

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn
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Sedgefield NEWS

September 2011

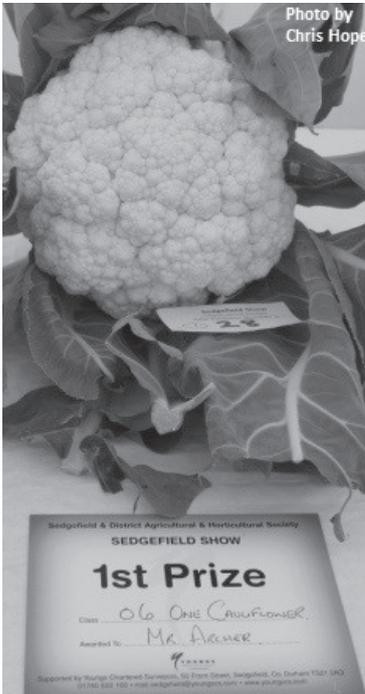


Photo by Chris Hope

It was the lucky 13th for Sedgefield Show!

After an appalling week, which saw Slaley Show in Northumberland cancelled outright, there was relief for Sedgefield Show organisers when August 13th dawned dry, and better still, remained that way.

A year's hard work and the kind weather resulted in a good turnout and a most enjoyable day for visitors and competitors alike.



Photo By Chris Hope



Thanks to Chris Hope for the photographs. Many more at www.sedgefieldshow.co.uk

Winners of the Grand Prize Draw, which was very kindly supported by Coates Motorcycles & Ultimate Climate Control Ltd, were 1st: £100, Ann Nicholson of Foxton: 2nd: £50, Mr Callender, of Darlington & 3rd: £25, Dave Hodgson of Sedgefield. Sedgefield Hunt's Andrew Marron triumphed at the Town Crier competition. We're sure he'll make an impact in the rôle!

The Isles Wind Farm petition launch

Scores of local people, plus TV and Radio crews and local newspaper journalists packed in to Mordon Village Hall (right) to hear Phil Wilson MP make a speech to kick start the petition against the proposal. The MP and local residents gave their views in no uncertain terms. The clear message was that this was not an anti wind power protest, but they were against both the proposal from Eon for the Isles site and the excessive number of turbines proposed for the area around Sedgefield and in County Durham in general.

Phil Wilson said "We all want to benefit from renewable energy, but I also think we should share the burden. It's not just Northumberland and Durham that should be taking up the strain on this; it's also the rest of the Country."



Trefoil Guild coming to Sedgefield

Open to anyone aged 18 or over, who has been or still is, a member of Guiding or Scouting in Sedgefield, the Trimdons, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham, Ferryhill. A warm welcome also awaits anyone who has never been involved but might like to join and meet us. You can choose to become involved in local Guiding & Scouting projects, or just come along and enjoy the friendship.

Initially, meetings will be monthly; the next meeting is on Thursday 22nd September at 7pm in the Masonic hall Ferryhill. Just come along - refreshments are provided. For more information please contact

Chair: Marilyn Edwards: 01740 652498

Sec: Jackie Postgate MBE: 01740 621600 email mjackiep@aol.com

Ready Steady Grow at the Methodist Church.

It was an act of faith when we began Ready Steady Grow in January, as it was a new beginning. We were unsure if anyone would turn up, so at 9.30am on that first morning, drinks and biscuits all out ready, we waited in anticipation. We were not disappointed; rather we were delighted to welcome 10 children along with 7 parents, grandparents and carers. Since then we have shared play, crafts, songs, Bible stories and prayers; we have even had a couple of parties based on some of the Bible stories - good fun and well appreciated by everyone, and unlike the miracle of Jesus feeding of the Five Thousand, there were not 12 baskets of leftovers!

It has been a real joy to see the response of the children as they have joined in the various activities. The grown ups also seemed to enjoy the mornings and new friendships have now been formed. We meet each Friday morning from 9.30 to 10.30am during term time, and begin again on Friday 9th September. There is no charge but we do invite donations towards the cost of drinks and biscuits. For further information contact **Margaret Glass** on **621618**

Sedgefield in Bloom

Torrential rain did not dampen the spirits when 14 gardens in Sedgefield opened to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers Barbara and Howard Smith sold 116 tickets from their gazebo on the green, while Ceddesfeld Hall provided a sheltered spot for refreshments. Visitors could also buy plants, the Sedgefield in Bloom DVD and copies of the recently launched Sedgefield in Bloom Cookbook. NGS charities, including Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and Crossroads Care received £500 proceeds from the day. Community Development Officer Angela Simpson said, 'We are very grateful to all those hardy souls who turned out, despite the abysmal weather, to support this great gardening event.' Two days earlier, Sedgefield enjoyed glorious sunshine, when judges from Northumbria in Bloom visited to make their assessment of the village's horticultural achievements. Regional results will be announced at a presentation in Saltburn on September 13th.

