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Sedgefield NEWS

September 2009

The Quality Practice Award

Dr Jones and Partners practice serves our community from surgeries in Sedgefield, Fishburn, Trimdon Village and Trimdon Colliery and it strives to provide the best professional medical care possible to the 15,400 patients on its list, by pursuing innovative policies and fostering an ethos of continuous development.

Way back in January 2008, the partners decided to apply for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Quality Practice Award (QPA), to gain recognition from a respected external body that all procedures, protocols and current medical knowledge were up to date and as efficient as the practice could make them.

The QPA is an in depth study of the medical, managerial and administrative ability of the organisation. It is an 18 month long process and involves all members of the practice team submitting 21 chapters of evidence to a scrutinising committee. The process culminates in a whole day visit by an assessment team appointed by the RCGP. The team is composed of a general practitioner, a practice manager, a practice nurse and a lay member, all trained volunteers from other parts of the country. At the end of the visit the team decides whether or not the practice is deemed worthy of the award. Happily, our local practice has been granted the award (which lasts for 5 years) for the second time, and they are especially pleased that the official assessors' report was wholly positive about all aspects examined.

At the time of writing, the intention is to ask Father John Caden to officially present the practice with its handsome plaques in the week commencing 21 September, when everyone has returned from their holidays.

More Wartime Tales

After Mr Bayston's item on the Royal Observer Corps last month, we have received a fascinating account of the bombing incident mentioned in his last paragraph. Locations are added, in brackets, from an explanatory sketch provided with the letter. With the incident still vivid in his memory after 67 years, Mr Les Butler writes:

"This was the adventure of my wife and I and another man living here in Sedgefield today - Mr J. Hill. One night in 1942 we were at our Thursday night dance in the NAAFFI, Hardwick Camp [behind the trees on Durham Road]. The siren went at 8pm and at about 10 o'clock I said to my girl (now my wife) - better get your coat as the all clear has not sounded, and I'll see you home. We got as far as the camp entrance and all hell let loose. Our searchlight at the Kennels site was on target. He had jerry hooked in his beam by radar and a bofor's gun on our square was pumping shells. We got caught up in a hail of shrapnel which was dropping around our feet as we ran up towards the village. When we got as far as the Black Lion corner this whistle was heard, and one big bang, that lifted us across the road from the blast.

The bomb landed where the [Hardwick] school was built years later. The window on the staircase of the big house opposite the camp was blown in and some of the people's faces in the old council houses [between The Lane and Beech Oval] were blackened by soot from the chimneys. I think our lives were saved by the large number of trees growing right down Durham Road. The wall along the Isolation Hospital [now Neville Drive and The Gables] was peppered by the shrapnel."

Mr L. J. Butler, Elm Avenue



A farewell note

After 15 years of owning and running Selections, we have decided the time is right for us to retire. We thank all of our fabulous customers who have supported us over the years and send our best wishes to you all. We are off to pastures new and intend to visit the Scilly Isles again for our Ruby Wedding in August where we spent our honeymoon. Thank you all for your kind letters, cards and best wishes. *Julie and Michael Bick, Selections*
Thanks to Margaret Lines for the photograph of Julie and Michael, taken as 'Selections' closed for the last time on August 8th.

As the recession continues to bite, support our local economy.

Check out the wide range of local companies advertising here in Sedgefield News.

See pages 8 - 10.

Hospital Garden Party

A garden party held recently in the grounds of Sedgefield Community Hospital raised £1105 towards improved facilities for patients. Organiser Julie Welford was very grateful that so many people had come along to support the event and thanked the many helpers who had contributed to the success of the day.

Visitors to the Day Unit garden enjoyed home made cakes, scones and strawberry teas and entertainment from Spennymoor Town Band. For children, there was a kiddies corner, toy tombola, catch a duck, name the doll and face painting. Butterwick Hospice ran a stall selling shopping bags for life and novelties made by patients. Other stalls sold books, cakes, bric-a-brac, handmade greetings cards and handicrafts. Visitors could try their luck on various tombolas and the grand raffle.

The photograph shows retiring Sedgefield Mayor Councillor Tim Jeanes and his wife Anne (official openers of the event) with organiser Julie Welford and young helpers Arisa Hudson, 9, Caseyleigh Shaw, 3 and Jane Snowball, 14.



Round Table Charity Swimathon

When we think of physical endeavour, feats such as scaling Everest or walking to the South Pole spring to mind. Great achievements both, but they seem tame in comparison to the Sedgefield Round Table Charity Cross-Channel Swimathon that took place at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Sunday 16th August!

A dozen or so Round Tablers completed the equivalent of crossing the 21 miles of the English Channel in just over 9 hours. This involved swimming one thousand four hundred and eighty-two lengths, in relays. The money raised from sponsorship will go to the children's cancer unit at the RVI. Unfortunately I can't tell you how much we have raised yet as we are still collecting in the money. We have decided not to include a photograph of the event, as many readers thanked us for not releasing the water polo picture in the July issue.

Summer seems to be the time for exercise in the Round Table. The annual bike ride took place at the beginning of the month. This involves cycling to the Stables in Wynyard, stopping for light refreshments, and cycling back. We also organized two cricket matches at Mainsforth. In the first we lost by one run to Cummins Engineering of Darlington; at the time of writing this we hadn't played the second but we have high hopes.

