



Sedgefield NEWS

May 2010

Head Teacher retires



Mr Philip Irvine recently retired as Head Teacher of Sedgefield Primary School. He has been a committed and professional teacher for many years, always working with the very best interests of the pupils and the school at all times. There have been many changes in curriculum and education content over recent years and he managed the smooth and expert transition of teaching and learning effortlessly and calmly. Although he has promised to visit when he can, we will all miss him very much. A leaving 'do' has been arranged from 7.30pm in Ceddesfield Hall on **Friday 8th May**. We'd love to see old pupils, parents or the general public who would like to say their farewells then, and we're sure Mr Irvine would appreciate it!



Pain relief at the pub

Fund-raising for Sports Relief was a painful experience for **Sedgefield Winkers** when they participated in the "Shirt of Hurt" - sports fans wearing the shirt of their greatest rivals. Amongst those suffering were Newcastle fans in Sunderland shirts and vice versa and a Welshman in an England Rugby shirt! **Community College students report on Sports Relief efforts on page 7.**



Strike a light!

Hardwick Primary have thoroughly enjoyed some free activities at Hardwick Park. Y5 pupils walked to the park for a lesson in Bushcraft. The Warden and rangers showed them how to start a fire by striking flints together (*right*) and challenged them to build a shelter (*below left*). Logs, branches, twigs and mosses were collected and the children created superb structures which were then judged. Their teacher, Mrs Burns was very impressed with the children working so effectively in teams. Y2 children were involved in Bushcraft too, learning some basic survival skills. Y5 also worked with illustrator Liz Million, after previously enjoying her art work at the Library.



Features of the park were noted and sketched for interpretation in their art work next day, when Liz came to school to share tips about creating effects and amuse everyone with her impressions and wit. The children loved the experience and produced some fabulous work. The school is very grateful to Hardwick Park for organising the events.

Growing Space project

If you have a piece of garden you can't look after, or you need extra space for growing produce, you may now contact **Ron Savage**, who has volunteered to be the organiser for this Sedgefield Development Trust project.

Call 01429 880 013 or 07549 148 960



Proclamation

40th
Year

Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre
will take place on 15th May 2010
on The Village Green and at Ceddesfeld Hall
10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Organised by Sedgefield Community Association, Ceddesfeld Hall,
Charity No. 519953

This Year's Attractions

On The Green

Fancy Dress
Tug-of War
Morris Dancing
Falconry Flying
Display
Craft Stalls
Fun Fair
Country Dancing

In Ceddesfeld Hall

BAR
Morning Coffee
& Refreshments

In Ceddesfeld Park

Punch and Judy
Birds of Prey
Rosamundi Mediaeval Crafts
Bucking Bronco
Tai Chi
Bouncy Castle
Taekwondo

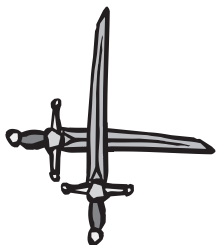
Door to door collections will start Sunday 9th May

SUNDAY	<i>Kerr Crescent etc, Pine Ridge etc, Mitford Court etc, Hardwick Road etc,</i>
MONDAY	<i>North End/Durham Road etc, The Lane etc, White House Drive etc, Hawthorn Road etc</i>
TUESDAY	<i>Station Road etc, Spring Lane etc, Queen's Drive etc, West End</i>
WEDNESDAY	<i>The Meadows etc, The Orchard etc Rectory Row/Centre, Cross St etc</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Eden Drive etc, East End etc, St Edmunds Green, Stockton Rd etc</i>

WINTERTON RESDENTS should deposit items at 17 Winterton Avenue,
Mon-Wed 6-8 pm. They will be collected Thursday evening

Please support the Fayre by donating groceries, toys,
books and bric-a-brac etc.