Volunteer Edith Brown thanks all those people who generously supported her recent sponsored slim, which raised £107 for Sedgefield in Bloom.

Players in Bloom?

Members of Sedgefield Players went on location to Winterton Community Garden recently to do some ground work for their next production. Gillian Plowman's one act play 'The Allotment' is one of their entries in the Sedgefield Drama Festival, running in the parish hall for a week from September 12-17. In a packed and varied week of drama, groups will come from all over the region, many performing original plays. Full details on the diary page. *Pictured L to R are Annette Lawson, Viv Jacobs, Norma Neal, Jacque O'Meara & Kay Archer*



Royal Wedding Harpist at Auckland Castle

Claire Jones, Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales, plays in the beautiful, historical setting of the Throne Room on **Friday 9th September** at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (concessions £11) from Brian Varley on 01388 606075.

"Musicality"

In aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer **Saturday 1st October** Entertainment at the Parish Hall with the Old Age Travellers, Lol & Maxine Allan, The John Wrightson Band & Sarah Jay **Tickets £12 - call 621183** Supper included. Bring your own drink

England Screaming / 101 at Sedgefield Cricket Club

After the resounding success of the joint gig in May, England Screaming & 101 are set to do the same again on **Friday 14th October** Tickets in advance from Matthew Jones' Barbers at **£2**. If any left, they will be **£2.50** on the door. Doors open 7.30.

DIDO Coffee Morning & Market Tuesday 20th October

Regular fundraising event in Parish Hall. Now collecting items in good condition for Market Place stalls. Bric-a-brac, books (no clothing please). Call Margaret Stewart on 622684 or Gloria Wills on 622447 or bring to DIDO on 10th Oct

Bon Appetit

Saturday 22nd October at 7pm French themed dinner; aperitif, main course, sweets, cheeses aux choix, coffee & brandy with petit fours, entertainment; all for £16 Sedgefield Community Association at Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact Pat/ Dudley on 620607, David/ Wendy on 620206

The Litter Picker's Lament

To keep Sedgefield Blooming and looking so neat
A team of keen Bloomers often takes to the street
Our weekly appointment with trowel and hoe
Helps our beautiful village put on a fine show
At weeding and planting, we're a formidable crew
And, while we're about it, we clear litter up, too
Crisp packets and fag ends, stray bottles and cans
None will escape our bright Marigold hands
Sweet wrappers and boxes from pizza and chips
But litterers, please listen to a very simple tip,
To keep Sedgefield lovely, tidy and neat
Find a bin for your rubbish,
don't drop it in the street!

Snapshots of Sedgfield

This month's Snapshot, kindly loaned by Jack Bexley, originally appeared in the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette and shows Sedgfield Youth Club First Junior Football Team, 1946-7 season, the year they won the Teesside Junior Cup, beating Stockton Boys' Brigade in the final. The team, run by Monty Williams, played in the Teesside Saturday League, home games taking place on a pitch behind the houses in Station Road. Seated left to right are S.P. Hannant, R.L.C. Waite, captain Andy Lockey from Fishburn, J.H. Hutchinson, son of the blacksmith who worked where Forge Cottage is now, and J.G.Freak. Standing are D. Mason, Jack Bexley, goalie A. Patchett from Bishop Middleham, J.W. Blakey, J. Hoggett and V. Dunn. All the lads were aged 16-17. David Hillerby offers a few amendments to the information accompanying



August's Snapshot of a parish hall dance. He reckons the year was more likely to be about 1935, as Wilkinson's were less affluent in the 1920s, when they suffered a fire, whereas they held dances like this for their staff and customers from 1934 to 1937. The two gentlemen near the front are Alf and Tom Wilkinson; Gordon Thompson, wearing a dicky bow, is slightly further back behind two ladies. On his left is his brother Reg and on his right body builder and coach driver, Lance Dargue. Dancing would have been to the renowned band of Fernley Mitchell, who lived next door to Gordon in Station Road. David also tells me that Gordon would have repaired, rather than built Leylands and that the workshop was actually in the present Wright's building, rather than next door.

Going back to May, Peter Robinson recognises one of the young men leading the choir procession as Kenneth McKean. Maureen Hayles asks if anyone has contact details for Wendy Tinkler, who appeared in June's tree-planting Snapshot, as a long-lost friend would like to get in touch. If you can supply any information or would like to donate or loan photographs or documents relating to Sedgfield's history, please call 01740 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Sedgfield Local History Society is grateful for all the fascinating memorabilia already received from readers. We meet in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm on the first Monday of every month. See the diary page for details of this month's speaker.

