



Sedgefield NEWS

February 2008



Awesome Josh

Friends of Joshua Hodgson will be pleased to see his photograph here on our front page. Joshua, who was 13 on the 19th January, has a bright future as a Rugby player, but as he is a modest and unassuming lad, we feel that his successes to date should have a wider audience.

When he started school at Sedgefield Community College in September 2006 the then head of P.E. Mr Lee Hogarth, described Joshua's playing as "Awesome". Such a superlative would have gone to many a lad's head at 11½, but not to Joshua's. He is presently Captain of Rugby, Year 8.

Dr Jim Boylan, who has a contact at Darlington Rugby Club, ensured that Joshua was enrolled in their junior team in 2006. This team, where he plays the "prop", won the County Cup in his first season.

Then on the 19th December last, a scout from Newcastle Falcons "spotted" Joshua at a match in Houghton le Spring. As a result, he was chosen to attend the Falcons' ground on the 2nd January and will continue to be 'tried out' there on a monthly basis. Joshua describes the experience as thrilling and exciting, and calls it 'a filtering device'. Well maybe, but a device which, hopefully, will bring him the rewards he richly deserves.

His mother Pamela (who many residents will know as a catering assistant at "No 4"), his grandma Mary Hodgson, and his devoted uncle and aunt, Alan and Sandra Coyle, are very proud of him.

More sporting excellence with Sedgefield Primary School team's success at Tag Rugby. See page 7

Anthony Robb reports on events at the Borough Council. In his words -

"RESULT!"

As one of Sedgefield's newest residents may I use your columns to congratulate the village veterans on a wonderful victory at last Friday's Borough Council planning meeting. Our Town Council and Residents' Forum put the case against the proposed 87 hectare caravan / chalet park extremely well, with arguments that were encyclopaedic, energetic, enlightening and entertaining. Reports in the local press prior to the meeting seemed to make the approval of the scheme a forgone conclusion and yes, it was a formidable task taking on the Borough Council's own planners but as the meeting progressed it became clearer and clearer that this wasn't a case of rampant "NIMBYism" but a thoughtful, thorough exposé of the weak rationale underpinning the proposal.

For those unable to attend here are some of the winning arguments:

- The effect on wild-life would indeed be huge and devastating to known badger, bird and bat populations
- The planned tree-screening simply emphasised the inappropriateness of the proposed site. A similar strategy at Wynyard Park had failed miserably
- The Highways Authority had not looked at the effects of increased traffic on an already chaotic situation in the village
- The daily per capita spend of caravan dwellers is £1.59 compared to the £59 of the average B&B/Hotel resident. Far from benefiting the local economy it was possible that it might, in fact, suffer
- It was not that the calculations of the total energy consumption of the caravans were, as the proposal claimed, "too difficult to do" but rather that the results were too horrendous to publish
- The travelling too and from, and the energy used by, the site would leave a massive carbon footprint

General issues concerning the lack of real and binding accountability with respect to residential status, occupancy and environmental guarantees were also raised. Lastly, hats off to the Trimdon Councillor who pointed out that it came down to a choice between "people and profit" and would be voting for the people and against the application.

Hats off again, perhaps, to the Councillor who pooh-poohed the points about "genetic footprints" (sic); he probably helped our case too!

Children for Charity



When Ceddesfeld Hall Pre-school (pictured above) held charity fund raising activities they raised £300 for 'Childline' and £520 for 'Children in Need'.

A fun morning was organised, which included a Bring & Buy sale, raffle and a sticky hedgehog game sponsored by parents. The children decorated 'Pudsey' cakes and proudly sold them to parents for 50p (no pressure!).

We were proud to have raised the money for such worthwhile charities and appreciate the efforts/contributions made by the children, parents, staff and volunteers for the Bring and Buy sale.

We also extend our grateful thanks to the following organisations for generously providing prizes for the raffle: Bolams; Jewsons; Sainsburys (Bells Stores); Hairdressers, Jaiz, Evolution & Chic; Peter's Bakery; SunKissed Tanning; Turner's Garage; Beauty Angels; Co-operative; No 4; Aubergine Café; Peridot; Cross Hill Hotel; Post Office; Sedgefield Pharmacy; Dun Cow; Golden Lion; Theakstons; Fish Shop; Window Shop; Hobson & Holmes Hair & Beauty Salon, Darlington.

Cricket Club Xmas Talent Show *Early December, Kelly McWaters performs in London's West End at Her Majesty's Theatre; Late December, Kelly McWaters performs in Sedgefield's West End!*

Kelly, only 16, is a regular at our show, but commenting on singing lead vocals at Her Majesty's, when a choir performed songs from Sister Act and Hunchback of Notre Dame, she said "I couldn't quite believe it. It was a dream come true". We could not be outdone by the lure of Her Majesty's, so we tried to give her a night she would never forget. We put Kelly top of the bill, but sadly we were over-running. Kelly opted for the No 2 slot and let another act take her place; a starlet and true professional to the core. Joking aside, we are all pleased about Kelly's success and wish her well for the future. Please come back next year was the cry!

