just placing bids via DKO.

Like more information on the scheme? SBH will gladly assist anyone who has any queries regarding the scheme. Please telephone our Choice Based Lettings team on 0845 505 5500 or email cbl@sedgefieldboroughhomes.co.uk

Jottings

Residents' Forum jottings from a special meeting on April 21st to give feedback on the answers to question asked by residents regarding the process and decision on the granting of planning permission for the caravan park on Brakes Park near Hardwick Country Park.

It had taken many months to get the replies and everyone at the meeting agreed that the answers, in the main, were unsatisfactory from the residents perspective.

It is common practice for such large developments which do not fit with the local development plan to be referred to Government Office for consideration; we still have no clear answer on why this did not happen in this case, despite residents requesting such action. The only answers we have had are that Durham County Council state that it is up to Government office, and Government Office counter that such a request is in the hands of the local authority!

It was agreed by all at the meeting that there was little else than can be done other than monitor development on the caravan site and make sure all conditions are fully met.

The Forum has complaints registered with Durham County Council and the Local Government Ombudsman on how residents' enquiries have been handled by Durham County Council. The letters and documents relating to the answers to residents' questions are available for reading in the Library and Town Council Offices. The next Residents' Forum meeting will be on June 7th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Veterans' notes

Sedgefield Village Veterans would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Sheila Sutherland (Retired) for her kind donation to our funds. This will enable us to arrange more visits to local schools of re-enactment groups, WW 1 & 2 plus Romans, for hands on history lessons.

Last month we advised that when our flag is flying on the village green, it means that a repatriation is scheduled for that day. Shortly after publication the number of deaths ceased (I had thought it was my letter that did it, but no) due in total to the Taliban fighters leaving the battle zones to return home to get in the poppy harvest.

The lull lasted 3 weeks and now the deaths have started again; 3 last week and already one this week, so please watch for the flag and of course the notice in the Northern Echo, and join us at 10-45am at the War Memorial.

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

Football

At the time of writing, Sedgefield's three Sunday league teams have finished their 2009/10 campaigns. St. Edmund's season has been reasonably successful, with the team achieving a creditable 3rd place finish in a very good premier league. The club consistently challenges for the higher places in the league, testament to an excellent set up and great commitment from all involved. Unfortunately, in cup competitions, St. Edmund's bowed out in two semi-finals, losing to Ferryhill on penalties in the Alan Smith Cup (2-2 after extra time), and suffering a 2-0 defeat to Kelloe in the Heart Foundation Cup. Both games could have gone either way, but after many final & semi-final defeats in the past, St. Edmund's are well aware that they get nothing for being unlucky! Black Lion FC played in the second division of the Durham District League. After a hard fought campaign in the league the club secured 3rd place & promotion – congratulations to all involved. The Black Lion also enjoyed great cup runs; perhaps the team's greatest achievement this season was reaching the final of the league cup, where they came up against premier league outfit Kelloe. It was always going to be a tough match for the Black Lion and although the team performed well on the night (cheered on by a good turnout from Sedgefield), Kelloe took home the trophy in the end. It was a great achievement by the Black Lion to get to the final and the team will be striving to go one better next season. Sedgefield NETPark FC played in the 3rd division of the Durham District League, having gained promotion last season. The squad contained a healthy mixture of experienced veteran (or, to put it another way, old) players and youngsters, and had high hopes for the campaign, optimism that was well founded. The team soon found its feet in the league and made good progress in cup competitions. For the first time in the history of NETPark FC (and various other names the club has had), the team reached a cup semi-final. Although the game was lost, it gave the club an appetite for 'big' games. Back in the league, NETPark entered the final few weeks of the season in a handy position, but with numerous games to play, including some crunch matches against the other teams vying for promotion. By this time, there had also been a change of management. Craig Provett, who had served the club so well, decided to step down in March and the dynamic duo of Marc Dickerson ('Pulla') and James Spencer ('Spanna') took over. The team kept its nerve and put in some great performances. Between 1st and 25th April, NETPark played eight league games, winning six and only losing one, securing second place in the league and back to back promotions. After years of scrapping to get out of the bottom division, NETPark FC has enjoyed a couple of outstanding seasons and gained real momentum. Credit to everyone involved in the club, but a few deserve particular mention at this particular time. As manager, Craig Provett guided the club to its first promotion last year & continued the momentum this season. The squad was strengthened by the addition of several players this year, two of whom won't be available next season – Rob Earnshaw and Joe Burke added much and will be missed. A NETPark legend also departs. Mal Dickenson has been a big influence at the club. He made massive contributions to the emerging success of NETPark FC, leaving on a real high. On top of all that, the traditional fancy dress events will lose a bit of their shine (& lunacy) without Mal. The club is also very grateful to all of the staff at the Crosshills, who have ensured that the pub is a great base. Last but certainly not least, the glue that holds NETPark FC together is David Ryder. The club wouldn't exist without the efforts of David, so hats off to him. The squad gets together on 29th May for the end of season presentations, with yet another fancy dress theme to add 'flavour'. It should be an entertaining day.