Artistic success



Former Mayor of Sedgfield, Dave Byrne, has been awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Fine Art from Bangor University. One of Dave's pictures has been selected by the University to be included in their fine arts collection and will be hung in the Main Arts building. Dave and Linda moved from Sedgfield to a small-holding in North Wales 7 years ago. Since leaving Sedgfield Dave's work has been exhibited throughout Britain.

Sedgfield Community College

Performance: Dr Faustus: Following the recent production of "Grease", the BTEC Performing Arts students produced another outstanding performance at the end of summer term. Acting and Dance students, along with some Year 9 dancers worked on aspects of choreography and physical theatre to produce a thought provoking piece based on Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe; an interpretation of the Seven Deadly Sins. Students were responsible for all aspects of the show, including film, mask making and face painting. It was a huge success and the college is very proud of the students and staff involved. Looking forward to December, there are performances of "Revolt Rhymes" and "Bugsy Malone" to look forward to. College staff are grateful to the community for their support and encourage attendance at future performances. Tickets for December performances will be available in November from College.

Crossing continents for cultural connections

Also in July, students sampled a variety of diverse activities, from Gum boot dancing to Chinese Tai Chi and Paper cutting. The day of activities gave them a practical insight into the multicultural world around them, from cooking and sampling Indian cuisine, experiencing aboriginal art and traditional Japanese face painting, as well as learning of the background to Zumba dancing, an energetic session for everyone involved. The dominant theme of the day was migration; the plight of refugees fleeing from war torn countries; gaining an insight into the forced migration of slaves from Africa to the Americas. The day concluded with a talk from Hillaire Agnama, a refugee from West Africa, who spoke about his experiences of leaving one country and moving to another. Kirsten Cummings from Year 9 said "It makes you realise how lucky we are in this country and how we take a lot for granted."

The Lyric Singers & Sedgfield Lyrics Youth Choir

The Lyric Singers were saddened to hear of the death of their Musical Director, Jean Whittaker, during the summer break. Jean had been in poor health for some time and was unable to conduct performances over the last year. Members of the choir miss her and send their sincere condolences to her family. Founder of Sedgfield Lyrics Youth Choir, Sandy Clubley has decided it's time for the next generation to take the lead. Rob Guest and Kristen Peacock now take charge of SLYC, with support from Tom Guest and from Sandy, who has complete trust in Rob, Kristen and Tom to give the choir a very bright future.

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Alan Sowerby Citizenship Awards 2011 in Village Primary Schools Hardwick Primary School

Friday 22nd July at Hardwick Primary School, the end of school year. The Year 6 Leavers' Ceremony started with the presentation of the "Most Prestigious Award of the day", to quote Head Teacher Linda Johnston; the award in question being the Alan Sowerby Memorial Award for Good Citizenship, made annually by Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch. The reasons why the award is so valuable were explained to pupils and parents, before announcing the recipient, **Megan Hope**.

Head Teacher Linda described Megan as a very friendly, helpful, courteous and sensible person who also has a wonderful sense of humour. She sings in the choir, has participated enthusiastically in many sporting events, plays clarinet and is a very capable secretary on the School Council. She always behaves well and is a credit to her family. One of her greatest qualities is that she genuinely cares for other people. She resolves disputes, looks after people who are upset and this makes her popular with staff and children alike. Megan is a super representative of Hardwick Primary; she is simply a very *good* person and is a truly good citizen. We are very proud of Megan, concluded Linda. Neighbourhood Watch are similarly proud that we are able to reward and recognise achievements such as Megan's and wish her every success in the years ahead.



Sedgefield Primary School

N/H/Watch C/man & Secretary then dashed to join the end of term and Leavers' ceremony at Sedgefield Primary School to present the 2011 Citizenship Award there. Head Teacher Andrea Cox maintained tradition by keeping secret the person who was to receive the award; even Mum did not know! Andrea also spoke of the importance and value of such an award and of the qualities of character and performance that a person needed to display to receive such an award. It was so noticeable at that stage that the pupils were looking around as to who it might be and also evident that they were looking more and more to one fellow pupil; that person was

Jonathan White. Head Teacher Andrea then announced that Jonathan was the Citizen of the year for 2011, describing him as a quiet person, whose mature behaviour and reliability makes him the ideal recipient of this award. He has demonstrated a commitment to improvement throughout his time in school, working hard at each and every task and setting an excellent example by voluntarily doing extra homework. He stage managed a recent school production, controlling lighting, sound and props with great professionalism and a great feel. He shows a caring awareness of others less fortunate than himself and has always been prepared to help with fund-raising events, in school and in the wider community. He participated in a Junior Great North Run, raising much needed funds for a national charity. Jonathan has grown into a responsible, hardworking and willing young man who is always prepared to go that extra mile whenever required. In conclusion, he is a perfect role model for his peers and all younger pupils. N/H/Watch Secretary Joe McKenna presented Jonathan with his individual inscribed cup, framed certificate and the school's new large shield, congratulating him on his achievement and wishing him every success at his new school.