In the next issue I hope to be able to tell you about our chairman Carl's attempt to swim the length of Windermere, in the lake this time. Please be prepared to give generously if asked.

Charity Night

In January Joan Seymour is going to Udaipur, Rajasthan in India with a medical team organised by the charity 'I CONNECT Friendship in India'. To raise money for the medical supplies they need to purchase on arrival, Joan has planned a Charity Night, with Joan Edmondson's help. Details are on the Diary page.

Thanks...

to the Sedgefield Charities for their kind donation to the Trust to enable the Town Trip to go ahead this year. 111 older people benefited from this outing to Redcar so it is still as popular as ever. Thanks also to Griersons for providing the transport, to the Post Office and Town Council for providing collection points, and to Billy Cooper, Margaret Stewart and Linda Maddison, who all kindly contribute to all the arrangements.

Daisy Chain charity

The Daisy Chain Charity in Norton provides support for families affected by Autism. When Cristina Moreira of Beauty Angels first became involved, she hadn't a clue about Autism. Since then, despite her busy life as a single mum, 3 kids, 2 businesses etc., she has Abseiled down the Hilton Hotel in Newcastle (see photo, right), Bungee jumped off the Transporter bridge - in fact anything she can do to help.

Most of all she has realised how lucky she is to have 3 healthy, happy kids. Cristina has set herself the task of raising at least £10k by next February, when she hopes to do the Kili-manjaro trek for Daisy Chain. Some of the money raised will go towards setting up a Treatment room at to help carers relax.

She says "I want to raise awareness of Autism and Daisy Chain. When a 12 year old girl contemplates suicide and her mother is so despairing of what she can do that she herself contemplates double suicide it must be bad. Without Daisy Chain that mother and daughter would most probably not be here; heartbreaking!" The main event to bring to your attention is the just launched Beauty Angels/Psyche Clothing Fashion Show Model Search.

The age groups are: 0-4, 5-10, 11-19, 20-39 and 40+, male and female in all categories. 0 - 11 years will model for the Psyche website only and 11+ will model for both website and fashion show.

To enter, send a minimum of 2 photos, a close up head & shoulders and full body. Details required: Name, address, D.O.B., Sex, contact numbers inc a mobile no., if under 16 details of parent/guardian, email address if possible. For entrants 11+ years: height, clothes size & shoe size.

Send to Beauty Angels/Psyche Model Competition, 1st Floor, 3 High Street, Sedgefield. TS21 2AU or email beautyangels@hotmail.co.uk. The applicants need to be available for fittings in October and the provisional date for the Show is in the 1st week in November. It is £5 to enter (this goes straight to Daisy Chain) and cheques or postal orders can be made out to Daisy Chain. For security reasons please do not send cash. You may hand the application in at the above address and pay with cash. Show night will feature auction, raffle, casino games, dance show and much more.

Tickets £10, from Beauty Angels or Psyche Clothing Middlesbrough.



Fun Day on the Green

While Cristina Moreira (left) is giving her all for the Daisy Chain Charity, you can have some fun too. If you get your News in time and would like to help the Autism charity, check out the first item on this month's Diary page.

Great North fun

Dame Memory Jogger of Sedgefield is pleased to advise that she is confident of completing the Great North Run on September 20th, to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. There was a short interruption to training due to a flare up of gout, the curse of the upper classes, but thankfully Dr. Jones, physician to the gentry, soon had the Dame back on track.

Training jogs indicate that the running outfit will have to be stripped down to "unmentionables" as Dame Memory-Jogger does not wish to run the risk of any hot flushes. So the rehearsal run, scheduled for 13th September will not be quite full dress, as originally planned. The rehearsal starts from The Meadows at 8.30am, through Queens Drive, twice round the gloriously scenic Hardwick Park, crossing the show fields and on to the village green, in time to take advantage of the sumptuous fare at the Farmers' Market. Dame Memory-Jogger's daughter-in-law and personal secretary, Helen, advises that sponsorship can be donated online at www.justgiving.co.uk/john-nicholls.

Sunshine Brings Crowds to Sedgefield Show

The 156th Annual Sedgefield and District Agricultural and Horticultural Show brought record crowds and exhibitors on Saturday 8th August. Hailed as one of the best yet, the event saw visitors from the local area and from as far afield as Whitby, Halifax, Northumberland, Durham and the Yorkshire Dales.

Entries to most of the categories surged from previous years, which gave the thousands of visitors plenty to see. There were strong cattle and sheep classes as well as goats on display for the first time in many years, which proved particularly popular for children and adult visitors alike.

Exhibitions by rural rangers, forestry horses, Sedgefield Young Farmers and vintage tractor owners surrounded the main ring, where hounds from the South Durham Hunt made a late appearance following a busy programme of show jumping, handling and pony sports.

Traders in the food marquee had a particularly successful day selling cakes, honey, liqueurs, home made fudges and preserves. In the craft marquee, displays of bespoke wood craft, paintings and photographs and rug making all reported high interest from visitors.

This year's new addition, live acoustic music played by various regional amateur musicians, proved extremely popular with people who wanted to just sit, listen and enjoy the sunshine with a cool refreshment in their hand! The fairground rides also proved to be a big hit with young and old.

The huge crowds also benefited the Sedgefield area with local businesses reporting a steady trade throughout the day in the village.