**PLEASE - NO CLOTHES, SHOES, BIKES, MEDIUM/
LARGE PIECES OF FURNITURE, HI-FI OR TV**



Snapshots of Sedgefield

April's cricketing snapshot proved a bit tricky, but I'm grateful to Sonny Jemmison, Vic Wright, George and Connie Wright and Margaret Dale (nee Stelling) for their help. Sonny's father Frank is on the front row at the right and George Wright (uncle of Vic) is at the left of the front row. He and his son Jack played for Sedgefield Cricket Club into middle age. Captain Ramsden is standing third left, in the striped blazer and cap. Evidently the Sedgefield team plus guests would play touring teams, hence the variety of rig-outs. It may also explain why we can't put names to all the faces.

Vic Wright kindly supplied this month's snapshot - a school trip to London in 1951 for the Festival of Britain. Many thanks also to Sonny Blakey, who sent the same one. The teachers, r. & l. are Miss J. Dixon and Mrs. Edna Gannon and in the middle is Jim Slater, MP for Sedgefield, then Assistant Postmaster General. He took the group on a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, where the photo is taken. Vic, the tall, studious lad with the glasses, smiling on the back row, remembers every single person, some of them, sadly, no longer with us. It's rather difficult to say who's who without numbering them all, so can we take the lad at the front in the short trousers, Geoffrey McMorrin, as a marker? From left, we have Billy Blakey, Colin Spink, Gordon Nesbitt and Andy Beamson, then Joan Barron and Hilda Hammond. Next to Hilda at the back is Allanson (Ally) Hemsley, to his left Thomas (Sonny) Blakey and in front Alan Kendal. The girl in front is Betty Jones, behind her Nancy Hutchinson and behind her Audrey Lonsdale. (cont. below left)



To Audrey's left is Ruth (or Kathy) Ellis and peeking out behind Geoffrey is Rita Auton (now Saunders). Hope you're still with me! The tall girl behind Geoffrey is Audrey Beamson and in front of her with the camera is Alan Sedgewick. The tall lad at the back is Ray Robinson, in front of him Terry Merrington. Next to Ray is Lorna Green, then Margaret Stelling, with her hands on the shoulders of Nat Hudson and Harry Pearson. At the back we have Vic Wright and, also wearing glasses, John Ferguson, in front of them Roy Bowes, Jean Barron and Moira Moore. The two girls in front are Peggy Hindmarch and Margaret Hall. I hope this sparks off happy memories.

If you have photographs you would like to loan, Sedgefield Local History will be happy to hear from you. Ring me on 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Cycle your Way to Health

from St Edmund's Church, Thursday mornings 9.30am - 11am, from 6th May.

Run by County Durham Community Health Service 'Get Active' team, in partnership with Durham County Council.

No matter what your ability, come and join us for exercise and fun rides. We want to

- Encourage residents to take up healthier lifestyles
- Help those recovering from illness to get back to fitness
- Encourage beginners or those wishing to return to cycling to be more active
 - Develop groups for weekly recreational rides with like minded people
 - Encourage regular cyclists to help others enjoy their passion by becoming leaders or marshals for beginners groups

Cycling for just half an hour every day can make a real difference to your health. The rides will use quiet, safe routes on attractive countryside lanes & paths. Rides are guided by trained cycle marshals. County Durham PCT can provide cycles & helmets, (helmets are necessary), so if you need a bike, please ring to book.

Cycle rides help people come together in a fun activity, with many health benefits.

Some rides are suitable for people new to cycling or to those perhaps wishing to return to cycling after years away.

Come along on Thursdays to find how you might become involved. Please call Steven Hart (0191 5692847) or Jim Nutt (01388 816166), to find out if this is for you - or how you might be able to help.



The way to a healthier heart

Community SAFETY



Report from April's Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

The meeting held on Tuesday 13th April was well attended with regular members, interestingly none of the persons afflicted by the March mini crime wave that hit our village felt it beneficial to come along.