Joe reminded parents, pupils and staff that we are now in our 10th anniversary, this being the 11th presentation of the award and how proud his fellow members were at being able to recognise and reward deserving children in Sedgefield in this memorial manner. *Sedgefield N/Hood Watch wish to thank the teachers and all staff at both schools for their excellent schools; their pupils are a brilliant testimonial to their dedication and hard work.*



PC Todd reports

Crime again remains low within Sedgefield this month with only four reported crimes. Gardens appear particularly vulnerable to the opportunist thief. A sprinkler system was taken from Durham Road, a BBQ from Wellgarth Mews and a wheelie bin from Wallington Drive. Damage was also caused to the old church in Winterton where it would appear an air gun has been used to damage some windows. Any information regarding the persons responsible would be welcome.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Black Lion. An incident was reported which occurred in the Golden Lion. Persons have been banned from the premises but no further action was required by the Pub Watch members. Sedgefield remains a friendly environment to enjoy a social drink and meal out. Don't spoil it for yourself and others!

P.A.C.T.

After the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting I held my monthly P.A.C.T. meeting. It was decided to keep the priority the same for a further month as 57 persons were caught speeding along Stockton Road. Each person has received a warning letter. Also, as a priority, we will be taking action against any fast food delivery drivers found to be speeding around the village. They have been warned and we will be watching.

August Panel Meeting:

N/H/Watch Secretary apologises to members for not being able to include the minutes (not yet written up); they will follow in a later issue.

Community Wardens:

Due to a complaint from N/H/Watch, a late (on the day) request to attend the Panel meeting from Mark Farren Education & Enforcement Officer South Durham, also Head of our Community Wardens resulted in heated and protracted discussions over the use of Wardens (in our Village). It was appreciated nonetheless that Mark did explain his "Warden" limitations, spelt out their duties and he did appear to listen to residents' issues and complaints.

Mark reinforced the message **"Any and All Complaints MUST be reported to DCC Help Desk"**. You will NOT get any response if you do not phone in.

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**

Flu Campaign 2011

Dr Jones & Partners invite their patients to come along to special drop-in clinics offering flu vaccinations to patients 65 years and over, pregnant women and people in certain at risk groups and their carers. 'At risk' includes people who have chronic lung, heart, kidney or liver disease or neurological disease such as motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis, diabetes mellitus or a weakened immune system caused by disease or medical treatment.

Sessions are from 9am - 11am on

Saturday 1st October at Harbinson House, Sedgefield & Beveridge House, Fishburn and

Saturday 15th October at Harbinson House, Sedgefield and Carroll House, Trimdon Colliery.

No appointment is necessary, just come along. If you have any questions or queries please ring the surgery. We will be pleased to assist you.

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum

We did not meet in August, thinking most people would prefer to enjoy Summer evenings. There's certainly no water shortage; what happened to the weather forecast of a "scorching" Summer? So this is just a quick update.

Durham County Council has, after 5 years, purchased one of the areas of woodland for £20K and we will seek to find out their intent for the area and how they will spend the remaining monies. However we are still in communication with the Local Government Ombudsman about the Council actions in dealing with the Section 106 monies (circa £46K with interest now circa £53K) attributed to the Cunningham Court development.

Have you commented on the County Durham Plan? Please remember the consultation meeting on **September 19th**, so that you can give your views on future development in our village.

It really is essential that *everyone* gives their opinion. The Town Council have replied to DCC consultation stating that they agree with executive homes for Sedgefield but that the community should say where they should be built. The Forum holds the view that until the whole community has had opportunity to say what sort of development, if any, is wanted and where it should happen, no overall view should be given. So, as we have said before this is **your last chance** to comment on future development strategy for our village. The campaign against the proposed huge wind farm at Bradbury and The Isle is underway; please make sure you sign the petition if you are against this development. Don't forget that the Spring Lane/Foxton application is still "live" and will have a terrific impact on our community if it goes ahead. Applications are springing up all around us for sites of one and two turbines - we will end up in the middle of huge turbine 'farm' if they all go ahead.

Watch out for information on all these issues. Our next meeting is in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall on September 5th at 7pm - come along and catch up with the news and give your views.