Show Chairman, Ian Mason commented: "We were pleased to see the sun shining after a run of poor weather in recent years, it really does make all of the difference and ensured that visitors, exhibitors and organizers alike had a good day." He added: "The aim of the Show is to bring agriculture, country pursuits, business and the local community together and we think we have achieved that in 2009. I personally would like to express huge thanks to everyone who was involved in the successful organization of this year's show and to all of those who came along on the day. The support from sponsors and individuals also ensures our event is a success – people make successful things happen." Sedgefield Mayor Sheila Sutherland was in attendance and presented prizes and trophies. She commented: "Events like these are good for the community because they bring people together."

Show thanks

Last year I posted thanks to the organisers of the Sedgefield Show. I'd like to do the same this year with added thanks for whoever organised the weather! My daughter, Allana has been riding for some years now and having just recovered from a broken arm had a thoroughly enjoyable day, managing a 1st and two 2nds in her riding classes. Allana keeps her ponies at Millhouse Riding centre at Fishburn - our thanks also to the staff for their continuing good work. We look forward to next year and intend to pack the sun cream for 2010.

Darren Kennerley ps. Was the fairground ride music too loud or is it my age?



If you have sponsored or are going to sponsor **Sue and Colin Wears** in the Great North Run their outfits (above) may help you spot them amongst the 50,000 other runners on the day. If you have no children or grand children, ask someone who has to identify their characters! Sue and Colin are running for Zoe's Place, a hospice for the under-5s based in Middlesbrough.

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Minutes of Meeting held on 11th August 2009

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting, 9/06/2009 were accepted & approved as a true record.

2. Matters Arising (prev.4a) Dog Bins: Tim reported on progress. C/Man expressed surprise & dissatisfaction that Durham CC cannot fund 1 more bin for Sedgefield on the site agreed at the June meeting. Members reaffirmed that dog dirt still a big problem: vice C/man agreed, commenting that there was scope to review bin placements across the Town as a whole to better utilise their present distribution. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to DCC to request additional bin and ascertain County position on bin and resource allocation to dog fouling in Sedgefield.

(prev.6.2) Alcohol Ban in Public Places (Sedgefield Village): Res. Forum Chair reported she had written to the Chief Constable and has received neither acknowledgement or a reply. She had attended the last Town Council meeting and presented **evidence of successful Durham bans** and of successes from other English locations. Town Council had not accepted this evidence; they *had* accepted guidance from one Councillor who said it was not viable pursuing a ban in Sedgefield. Res. Forum Chair asked members present to report their observations/problems to Police & Town Council **in person**; as their (the Police & Town Council's) recorded view of the drink related intimidation/nuisances in Sedgefield is that it is minimal and so not worth even considering this course of action. Members took the view that the problem does exist and does warrant proper consideration of this course of action.

3 Treas. & Sec'y gave reports. Secretary informed members that following Councillor Alan Blakemore's advice at the last meeting, a successful application for room hire costs had been made to Durham Community Force. Cheque had been banked promptly. Many thanks to Alan.

4. Representative Reports: a) Community Force: Tim Spearey provided a comprehensive report covering period 2/6 - 11/8/09. 31 events detailed. Issues included antisocial behaviour, youth drinking, general drunken behaviour, pub issues, noise, drugs (substance misuse), schools premises abuse/damage, dog fouling.

b) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & c) Crime Prevention Officer: Neil Langthorne gave details of his replacement as CPO, PC Keith Lounds who will be in post by 15th Sept. allowing Neil to transfer to post of Community Liaison Officer. Neil reported on a new proactive strategy to catch criminals in our area, which has just "nabbed" two burglars. The scheme will not only target property criminals but car criminals too. Members were delighted to learn of this approach. The Crime Ring System presently used may benefit by a new replacement, if a recent bid for funds is successful, hopefully we will know by next Panel meeting (in October).

5 A.O.B. 5.1 Julia Bowles informed members that she had been elected as a member of the public to the new Area Action Forum for the area that includes Sedgefield, & noted that this group includes our local Police Community Inspector Andy Neill.

5.2 Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award 2009: Secretary reported on this year's extremely successful awards at both Primary Schools. A member queried the award for the Community College, the C/man explained that despite best efforts made by the Executive and latterly himself (last year) it would appear the College did not wish to maintain this award. Should they wish to start again (for a 3rd time) N/H/Watch would be happy to participate.

6.0 PACT meeting / Police reports: 6.1 PCSO Gavin Rutter & Amy Coulson introduced themselves to members; Amy will replace Gavin when he moves on to become a full time Police Officer (for Cleveland) in the near future.

6.2 Recorded Crime Report 9/6 - 11/8/09 Keith pointed out from 9th - 27th June there was **NO** recorded crime in our village; however from 28th June to 11th Aug 15 crimes were recorded, comprising 4 Thefts, 9 Damage & 2 Burglaries (non dwelling). As previously requested by members, Keith provided details of the number of calls received by Police from within the village over the last 2 months; this was much appreciated by the members & very helpful.

Keith explained why 2 assaults that had taken place were not included in the figures (victims will not report it). Keith also advised that 6 youths were arrested on criminal damage charges for Rectory Row school damage; the newly installed CCTV system has already proved itself to be a great success. Questioned by a young person present regarding increase in crime during summer holidays, Keith confirmed that crime is actually reducing in the village especially when compared to a few years ago. Two guests from Foxton were concerned for an increase in thefts/crime in their area, Keith is to follow up.