The show started with a grand opener "O Fortuna" by Carl Orff and then, out of the darkness appeared 3 men with dark suits, sunglasses and trilbies to perform The Blues Bro's 'Everybody'. One stayed on stage and continued, but who were the other two? "Another well organised show" it was said! "Thought Chubby Brown had retired" said another.

A voice was heard before the start "I've resigned from the committee. I cannot take anymore" "That's what you said last year" another committee member said. "Just shut up and get on with your job. It'll be alright on the night". Well, judging by all the comments and next year's tickets sold already it was alright on the night. Odd glitch here and there but hey! That's showbiz folks. Huge, huge thanks must go to all the performers. It just gets better year after year. 18 Individuals performed 22 spots with 39 titles played and sung throughout the well organised evening with the committee performing a Grand finale just before midnight.

Kevin Cooke who usually acts as our doorman said he would carry out his duties this year as usual, but sadly was unable to do so because of his poor health. Kevin has been invaluable to the committee year on year collecting donations throughout the evening: a big thank you for all of your efforts to date Kevin.

At the gathering of the committee for the after show de-brief and to finalize the charitable account, it was agreed the night was a huge success. Once again the evening exceeded expectation and £380 was raised. The charities to benefit are The Great North Air Ambulance and the Durham Area Disability Leisure Group. Will it happen again next year? We'll have to wait and see!

Senior Cricket Nets commence at Greenfield School, Newton Aycliffe on Thursday evenings from 8 - 9.30 pm. These new excellent facilities are booked for 10 weeks and we hope all last year's players will take full advantage of the opportunity. New players are welcome too. Contact Club Captain Martin Lower on 07862 715006

Our next fundraiser is on Saturday 9th February at the clubhouse, a disco with a St Trinian's theme. Tickets £2. Fancy dress optional but to be encouraged! **Book on 620373 or 621531 (club answering machine)**

And finally, an apology. Last month's information about a new entrance to the park area was premature. The new stile has not yet been built and we are still in negotiations with the Parks department.

Oh Goody, it's the Players' Panto!



And, not to be outdone by its larger neighbour ...

Roll up for the panto at Mordon Village Hall

Rehearsals are well under way for the "WIZARD OF OZ", which will run from Wednesday 20th till Saturday 23rd February at 7pm, with a matinee on the Saturday at 2pm. Tickets are £6.50 for adults, £5 for children under 14 but there are family tickets (2 adults 2 children for £20). They can be obtained from Wendy Sayers, Chairperson on **01388 720677**

Local Lads Win Town Quiz

The Bishop Auckland Civic Society's 10th Annual General Knowledge Quiz was held on in December at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Money is raised each year for local and national charities and this year's proceeds, a grand total of £1,650, went to Breast Cancer Care.

With over 40 teams of 6 from all parts of Durham supporting the cause, the questions came thick and fast from quizmaster Glynn Wales. The result was a tie - a 'first' in the history of the quiz, between 'Barnstoneworth United Supporters Club' and 'Six of the Best'. Both teams kindly donated their winnings back to the charity.

All members of 'Six of the Best' live in Sedgefield. Congratulations to Chris Hancock, Andrew Cannings, Tony Bland, John Race, Brian Lowes and Mike Blocki. Changing the team name from 'Mushy Peas' obviously helped and they all look forward to defending the Victory Shield.

Charity paint job at Bright Buttons Nursery

To raise money for Children In Need, staff and children at Bright Buttons Nursery re-painted the outside of the nursery in a morning of enjoyable self expression and sheer madness.

Parents provided old t-shirts and wearing plastic gloves, we managed to paint not only the walls but quite a bit of the pavement outside too.

For the past five years the children have happily dominated West End, Fishburn, filling the rooms with laughter, songs, dance, their own creations, funny tall stories and now, quite rightly, the children have put their mark on the outside too.

Sedgefield Players made sure they left the Parish Hall in style with their last production before the closure of the Parish Hall for refurbishment. Their Christmas pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*, a brand new show written by Paul Reakes, played to packed houses, with several members of SPYS, the Players Youth Section, taking leading roles. Sarah McGuinness (16) returned with flair to the role of principal boy Simon, while her brother Robert (13) played the Elf Cobbler who caused so many problems with his magic shoes. Janine Yaxley (14) was delightful as principal girl Goody, while her dozy brother Teddy was played to great comic effect by Tim Jasper. The part of their mother was taken by veteran performer Terry West, who relished the frocks, wigs and double entendres of pantomime dame Molly Coddle.

