



Sedgefield NEWS

November 2011



50 children from Hardwick and Rectory Primary School Fun Club will be off to school on their very own Walking Bus from now on, as part of a new initiative supported by The Co-operative Funeralcare in Sedgefield. They have provided high visibility safety bibs and snap bands, produced by UK social enterprise Brightkidz, for children and adult volunteers to wear all year round. The scheme, part of the Co-op's Ethical Strategy, helps to bring home the message of protecting the environment by reducing CO2 emissions and local road congestion, as well as healthy living to school children. What's more, the 'bus' provides a safe, fun and healthy way for pupils to walk to school with adult volunteers, picking up children at specific stops along the way. Teachers will also be able to escort children safely on school trips using the new equipment. Vicky Kime, Manager of the Fun Club said: "We are very excited to have a walking bus as it fits in perfectly with our school's objectives to help children lead a healthy life as well as teach them about being environmentally aware and responsible. This scheme is perfect for teaching them in a practical way and we would like to thank The Co-operative Funeralcare for supporting us."

Below: some of the children who will 'catch the bus' to school in future!



Boccia club venture



Lee Maddison (*above*) aims to provide a sporting opportunity to disabled people of all ages and abilities by setting up a Boccia Club at the Community College. Boccia is like bowls, and is a very competitive paralympic sport. *Continued on p 7...*

Wynyard book launch

A visit to Wynyard Hall for afternoon tea led to a major historic project which came to fruition in October. Norma and Haydn Neal, members of Sedgefield Local History Society were visiting the Hall in May 2010 with Haydn's uncle and aunt, a student in 1949, when Wynyard served as an emergency teacher training college. As the four left, they spotted Sir John Hall walking his dogs and took the opportunity to thank Wynyard's modern day owner for the wonderful visit they had enjoyed. During the conversation, Sir John discovered the connection with Sedgefield LHS and asked if the group would be interested in helping him put together a history of Wynyard Hall. Norma and Haydn, alongside fellow LHS member Barbara Leo, embarked on 18 months of extensive research, investigation and writing to produce a comprehensive history of the Hall, the parklands and gardens and a whole host of fascinating characters who have passed through Wynyard's magnificent portico. Lavishly illustrated, Wynard Hall, The History of a Great House, is now available to buy from Wynyard and direct from the writers. *For contact details & prices, see advert, page 5.*

Be an **EARLY BIRD** and catch your space in the news.

Because of the amount of copy we now receive, we need to be stricter about our deadline (15th of the month). For the festive season edition, please send copy even sooner, if possible, to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

The first of an occasional series of science articles by Jon Reeve.

Our neighbour, NETpark

You probably have heard of NETpark, our neighbour next to Winterton and the A689, and perhaps you have wondered what goes on there. Well late last month I got a look inside the doors and I would like to share what was revealed.

I had previously assumed that NETpark stood for something to do with the internet; how wrong I was! It actually stands for North-East Technology Park. It is a collaboration between Durham County Council, Durham University and local business groups and its role is to take scientific ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace. Above all it is hoped that NETpark will regenerate County Durham's high-tech economy and lead to increased employment and high-paying jobs. It does also happen to have an excellent (high bandwidth to techies) connection to the Internet.

NETpark was modelled on a very successful technology park in North Carolina (think old cotton country) that opened its doors in 1959. It was designed to kick-start a high tech economy that would support many highly-paid jobs. The old industries (farming and textiles) that had been successful a half-century earlier were in decline and North Carolina in the 1950s was one of the poorest states in the USA. The technology park was located close to the city of Durham where the well-regarded Duke University was based. It was called Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Duke University was particularly strong in biochemistry and chemical processes so that's what RTP focused on. On our side of the pond, Durham University is particularly strong in physics and so NETpark is concentrating on companies who specialise in bringing to market, innovations from physics departments of the north-east.

There is a difference in the conception of RTP and NETpark; RTP attracted well-established high-tech corporations whereas NETpark is deliberately attracting and supporting high-tech start-ups that have good growth potential. Hopefully over time these start-ups will grow large enough to become significant County Durham employers.

RTP over the past 50 years has become very successful and has turned around the economy of North Carolina. Sedgefield could be neighbours to a project that, over the next few decades, does the same for our region!

Visit to Germany

Sedgefield Twinning Association is organising a visit to our Twin Town of Hamminkeln in April 2012. We would love to welcome new people to our Association and if you would like to come with us, please get in touch. We fly from Newcastle to Dusseldorf on Sunday 22nd April at 17.20, arriving at 19.40, and returning from Dusseldorf at 16.15 on Sunday 29th April, arriving in Newcastle at 16.40 (not quite such a short flight as it looks – they are an hour ahead of us!) Of course, people can make their own travel arrangements but if you would like to fly with us, then please call Sheila Pinder on 621730. We are hoping to book everybody as soon as possible as the cost increases the longer we leave it. Our friends in Hamminkeln are very hospitable and a full week's programme will be arranged for us. We will stay with German families, an ideal way to make friends, and don't worry if you don't speak German. Most of our hosts speak a little English and many speak it almost better than we do! Everybody is warmly invited to our next social event, a Wine Tasting evening on Saturday November 12th at 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Cost is £9, which includes a large variety of cheeses, biscuits, choice of desserts and of course, a variety of wines.