6.3 P.A.C.T. Keith took members through the purpose of PACT, a principle cornerstone being to agree the main priorities for the Beat Team to tackle for the next month. [*Priorities from both last month's meeting at Residents' Forum and from this month, are in the right hand column. Ed.*] Keith took members through in detail what had been done & results so far and sought discussion from members present. A member responding stated that it appeared that only one of the pubs observed could be said to have taken any real measures to reduce the glass problem and as such the "Hope & Landlord" is to be commended. Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

The next meeting, on Tuesday 13th October, includes the AGM.

PC Todd reports

In recent issues of Sedgefield News I have focussed on the mindless damage being caused to Sedgefield Primary School. Recently, youths were arrested and charges are expected. The school has now installed CCTV, which will identify anyone stupid enough to trespass on the grounds or cause damage.

Other crimes recently reported include 4 tyres slashed on the Industrial Estate, and damage to cars in West Park Lane and White House Drive. A flower tub was stolen from a garden in Wykes Close and a tent damaged in the Garth.

Pub Watch

No issues were raised requiring further action at the recent meeting held in the Golden Lion. Last month's PACT priorities were discussed at length; the issue of glasses and noise coming from member premises. It was agreed that plastic glasses should be issued for outside use, but this requires the cooperation of customers, to assist in making our streets a safer and more enjoyable environment.

PACT meeting

This was held at the end of the Crime Watch meeting. Those present were informed of the results of the previous month's priorities, which included reports of loud music being played from a car on the High Street and an intoxicated, topless male climbing onto the telephone kiosk on High Street. This month's priorities have been agreed and will be the focus of attention for the beat team during the month. They are;

Glasses: to continue monitoring pubs to reduce the number of glasses being used outside on the street.

Anti-social behaviour: to monitor the noise & behaviour of customers at the Pizza Shop on Front Street, especially late at night.

Illegal parking outside Sainsbury's, North End: to monitor the area and prosecute offenders.

Until next time, Keith

Jottings

There was no August meeting of the Residents' Forum so this is an opportunity to give some general information and respond to criticism received. Some people have commented that the Forum is always 'against' things and should be more positive. The Forum was established in February 2004 by the Town Council with the overall aim of being 'a voice' for the community and to provide residents with an appropriate forum which would allow them

- To campaign for something (improved services, play facilities etc.)
- To campaign against something (closure of local facilities, the effect of new housing law, planning issues etc.)
- To give greater voice than an individual would have when talking to councils or other authorities about changes you wish to see
- To arrange outings & social events such as coach trips, street parties, bingo, keep fit *continued next page*

Alan Sowerby Citizenship Awards 2009

Hardwick Primary School

On Tuesday 21st July at Hardwick Primary School a Special Assembly was held to present 3 awards prior to the annual leavers' awards ceremony the following day. Deputy Head Teacher Sarah Guest introduced this year's special ceremony by reminding everyone of the background and reasons for introducing the commemorative Alan Sowerby Citizenship award into Sedgefield schools, and one that is made annually from the village Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. She explained that this year the school had decided to add two more awards, one for Citizenship to a Key Stage 1 pupil and the second to a pupil for showing an Outstanding Attitude to Learning.

The Key Stage 1 Citizenship went to year 2 pupil Eleanor James. Mrs Guest described Eleanor as a gentle, quiet girl who is thoughtful, considerate and always kind. Eleanor has overcome natural shyness to show her true colours when helping new children to settle into school, said Mrs Guest before presenting her with a certificate and plaque.

The award for Outstanding Attitude to Learning was presented to year 6 pupil Harry Chadwick - a lively, happy boy who consistently displays enthusiasm and a good sense of humour, said Mrs. Guest. Harry, a worthy winner, has maintained a positive approach to all learning situations and has consistently worked hard through each of his years at Hardwick School.

The Alan Sowerby Citizenship Award 2009 went to year 6 pupil Sean Haycock. Mrs Guest described Sean as a very caring, kind, sensible, helpful member of school. Sean relates especially well to younger children and is always quick to help. He is respectful in all interactions with others and is highly regarded by both his peers and the school staff. He recognises effort and achievement in others and always displays an enthusiastic approach. Sean was a most worthy winner of this year's Citizenship Award, said Mrs. Guest, before asking village Neighbourhood Watch secretary Joe McKenna to present Sean with his engraved trophy and framed certificate to record his achievement.

Sedgefield Primary School

On Wednesday 22nd July, before the Leavers' Ceremony, acting Head Teacher Sandra Marks reminded everyone of the background to this special Citizenship award, of the contribution made by the many volunteers in society like Alan Sowerby, who this award commemorates. Sandra described the importance of the values required from a pupil to enable them to be considered a good citizen and how important these attributes are for everyone both during school and outside school. She described how one name seemed to leap out to her when she initially thought about the selection for this year's award and wondered who other members of staff might be considering. It was with great surprise that she had discovered a unanimous first choice and that name was the one that had leapt out to her. At this stage of the proceedings all eyes were now directed towards one pupil and Sandra Marks confirmed that the winner of Citizen of the Year 2009 was indeed a very worthy and commendable George Peden. Sandra then called upon village Neighbourhood Watch secretary Joe McKenna to present George with his personal engraved trophy and framed certificate to record his achievement.

Footnote: Sedgefield village Neighbourhood Watch members feel it is a privilege to provide the Alan Sowerby award each year to recognise the achievements of the children who attend the village schools. As in previous years, we departed feeling uplifted and optimistic for the future and that of these children. WELL DONE to all the teaching and support staff at Hardwick Primary & Sedgefield Primary.