More of Your Letters

Are the disabled welcomed in this community?

I had a lovely afternoon at the Parish Hall recently (strawberry tea in aid of charity) when I eventually gained access to the hall. Yes, there is a lift but it was a friend who worked out how to use it with the help of one of the volunteers, who was very busy elsewhere. Please can someone be available to assist with the lift? Again, there is access to some shops in the village but ramps are needed to access others. Are wheelchair users not acceptable to some businesses? From a disgruntled wheelchair user.

Mrs Jeanne Dawson

A grave situation

The spring edition of **Sedgefield Extra** contained a short paragraph in the Jottings, entitled Sedgefield Cemetery. For most people, the article would not be seen as a problem, but for those like ourselves who had reserved their double grave in Sedgefield Cemetery over twenty five years ago, it was deeply concerning. The fact that the Town Council put this sensitive issue in the Sedgefield Extra as an item of News without so much as a thought for those who may be affected, leaves us speechless.

Obviously having a deed of grant in our possession which clearly states we have an exclusive right of burial in a double grave, we did not think that this could possibly affect us and thought this decision would be implemented with new purchasers of plots in the Cemetery after a certain date. Sadly we were very naive; this was not the case, as we subsequently found out.

We say "found out" because that is what we had to do; we contacted the Town Council at the office and asked for information and, to be fair, the staff in the office did their best to help us. The message we got was very clear; the Town Council had decided not to allow any further double graves to be dug, ours included and that was that. They said it was on Health and Safety grounds. Apparently letters had been sent to those who may be affected, but we did not get one.

In early March, we eventually got a letter from the Town Clerk enclosing a copy of the standard letter which had gone to other people, presumably those who had purchased a double grave. After seeking legal advice, we responded, saying that we could not accept their decision and would not accept the alternative site in the Cemetery of a side by side burial, by doing so relinquishing our rights to a double grave. The plots we were offered were quite a distance from our original plot. We originally purchased the deed because we wanted to be close to our family and to be buried together in the same grave.

After several stressful, upsetting months trying to find a solution, a meeting was arranged. Three senior Town Councillors were present. We felt totally intimidated, with what can only be described as an arrogant, unsympathetic and uncaring approach to our situation, so much so that we actually left before the meeting had ended. The reasons given for their decision were to say the least ridiculous; overall soil conditions, health and safety; vibration of the machine used to dig the graves and that the land had been affected by the pit closures many years ago and as a consequence has now become unstable. If that is the case then we need to see a Geological Survey to ensure that our homes are not going to float away or subside if there is such a problem.

Apart from Town Council minutes, the only information we can find is on the notice board in the Sedgefield Cemetery. It states that a "BY LAW was made by the Joint Burial Board and amended by the Town Council in December 2010". This is all the evidence we have of the legal position. No other legal grounds for this decision have been conveyed to us, even though we have asked for this information. We would like to know if other people have been affected by this decision or perhaps do not even know about it. We would like you to get in touch with us if you feel you may be affected even if you have already made a decision to relinquish your rights. We have been told that all persons with the exception of one have accepted the alternative option. Is this correct? Please contact us if you know that is not the case. Information will be held in confidence. You needn't leave an address; a phone number and name is sufficient. We will contact you as soon as we can. Please ring or text 07947613574 and leave a message.

Name and address supplied.

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

So, England = the best test cricket team in the world. Not much more than a decade ago, the then captain Nasser Hussain was booed by fans at the Oval after his team had been beaten by New Zealand and were subsequently ranked bottom of the pile by Wisden. The rise to the top hasn't been simple or quick, but it's definitely accelerated during the last couple of years and all aspects of England's game are in very good shape at the moment. With plenty more talented players in the wings (including a few from Durham), the current squad will be kept on their toes and England could be number one for a few years (though South Africa may have something to say about that).

It's just a shame that the England ascendancy comes at a time when test cricket is starting to struggle in general. The full grounds that we've witnessed in this country during most of the summer are not repeated around the world and the shorter forms of the game are generally more popular. India's surrender in England is actually pretty bad news. If that country loses its love of test cricket, then test cricket is in real trouble, as India is the game's global powerhouse. However, for now let's just enjoy England's success and hope that the ECB can plot a similar rise to the top in one day cricket in the near future.

Sedgefield District Rugby Club

If you have passed the cricket club recently and looked across the field, you can't fail to have noticed an addition to the backdrop. After much planning and work, the new rugby pitch has finally appeared – great news for Sedgefield District Rugby Club (and for takings in the cricket club bar).

The rugby union club has been training hard throughout pre-season, expecting to improve on their mid-table finish last season. After a promising start in the league, the results tailed off but the team finished strongly and in the final match beat local rivals Newton Aycliffe, winning the Unison Cup, the first silverware for the club and hopefully not the last.