Baddies Septica and Anasasia, played by Viv Jacobs and Jean Hewling ensured that the boos came thick and fast from the audience, while Annette Lawson and Vee Cooper as Rolo and Polo guaranteed plenty of laughs. Rosemary Jones as Cissie gave a great performance with a terrible lisp and an even worse hat.

Dancers from Fishburn Dance and Drama (choreographer Gill Rowe) were joined by more youngsters from the SPYS youth section of Sedgefield Players, who appeared as villagers, elves and cheerleaders.

Stage Managers Richie Parry and Garry Jacobs ensured that the staging ran smoothly, with help from Steve Jones on sound, David Jasper on lights and SPY Scott Yaxley as Assistant Stage Manager. Director Walter Howell said, "I was very pleased to be back in harness for this year's pantomime and delighted that the show was so popular and successful."

While the Parish Hall is being refurbished, the Players meet in the Methodist Hall every Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30. SPYS meet on Sundays at 6:30. New members are always very welcome, in any capacity. The next production in the Parish Hall will be in May, when they will perform "Salt of the Earth" by John Godber. It's also the Players' entry for the Wakefield Drama Festival. Before that, regular and new patrons will be pleased to know that the Players hope to put on a special evening of entertainment in March in a different venue. Watch this space!

Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crimewatch Panel Minutes of Meeting held on 11th December 2007

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - 9/10/07 - accepted & approved.
2. **Matters Arising:** Item 5) Secretary reported lack of progress re "No Cold Calling" is down to waiting for requirements/approvals from Durham County Council to attach signs to street lighting columns.
3. **Treasurer & Secretary's Report** were read out, no questions arising.
4. **Representative Reports:** a) **Community Force:** Tim circulated his report to members and gave further details in respect of certain items in the report. C/man thanked Tim for his good work in the village.
d) **Crime Prevention Officer** Neil Langthorne said he believed the article published in the Sedgefield News November issue (N/H/Watch minutes of 9/10/07 meeting) had contributed to raising the fear of crime and was maybe not what should be circulated to every house in the village. He felt the article was too negative and suggested that promoting the good points was what was needed.

On Operation DARC & the need for house lighting, Neil gave some new feedback into thieves tactics - how a For Sale sign & unlit house is an invitation to burglary; he also described an excellent Xmas card initiative (which greatly impressed members). Neil handed over a number of Crime Prevention calendars to be issued to those that would benefit most. C/man thanked Neil for the calendars.

Both Sgt. Brian O'Connor & PC Keith Todd added their dismay over the October minutes appearing in Sedgefield News, which they felt reflected badly on their individual efforts to Police our village and also gave a wrong impression of the Police.

Sgt. O'Connor stated that Sedgefield is to get a replacement PCSO when Dean Wilson moves on, members welcomed this.

Publication of minutes: C/man Ken Saiger reminded everyone that it had been agreed at the start of Sedgefield News that our minutes would be published after each Panel meeting so that our none attending members could be kept fully up to date & he felt it is important to continue to report what goes on in Panel meetings, accurately. Members expressed various views and comments: all present felt that the minutes should continue to be published as they have been over recent months & that the meeting's view of the Police is not a criticism of our local Police, more one of concern levelled at HQ for lack of support to local Police on the ground & for the lack of Officers on the street. Members also confirmed that the 0845 system & lack of direct contact with a Police Officer was one of the greatest sources of public discontent. Several members confirmed that whilst they are well served the 0845 system now, there are still occasional problems.

4b) Village Constable: Keith reiterated his views expressed above regarding the October meeting. He then circulated his list of the Reported Crime in Sedgefield Village for the period **between 10th Oct. & 11th Dec.** this indicated there were **16 crimes**, consisting of: - **2- Burglaries; 4- Thefts** (includes 1 car stolen); **7- Damage** (includes 1 car related) & **2 - suspicious person reports.** Keith stated that crimes in the village are all very minor ones. He informed members about "suspicious persons" reports, thanked two separate householders for their diligence in contacting the Police. Their action enabled the Sgt. & himself to arrest a person that evening & he was confident that these actions had prevented further burglary(ies) in Sedgefield. Secretary thanked the Police for their recent accurate and informative "Ringmaster" messages (above activity was one such message to members on Ringmaster).

4c Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Sarah Norman came to the meeting to inform members in person, that she had now left her Co-ordinator's post & had taken up a new appointment within the Police at H.Q. Sarah thanked members for all their help over recent years and said how she had felt whenever she was in Sedgefield she was amongst friends

5. AOB: Asked why there was no **Village Traffic Warden**, Sgt O'Connor explained the role of the PCSO which contained that of the Warden.