Jottings continued

- To increase the sense of belonging in a community, to meet and help other people.
 - To inform people in the area of all the issues that affect them.
 - To get involved with what other groups may be doing.
 - To have a representative voice on groups/committees such as Community Empowerment Networks, CAVOS etc.
- The only thing from this list that the Forum have not engaged in is arrange outings and social events; we believe there are many other groups in the village doing such activities and the Forum have no wish to duplicate activity.

To turn now to the criticism that the Forum is always against things. By the very nature of the organisation, residents predominantly present issues of concern to them i.e. something they want to stop happening. When there is a clear, overwhelming, majority view on an issue from residents e.g. the caravan park, the Forum will represent that view. Where there is divided opinion, as was the case on the secure mental unit and wind turbines the Forum tries to represent that view. However, the Forum will always offer individual residents help and support on any issue they may have.

The Forum is not always negative, in fact it has praised and acknowledged some village initiatives, for example:

- Our local fire fighters for their service and expertise
- A local business for the 'rescue' and excellent improvements to the Manor House
- Our Town Council gardeners for wonderful floral displays and maintenance
- Recruiting volunteers to take forward youth provision.
- And of course to our residents who have pride in our village and give their time to try to maintain standards.

Residents' organisations throughout the country fluctuate in size and capability and can only respond to the voice and views of their community. The really important fact is that such organisations are in existence ready to offer, when required, help and support to the local community and residents.

The Forum meets on the first Monday of each month in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome - you don't have to have an issue to bring - just come along and hear from your fellow residents.



L - R: Head, Linda Johnston, Award Winners Eleanor James, Sean Haycock, Harry Chadwick & parents, Deputy Head Sarah Guest



George Peden with Mum, Dad & final year teachers Mrs. Gibson & Mrs. Cunningham

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

As far as I'm aware, technically it is still summer. So, despite the unpredictable weather, it is a very busy time for sports like cricket, tennis and athletics. As I type this, both the Ashes series and the World Athletics Championships are reaching their conclusion. I won't linger on the former, lest I tempt fate (I'm on a train heading to London for day three at the Oval as I type this), while the latter have been dominated by the astounding exploits of Usain Bolt.

However, there have also been encouraging signs from British athletes that could bode well for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The undoubted talent of Phillips Idowu has finally been realised and Jessica Ennis has long been tipped for the top, but several other competitors stepped up to the mark with great performances that could be the start of something special. Along with others, the likes of Jenny Meadows, Marilyn Okoro, David Greene, Will Sharman, Greg Rutherford and Mo Farah all demonstrated great promise and could be genuine medal contenders in the near future.

But despite the recent prominence of summer sports, it is impossible to avoid the fact that the football season has started, so along with the high profile clubs in the region, Sedgefield's Sunday league teams are back in action. I'll bring early updates on progress in a future month. For the moment, I'll start with a preview of the rugby union season, which is also about to kick off.

Sedgefield RFC

As Sedgefield RFC prepares for a third season, the club is expecting a tough but successful year, having joined the South Durham League. The team's first opponents will be South Tyneside College on the 5th September, a tricky away match to get the campaign off and running. Sedgefield are hoping that all of the pre-season training carried out by their qualified coach will pay dividends.

With a busy fixture list, the club is always on the look out for new members, be they players or behind the scenes support. In particular, Sedgefield is keen to attract a match day reporter/photographer and a physio. Anybody interested or just wanting to find out more about the club, should visit www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk.

Off the pitch, Sedgefield RFC is also getting ready for a big move, into a new home at Sedgefield Cricket Club. The site is being transformed into Sedgefield's own centre of sporting excellence (all being well) – these are exciting times for all involved.

Swimming

As if being chairman of Sedgefield Round Table and captain of Sedgefield RFC is not enough to keep one man busy, Carl Arnott has launched himself into a major swimming challenge. On 5th September, Carl will attempt to swim the length of Lake Windermere. That's 10.5 miles. In water at about 15 degrees Celsius. For between five and six hours. Without using a wetsuit (but hopefully some sort of swimming 'trunks' will be employed). Carl explains his motivation:

"The reason I'm doing this is to raise funds for one of my son Alex's charities, Butterwick Children's Hospice. Alex was badly starved of oxygen at birth and is, as a result, very severely disabled, requiring total care for 24 hours of every day. He gets two weeks a year at the hospice, providing respite for me and my wife Johanne. The hospice provides top notch care, including hydrotherapy and a sensory room. Basically, they pamper Alex from when he arrives to when he leaves."

Anything that Carl raises should go towards funding a new sensory area in the main living area of the hospice, which will cost around £5k. If the swim manages to raise more, that will go towards a new minibus for the Hospice. If you would like to pledge support to Carl, please visit www.justgiving.com/carlarriott.

Sedgefield Harriers

It has been said that running is akin to hitting your head against a wall – it's something you can't enjoy doing, but it feels good when you stop! There are not many regular runners that would disagree. Finding the motivation to get out of the house in the evening - or at any other time - is no easier for regular runners than for those who would like to get started. But it's seldom that you hear a member of the Sedgefield Harriers say that they wished they hadn't turned up once they have completed a training session. The good feeling that follows after some positive exercise is what gets runners to get their trainers on the next time.