To book a place, please call Nancy Wells on 620467.

The NEWYORKERS annual Christmas Spectacular Show is on in the Parish Hall for 2 nights this year - (Friday & Saturday 16th & 17th December), due to the fantastic following established over the past few years. George Wilkinson, one of the entertainers as well as business manager, and Rosemary Jones live in Sedgefield. The other three pictured are Dennis & Enid Gale from Ferryhill and Wendy Church from Woodham. John and Sue Hays look after lighting and sound and Eileen Wilkinson is a very busy wardrobe mistress. Enid Gale puts the show together with lots of pace, glitz & glamour, a heap of fun numbers, every one of which has a complete change of costume. "Our audiences love the way we all really enjoy ourselves when performing our show, we are all good friends and that makes all the difference" says Enid. "This year we have many more harmony numbers, and the second half is dedicated to Christmas - so everyone can join in the Festive songs and carols. There will be a special Christmas Raffle with lots of lovely prizes. Tickets are £5 each from George and Eileen Wilkinson on 620807. The show starts at 7pm and you are welcome to bring your own refreshments (alcoholic or otherwise). The group supports the Great North Air Ambulance and hope to have guests from the charity on the Saturday, when they will present a cheque.

Sedgefield Flower Festival

As part of next year's Sedgefield 700 celebrations, there is to be a Flower Festival in St Edmund's Church from 14th-17th June.

There will be an initial meeting on **Tuesday 1st November** in the Vestry, for anyone who can help with the floral side of things. We'll decide on the theme and start planning displays. Timings of future meetings will be decided too.

It's a big undertaking though, quite apart from the floral displays. If you could help with refreshments, programmes, opening concert, etc., please contact Maxine Robinson on 620042, or email maxine.robinson1@yahoo.co.uk so that a meeting can be arranged.

'No hassle' shopping

Tickets at £8.50 are available from the Town Council offices for the Christmas Shopping Coach Trip to Heighley Gate Garden Centre and Eldon Square Newcastle on

Thursday 3rd November.

The coach leaves the Parish Hall at 9am, returning at 5pm from Eldon Square.

Strike a light

"Carve a Pumpkin" competition for the Fireworks Display at Ceddesfeld on **Saturday 5th November**. Bring your pumpkin along for 6pm; there's a prize for every entry!

Lyrical Notes

Friday night rehearsals continue for both youth and senior choirs as we prepare for our Christmas concert at 7.30pm on **10th & 11th December** at St Edmund's Parish Church.

Kay, our new senior choir conductor, brings a wealth of experience to the role. With the choir going from strength to strength and a magical mix of carols, the Christmas concert should be a cracker!

Remarkable result

Congratulations to 10 year old Eleanor Wright, who achieved 93% in her recent Grade 1 Piano exam - a fine achievement! This was the highest score in the whole Northern Region and Eleanor has been asked to play at a celebration concert at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, where she will collect an award.





Snapshots of Sedgfield

Continuing October's commercial theme with Davison's butchers' van, this month's snapshot, kindly loaned by Derrick Lofthouse shows a wonderful view of the family stores and cafe, complete with delivery van. Situated at the north end of Front Street, on the site now occupied by the Dun Cow Restaurant, the shop clearly catered for a wide variety of needs. The picture certainly gives a flavour of the 1950s, when self service was new fangled and smoking was the done thing. Then as now, Guinness was good for you. Luncheons and teas were served in two upstairs rooms. I'm sure the photo will prompt fond memories. Please feel free to contact me on 620091 or norma@neal.myzen.co.uk. Further to August's snapshot of a Wilkinson's dance in the parish hall, Geoff Thompson offers more details about his father Gordon, who ran Wilkinson's Motor Services. The company did not make vehicles, as I understood originally. The 'Leylands' he built was a house, so named after the make of chassis Wilkinson's ran. Gordon bought two cottages on North End, which were demolished and the site cleared to build the new family home. Lowe Bros built the house, to plans by architect Geoff Tarren. Both architect and house won a Civic Trust Award, the plaque still in place on the house today. Gordon's son Alan, brother of Geoff, continued the family tradition, naming his house in Brentwood 'Leylands'. Sedgfield Local History Society is grateful for any photos, documents or memorabilia readers may be willing to loan or donate to our ever-growing archive.

Terrific total for Sedgfield Primary's NSPCC event

The children of Sedgfield Primary School took part in a sponsored event on 29th October raising the amazing sum of £2344.95 for the NSPCC. Nina Cara-Collins from the NSPCC talked to the children in assembly about their work and the difficulties some children in our country face on a daily basis. The children were very moved by what she had to say and were motivated to do their best to help. The junior children took part in a sponsored times tables test and the infants in an "art party". They collected sponsors from their family and friends, with many of the parents taking the sponsor forms into work to ask colleagues to also support this worthwhile cause.

Mrs Cox, Headteacher, said, "The response has been fantastic and I am so proud of the effort the whole school community has given to this sponsored event. The school has supported the NSPCC for many years, but has never collected a sum anywhere near this size before."

Nina Caro-Collins, Schools Organiser for NSPCC said, "I just want to say a huge thank you for your support with the event. I think the contribution made by the staff in terms of support and encouragement; the children in their motivation and enthusiasm and their parents and extended family's support and financial contribution, was incredible, especially given the current climate!"