Police Pay Award: C/man Ken Saiger commented on Government failure to honour the Arbitration agreement with Police, expressing dissatisfaction at this treatment and the consequences for us, the public, as a result of further demotivating the Police. Unanimously endorsed.

The Raffle raised £24. The prizes had been very kindly donated by Mrs. Suddes(1st) and Ken Saiger (2nd).

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th April** at 7 pm, in the Parish Hall.

PC Todd's report

PCSO Dean Wilson has now started his training as a Police Constable and I am happy to report that PCSO Gavin Rutter has taken over his role. (See below).

Crimes reported over the Christmas period included theft of mountain bikes from a shed in West Park Lane and a garage in White House Drive. Damage was caused to a vehicle in Boynston Grove and to a set of gates in West End. On various days during the holiday, Sedgefield Primary suffered from 13 broken windows. I appeal to the young people of the village to identify those responsible, because they are giving you all a bad name. Until next time, Keith

Pub Watch

The new licensee of the Hope Inn, Michelle Robinson, was welcomed during a meeting at the Social Club. All members reported a successful Christmas period, with no incidents requiring further action, apart from one male smoker who had decided to light up in various pubs. He has received a written warning from the Borough Council.



Welcome to our new PCSO, who introduces himself here

Gavin Rutter

I have worked as a PCSO with Durham Constabulary at Newton Aycliffe for 14 months, doing my best to get involved with the local community and helping to deal with problems in my beat area. I will be working alongside PC Keith Todd in the Sedgefield and Fishburn area and also in the Trimdons with PC John Seymour.

If you see me in the street, please feel free to stop me and talk to me, or drop in at Sedgefield police station to discuss any issues you may have.

Jottings from **Sedgefield Residents' Forum**

Planning application for the Holiday Park at Brakes Farm was refused. We wish to extend a huge thanks to the village community who actively encouraged and supported us throughout by facilitating the circulation of documents, responding with letters and attending the hearing itself. It was most impressive and we do not believe that we would have been successful without it. If there is an appeal by the developer, we hope we can once again rely upon your support.

A safe crossing area for North Road near the Hardwick Arms has been approved.

The bus shelter near Eden Drive will be erected this month.

McCarthy & Stone are not pursuing the proposed development on Durham Road.

We await the outcome of the Appeal Enquiry into Bolam's Animal Waste Incinerator planned for 16th and 17th January.

The hearing to amend the licensing conditions for Hardwick Park Hotel takes place at 10.00p.m. on Thursday 7th February. There will be a representative to speak on behalf of the Forum but anyone can attend and please continue to monitor and report to SBC any noise heard from the premises and times when the entertainment exceeds the time condition.

Following work in the centre of the village concern has been expressed about the poor condition of pavements around other parts of the village. Residents should report urgent needs directly to the Town Council Office.

Representatives from the Forum attended a meeting to discuss the future community use within the Community College new build. A group of interested parties is to be formed to have ongoing input into the new build and community use.

Next meeting: Monday 4th February in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Agenda & Minutes will be available from the Town Council offices and will be available to read in the library and village websites one week before the meeting.

New 'Stay Safe' website

Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership's new "Stay Safe" website allows members of the public to find out a range of information on crime and crime prevention in the area.

One of the unique features allows you to search an interactive map of your Neighbourhood Policing Area. Simply type in address and postcode to bring up crime rates for your council ward.

The website also has sections on crime reduction, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence. There is information on how to seek help for drug and alcohol problems and links to partners including Durham Constabulary, Victim Support and the Racial Equality Council.

The website has not cost any additional money; because it is provided through the borough council's site, no funds have been diverted from crime fighting. For more information visit www.cdrp.sedgefield.gov.uk

Crime prevention advice

The Operation Darc initiative to reduce dwelling burglary during the dark nights is working well. In December, across Sedgefield Borough area we achieved a reduction of 39% or 9 offences. Let us keep up the good work, remain vigilant and ensure our homes are never left unlit on an evening.

As part of the 'Operation Darc' initiative we are encouraging everyone to ensure new items are Security marked. The easiest way is to use an Ultra-violet marking pen, but there are many worthy products available, including brands such as Smartwater and Selectamark. Please mark your Postcode followed by your house number.

I have recently been requested advice on house burglar alarms. Alarm Technology is of the highest standards now and very reliable. I would encourage everyone to consider an intruder alarm for their home. Ensure the alarm is installed by a NACOSS / NSI approved security company, your insurance company will require that standard.

If you want further advice you can contact me, Neil Langthorne, Crime Prevention Officer at Spennymoor Police Office on tel. 01325 742714.

Community College gains extra funding for 'green' re-build

Sedgefield Community College is one of three County Durham schools to have been earmarked for extra funding as part of a bid to tackle climate change and is in line to share up to £1.15m of government funding. The cash would be used to help lower their carbon emissions.