The Harriers understand that not everyone wants to subject themselves to 'intervals', 'reps', 'hills' or any other drastic pain inflicting activities, so they set aside some sessions for those who simply want some good exercise. The main session of this type takes place on Wednesdays at 7.45pm, starting at Sedgefield Community College. The really serious runners have been and gone by then and a group of runners gather who want a good run at a pace at which they can enjoy some conversation. There are usually about half a dozen runners at this session and by the time they return at 8.30pm there is a general glow of well-being.

This is not a session about which to be frightened. There are a number of regulars who were trailing at the back of the group when they first came along but who now cope well. No-one gets left behind and there is mutual encouragement. For seasoned runners and novices alike there is a unanimous feeling that they achieve more and enjoy the experience more when they run in a group like this. Another upside is the opportunity to take in some of the wonderful scenery that we have around Sedgefield during a run. The paths across the golf course, around Hardwick Park or down to Foxton, all make the miles pass quicker, particularly in company. Expensive trainers, Lycra shorts or technical running tops are not necessary either. Tracksuit bottoms and baggy t-shirts are just fine. The excuses are really running out, so if you are at all tempted, get yourself along to the college on a Wednesday evening soon.

Back at the more competitive end of the Harriers' programme, the club stages its annual Serpentine Trail Race on Sunday 13th September. The race starts in East Park and takes in tracks and trails around the Serpentine, out around Bishop Middleham and back across the golf course and around the lake in Hardwick Park before finishing in East Park. The distance covered is about 6.5 miles and the race is open to everyone (17 and over). More details and entry forms are available from Matthew Jones on 07866 441 097 or on www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk.

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

Sedgefield Scouts

Thank you to all who responded to the appeal in the June edition of the Sedgefield News. We have received some very generous donations from a number of people and, together with funds received from other sources we are confident that we are now well on the way to being able to replace the current heating system with a modern, fuel efficient system that will make the Scout Hall a warm and pleasant place to be for our groups and for other organisations which use the premises.

If you were intending to make a donation and forgot there is still time. The heating system is not our only need!! We also need to replace the windows, which are very elderly and not very draft proof!! We welcome all the support that the community can give to 1st Sedgefield Scouts; your generosity means that we will be able to continue with our activity programme through the winter months, and have a more efficient and effective heating system.

If you would like to make a donation to support the Scout group, please send a cheque to: The Treasurer, 4 Milbourne Court, Sedgefield, TS21 2JD, making cheques payable to: 1st Sedgefield Scout Group.

Thank you, Geoff Tonks

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

Do you enjoy a challenge? Could you get involved in guiding and discover an extraordinary world of fun, friends and adventure? All volunteers are fully supported by experienced leaders and tested training programmes. As Girlguiding begins its centenary celebrations why not contact us and find out more about guiding in your community and how you could get involved.

Contact Jane Vaslet, Sedgefield Division Commissioner, 01740 630745

Cycling spectacular here again

The tour of Britain professional cycle race will once again pass through Sedgefield on **Sunday 13th September** around 10.15am - 10.30 am (and yet another reason not to miss our wonderful Farmers' Market!) This is Stage 2 of the race, from Darlington to Newcastle/Gateshead, and it enters Sedgefield along Station Road, going through the centre and out towards Fishburn and Trimdon. The official website of the race is www.tourofbritain.co.uk.

Charity Golf Day Wednesday 2nd September. Enter a team of four for the Butterwick Charity Golf Day, competing for the Stewart Ramsey Memorial Trophy at Bishop Auckland Golf Club. Sponsor is John Watson Fire Doors. STABLEFORD format with maximum handicaps; men 28, ladies 36. Men, ladies or mixed. £120 for a team of 4 players includes green fees, bacon sandwich, tea/coffee & 2 course carvery at the end of your round. Limited places - first come first served. Call 01388 603003/email lynnaibury@butterwick.org.uk

Hello Dolly?

Dolly the African Grey parrot is has a keen sense of irony. She has learned to whistle the theme tune to The Great Escape, and guess what - she's gone missing! If you think you have spotted Dolly, please contact Jill Williamson on 621925, mobile 07980 880 801.



Family Trees

Did any of your ancestors work on the Hardwick Estate in the 18th Century? The Friends of Hardwick Park need your help to link families living in the area now to people working in, or supplying services to Hardwick in the 1790s. The following names are taken from the Hardwick Estate ledgers 1791-99:

YALLOWLEY John, CRADDOCK Lance, **CLARK(E) Wm**, HANBY George, GOWLING John, GOWLAND Wm., FALLA Wm., RAWLING John, **BARKER Joseph**, STUDHOLM Wm., NEWTON Francis, **PACE Robert**, THOMPSON Wm., DICKSON Archibald, **THOBORN Wm.**, CRAGGS John, SHAW John, ECLES Wm., LOMAS Samuel, BROWN John, HEDLEY Anthony, **ORD John**, **HARDY Wm**, BROWN George, **FLETCHER Crispin**, **OLIVER John** Names in bold are those found in Sedgefield baptism, marriage or census records. If any of these are ancestors of yours - the Friends of Hardwick would appreciate hearing from you. If you can help, please contact Michael Rudd mrdudd16@btinternet.com

Hardwick Parking

The new car park over at the Country Park is now open (there's no charge at present) and the old parking places are closed. *Here's a Hardwick inspired contribution from our anonymous poet...*

Nep's Tune

The Roman God of the sea,
Neptune set into Bronze.
Poised in mid throw,
You will never ever let go.
Daunting to meet you when
turning dark,
Your metallic shadow cast over
Hardwick Park.
Born on the 8th planet from the sun,
Two thousand years the
Master of waves.
You retire rigid in your
calm reflective pool,
Neptune you are still looking
pretty cool.