Squash

An eventful season at Sedgefield Squash Club was rounded off with competition finals and presentation night at Ceddesfeld Hall. This season saw a complete refurbishment of courts & changing facilities, and the club can now be proud of some of the best courts in the region. Membership has increased by record amounts, and more juniors are going to coaching sessions on Saturday mornings. Trophies were handed out to winners of competitions throughout the year:

Mini-Squash Champion Josh Hetherington

U13 Champion George Peden

U13 Plate winner Edward Brown

Junior Club Champion Stephen Rowsby

Junior Plate winner Jamie Kilday

Junior Racketball champion Josh Hetherington

Ladies' Champion Emma Larcombe

Ladies' Plate winner Sue Smith

XL (over 40s) champion John O'Donnell

Club Champion Johnathan Slee

Club Plate winner Chris Rowsby

John Rowntree Shield Colin Pearce (winner of most league points during season)

Individual Handicap Competition Peter Redshaw

Ladies' Player of the Year Jane Skilbeck

Men's Player of the year Johnathan Slee.

Mick Carr and Chris Rowsby were presented with 'Golden Brick' awards in recognition of their sterling efforts to secure funding for the court refurbishments, and then managing the process, which has put the club in a great position for the foreseeable future.

Team squash has been a success with all three men's teams maintaining their positions in the Durham and Cleveland Leagues, and the ladies' team gaining promotion at the mid-point of the season. The men's first team made it to the final of the County Team handicap competition, being narrowly beaten by Yarm 2 in the final. Additionally, Johnathan Slee won the Durham and Cleveland Division 2 player of the year award.

The club was recently awarded Silver status under the nationally recognized Club Charter standards - a significant achievement for a club of this size. Sedgefield Squash Club was also represented on the 'international' stage with a team participating in the Isle of Man Squash Blitz. Details of the on-court performance have been vague, but apparently a great time was had by all who made the trip!

The committee would like to thank everybody who has helped or contributed to what has been an unprecedented season. Planning is underway to work out how to follow all of that up! Squash continues over the summer with a ladder competition and friendly games, until the next season starts in September. New members are always welcome. Please contact Chris Rowsby on 621125 or visit www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk.

Sedgefield Harriers

The Harriers' new website - www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk or www.sedgefieldharriers.com. has 'gone live' and is worth a visit. Features include latest news, a photo gallery, race results, club race forms and a calendar of events. It also incorporates a forum you can contribute to.

Finally for this month, NETPark FC is running a World Cup 'predictor' competition. All you have to do is predict/guess the results of World Cup matches and you could win £150. It's £2 to enter and the form can be found on the club's website. www.sedgefield-netpark-fc.co.uk/club_news.pl?news=298991. I also have a copy, so if you want to have a go, contact chrisjlines@aol.com.

Sedgefield Cricket Club Forthcoming Home Games

Sat 29th May: Redcar – 2nd Team:

5th June: Guisborough – 1st Team

12th June: Bedale – 2nd Team

19th June: Whitby – 2nd Team

Cricket Club facilities greatly improved

With the vital help from Improvement Grants and Funding, Sedgefield Cricket Club has greatly expanded including new changing rooms, toilets, disabled facilities, a kitchen and has almost doubled the size of the bar/lounge area, now able to seat well over 100 people.

Bookings are now coming in thick and fast; it is an ideal venue for birthdays, christenings, anniversaries, celebrations etc. There's a large area for children to play and soon also play apparatus will be installed. We have a 100m² balcony where people can sit outside and watch the cricket or just enjoy the sunshine (sorry fresh air!). Two large television screens have been installed which make the Club an ideal venue to watch the forthcoming 'Football World Cup' where food will also be supplied. We are continuing to improve our facilities and upgrade the club as funds allow, make it a huge asset to the local community, as a prime celebration venue topped off with top class cricketing facilities.