The first match of the new season will take place on 3rd September and sees a rematch between Sedgefield and Aycliffe, with the cup up for grabs once again. As a derby match, this promises to be a particularly competitive affair.

Work on the new pitch continues and it is due to be ready for the opening home game of the season, on 24th September against Chester-le-Street – the team has of course decided that a win is an absolute must to christen the new pitch. Sponsorship has been received for a new strip from Kconnect Precision Services and Sedgefield NFU has provided the corner flags, and balls to use on the pitch. So Sedgefield District Rugby Club, thanks to generous support, is well equipped for a challenging season ahead. As always the club is looking for new members both players and volunteers behind the scenes. For more information you can contact the club phone on 07578 316499.

September League fixtures (3pm kick off)

- 3rd – Newton Aycliffe (away)
- 10th – Houghton (away)
- 17th – Seaham (away)
- 24th – Chester-le-Street (home)

Sunday league football

The season is now underway and next month I will report on what is sure to be a very keenly contested local derby in the Durham District League division one, between newly promoted Sedgefield NetPark FC and Sedgefield Social Club (formerly the Black Lion).

Meanwhile, the photo below is from a recent NetPark game. Once the running track markings fade away, the players will have no more excuses for running around in circles (and before anyone else points it out, I know I'm as guilty of that as anyone).



Sedgefield Harriers

Summer is a really busy time for the Sedgefield Harriers, with either races, club runs or training sessions taking place pretty much every day of the week. As well as participating in races throughout the North East, and further afield, the Harriers also host events of their own.

The annual Gerry Kearsley Summer Handicap was held on 23rd July, on a scenic 6.5 miles cross country course. Starting just outside Fishburn (on the site of the old coke works), the route took competitors to Bishop Middleham and back.

On an evening of pleasant weather after days of heavy rain, Richard Fearnside was the first Sedgefield Harrier home, completing the course in 46 minutes and 20 seconds off a nine minutes handicap. Anne Gladwyn was first female Sedgefield Harrier in 59:32, off a scratch handicap. Congratulations to both Richard and Anne, who add their names to the trophies. Fastest man over the course was Dez Fielden from Aycliffe Athletics Club, in a time of 38:23, off a 25 minutes handicap and finishing 37th in a field of 44. Shelli Gordon of New Marske Harriers was fastest woman in a time of 44:06 off a handicap of 13 minutes, and was 6th overall. A special mention goes to unattached runner Andrew Dobson from Middlesbrough, for an excellent result at the event. Andrew completed the course in a respectable 52:59 and as an inexperienced runner ran off a scratch handicap given to runners expecting a 60 minutes 10k. Trophies were once again awarded by Peggy Kearsley to whom the club is very grateful for sponsorship.

The next big Sedgefield Harriers event is the Serpentine Trail Race on Sunday September 11th. This is another scenic and undulating off-road run of approximately 6.5 miles, on beautiful paths around Hardwick Park and Bishop Middleham. Last year's Serpentine proved to be very popular, with a large field of runners from near and far. It's a great event to tackle, whether you're an experienced runner or new to the sport. Entries in advance cost £7 for members of a club, or £9 for unattached runners (you can enter on the day - £8 for club members, £10 if unattached). The Serpentine starts at 10.30am at Sedgefield Cricket Club and is followed by a barbeque. For more information, contact matt.j@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk or visit www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk where you can find an entry form.

Cricket

After June's league cup triumph, the recent poor weather hasn't halted Sedgefield Cricket Club's 1st XI as they march towards further success. The last six weeks have seen resounding victories over Redcar, Saltburn, Yarm and Darlington among others, to take the team to the verge of promotion to the premier league of the North Yorkshire & South Durham leagues. In addition, the team has made it to the final of the NYSD 15s tournament (on August 26th, so the result will be known by the time you read this – here's hoping for another trophy).

It's not just all about the 1st team though - the 2nd XI are looking solid in division 2 and the 3rd team is racking up victory after victory in the Sunday division 2. The junior section (the club has u11, u13, u15 and u17 teams) has also played a massive role in the success of the senior teams with three of the current under 17 team in the senior 1st XI - Tom Young, Keiran McAdam and Adam Randall. The future is looking very bright.

As ever, if you have sports news, please send it to

chrisjlines@aol.com

Carpet Bowls

The new Sedgefield Community College Carpet Bowls Club now meets on Monday evenings from 6 - 8pm and we are looking for new members. Why not come along and give it a try; after all, where else could you enjoy sport for 2 hours for just £1? We have lots of variety, including Australian Pairs, Target Bowls and Ten Pin Bowls, and there's no age limit - at present our oldest member is 75 years older than our youngest!