Sedgfield Village Veterans

Annual **Armistice Day** service

at St Luke's War Memorial on

Friday 11th November

starting at 10.45am.

Everyone is welcome but an especial invitation goes to the people of Winterton to join us at this service in your area.

Community SAFETY



Reports from Sedgfield N.H.Watch AGM & Panel Meetings held Oct 11th

AGM: The usual formalities were carried out. Due to *no new volunteers*, the existing officers are retained in post (C/man, Treas, Sec, etc.) for another year.

Treasurer provided account details for the year end & advised members that our funds are now in steady decline. C/man Ken Saiger thanked Phyllis for all her hard work.

Main Panel meeting reports: 1) Secretary had no report of any significance.

2) DCC Wardens: Wardens (as previously informed at last meeting) were not present to provide a report, only to attend the post meeting PACT; no Warden discussions took place.

3) Community Liaison Officer: Neil Langthorne provided details of the continued good news for public safety in our area and how crime is genuinely down. He pointed out how the greater number of burglaries was actually to unoccupied premises and it was metal / fixings that were the main target there.

Neil reminded members of the need to consider the Dark Nights Campaigns of previous years and to ensure suitable prevention measure were made; he also requested members to encourage neighbours to do the same.

Neil spoke of the funding support to be made available from Durham County when suitable "organisations" are set up. Durham County have set up some such Neighbourhood Associations in the County already. Neil plans to set up such a group in our area.

4) Crime Prevention Officer: New appointee **Mark Pheasant** was introduced by Ken Saiger. Mark gave members a quick resume of his career with Durham Police and it is evident he has wide experience at the "sharp end". Mark is available for anyone who needs advice or has concerns - simply call him (see tel. nos. below); he also confirmed he is willing to continue with the (crime prevention) talks that had been provided to day visitors to the Community Hospital by his predecessor. C/man & members welcomed Mark and *thanked him for his immediate assistance to a member, provided during the meeting - see end of article.*

5) Police - Local Crime Report: Keith circulated his report, gave more details verbally including arrests made and relevant information to our locality. **Police Crime report from Aug - Oct 2011:** Keith's report stated that there were: **285** calls to the Police (69xTraffic; 11xCrime; 15xASB). **11 Crimes recorded** (2 Burglaries, 7 Thefts and 2 of Damage).

C/man noted 3 significant crimes on the Winterton estate and asked if resources could be targeted there. Keith advised that the Police do target the higher priority issues as a matter of course.

Winterton resident Alan Greener asked Police to consider placing a CCTV camera at the entrance to their estate, due to problems they have experienced for some time now. Neil said that he will assist with this; he will contact relevant parties with a view to seeing what can be done and will get back to Alan in person.

Keith then talked about the "**circulation**" of **fake £20 notes** and passed one around for examination. He gave advice on how best to check for the fake. Members are very grateful to Keith for this.

5. A.O.B. 5.1 Door to Door Thief: Alan Greener handed over a very relevant letter regarding the sighting of a known thief who has been seen in Thorpe Thewles going door to door offering to do odd jobs, posing as down on his luck. Be on your guard, keep everything locked up and out of site. C/man thanked Alan for sharing this information and bringing it to the attention of the Police.

5.2 Bus Stop, Durham Road: Alan Greener asked for the newly erected sign to be removed as buses do not stop there. After discussions Town Councillor & Mayor Alan Blakemore agreed to investigate and resolve the issue.

5.3 Armistice Day Wreaths: C/man reported that 3 wreaths have been purchased and thanked David Hillerby for sourcing them from the British Legion at a cheaper cost than last year.

5.4 Police on Foot: C/man reported he had received several appreciative remarks from residents who had observed the uniformed Gavin on foot patrol in recent weeks - very reassuring.

5.5 Lead/Property Marking: C/man informed members that he has personally purchased a set of stamps & dies to mark lead & metals. They are available to be loaned to members who may like to identify their property.

6.0 Community Cohesion Officer (PCSO) Mary Hobson: Mary was welcomed to our meeting by C/man Ken Saiger and invited to explain how she may assist in our community. Mary's role is to assist with victims of Hate Crime, and she went on to describe the various aspects of this and of the wider ranging number of victims that are potentially affected by this type of crime. Members had several questions for Mary and there was a good exchange of views. C/man thanked Mary and said she is most welcome at any of our meetings.

Meeting Closed (next meeting 13/12/2011) & PACT opened

Footnote: *On the way into our meeting a member suffered a minor injury in the car park. This was spotted by Neil Langthorne & Mark Pheasant who, along with Keith Todd, tended to their needs in the most caring and professional manner. Neil, Mark and Keith - the person that you assisted is most grateful for your kindness, as are the members of Sedgfield N/H/Watch who witnessed your prompt actions; thank you each.*

PC Todd reports

Recently a crime known as a 2 in 1 burglary occurred on the Winterton estate. This form of burglary requires the offender to gain entry into a house and locate and take the keys of any vehicles parked outside. After taking whatever they fancy from the house they load up the vehicle and drive away. Unfortunately, in this instance, they were able to drive away with two vehicles, a works van and a family car. The occupants, who were upstairs, did not wake up during the time the offence occurred. If I could give you advice it would be to lock your doors before going to bed and take your handbag/wallet and vehicle keys with you. Other crimes reported include: local farms having suffered from a burglary and 60 gallons of diesel taken. Winterton estate, a wooden bench taken and the theft of an aluminium stool from a garden.