SAFC Foundation Race Day

Tuesday 8 September at Sedgefield Racecourse
This event will be hosted by Niall Quinn

Gates Open: 12.25pm **First Race:** 2:25pm **Last Race:** 5:20pm

Niall Quinn joins SAFC Foundation for a race meeting with an exclusive drinks reception, a three course silver served lunch and the best seats in the house to take in the afternoon's racing. This will be followed by an evening of great food and entertainment in the company of race sponsors, foundation members & SAFC representatives.

In buying a ticket to this event, not only can you look forward to a great day's entertainment but your money will go towards making a real difference to lives of over 30,000 local young people and parents every year.

Please call 0191 5515191 to book or book online

We also have private boxes left to sell which start from £62.50 per person, plus VAT. This includes Grandstand Entrance Tickets, Private Box with balcony, Private Waitress and Bar Service, Tote Facilities indoors, Lunch
Call now to enquire and to reserve your box!

Telephone Rachel Divers on 01740 621925
or email racheldivers@sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk

September Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Daisy Chain Charity Family Fun Day

on Sedgfield Village Green
Sunday 30th August

Gladiator Duel Competition, Bouncy Castle, Fire Engine, Stalls, Raffle, Big Games, Dance Performance, Face Painting and much more...

Sing for Fun

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

Alternate Wednesdays

Methodist Church Hall, North End
Contact Joan Seymour on 620256 for dates

Sedgfield Gardening Club

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 1st September

Richard Barnes

Winter Colour in the Garden

All welcome

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 2nd September

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

Sedgfield WI

Wednesday 2nd September

7.15pm Parish Hall

"Holy Island"

Rev. Cooper

Members' competition - a pre-1950 UK sea-side postcard
Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

Sedgfield Lyric Singers

Rehearsals resume in Ceddesfeld Hall

Friday 4th September

at 7.30pm

Thurlow Grange Table-top Sale

10:30am on

Saturday 5th September,

Refreshments available

All Welcome!

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 6th September

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

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Monday 7th September

Phil Philo

Captain Cook's journeys on the N.W. coast of Canada

All welcome

Residents' Forum

incorporating Police PACT meeting

Monday 7th September

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgfield Show Meeting

Thursday 10th September

Nag's Head at 8pm

Everyone Welcome

SLYC new term

Choir rehearsals begin on

Friday 11th September

in Ceddesfeld Hall from 6 - 7.15pm

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 12th September

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Farmers' Market

on the Village Green

Sunday 13th September

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 13th September

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

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

Ferryhill, Sedgfield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 15th September

Parish Hall at 7.30pm

"In House Workshop"

All Welcome

Sedgfield Wildlife Group

Thursday 17th September

(nb change to usual date)

7.45 in the Parish Hall

Subject to be arranged

For more details contact Steve

Ashton 620559

All Welcome

Car Boot Sale & Family Fun Day

A fund raiser for the benefit of

Sedgfield Cricket Club

Saturday 19th September
at the Cricket Club from 2pm.

Tombola, Face Painting,

Cake Stall and much more.

Bar will be open.

£5 per car - to book a pitch contact

Alison at pkheslop@btinternet.com

Charity Night

Saturday 19th September

at 7.30pm in the Cricket Club

with The John Wrightson Band

& The Scratch Band

Faith supper

**Tickets £5 from Joan Seymour
on 620256**

101 gig

at The Black Lion

Sunday 20th September

Outdoors commencing 8pm if weather kind, otherwise inside at 9pm.

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 21st September

Ceddesfeld Hall, 7.45pm

"The Cowley House Murders and Other Tales" - Tim Brown

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more information

please ring 620367

Lirica in Concert

with guests, **CeddesFolk**

in Ceddesfeld Hall

Sunday 27th September

Begins 7.30pm

Tickets £5 inc. glass of wine from Caroline, 655701;

Katy, 623493 or the Post Office

September @ the Library

Toy Library

Wednesdays 9th & 23rd, 10-11am

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 16th & 30th, 10-11am

Tickle Time

Monday 28th, 2.15-3pm

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgfieldroundtable.org.uk

Country Market

Friday mornings, Parish Hall

Send your

Diary information to

sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

E-mail warning

HM Revenue and Customs warns of an increase in phishing emails claiming to originate from them, saying you are due a tax refund and asking for bank or credit card details which are used to access your bank account. The department stresses it only contacts customers by post, telephone or through external companies.

If you receive one of these emails, they suggest you send it to HMRC for investigation.