On the cricketing side we still have Under 11, 13, 15 and 17 teams along with three senior teams and congratulations must go out to the 1st team who have won their first five games of the season and sit on top of the league.

So all in all Sedgefield Cricket Club is certainly on the up and we advise you to come and sample some top class cricket, somewhere to bring your children where they can run around and play while you enjoy a drink, watch World Cup games or attend BBQ night, one of the many theme nights on offer. I am sure you will enjoy the friendly atmosphere and surroundings.

David Icton, Chairman. Below - the newly improved Cricket Clubhouse



Sedgefield Tennis Club

We are pleased to announce that our new courts are finally in place located within Sedgefield Community College as part of their facility.

STC has been in existence for a number of years but we have been unable to advertise this recently, due to the new school works which have been in the development stages for the past three years.

STC fields 4 teams in the Cleveland Tennis League (CTL); two men's, one ladies and one mixed doubles and have done this with great success.

We are hoping to be able to expand our clubs reach and to attract new players from Sedgefield and the surrounding area - to join the teams, play for fun, act as administrators or even just to have the chance to obtain Wimbledon tickets via the Lawn Tennis Association. We would especially like to welcome more Junior members and we are actively seeking a coach who will be able to offer training one night a week.

The courts have the benefit of floodlights (£4 per hour) and 2010 Membership costs have been set at:

Family £60: Adult £40:

Junior (16-18) £20

Junior (up to 16) £12

Social £10

For more information please contact membership secretary;

Mrs Chris Edson, 1 Beacon Avenue, Sedgefield (01740 620143) or go to www.sedgefieldtennis.co.uk

National Smile Month comes to Sedgefield

Chris Edmonds and Associates is helping to spread the message of good oral health in Sedgefield by promoting National Smile Month. The practice has always been passionate about helping patients to keep their own teeth for life and this campaign supports the way in which they work with and care for all of their patients. The campaign, running from 16th May to 16th June, will focus on the vital importance of looking after your mouth in order to keep your body healthy. Significant scientific evidence has proven the systemic links between oral health and overall health, with research clearly linking gum disease to heart disease, diabetes, strokes and premature and low birth weight babies.

There are 3 key messages: Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste

Cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks

Visit the dentist regularly as often as they recommend

Dr. Nigel Carter, chief executive of the Foundation, who organise National Smile Month is delighted that Chris Edmonds and Associates has joined the many dental practices, schools, health professionals and community groups promoting good oral healthcare. Please call in to Chris Edmonds and Associates at 3 to 9 Front Street Sedgefield to find out more about Teeth 4 Life.

The first three people to telephone the practice on 01740 621040 quoting Sedgefield News and Teeth 4 Life will get a free full dental health examination with Chris Edmonds. Don't miss out; call the practice now to arrange your appointment. Find out more about the practice at www.cedmondsassociates.co.uk

June Events Diary

Blood Donor Session

Parish Hall 10am-1 pm & 2-4 pm
Monday 31st May
 For appointments, call
0300 123 23 23

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 1st June - 7.15pm
 Visit to Whitworth Hall Nurseries

Sedgefield WI

7.15pm, Parish Hall
Wednesday 2nd June
 Val Walker, **Floral Demonstration**
 Members' competition, a
 home-made flower in any medium
Visitors are always welcome

Comedy Show

"Kidding Sid James"
Weds 2nd - Sun 6th June
 St Clare's Church Hall, N. Aycliffe
 Tickets £7.50/£6 Call 01325 324932

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm
Monday 7th June

Phil Charlton
 (Cleveland Aviation Society)
"Durham Tees Valley Airport"
All welcome

Willowdene Care Home

Garden Party - Saturday June 5th
 Bouncy castle, rodeo bull, live
 entertainment & the usual stalls
Come and join the fun

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 5th June -
 Eyes down at 7.30pm

Residents' Forum

Monday 7th June at 7pm
 Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgefield Family History

Come along to our **Computer Group**
 for help with your family history
Mondays 7th & 28th June
 Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.30pm £1 pp

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends

7th June - Summer Night out
21st June - AGM

Ladies Club

8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Tuesday 8th June
Forget Me Not - Handmade cards

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 10th June
 In the Nag's Head - *All Welcome*

S'field Rock & Blues Club

Friday 11th June
Lightnin' Willie
 Parish Hall - Doors open 7.30
 Tickets £12 in advance/£15 on the
 door, from the Post Office or call
 07931448469 or 07861897652

Summer Fete

Sedgefield Primary School PTFA
Saturday 12th June, 1-3pm
 Join us for an afternoon of
 Fun and Entertainment
Giant Inflatable Games, Craft Stalls
Hop aboard a Fire Engine
Interactive Games, Home Baking
Face Painting, Refreshments
Raffle, Bouncy Castle, Wii Games ...