P.A.C.T.

At a recent Neighbourhood watch meeting it was agreed that the Beat Team would focus their attentions on the junction of Spring Lane with West End. Speeding vehicles and parking issues were the main concerns for residents.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Hardwick Arms. No incidents were reported that required further action from members. Licensees have stated that incidents of noise from customers leaving the premises late at night have been reported and they remind customers to consider the neighbours of pubs and clubs and ask them to keep the noise to a respectful level. Until next time, Keith

Proceeds of crime to benefit local charities

Local charities and organisations are set to benefit from a £6,300 fund - Durham Police Authority's Property Act Fund - which is made up from the sale of items which have been used or seized in the commission of a crime, where the victim cannot be identified. Grants to the following organisations have been approved: Northern Police Convalescent Home, Crimestoppers, Victim Support County Durham, Durham Agency Against Crime, Child Victims of Crime, County Durham Society for the Blind and Butterwick House Children's Hospice.

Telephone numbers

Local Police: **0345 60 60 365**

Durham County Council Wardens:

0300 123 70 70

Police Crime Prevention Officer:

01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer , Neil Langthorne: **01325 742755**

Police Crime Prevention Officer,

Mark Pheasant: **01325 742714**

Jottings from Sedgefield

Residents' Forum October meeting

We started the meeting with a short presentation from sbh (Sedgefield Borough Homes) on how they are conducting their comprehensive consultation with tenants to feed into their Neighbourhood Plan.

We are trying a new way of having Town Council representation at the Forum. From November Cllr Robinson has agreed to attend as County Councillor and leader of the Town Council. He will be present at the beginning of the meeting.

The Boundary Commission consultation on changes to constituency boundaries is on-going, information can be found on the Boundary Commission website. It is proposed that Sedgefield become joined with Yarm and Ingleby Barwick, the Commission will be holding public consultation meetings on November the 17th and 18th at the St. George Hotel, Middleton St George – do have your say on these proposed changes to your area. Following our complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the outstanding section 106 monies owed to our village. The Ombudsman has now made a decision and although she will not be publishing a full public report she has found maladministration and delay on the part of both Sedgefield Borough Council and Durham County Council.

And since the residents had a very poor response from the councils she has suggested that maybe a letter of apology from DCC would help 'build bridges' – however, we haven't received anything yet!! The Forum will continue to monitor the 106 money spend to make sure it is all spent in our area. The public meeting on the Spring Lane/Foxton Lane wind turbines was very well attended and congratulation to the group of residents leading the campaign to stop this development. They gave an excellent presentation on how the proposal will affect the whole village.

The proposal will be considered by the Planning Department of Durham County Council (DCC) on November 1st, anyone can attend to hear the proceedings.

The campaign against The Isle wind farm (one the biggest in the country) is on-going this will eventually be decided by the Secretary of State not DCC, we asked Phil Wilson MP to request that the Secretary of State comes to personally speak with us in the North on this issue. Make sure you make your views heard!

The Racecourse request to vary their licence to allow more and later events in marquees will be considered at a licensing committee on October 18th so a report on that at the next meeting.

Other issues raised by residents were: Why had we had so many brief electricity cuts (they seem to have stopped now).

Concern regarding quality of footpath & cycle path repairs.

Problems with cyclists in some areas of the village and 'no cycling' signs not being reinstated when lamp posts were renewed.

Old cut off lamp posts left in place when new posts had been put in place
Responsible dog owners who control their dogs and clean up after them feel very annoyed and victimised by new rules put in place as a result of the actions of irresponsible dog owners.

These issues will be sent to the Council for feedback to the next meeting.

The next meeting is on November 7th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall. It will start with a brief AGM and we would welcome new members to the steering group.

From the Spring Lane Action Group

We are encouraging residents of Sedgefield to show their support against the proposed wind turbines being granted planning permission by Durham County Council. We have political support on this NO campaign from both the Town Council and our MP Phil Wilson, so please don't stand by and let outsiders who have no interest in our village spoil what we all enjoy - THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ACT!

Sedgefield has already played its part in helping Durham County Council exceed the Governments renewables targets for 2016 and currently 22% of our energy needs in the County comes from renewable sources. As you know Sedgefield already has two wind farms (Walkway & Butterwick) but this application will see them much nearer our village making them overbearing and dominating our landscape.

IF THE TURBINES GO AHEAD, BE PREPARED FOR MAJOR DISRUPTIONS TO VILLAGE LIFE!