**Visit www.hmrc.gov.uk
for contact details.**

A little more civic pride please

Towards the end of July, I was one of the small group of volunteers out at an early hour tidying up around the village centre before the arrival of the Britain in Bloom judges. Between us, we cleared cans, bottles, sweet wrappers, crisp packets, take away cartons and countless cigarette ends. Steve, the solitary council gardener does a wonderful job, but it's not enough to have beautiful floral displays. The village must look tidy, too. We are privileged to live in such a beautiful setting, but certain individuals seem intent on spoiling it. Or maybe they don't notice the mess. Much of the rubbish was right next to litter bins, which, I am told, cost £500 each. The Litter Act came in to force in Britain in 1958. Over 50 years ago and we seem to have made little progress. Many people will recall the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. Perhaps we could launch a Keep Sedgefield Tidy campaign on similar lines, with posters reminding us to Bin It or Take our Litter Home. On holiday in Ireland, we have seen young volunteers of school age helping with a Tidy Towns Campaign. Issued with overalls, gloves, litter pickers and a small wheeled cart, they enjoy and take a pride in doing their bit to keep their small town litter-free. Perhaps owners of commercial properties could be asked to keep their own frontage clear of litter, whether it has come from their premises or not. I'm sure some already do this, taking a pride in the image of their own business. Finally, if we all took responsibility for litter by picking it up and binning it when we see it, the results could be remarkable. Of course, it would be much better if nobody dropped litter in the first place. But as we don't live in the best of all possible worlds, why don't we try to make our own special bit of the world the best it possibly can be?

Norma Neal

Your Letters

The Barbados connection

Mrs Blood's letter in your last issue brought back many memories of Mr Blackman of Barbados. When I knew him he was a Charge Nurse (Psychiatry) at Darlington Memorial Hospital, and a very good nurse indeed. His wife was a nurse and worked the night shift at DMH. In those days he was "Wellington" Blackman and bore his Christian name with great good humour. In, I think, 1981, Dr Ian Martin, our Senior Psychiatrist, enjoyed a holiday in Barbados. I remember how wistful Wellington was when Dr Martin was enthusing about his colleague's home island. At that time Wellington had little chance of returning to the Caribbean. However he, and two other Senior Nurses left DMH and moved to Taunton Vale Hospital in Somerset. I visited that hospital in 1982, saw two out of the three, but not Mr Blackman.

Thanks for the memory, Mrs Blood.
Allan Smart

Is this fair? You decide!

Once again I have been perusing the Town Council Annual Report and Accounts and I must say they do make interesting reading. There has been a lot of activity within the village over the past year couple of years. What with the refurbishment of the Parish Hall and now Ceddesfeld, we really are moving into the 21st Century. I take my hat off to those who have worked hard to enable this to happen. I am a volunteer myself and know how hard it can be to raise money and the unseen work that volunteers put into a project.

Sadly I write this with some cynicism, as all is not as rosy as it seems. As you know I was extremely supportive of a total re-build of the Parish Hall, purely because I wanted this village to have a state-of-the-art building which would be eco-friendly, built to modern specifications and accessible to all. Clearly this is not the case and never will be, as the building stands today. Nevertheless, this decision was the wish of the people of Sedgefield when they voted in the referendum not to go down the route of new build. I seem to remember the figure quoted for this refurbishment was approximately £80,000 and from what I can remember a possible loan sanction of £80,000, although it was unclear whether both amounts would be required. I personally read it as only the one. Clearly people were swayed by the lowest estimates for spending to negate the possible rise in their Council Tax.

However since that time the costs associated with the Parish Hall have been much greater, just as many of us expected. The refurbishment was funded by two applications to the LIP Fund, which were both successful, giving a total of £117,000 together with a large donation from Cllr David Brown from his Borough Council MIF and additionally a loan of £93,000; sum total approximately £227,000 apart from other public donations.

Just months before the referendum a large amount of public money was spent by the Town Council on a planning application for Ceddesfeld Hall, the minutes (Dec '05) showed ongoing costs stood at £33,859, so the final total was obviously more than that, presumably taken out of balances? By January '06 the application had been withdrawn! As far as I am aware no one has ever been held to account or even ventured to explain to the community tax payers, why a lot of public money was clearly wasted on this application.

Though the plight of the Parish Hall was discussed weekly by the Town Council and other groups set up for the purpose there was never any money available in the budget for the Parish Hall. I am still trying to trace the £4326 left over from one of the parish hall groups, which was lodged with the SCA and ring-fenced for Community Development. It has never appeared in the SCA Accounts, at least not the ones I have access to. Imagine my surprise when I read that this year 2008/09 the SCA came cap in hand to the Town Council requesting financial assistance towards capital works for improvements to Ceddesfeld Hall, especially after their generous grant of £104762.00 from LIP and the contribution from Cllr Robinson of his share of the Borough Council MIF monies which amounted to £20,000. So where had their estimates gone so wrong? It seems like déjà-vu with the Parish Hall finances, clearly somebody got those estimates completely wrong too. But it's just our money so who cares? And let's not forget the balance sheet of the SCA which as of 31st December 2007 stood at £160247.00.

At their November 2008 P&R meeting, the Town Council agreed to give the SCA a Grant, **not a loan**, of £25,000 payable over three years. WOW, we seem to be awash with money but what's this, we certainly can't afford to give the Lyric Singers a grant of £600 to cover the costs of Parish Hall staging to replace that which used to belong to the Lyrics and was kept under the stage. OOPS! They forgot to provide storage for these and other equipment when the refurbishment took place. The Lyrics were asked to forward a full set of audited accounts in view of the large amount of money being requested. The decision was adjourned until the next meeting, which incidentally made it the same November meeting where the grant to the SCA was approved. Guess what! Computer says NO! The Lyrics were awarded **£200** towards the staging equipment. (5.4.3) The SCA were awarded **£25,000**. I rest my case. *Gloria Wills*

Deadline 15th September

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

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