We are in the process of replacing equipment which was stolen earlier in the year, thanks to a grant from East Durham Rural Corridor AAP.

For further information, please contact John Kinghorm on 623198 or Peggy Kearsley on 621007.

Turners' men triumph in charity games

Residents of south Durham raised over £600 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation at a free community fun day organised by staff at Sedgefield Borough Homes.

12 teams made up of local businesses and residents turned out to compete. "Messi's Merry Men" from Turners of Sedgefield took home the title of "sbh's Community Football Winner 2011", after beating Dale and Valley Homes 1-0 in the final.

Winterton Wayfarers in Swaledale *See group info on the P 11.*



September Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Charity Golf Day @ Wynyard Friday 1st September

This is the last chance to book a place for the tournament on

Thursday 15th September

£160 per team of 4, inc breakfast.
Format 4 Ball Better Ball, Stableford
Please call 01388 603003 or email
barbarafountain@butterwick.org.uk

New Generation Church September meetings

Sundays 4th & 11th (11am)
at the Community College, and
back in the Parish Hall -
Sundays 18th (3pm) & 25th (11am)

Eddies@4

Sunday 4th September

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

Residents' Forum

Monday 5th September

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm
Come along & have your say!

Local History Society

Monday 5th September

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
John Banham

Early history of Spennymoor
New members welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 6th September

7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

"Unnatural Landscapes"

Richard Barnes

Everyone welcome

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 7th September

7.15pm, Parish Hall

"Managing your money"

Shaun Scrimger

Members' competition;

an unusual purse

Harvest bring & buy stall

Soup & bun

Visitors welcome; fee £2.50

Country Market

Friday 9th September

Parish Hall

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 10th September

Eyes down 7.30pm

Farmers' Market

On the village green

Sunday 11th September

Stalls selling fresh local produce -
Support your local farmer!

NECP Concertina Workshop Sundays 11th & 25th September

Ceddesfeld Hall at 1pm: all levels
welcome. Contact 01642 588197

Sedgefield Drama Festival of One Act Plays

Sedgefield Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Monday 12th-Sat 17th Sept

Tickets £6 Concessions £5

Season Ticket £25 / £20

inc Saturday night buffet

Saturday Night Ticket £5 inc buffet

Available from Tickety Boo,

Sedgefield Town Council Office &

Members of Players & SPYS or by

calling 01740 620091 or 621771

Sponsored by

Process Control Equipment Ltd.

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 15th September

8pm in the Nag's head

Macmillan Cancer Support

Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall

Friday 16th September

10am -12noon

Tea, coffee, scones &

a chance to meet up with friends

Coffee Morning

Saturday 17th September

With Sheila McMillan, friends &
LOTUS ladies, at 1A The Lane,
Sedgefield from 10am - 12 noon
Cake stall, Phoenix cards & Grand

Draw. Proceeds to Friends of St

Edmunds Church Lighting Fund

Your support greatly appreciated

For details, call 629441

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 19th September

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

The Census Through Time: Ann Fell

Visitors always welcome

For details: 01740 620367 or

www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th September

7.30pm in the parish Hall

'Flowers from the musicals'

Elizabeth Foster, Northumberland &

Durham Demonstrator

All welcome

WI Coffee Morning

Friday 23rd September

10 - 11.30 am, Parish Hall

Cakes, Books, Handmade Cards,

Refreshments, etc

All welcome

Sedgefield Village Veterans

Coffee Morning (+ Tombola)

Friday 30th September

10am - 12noon

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

To raise funds for our 2012 project

Everyone invited

Sedgefield Library Events

Tickle Time

Mondays 12th & 26th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 14th & 28th, 10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 21st, 2pm

NEW FREE Craft & Chat Group

Every other Tuesday, starting

6th September, 10-12pm

Support, coffee & chat for all those

interested in making things.

All abilities & interests welcome.

Regular Events

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

& finally -

The Cricket Club Quiz Night

makes a welcome return on

Saturday 1st October

More October diary dates on p 2
Please send Diary dates & details to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Your Letters

The huge response to **A Dog's Life?** means not enough space for all contributions. My apologies for some drastic editing. Opinion was 50/50 so, a column for each. Ed

Support for views expressed by Geoff Tonks

Until recently I walked my cairnoodle most days at the park - a place we both love and enjoyed visiting. He is well trained and far more interested in chasing a ball than in the wildlife. We had to stop going when I started to be stopped every day by wardens and found myself having to justify walking my dog in a public area. The final straw was when a member of the public shouted at me because my dog was walking to heel without a lead.