Safety

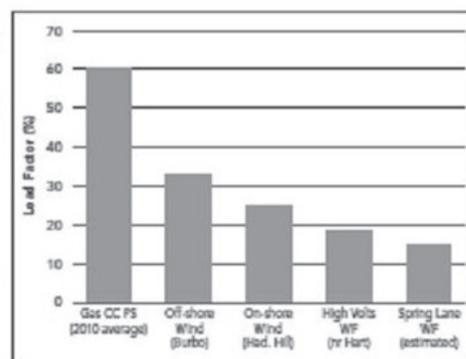
- Construction traffic will pass close to the school entrance & crossing point for children
- The small amount of existing, seasonal farm traffic will be dwarfed by what is expected, for a full year at least, when construction starts
- There is greatly increased potential for accidents in icy and snowy conditions
- Noise and vibrations from heavy vehicles has already been experienced by residents of East End during construction of the new school
- Construction traffic for the turbines will be greater. More people and homes will be affected as many of the older houses in Sedgefield have no foundations and are built on sand
- Disruption does not end when construction finishes because when a turbine breaks down everything has to be removed again.

Trees, Hedgerows and Wildlife

- Over 50 trees at risk in order to get the turbines to their destination down Spring Lane
- Vital hedgerows will have to be removed to allow the proposed passing places to be installed.
- The turbines are a major threat to the resident bat population. Bats do not fly into turbines, their lungs implode due to turbulence.

HOW EFFICIENT WOULD THE SPRING LANE TURBINES BE?

The wind industry dismisses discussion of wind farm efficiency as "unhelpful". This is because the outputs from wind farms, especially in our area (East Durham), is very low as you can see from the chart. Industry experts have concluded that lowland wind farms such as that proposed for Spring Lane are a poor use of resources that could be better spent elsewhere, but still they go ahead due to the government subsidy. If this wasn't available they wouldn't be built.. In the documentation submitted by the applicant, Wind Prospect they make claims that the Spring Lane turbines will have a efficiency (load factor) of 28%, however current live data from other operational sites close by suggest that this estimated figure would be far lower and somewhere in the region of 16%, which backs the argument that this is not an effective way of solving our energy problems.




WYNYARD HALL
 THE HISTORY OF A GREAT HOUSE

by Norma Neal, Barbara Leo &
 Haydn Neal of
Sedgefield Local History Society
 Hardback £25, Softback £15

For a copy, please call
 01740 620091 or 620869, or email
 haydn@neal.myzen.co.uk
 barbaraleo88@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

The second Kielder Marathon took place on Sunday 9th October. Building on last year's success, almost 2,000 participants tackled the tough off road course that followed a route around Kielder Water. Oh yes, and one bloke got the bus. Rob Sloan, feeling weary with about six miles to go, jumped on to one of the vehicles that was ferrying spectators around the course, and jumped off again just before the finishing line. He then completed the course and claimed third place. The organisers soon discovered what had happened and disqualified Sloan, who tried to maintain his innocence even though overwhelming evidence was mounting against him (e.g. the watch he was wearing included a GPS tracker that showed he was 'running' at 30 miles per hour at one point – that's faster than Usain Bolt in the 100 metres sprint). A moment of stupidity escalated into an international media sensation, with the guilty runner (who had legitimately won the Kielder 10k run the day before) being exposed as a cheat and thrown out of his running club. Meanwhile, the profile of the Kielder Marathon skyrocketed – they should have no problems attracting entries next year. A couple of weeks later, Steve Cram, the man behind the Kielder Marathon, launched the Marathon of the North, based in and around Sunderland. This new event on the sporting calendar will be held on 6th May 2012. At the time of writing this, the press conference to announce the event hasn't taken place, but a sweepstake has already been opened on how many times Crammy will be asked which number buses follow the same route as the new marathon!

Rugby Union

Sedgefield Rugby Club's season is underway and it started with a local derby game against Newton Aycliffe. Both teams were keen to begin their seasons with a win and the match was played in its usual competitive spirit. Sedgefield finished victors after a late try from Paul McCormack sealed the 18-17 win. Following this great result, Sedgefield had two tricky away fixtures against Houghton and Seaham, unfortunately coming second best in each closely fought encounter.

Sedgefield next faced Chester-le-Street for their first home match on the new pitch and of course it was a must win game for the club. Sedgefield were slow to start, with nerves perhaps getting the better of them. On the new pitch, Chester-le-Street seemed at home and put Sedgefield under pressure throughout the first half, building a lead. Into the second half, the club looked to be heading for their first home defeat but the team rallied, spurred on by the great support from the touchline. Sedgefield slowly began to claw back the Chester-le-Street lead. Neil Hetherington was first to score a try for Sedgefield, after a great surging maul from the pack. It was then the backs' turn and in a well worked passing move, Jonny Parish ran over the home team's second try. Owen Robinson finished the game with a penalty kick, making the score 19-16, and a jubilant Sedgefield team was soon celebrating a great win on their new pitch.



Sedgefield Harriers

Right: coaches Marie Walker & Scott Hydon.

Well done to Marie Walker of Sedgefield Harriers, who was recognised by England Athletics as North East Development Coach of the Year at an awards evening at Chester-le-Street on 6th October. The award is well deserved for the amount of work that Marie commits each week to delivering high quality coaching to younger athletes. The club is already reaping the rewards of Marie's work and many young athletes are well on their way thanks to her efforts. Marie also coaches within local primary schools and has introduced many junior athletes to the club, which will stand the Harriers in good stead for years to come. Marie is an influential voice on the coaching group of the County Durham Athletics Network and is one of ten coaches in the North East on England Athletics' Local Coach Development Programme.