From the Feb. meeting the Secretary had written as actioned, to Mr. Mark Farren Education & Enforcement Manager Durham County Council, requesting that he honours (in the spirit of the "no detriment" promise made by the Unitary authority) the Sedgefield Borough commitment given to N/Hood Watch that Tim Spearey, our Community Force Officer, would work 3 out of every 4 days at work in our village and also that he tackles the ever growing problem of dog fouling in the village.

Mr. Farren's response is a very professional letter in which he provides no reply to the direct request for honouring the commitment; instead he provides much detail about his resource shortfall and of future plans to set up a task team to tackle the hot spots of this type of problem that he describes as envirocrime; when and if he gets the resources.

Members were expecting such a response but none the less are very dissatisfied. However *Tim Spearey* in his subsequent report to the members was able to say that one Sedgefield dog owner is nursing an £80 fixed penalty fine as a result of their lack of diligence and Tim being in the right place at the right time!

Tim pointed out that he is about our village "all hours", not just daytime - just in case the early/late dog walkers are under the impression they may not be seen (and fined) by Tim if they do not clean up after their dog.

Members expressed their thanks to Tim for his continued diligence in the village but were dismayed to have it confirmed that he has only managed 10hrs in the village out of 40 worked on average since the Feb. meeting.

Crime Prevention Officer Keith Lownds spoke of the mini crime wave - car related and that the crimes were **all avoidable**, if only owners had ensured their vehicles were locked before leaving them overnight (maybe the remote locking didn't work or was out of range) by physically checking doors. Keith added that he & Neil will be out and about our area to try and drive home the need to be more attentive to security. This crime has been unique to our village - are we considered a soft touch he wondered.

Community Support Officer Neil Langthorne informed members that the ring round system including messages by e-mail was now working well. Neil was thanked for the excellent messages received recently, mainly from himself.

Neil reported on the "good news" of major crime reductions (ASB down 6.9%, Criminal Damage down 14%, Dwelling Burglary down 20%, Violence Against the Person down 17%) in our Borough Area with the exception of the (recent) "bad news" of Sedgefield itself where crime had just gone through the roof. He advised that a huge resource had been committed at this rise and it appears that it has had a beneficial effect.

C/man Ken Saiger informed members about the need to change "tapes for the blind" to CDs for the blind & as a consequence some of our recipients (of audio copies of S.News, Durham County Wide publications etc.) need to be provided with C.D. players. The N/H/Watch Executive have taken the decision to fund these players and will seek funding by donations from the Town Council/Local Caring Residents if possible, for the amount of approximately £150.

N.B. Following the meeting upon learning of the reason for the funding request, local Town Councillor **Mr. David Brown** has provided his cheque (to Sedgefield Crime Watch Panel) for a substantial part of the necessary funding. We are extremely grateful for this generosity from David Brown and for his continued care for locally disadvantaged persons.

Under A.O.B. a report of 3 youths being observed with (properly covered) guns going down Beacon Lane from several residents in that area was passed on to PC. Keith Todd, who thanked members for this information.

Meeting Closed (next meeting 8/06/10) & PACT opened

Police Crime report 17th March - 5th April 2010: for this meeting Keith did have a copy to give members as this period has been one of our village's worst spates of crime - most of it totally preventable. There were: - 228 calls to the Police (106 roads related). Also **6 thefts from motor vehicles; 5 Damage to motor vehicles & 9 Property/Burglary Related Crimes** in this short period. Before starting the PACT meeting Keith gave a public vote of thanks to a very diligent and conscientious Neighbour Hood Watch member for their very responsible response to a crime in progress, by reporting it immediately to the Police. In thanking that member personally, Keith was disappointed to report that on this occasion the Police did not apprehend anyone, but as he reported later a similar report did lead to an arrest in connection with attempted burglary. The message is - keep being observant, report **all concerns**, make it harder for the criminals - help protect your neighbourhood as well as your own property - let the Police know - let them sort it.

PACT is reported elsewhere.