I miss the park and the people I used to meet there. In the five years I used it, I saw very few examples of dog mess. I know there are irresponsible dog owners, as there is a small minority of the irresponsible in every category of park user. Are we to ban people who bring picnics because of litter or toddlers because occasionally one will chase a duck? I am sure the argument will be that dog owners are not banned, but in effect, we are. Most fellow dog owners I know no longer use the park. Our dogs need proper exercise and it is grossly unfair that we are made so unwelcome in a place that we have supported and helped fund through our council tax.

One final thought; when autumn comes, will there be anyone in Hardwick Park? In the past, dog owners were by far the biggest users during autumn and winter. Will we be let back in then?

Susan Fox (and Lucas)

I am one of the 20 dog owners who took the trouble to write in protest to Durham County Council when they proposed to bring in the policy of 'dogs on leads'; I also had a letter published in Hear All Sides in the Northern Echo about the same issue. I agree, it does feel as if we are being 'forced out of our park'. Despite this I have continued to walk my dog off lead around the park as I have done with my previous dogs over the past 40 years on an almost daily basis. Yes it would seem sensible at busy times but early morning and evenings when it is rare to encounter more than half a dozen people I really can't see the problem. I also feel that the old park was one that could be enjoyed by many (dogs included) without any effect on the wildlife who are in more danger from the plastic bags left floating on the water by irresponsible visitors who seem incapable of using the many litter bins. There have been so many changes - the proposed caravan park, house building on green spaces, more wind turbines proposed, etc. that it seems our local council has little regard for the views of local residents. There are some irresponsible dog owners but that shouldn't mean we are all tarred with the same brush. *Lorraine Mortimer*

Poul Einshoj from Mordon also joined in the chorus of protest, writing of an "unfounded & unreasonable initiative" and "discrimination" against dog walkers and wished to know on whose authority and on what legal grounds it had been decided.

... but isn't Hardwick Park for all?

Mr Tonks refers to "our park" and obviously believes it belongs only to dog owners in Sedgfield. We still have the original leaflet 'Hardwick Hall Country Park' (1972). It was for everyone, not just for Sedgfield and its dog walkers. Much of the leaflet was given over to the 18th century landscape garden and wildlife was emphasised; water voles, water-hens, wild duck, kingfisher, heron. Even then there was a need for common-sense rules; keeping dogs under control was the first to be listed.

When the expanded and improved Hardwick Park was opened, dogs were allowed off the lead, except in the picnic area of the Temple field; a dog exercise area was provided. A large number of incidents eventually led to the 'dogs on leads' policy. People complained of their children being terrified by dogs bounding up to them. Dogs were let loose in the Temple field, owners even using ball throwers there. Dog owners threw balls into the lake for dogs to retrieve, with swans and ducks there. Other dogs chased the birds, owners unable or unwilling to control them. Not all dog faeces were picked up; some seeming to use the 'dogs off leads' policy as a way of not seeing the dogs defecate, not caring that children might be exposed to toxocarasis, which can lead to blindness. Some owners are still not clearing up after their dogs; others, like Mr Tonks, disobey the rules and further show that some dog owners are irresponsible. They have only themselves to blame for the policy. We believe the safety and health of all visitors to Hardwick Park should be placed above the wrongly perceived 'rights' of one group of people.

Anna & Michael Rudd

I too am a dog lover who enjoys walking in Hardwick Park; I also enjoyed it before £10 million pounds was spent on it, but I would like to applaud the warden who asked Mr Tonks to put his dog on a lead. It is a public place and dogs running free can be a problem; not everyone is a dog lover. I believe the park was created for the enjoyment of people and dog owners should respect this. I am sure Mr Tonks' dog is well behaved, but not all dogs are and there can only be one rule. I believe dogs should always be on a lead in the park, so I too would encourage anyone who feels strongly to contact Councillors and the Warden at Hardwick Park, and let our voice be heard too. *Mary Mitchell*

...typical comments from pet owners who think the world revolves around them and their pets. They tell you they are responsible but they must have x-ray vision to see through trees and to always see what their pets are up to. Recently I took my granddaughter (untethered) to feed the ducks. Within a short distance I encountered two cases of dog fouling in open areas. She soon became tethered; it is difficult to explain the dangers of dog poo to a 3 year old. If all pet owners were truly responsible, the council would not have had to make this decision. Meanwhile, thank goodness for this wonderful park and for sensible official interference. I am sure some pet owners will think they and their pets have more rights than the human race or other wildlife. I wonder just how selfish can we be? *John Wilkinson*

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07899 022 133**

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

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15th September is the Deadline

for October's News. Email copy to

sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

Text or call **07935 447 455** or post to

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