On the same evening, the club was recognised as North East Development Club of the Year for its work with young athletes and engaging so many young peo-

ple in the sport. The award was collected by head coach and development officer Scott Hydon who started the junior section in 2006. The junior club now has 16 qualified coaches delivering to young athletes in endurance, throws, sprints and multi-discipline, and over 100 young athletes regularly attend sessions. The club was selected to go through to the national awards evening at the NEC in Birmingham on 21st October. At a star studded evening and up against clubs from the whole country, Sedgefield Harriers capped off a fantastic couple of weeks by being crowned **DEVELOPMENT CLUB OF THE YEAR** by England Athletics. This really is a huge feather in the cap for everyone at the club, but especially the group of dedicated coaches who have put so much into the Harriers over the last six years.

A perfect example of development in action and of Marie's input to the club was the Academy Awards evening. Held in September, all the young athletes under the age of 15 were given the opportunity to take part in a throw, a sprint, a jump and an endurance run, and be measured against England Athletics' national standards. 96 U-15 junior Harriers took part and there was an excellent standard of performance. The points gathered by each athlete go towards an overall national ranking and the youngsters will receive an award depending on their individual performance. The awards will be made to the junior athletes at the annual presentation night at Sedgefield Cricket Club on 25th November. The September event went off with military precision thanks to Marie Walker's detailed organisation, even though the last three heats of the 800m were held in almost total darkness because of the numbers taking part.

The club's senior athletes haven't been short of endeavour either. On 29th September, Ian Blakemore com-



Oral Cancer doesn't just hit smokers

6000 people in the UK will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year. Without early detection 50% of these will die. Could you be one of them? One of my team has had first-hand experience of a close friend being diagnosed. Here is her story.

*My friend Kathy, a pretty girl with a very bubbly personality used to really enjoy going out for meals, having a glass or two of wine and a good laugh with the girls. We used to meet every couple of weeks for lunch and enjoy putting the world to rights. We were then very lucky to be working out of the same office and one day our boss asked me to accompany Kathy to an appointment she had for a check-up at the dental hospital. (She had been referred by her dentist as she had had mouth ulcers which just wouldn't go away.) The consultant confirmed that she had oral cancer. I hadn't even heard of it before. We spent the afternoon in tears. Kathy embarked on the rounds of invasive facial surgery, radio therapy and chemotherapy. Despite being told she only had a 50/50 chance, she pulled through and though she was limited in what she ate (even spice in fruit cake burned her mouth) and she couldn't drink alcohol, after speech therapy her speaking voice, whilst different, was understandable. Sadly, 5 years later the cancer returned, followed by lots more invasive surgery and chemotherapy. Thankfully she survived again, but the facial disfiguration she suffered means her ability to communicate verbally has almost gone and she is only able to eat food which is liquidised and very runny with no lumps. We don't go out for lunch any more. **Kathy never smoked a cigarette in her life!!***

Smoking and alcohol are high risk factors along with poor diet and HPV, but oral cancer can hit anyone. More research is needed to understand further why people who are at low risk still get oral cancer but in the meantime it is essential to raise awareness. November is Mouth Cancer Action Month. www.mouthcancer.org, the British Dental Health Foundation's website, will tell you a lot more about oral cancer. And please go to your dentist for a regular dental health check to ensure you are not one of the 3000.

Hardwick Park Community Event

Tree planting & weeding flowerbeds- Saturday 5th November

A practical day doing fairly easy work at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield. We really want local people to get involved, to have a good time and learn how and why we manage the park. We would like **you** to come along and get involved. It's a drop-in session – stay as long or as little as you'd like. You may get dirty so wear old clothes and sturdy footwear. No experience is necessary and all tools are provided.

All welcome (children under 16 must be supervised)

Meet at the Visitor Centre Hardwick Park, Sedgefield (signed from the road) and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Maria Murphy on

0191 372 9100

pleted the ultra-marathon Hardmoor 60 event, running the extremely arduous 63.5 miles course from Saltburn to Filey via Whitby and Scarborough in a time of 14 hours and 50 minutes. This followed Janet Raper and Owen Turnbull's run in the Lakeland 50 (miles) on 29th July. Harriers Gary Hetherington and Jamie Smith took part in the Loch Ness Marathon on Sunday 2nd October, Gary finishing 12th overall and 1st vet-50 in 2hrs 50mins 58secs and Jamie in 4hrs 06min. Next up was Ean Parsons in the Amsterdam Marathon on 16th October, finishing in 3hrs 25mins and 06secs, a personal best by over 5 mins.

Football

Sedgefield's leading Sunday league football team, St. Edmund's, have made a solid start to the season, winning 10 of the 12 games they have played so far. A strong squad and great team spirit has been the reason for the early success. Goalkeeper Gareth Young has made a big impact on the team, while defender Brian Fairhurst has netted 10 goals already and given competition to the forwards - Liam Parsons (seven goals so far), Ben Smith (six) and Andrew Beamson (two) have all responded well. Every player has contributed to the success so far, which needs to continue if St. Edmund's are going to enjoy success during what is a long season.