PC Todd reports

By now you may have had a notice through your door regarding Car Crime or have seen the article in last month's Sedgefield News. Whichever method has made you aware of car crime in your area the message is always the same! **Please lock your car doors and remove any valuables from within.** Even after all the recent publicity regarding insecure cars, six residents became victims on the same night as their vehicles were entered and property stolen. Don't become the next victim! Other crimes reported to police include the telephone box in Chestnut Rd being attacked and £41 removed. There was damage to vehicles in The Orchard, Queens Drive, Rectory Row and North End; two persons were arrested for an attempted burglary in North End and a mountain bike was stolen from The Gables.

Until next time, Keith

P.A.C.T. meeting

April's meeting was held immediately after the N/H/W meeting. Priorities identified for the Beat Team to monitor and take action include: Parking issues at the Bus Stop, Front Street (near Theakston's shop) and at the Bus Stop, High Street (near Co-op store). Please park your vehicle in the correct location without causing an obstruction to other road users including pedestrians.

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently in the Crosshills Hotel, evidence was given regarding a female who had been seen drinking in various pubs, despite receiving a six months ban. Members agreed this was totally unacceptable and have increased the ban for a further 2 months. A report has been received regarding two males whose behaviour in a member's premises has fallen short of the standard expected as a customer. They are to receive Warning Letters regarding their unacceptable behaviour.

Good morning, Sedgefield

Sedgefield Veterans hold a parade each time it is announced that the body of a soldier is being repatriated. Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire is the leading light in this awareness, but in Sedgefield we have paraded for almost a year, with a lot of support from the public - a big THANK YOU. The Veterans have a mobile flag pole. When the Union Jack flies from 8am onwards, it means that there is a repatriation that day. We parade at 10.45hrs and invite anyone who wishes to do so, to please come along and show your support. Regardless of politics, the troops need support from people at home, as they are doing what they signed up to do - whatever their commanders decree, so watch out for the flag and come and join us. *David Hillerby, Vice Chair.*

Make Friends with Ceddesfeld Garden

The Friends of Ceddesfeld Gardens is a new voluntary group, who meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Ceddesfeld Hall.

The Garden is listed grade two and is an asset to be proud of. Our aims are to get the grounds to more closely resemble the designed garden created from plans drawn up by Joseph Spence in 1756, and to keep the park in the best possible condition for the community's enjoyment.

We are actively seeking new members, so if you are interested, please contact me, Norman Dunn, on 623175.

Garry Jacobs, also a Friend of Ceddesfeld Gardens, writes...

Shame on you!

On Wednesday 14th April we met at the lakeside early in the morning to start a general clean-up of the lake. It was a beautiful Spring morning and with the assistance of Town Council gardeners and their tractor and trailer, a shopping trolley (as always), chairs from the Hall, two recently dumped bin bags of garden rubbish and innumerable cans, bottles and other debris were successfully removed. We returned in the afternoon to inspect the morning's handiwork. A group of late teenage girls had settled down on the grass to enjoy the pleasant sunshine and the ambience of the surroundings. The carrier bags in which they had brought their picnic were returned to them from the lakeside where they had blown and they were pleasantly reminded that they may need them later! Their litter included cutlery, both metal and plastic and scorched grass was left behind after their pleasant barbeque in the park. I hope that if they read this the culprits are thoroughly ashamed. I am not sure if they were also



responsible for the huge pile of dog excrement in the middle of their litter. If not, someone else needs to be ashamed. Children play in this park and piles of dog dirt and sharp objects strewn on the grass are not conducive to their safety.

Take it home, whatever it is.

Jottings Residents' Forum jottings for April

As we explained in last month's News there was no Forum meeting for April as the date fell on the Bank holiday and nor will there be a meeting in May as that is also on the Bank holiday Monday.

However, we will report next month on the Special Forum meeting which will have been held on April 21st (that meeting is to report back on all the answers and explanations we have received from Durham County Council Planning Dept and the Planning Inspectorate on issue relating to the granting of planning permission for the Caravan Park).