The schools were chosen because they are all soon to be rebuilt. The money would fund eco-friendly features, like solar power and wind turbines. They are among 200 new schools across the country that could receive extra cash over the next three years to help them meet national targets for cutting carbon emissions.

Round Table's Party for Pensioners

February is usually the time for Sedgefield and District Round Table to organize a party for local pensioners. However, owing to the work being carried out on the Parish Hall, the event has had to be postponed this year. The Round Table will try to organise an alternative event as soon as possible after the work is complete.

Where exactly was the Market Cross ?

As part of the "Sedgefield 700" celebrations, the Local History Society has been asked to research the original Market Cross which stood on Cross Hill. Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to find out exactly where it was, what it looked like or what happened to it! Can anyone help? Please reply to Sedgefield News, or phone 01740 620244 or 620912.

Christmas Cards

1st Sedgefield Scouts' annual Christmas Card delivery service raised over £250 for the Group.

Thousands of cards were hand delivered around Sedgefield in time for Christmas, though the envelope addressed to someone in Derby did prove to be a challenge - even Gary Hetherington wouldn't volunteer to jog down to the Midlands and post that one! The Group thanks everyone who made donations and Number Four for once again being a collection point for the cards.

SPORTS UPDATE

Last month, I attempted to write a sports review of 2007. It was of course completely subjective and failed to even mention major sports like tennis, athletics (badly tainted at the moment, alas) or any motor sport. Well I can live with that, but what was unforgivable was the omission of darts from the roll of honour!

In a year when Phill Nixon, a house-husband from Ferryhill, nearly became world champion, I didn't even acknowledge his great achievement. Phill was such an underdog at the start of the 2007 British Darts Organisation World Championship that he didn't even have a corny nickname, yet he fought his way to the final and nearly pulled off a shock result. Unfortunately, he was knocked out in the first round this year. I put that down to the fact that he had the rather unimaginative nickname of 'Nixy' emblazoned on the back of his shirt – not daft enough to get the crowd behind him. You can do better than that Phill!

The sudden launch of the Sedgefield News Sports Awards

in the last issue led to some correspondence suggesting potential winners. I had already made my decisions and won't change them for these inaugural awards, but it does look like we even more sporting success stories in Sedgefield than I thought.

You will have already read about rugby union player Joshua Hodgson on the front page of Sedgefield News, and Joshua could be a big star of the future. Eleanor Woods has contacted us to highlight the achievements of her brother Matthew, who is making a real impact in the world of cycling. In

2007, he was national champion at 15 miles and in hill climbing time trials for his age group, and recently attending a national awards ceremony in Nottingham. He won numerous other races throughout the year and is hoping to gain sponsorship for 2008 after furious training throughout the winter.

And now, at last, the much anticipated / delayed

Sedgefield News Sports Awards

First, apologies to the many outstanding people or teams that I am about to fail to mention. This isn't a scientific exercise - it's based on what has stuck in my head from the last 12 months. Also, I don't actually have any trophies to hand out. It's the thought that counts – that's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Club of the Year

This has to go to the Sedgefield Harriers. The Harriers have become part of the fabric of Sedgefield, consistently gaining new members of all ages and abilities, allowing people to either push themselves to ever better performances or simply enjoy their running with others. The youth section goes from strength to strength and the club is starting to develop some really great events of its own, such as the Sedgefield Serpentine.

Team of the Year

A team of two Emmas wins this one - Emma Larcombe and Emma Rowsby. Both are coaches at Sedgefield Squash Club and earlier this year visited all seven primary schools in and around Sedgefield. They spent one day in every school, working with children aged

with chrisjlines@aol.com

7-11 to practice racket skills and introduce them to squash shots using a portable rebound wall and large "mini-squash" balls. What a great effort to introduce so many youngsters to the sport.

Youth Club of the Year

Sedgefield Youth FC pick up this award. Founded only a few months ago, the club is providing great opportunities for youngsters in Sedgefield to develop their football skills and play competitive games. They have already achieved some great victories on the pitch and even have their own reporter (more of him soon).

Newcomer of the Year

This award is shared between several people. Sam and Michael Jones are making waves in the world of dinghy racing, and are deserving winners. So too are Ryan Towler and Andrew Watson who have made their debuts in these pages as sports writers. They have kept us up to date with the progress of Sedgefield Youth FC and St. Edmund's FC respectively, and made my job considerably easier!

Manager of the Year

This goes to David Ryder of Sedgefield Crosshills FC. His task can sometimes be a little thankless if truth be told, but he continues to give massive commitment to keeping the club going (able assisted by Ian Green, Craig Provett – to whom he has recently handed over the team management reins - and others), and I know that the players hugely appreciate that.