Sedgefield Methodist Church

Summer Concert

Lirica with support
 Saturday 12th June at 6.15pm
 £5 including refreshments

Farmers' Market

Sunday 13th June - 9.30 - 1.30

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 13th June
 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Parish Hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 15th June
 Northumberland & Durham
 Demonstrator Val Guest
"Summer Gateway"
All Welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 17th June
 (Please notice change of date)
Visit to RSPB Saltholme
 £3 Meet in Parish Hall Car Park at
 6.30pm to share transport.
 Details; Steve Ashton 620559
 sashton@teeswildlife.org

Garden Party

at Sedgefield Community Hospital
Saturday 19th June at 2pm
 Entertainment by Colin Scaife
Also Eric the Magician, Balloons, Face
Painting, Stalls, Kiddies Corner, Teas

Sedgefield Players

Celebrating 40 years -
A Ruby Revue
 Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on
Friday 18th & Sat 19th June
 Tickets £6 (£5 concessions)
 from Abbracciare & members of
 the Players - 620091 or 621771

S'field Family History Group

Monday 21st June
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm
The history of aerial surveillance -
balloons to satellites.

Arthur Dodds
 Call Sylvia Hall 620367 for details
Visitors always welcome

Sedgefield Village Veterans

bi-monthly meeting on
Thursday 24th June
 in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7pm
New members welcome

A FREE service to non-
 commercial organisations

Cricket Club Family Open Air

Live Music & Fun Day
Saturday 26th June, 2pm - 8pm
Happy Cats, John Wrightson Band,
Out of the Blue, Jack Burness,
Old Age Travellers, Martin Nesbitt,
Maxine & Lawrie Allan & others
Bouncy Castle & Barbeque
 Tickets £3 (children free) from
 Joan Edmundson (621347),
 Cricket Club (621531) or pay at gate
Proceeds to Butterwick Hospice

Sing for Health & Fun

Trip to the Sage Gateshead
Sunday 30th May
 Meet at Methodist Church, 11.15am
 Minibus to Leamside for Sunday lunch
 Concert, then return around 4pm

Sedgefield Library Events

Toy Library
 Weds 16th & 30th June, 10-11am
Tickle Time - for babies
 Monday 7th & 21st June, 2.15-3pm
Rhyme Time
 Weds 9th & 23rd June, 10-11am
Book Circle - Wed 16th June, 2pm

Hardwick Park events

Contact 01740 621 505 or
 hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk
Spring into Summer
Sat & Sunday 12th & 13th June
 10am - 4pm All welcome Free
Falconry displays, dog agility & ferret
racing. Exotic animals & petting zoo.

Dad's Den Building

Sunday 20th June
 1pm - 3pm Families £4 per family
 Please call to book in advance.
Special father's day activity. Make a
den using natural materials.

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays
 Sporting, social and charitable events
 - new members welcome
Contact Rob on 629079
 www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & latest Fishburn gossip!
 Fridays 9.30am - 12 Tea, coffee,
 toast & conversation: *All welcome*

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church. Ofsted inspected
Mon - Thurs 9:15 - 11:45
 Spaces for children 2+ years
 Contact 621071 or 620572

Coming up in July

Help for Heroes

Friday 2nd July at 7pm
 Charity Night at Fishburn Working
 Mens' Club. Raffle & Entertainment by
 fantastic show group REFLECTIONS"
£5: email davidpeat8@sky.com

The CeddesFolk Session

will return in Autumn

Church Floodlighting

I would like to offer some answers to questions regarding the floodlights at St Edmund's Church. The floodlights are controlled by a simple electric time switch located in the boiler house beneath the Vestry. The time switch is usually set by the church Treasurer [when taking monthly gas meter readings], and is arranged so that the lights come on at nightfall, and switch off at around 1.00 am; by which time most people are in bed. Town Council staff also hold keys to the boiler house for access to the control gear. Unfortunately, the old time switch stops and loses time if the electricity supply fails. In the instance reported by Ms Willis, electricians had disconnected the electricity supply to do some work in the church, resulting in the time switch running several hours late. They were unaware of this, but the problem was rectified within days. Of course, late running of the time switch doesn't affect total electricity consumption, but it does mean that the full benefit of the lighting to the village is lost.