That's all for this month. I have clearly failed to deliver the promised a review of Sedgefield Cricket Club's great season. It will appear next month. As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Boccia Club venture ... continued from front page

Most special schools take up Boccia within their sports programme. Lee, from Sedgefield, and his friend Chris Jackson from Durham, are starting from scratch, organising a totally new venture to promote the sport in County Durham. At the moment there is no such club in the county, so Lee and Chris are looking for some form of sponsorship to help the Sedgefield club thrive. They invite anyone interested to come along one of their sessions to see what it's all about. The new club runs on Saturday mornings, 11am-1pm at Sedgefield Community College. The contact is Jill Maddison, 01740 629656. See more about the sport at www.bocciaengland.org.uk & www.gb-boccia.org. Lee plays Boccia for England and has won several titles. He had trials for the 2012 Paralympic Games and, although he didn't make the squad, he has been offered a Games Maker Role at the games (succeeding as one of 250,000 applicants). Assigned as an International Federation Services Team Member, Lee will support the CPISRA Boccia Committee, supervising the IF lounge, ensuring that snacks and drinks are available, that the room is kept tidy and so on. When members first arrive (different people on different days), he could be meeting them and offering a tour of the Boccia arena and back of house areas. He is likely to be working the CPISRA President and general secretary, Chair of CBC, Technical Delegate, Head referee, Chief Classifier and so on.

So, lots to look forward to in 2012 for Lee, but meanwhile, the new club is getting all his attention. Good luck from Sedgefield News; and keep in touch.

Sedgefield District Rugby Club

November League Fixtures
(2.15 pm kick off)

12th: Richmondshire (away)
19th: Hartlepool Athletic (home)

November Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall
Saturday 29th October

Sedgefield Gardening Club
Tuesday 1st November
7.30pm. Ceddesfeld Hall. Mike Hughes
"Durham Botanical Gardens"
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield WI
Wednesday 2nd November
7.15pm, Parish Hall: Cynthia Scott:
"Table Flowers for Christmas"
Members' competition;
a hand-made Christmas card.
Visitors very welcome. Fee £2.50
includes refreshments

Quiz Night @ Cricket Club
Saturday 5th November
8pm start. Quizmaster, Phil Hartshorn

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

Local History Society
7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Monday 7th November
John Moreels
"Nostalgic views of the North"
New members welcome

Residents' Forum
Monday 7th November
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm
Come along & have your say!

Ladies Club
Tuesday 8th November
Ceddesfeld Hall. Tasty Gifts by Paula

Parish Hall Country Market
Friday 11th November

Farmers' Market
Sunday 13th November

NECP Concertina Workshop
Sundays 13th & 27th November
1pm Ceddesfeld Hall. All levels welcome
Contact 01642 588197

Methodist Wives & Friends
Monday 14th November
Network President - Chris Spink
Monday 28th November
Tasty Gifts

Coffee Morning

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Friday 18th November
10am-12noon, Fletcher Room, Parish
Hall. Tea/Coffee, scones etc.

Live Music Night

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club
***Friday 18th November**
Main guest Haley Sisters
plus Ray Thom, John Weighell &
John Wrightson Band.
Admission £10, inc buffet. Tel 621347
***Please note change from Saturday**
to Friday for this occasion only

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 21st November
7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
Jo Gelfling
"North East Witchcraft"
Details from S Hall on 620367
sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk
Visitors always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District
Flower Club

Tuesday 22nd November
Open Meeting, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
"Of Candle, Crib & Carol"
Alan Beaty, National Demonstrator
All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 24th November
Christmas Quiz and Faith Supper
7.45pm Parish Hall
Everyone Welcome
Contact Steve Ashton 01287 636382
sashton@teeswildlife.org
for more detail

Sedgefield Show AGM

Thursday 24th November
Nag's Head 8pm

Sedgefield Players

Friday 25th November
Live music from the 60s, 70s & 80s
with local group Gastric Band
Tickets £10 (inc. pie & peas)
7:30pm, Parish Hall. Licensed bar

Sedgefield Library Events

Tuesday 1st all day
Fundraiser for South Cleveland Heart
Fund. Tombola, refreshments, raffle
Stop smoking drop-in
10 - 11.30 every Thursday

Tickle Time

Mondays 7th & 21st, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 9th & 23rd, 10-11am

Craft Club

10-12pm Tuesdays 1st, 15th & 29th

Book Circle

2pm Wednesday 23rd

New Generation Church

11am at Community College on Suns
6th & 13th November & at the Parish
Hall on 20th & 27th. All welcome.

Bridge Club

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

Winterton Wayfarers

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

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & latest Fishburn
gossip! Fridays 9.30am - 12noon
Tea, coffee, toast & conversation

Sedgefield Playgroup

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

Sing for Health

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

Round Table

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

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm
Nag's Head: new members
welcome, call 629070 or 620562

Ceddesfeld Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon
on Thursdays in Ceddesfeld Hall

Cupcake Café

Sedgefield Community College 10am-12
noon, term- time Fridays. Tea, coffee,
homemade cakes & biscuits.
All profits to charity

Lyrics Choirs

2 Community choirs welcome new
members. Ceddesfeld Hall, Fridays.
Age 7-18yrs, 6pm: Adults 7.30pm

Coming soon

Sedgefield in Bloom

Coffee Morning in the parish hall
Friday 2nd December, 10-11.30am

Please send December Diary dates to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Send Diary dates by 15th November to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Your Letters

Thank you ...