Coach of the Year

Scott Hydon. Scott was recently crowned Volunteer Sports Coach of the Year at the Durham Sports Awards. That accolade was richly deserved, as was Sedgefield Borough Male Volunteer Coach of the Year gong. However, I am sure that news of this latest award is the crowning glory.

Newcastle United FC Football Course

Half term - Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February, 10am - 3pm

£45 for FIVE days, not four as before - in effect an extra day free!

Open to children aged from 5 to 14 years

Children will be supervised throughout the day by qualified FA coaching staff, who will be on duty from 9.30am each day. The course will be held on the new 3g football pitches but there are indoor facilities available should cold weather prove to be a problem for the younger ones.

For further information and to book the course, call 0191 4611330

NB. The support unit at the PFA which helped run Community programmes at all League clubs for nearly two decades closed down in November so the 'Football in the Community Scheme' at Newcastle United stopped operating as it had in the past.

However the club has formed a new Community scheme which will be directly run by NUFC for the first time. It will operate within the new, yet to be announced,

Newcastle United Foundation.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the latest course.

Youth Football Fixtures

10 Feb (A) v Eaglescliffe Elementis
17 Feb (H) v Ferryhill Town
24 Feb (A) v Grangetown YCC
02 Mar (A) v South Park Rangers (b)
16 Mar (A) v 21st Allstars (b)
30 Mar (H) v Beechwood Youth

**Kick-off times -
10.30 to 11.00am**

Sports Update continued...

Comeback of the Year

Sedgefield District Rugby Football Club. Although in a slightly different guise this time around, it is great to see a rugby union team in Sedgefield again. So far, performances on the field have been generally excellent, and the club has already attracted numerous and enthusiastic supporters.

Lifetime Achievement

I'm awarding this to a club rather than an individual - St. Edmund's FC. For many years, St. Edmund's FC has been the leading Sunday league football team in the village. The club continues to compete in the top division of the Durham County League and earlier this year made it to the final of the Staffieri Cup. As ever, St. Edmund's sets the benchmark for the other football teams in Sedgefield.

And finally...

Sedgefield News Sports Personality of the Year is Bradley Saunders.

Not only has Bradley added to his already impressive haul of silverware this year, but he has also achieved the magnificent milestone of qualifying for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Recently back from watching Ricky Hatton take on Floyd Mayweather in Las Vegas, Bradley has seen how some of the silly money is spent in the world of professional boxing, but he remains focused on his goal of tasting success as an amateur in China. Congratulations on a great year and all the best for the 29th Olympiad.

Well, that's it for 2007, a sporting year in Sedgefield which was illuminated by many great clubs, committed volunteers and fantastic individual performances - I have only highlighted a small fraction of it all. I am sure that 2008 will herald even more and I look forward to hearing about and reporting as much as possible.

Ean Parsons has sent the following report from Sedgefield Harriers and next month we will report on how the Harriers performed at the Northern Cross Country Championships at Leeds on 26th January. There will also be news from Sedgefield Harriers' own Winter Invitation Handicap on 27th January.

As always, send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

Tag Rugby team going strong

Having won through from the local final, where they triumphed over all the competition, the team from **Sedgefield Primary School** went on to the area final of the National Tag Rugby competition, winning all their matches again. The team of 5 boys and 2 girls, pictured below, plus 2 subs, showed competitive, skilled and fast team work and were commended for their fair play.

They will now be playing in Newcastle Falcons Community Tag Rugby Festival. The festival takes place at the famous Kingston Park ground in February, and the team will meet some of the world's best players, including England stars Jonny Wilkinson, Toby Flood, Mat Tait and Jamie Noon. It promises to be a fantastic occasion for the children and we wish them every success in the festival. They will also be playing in the County Durham Final in the spring and the national finals (date to be arranged shortly).



Sedgefield Harriers

Despite terrible conditions Sedgefield Harriers fielded a strong team at the North East Cross Country Championships at Summerhill, Hartlepool in December. First home for the Harriers was veteran Gary Hetherington in 32nd place and a time of 44:45, followed by Ian Blakemore in 42nd place and 46:00. They had a strong turn out of nine senior men with Roger Whitehill (148th), Matthew Jones (162nd), Ean Parsons (167th) and Scott Hydon (184th) completing the team of six to count. The men's team finished 14th overall. In the women's race. Anne Hydon finished 29th, Gail Bell 32nd and Clare Westwood 57th to take 9th place as a team.

In the junior races Sedgefield Harriers had representation in U13 and U15 boys. Leading early on Scott Kippen eventually finished 21st in the U13 boys while Ben Hetherington claimed 29th. In the U15 boys Jonathan Baines finished 24th and with a year still to go in this age group Jonathan looks a strong prospect for the future.