Admittedly, the positioning of the time switch [and church gas meter] is not ideal, but both had to be moved to the boiler house some ten years ago owing to persistent vandalism, which left the equipment in a dangerous condition.

St Edmund's Church is an iconic building, admired by people in and around our village and by those travelling through. There is also a public footpath passing through the churchyard, which is used by many people walking from East End to Rectory Row School, the Crosshills and West End. The floodlights not only enhance the church building by night, but also provide some protection for the church and church users, and for those using the public footpath.

The churchyard is the responsibility of the Town Council, having been closed for burials many years ago, so the cost of electricity used to run the lights is met by the Town Council, and is currently around £200 a year. The standing charge for the supply is met by St Edmund's Church. I would echo the concerns about electricity usage and carbon emissions; but to put it into perspective, the six church floodlights use little more power than half a dozen street lamps.

I trust that on reflection, Ms Willis will agree that the cost of electricity needed to run the floodlights is a small price to pay to help protect and enhance a wonderful old building. In future, I suggest that it would be better if any technical

Your Letters

concerns were raised with the Church Council directly, rather than through the pages of the Sedgefield News, so that any problems can be dealt with in a timely manner.

I hope this has answered readers' questions readers, but I would be pleased to answer any further questions if I can.

Nigel J Clegg, PCC Member & former Treasurer of St Edmund's Church.

Name and shame them

Re the disgraceful behaviour of three young women in Ceddesfeld gardens, (letters, May). I am an unofficial friend of Ceddesfeld gardens, inasmuch as I clear litter daily, whilst passing through. Having witnessed the three with the unruly terrier, arriving, complete with bulging carrier bags, my hope was that they would dispose of their litter appropriately. However, this was clearly not to be, as outlined in last month's letter.

On my return, I was so appalled by the complete disregard these people had for their surroundings, that I felt compelled to ring the Council office to report it. I outlined my disgust and suggested that Tim Spearey, or any other community support officer be despatched to catch them red handed. The lady told me Mr Spearey was not in the village, and whilst sympathetic, did not offer any advice or assistance; most disappointing.

My suggestion would be to look at CCTV footage for that date; a camera at the back of the hall must surely have picked them up. Then name and shame the culprits. For, by their actions they have shown such scant regard that any hope of personal regret on their part, I fear, would be wasted.

J Hewitt

Fundraising thanks

I would just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped, attended and put money towards my volunteering fund for working with Bulgarian children, at the coffee morning at the Methodist Church. I was overwhelmed to earn £275.50 in one morning! I am extremely grateful and can not thank everyone enough, especially Les and Lorna Joss - they were an excellent help - and Sainsbury's.

I still need to raise quite a lot more money, so please watch out for other events, or consider sponsoring me.

Thank you.
Katie Speed

Hardwick entrance gates

Now that the Park has been opened with Royal approval, may I draw your attention to the part played by the Dirty Tricks department (they know who they are).

In the 70s when Finlays Builders were completing the development of the Estate, my husband was given possession of the original entrance gates sited opposite Connor Lodge, preserving the gates as a memento. A member of the Friends of Hardwick who knew of the gates whereabouts approached me (my husband had died by then) to ask me to consider donating the gates for use when the park was complete. I agreed, subject to suitable acknowledgement of my husband's part in their keeping.

'High ups' came to look and were delighted with my offer. The gates were removed and taken to a blacksmith for refurbishment. I was shocked to find out that he then decided they were too old, and took one of the originals apart to use as a pattern for new gates. The condition and age was known when the decision was made to take them. These gates were a gift and would never have left my garden if my wishes were not to be taken into account.

Even the fragment of the gate in the Visitor Centre does not include the history of the gates. Yes, the gates were not wide enough for the planned prestigious entrance, but that was known in advance.

I thought the public would be able to enjoy the historic gates, but had I known they would be destroyed I would have kept them for my own pleasure.

It would have been common courtesy keep me informed and to arrange for the gates to be returned to me when they were found to be unsuitable.

Mrs E Roper

NB. Letters are sometimes shortened for space reasons.

Deadline for the July edition of Sedgefield News is

June 15th

Please send your articles, letters and advertising copy to **sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com** or **58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011.**

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