Sheila McMillan, friends and members of LOTUS send thanks to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th September. £765 was raised for the St Edmund's Church Lighting Fund. **There is 1 raffle prize unclaimed, blue ticket 260.** If you have this ticket please contact Sheila to claim your prize.

Reversing advice

On Tuesday 11th October 2011, whilst making their way to the Parish Hall for a Neighbourhood Watch meeting, two ladies were accidentally knocked down on the car park by a car reversing from a parking space. I would like to suggest that when parking your car, it is safer to reverse into the space, when you are or should be aware of what is taking place around you.

If you drive in, when you start to reverse out you are operating blind until the front door of the vehicle is clear of the vehicles on either side of you, and therefore you are driving carelessly (unless of course you have someone watching you out).

David Hillerby. RSA Dip. Road Transport Advanced, PSV & HGV Driver (ret'd)

To the dogs again

Further to the comments by the Hardwick Manager I would like to exhort all dog-walkers using the East Park to collect and remove droppings deposited by their pets. There can be no need for random fouling of fields, footpaths and "desire lines". Some owners conscientiously collect their animal's droppings; others, with dog on lead, fondly watch Fido foul footpath and adjacent grassland, apparently quite oblivious to the dangers of infection of adults, children and livestock. It is perhaps pertinent to mention the half-hearted walkers who do bag the faeces but then neatly deposit the bag against footpath or seat. May I also extend my tirade to horse-riders who follow tracks used by walkers and, especially, in wet weather, cut-up the ground. I have yet to discover if any rider attempts to "bag" the horse manure left throughout the East Park and Hardwick Park.

R Smeeton

Contact details

for Sedgefield Development Trust & projects

Corporate & Business Mail

**Company Secretary,
Sedgefield Development Trust,
c/o 7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield,
TS21 2JN**

**Community Lawyers & DIDO:
07899 022 133**

**Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield,
TS21 2EG**

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sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

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Hearing aid users' travel help

I don't know how many hearing aid users out there are aware that we are entitled to a **disabled person's railcard**, which entitles us to up to one-third off the price of a train ticket. I have been wearing hearing aids for over 10 years, and have only recently found out about this discount. If you wear hearing aids and travel regularly by train, it is money well spent; about £30 for a 3-year card. For information go to www.disabledpersonsrailcard.co.uk/
Panny Pighills

Wrong number

Unfortunately the wrong telephone number was given in last month's 'Grave Situation' article. The correct number to contact is 07947612574. The letter writer apologises and hopes there weren't too many calls to whoever has the other number.

Racecourse License hearing

I recently attended a hearing in respect to an application to vary the premises licence of Sedgefield Racecourse. If passed it would have enabled the Racecourse to host events 365 days a year for up to 4999 people, concluding at 2am (a fact carefully disguised in the application as it referred principally to one event, the South Durham Hunt Ball, for which the whole application was allegedly aimed.) The people of Sedgefield worked as a team to overturn the application, resulting in agreement to ONLY the Hunt Ball being added to the licence. Many people took time to write, some were able to prepare, attend and speak eloquently at the hearing. They were supported by C'llors Brown and Robinson; by the Mayor, Sedgefield Residents' Forum, Sedgefield Development Trust's excellent Community Lawyer service (tel; 07899022133); Durham County Council Environmental Health team and a representative of Mr Phil Wilson, MP, who had written directly to DCC.

Expressions of feeling (complaints) are only measurable by the authorities that receive them. The consensus is that it is 'not British' to complain, but this is the best route to follow. This hearing was a true

example of the Sedgefield people pulling together to maintain the character and tranquillity of our lovely village. A big thankyou to all.
Mark Cant

Wind Farm campaign

This issue of Sedgefield News includes a leaflet published & funded by The Isles Communities Turbine Action Committee (TICTAC). E.ON's proposal to build up to 45 wind turbines to the west of Sedgefield in the Mordon and Bradbury area will have a significant impact on people living in Sedgefield as well as over 20 other villages and towns in the area. This wind farm will not only be the biggest in England – it will also contain some of the tallest turbines in the Country. E.ON has designated Sedgefield as being in 'the outer zone' of this development and so has not been communicating directly with its residents. Those who have managed to attend an exhibition or have seen the consultation document will have some idea of what E.ON is proposing. The small group of local people who make up TICTAC hope the leaflet will give the people of Sedgefield more information about the scheme. We also have a website (theislescommunities.com) which has more information as well as a petition to download. The leaflet is designed as a poster on one side so that people can show support by displaying it in a window. The 1st phase of the E.ON consultation finished on October 7th but they will be back in February for the next stage. A huge amount of money is at stake for E.ON in this development – most of it from subsidies funded by increases to our electricity bills. Our best hope of making our voices heard is to make E.ON and the Government aware of how many people are unhappy with County Durham becoming the dumping ground for wind turbines. We hope you will support us by signing the petition and displaying the poster. We will keep you informed of our progress.
Susan Fox, on behalf of TICTAC

Editor's note: it seems a recent letter criticising NetPark football club and supporters was a spoof. Please play fair. Once a thing is in print it is very difficult to undo any damage.

15th November is the Deadline

for December's News. Email copy to **sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

Text or call **07935 447 455** or post to **The Editor, 55 White House Drive, Sedgefield, TS21 3BU**

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