On New Year's Day five Harriers took part in the Captain Cook race from Great Ayton, up to Captain Cook's Monument and back again. Graeme Addison finished 58th overall in 41:42 followed for the Harriers by Matthew Jones, Gail Bell, Ean Parsons, Mike Leakey and Helen Parsons. Meanwhile, a few days later, Gail Bell demonstrated her continuing improvement by being 2nd Senior Lady in the Old Monks six mile race at Hart. For more information about the Harriers, contact Ean Parsons on ean2005@hotmail.com or 07771 828 568

February Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Mobile Movies

A film for all the family
Friday 1st & 29th February
 at Rectory Row Primary School
 Entry £1.50 all ages
 No need to book but under 8's need
 an accompanying adult
*Films to be confirmed shortly before
 each showing. See posters & flyers*

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 2nd February
 Doors open 7pm Eyes down 7.45
 Cash Prizes. Bar open

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 2nd February
 8pm start
 Quizmaster Mike Blocki
 All Welcome

Friends of St Edmund's

Wine, Cheese & Quiz evening
Sunday 3rd February
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm
 Quiz starts 8pm

Local History Society

7.45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
Monday 4th February
AGM + Chris Lloyd, Northern Echo
"Of Fish and Actors - 100 years
of Darlington Civic Theatre"
All welcome

Residents' Forum

Monday 4th February
 7.30pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
All welcome

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 4th February
 8pm in the Nag's Head
*'Sedgefield Mags' run a bus to all
 Newcastle United home games*

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 5th February
 7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
 A.G.M with Pie & Peas Supper
 Please ring 01740 621467

Sedgefield WI

Members will celebrate the
 90th Anniversary of Sedgefield WI
 with a dinner at Hardwick Hall Hotel
 on **Wednesday 6th February**
*Members please meet at the Hotel
 at 7 for 7.30pm*

CeddesFolk Traditional Acoustic Session

at Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm on
Wednesday 6th February
 Join our line up of fiddles, whistles,
 squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th February
 on the Village Green

Days In Days Out (DIDO)

Monday 11th February
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 1.15pm.
 Line Dancing Group meets at 12.00
*(Line dancers must join or be
 members of the DIDO project)*
 Call Gloria on 622447 or
 Linda on 620857

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 14th February
 7pm at 9 Claremont Grove
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 14th February
 There will be a meeting
 in the Nag's Head at 8pm
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Live Music Night
Saturday 16th February at 8pm
 Main Guest: Stony
 also featuring
 the John Wrightson Band &
 Steel Strings
 Admission strictly by ticket
 £8 including Buffet
 Telephone 621347

*NB The Cricket Club is available for hire
 for private parties, normally free of
 charge. To book, call Jane on 629616*

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 18th February
 Sedgefield Library at 7pm
*Change of usual venue & time for
 this meeting only*

Members' Queries & Questions
 Let us help you find those elusive
 ancestors (access to internet & the
 library's other research facilities)
New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 19th February
 7.30pm, Methodist Church Hall
Seasonal Beauty
 Demonstration by Andrew Mason
 North East area demonstrator
All welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 28th February
 at 7.45pm
 Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall
 For more details contact
 Steve Ashton on 620559
All welcome

Sedgefield Library

Tickle Time

Monday 4th February, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesday 6th February, 10-11am

Toy Library

Weds 13th February, 10-11am

Book Circle

Weds 20th February, 2-3pm

Half term children's activities
 (£1 booking fee)

Crafts

Mon 18th & Tues 19th, 10-11am

Mr Twister

Thursday 21st, 10-11am

Maisy Mouse -drop in crafts,
 colouring & stories

Friday 22nd February 2-4pm (free)

101 Gigs in February

02 – The Normanby (Private Party)
 05 – Elgins, Redcar
 07 – The Vic, Saltburn
 09 – The Sportsman, Eaglescliffe
 10 – The Normanby, Normanby
 15 – The Board Inn, Stanley
 16 – The Office, South Shields
 17 – O'Grady's, Redcar
 23 – The Princess Alice, M'brough
 24 – The Frigate, Marske
 28 – Mohans, Middlesbrough

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
 events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

Ladies' Circle

2nd & 4th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
 events - new members welcome

Contact Viv on 629079

Country Market

will re-open after Parish Hall
 refurbishment.

Mother & Toddler Group

Methodist Church
 Mondays from 1.15 - 2.45 pm
 Term time only. Call 620572

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church Hall
 Vacancies for children aged 2+
 Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs 9.15-11.45

St Edmund's Church

Weddings and Baptisms arranged
 in church. Thursdays at 6.30pm.

Diary Extra,
**including the Mayor's
 Charity Events, page 8**

Your Letters

Big Issue

Have you seen the Big Issue seller outside the Co-op? Her name is Maria, and she is Joanne's sister. Joanne, who was pregnant, had to have an emergency caesarean, and has since developed complications, with the result that Maria now cares for Joanne's children as well as her own. She comes to Sedgefield to sell the Big Issue to buy nappies and food for the baby, as well as for her own family. Both Joanne and Maria endure the weather, but what they have found harder still is our attitude towards them. They have both suffered verbal abuse but Joanne has been beaten up, and spat on. They are Romanian refugees, and they choose to sell the Big Issue, rather than live off benefits, because life in their own country was unbearable. Joanne used to tell me that she managed to sell only 3 or 4 Big Issues a day, and now Maria says the same. They could be our sisters or our daughters. Could we not all buy a copy a week at £1.50?
Panny Pighills

Tick-Tock Slap-Slap ...

Ah, what joy it is to live in close proximity to St Edmund's Church. The green, the quaint cottages and of course the sweet hourly chimes of the church bell. But alas! what is this new sound I hear? Surely not a ticking second hand on the clock to add to the chimes? I am amazed at the rapid development of technology but this would truly be something special. After a blissful night's sleep of zero hours listening to this 'ticking' sound I set out into the village for my daily stroll and in hope of being amazed. To my disappointment I look up to the clock tower and see that the ticking is not a second hand on the clock, but a wet, heavy, thick 20ft piece of rope happily slapping itself back and forth against a wonderfully resonant metal pole donning the flag of Saint George. Now I'm all for Rule Britannia during the day but surely we don't need these wonderful noises throughout the

night, keeping the local residents (and I'm sure I'm not the only one) from a good nights sleep? If there are residents who enjoy listening to a wet rope slap against a metal pole constantly throughout the night, then I can only apologise for this letter. Humph!
Sedgefield local

Where have all the taxis gone?

I live in Thurlow Grange and because of our inability to walk far, my friends and I depend on taxis to go to the doctor, chemist, shops and pop-in club. Now that there are no taxis we are prisoners in our own homes. Is that what it's come to? What is the Council doing about it or are we all dumped on the scrap heap? Come on everyone, get our taxis back and give us an explanation.
Kathleen Robinson

Sedgefield News contacted Turner's Taxis. They are having daytime & midweek evening staff shortages. We will contact the Borough Council to ask for their comments for next month's issue.

Let's do something about this!

I'm sure many residents have already encountered the problem of youth gangs congregating in the evenings around the village, but I wanted to express my disgust at a recent experience I had in December 2007. On entering the Co-op on Front Street, I was immediately confronted by a group of 14-16 year-old males, around 10 in total, who were loitering in the aisles, clearly without any intention of shopping. Instead, I observed one yob pushing another who was standing in a trolley, whilst others passed offensive comment. Not only was this intimidating, but the poor shop assistant had little or no power to usher them out. On reaching the till I mentioned to the shop-assistant that he should consider calling the police, particularly as he mentioned to a colleague that they had caused a mess in the shop. His response - 'what police?' Is this true? Do we have any police presence in this village? Is there any authority out there who realise that Friday and Saturday nights are beset by groups of yobs roaming the streets causing its inhabitants to fear for their safety? I, and I'm sure many others, want to know what is being done about this disgraceful problem. Also, if you are a parent of one of these yobs, do you know where your son/daughter is of a night? Do you care? Perhaps those parents, and the local police, ought to be aware that if they do not do something about these problems, there may be respectable residents out there who will - regardless of the consequences. I for one am sick and tired of seeing youths flout authority - all the easier without any obvious deterrent. It's about time that we, as a proud community, stood together to stamp out this intimidating and lingering issue - it seems that we are alone.
Mr Woods

A Big Thank You

Thanks to people who generously donated prizes and bought tickets for the tombola and to Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School for letting Lesley hold the tombola stall at their Christmas Fayre. This raised £240. A big thank you goes to Sallie and Kate Hughes who did a bucket collection round the village, raising a grand total of £754. Special thanks to Selections, Number 4 and Bolams for having collection buckets on their premises, adding to this total. Thank you to the Net Park for holding a Christmas raffle and raising £300. With the generous donations from friends, neighbours and families, to whom we are very grateful, a grand total of £1560 has been raised. This will be divided between The James Cook and North Tees Chemotherapy Units. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and good wishes. Thank you so much.
Lesley Waites and Sue Hughes



Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association

The DEADLINE for copy for inclusion in the March edition of Sedgefield News is FEBRUARY 15th.

Contact us at 58 Front Street, Sedgefield, TS21 2AQ: phone 629011: email snews@sedgefieldweb.co.uk

Views expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent.

We reserve the right to edit contributions and will not publish letters of unknown authorship, so please include your contact details in correspondence.

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