Then, of course, when the Forum next meets on June 7th all the furore of the General Election will be over, let's hope resulting in more notice being taken of ordinary citizens views, opinions and needs.

Christian Aid Week, 9th - 15th May

Arrangements for this year's Christian Aid Week annual house to house collection should be well underway by the time you are reading this edition of Sedgefield News. Once again our dedicated collectors are giving freely of their time to call upon you and, once again, we ask you to give as generously as you can.

Christian Aid seeks to support some of the world's poorest people. Most of us have more than we need. Last year we collected £3,966 from Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. The National total was almost £14million. It is worth noting that if you are a UK tax payer, the amount you give can be increased (at no extra cost to you) by simply completing the details on the envelope. Christian Aid can then reclaim the income tax you have already paid. Thank you all for your continued support. *David & Margaret Glass* ps. The collection for Christian Aid at the Good Friday procession of witness was £121.

Sedgefield blooms again

Members of Sedgefield in Bloom and the Floral Art group set out their stall on the village green at Sunday's farmers' market.

After winning gold in Northumbrian in Bloom last year, Sedgefield was invited to enter the national competition and hopes to shine once again in Britain in Bloom.

The town council, helped by a large and enthusiastic band of volunteers, aims to improve the entrances to the village by planting up the roundabouts with trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses. A topiary horse is planned for the racecourse roundabout. The village centre will as usual be brightened by flower beds, tubs and baskets, as well as naturalised daffodils and crocuses. Local businesses have been invited to sponsor the event and many have also agreed to deck their own premises with hanging baskets, troughs and planters. Sponsorship secretary Norma Neal has been delighted at the response from local companies, whose generous support will allow Sedgefield to bloom in style. Fund raising efforts continued at Sedgefield Racecourse's recent camel racing event and volunteers will be rattling their buckets again at Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre in May.

Angela Simpson, community development officer, is keen to involve as many local people as possible, including children and young people. Primary school pupils help planting up tubs and can also take part in the tallest sunflower competition. Students at Sedgefield Community College are refurbishing an antique seed drill to be planted up with summer flowers. Northumbria in Bloom judges Eddie Wardrobe and Valerie Giles made a preliminary visit on April 7th and will be back on July 20th, followed by the national judges in August. Thanks to everyone who made a special effort to tidy their patch and to make Sedgefield as pretty as a picture.

Sedgefield mayor Sheila Sutherland appeals to local gardeners to donate spare plants to be placed around the village and asks for everyone's help to keep the village litter-free.



I'll start this month with a plea for more contributions to the sports update. I am really grateful for regular reports I receive from the likes of the Harriers, rugby club and squash club, and because I (sort of) play football, I can usually get hold of the latest reports from Sunday league teams. There are other occasional contributors too and their input is very welcome, but during the last couple of months, I haven't received as much variety of news and I'm really keen to hear more about summer sporting activities in and around Sedgefield. Hopefully, I will start to get regular updates from the cricket club soon (hint, hint), but I'd also like to hear what else is happening out there. If you think you might have something suitable for this part of Sedgefield News, don't hesitate to email chrisjlines@aol.com or call me on 07971 868329.

Sedgefield Harriers

The North York Moors Winter Fell Race series came to an end on the 11th April with the traditional Gisborough Moors Race, run over 12.5 miles south of Guisborough and taking in Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's Monument. Graeme Addison, Matthew Jones, Gail Bell and Ean Parsons have been regulars over the winter in the eleven race series. New member Janet Raper was 2nd Vet45 lady in the final race while Gail Bell was joint winner of the senior ladies category and Ean Parsons was third in the Vet50 men's category for the series.

On Good Friday, Sedgefield Ladies won the team prize in the competitive Mermaid 10k organised by New Marske Harriers, held on the seafront between Marske and Redcar. The team included Julia Atkinson-Tait,

Gail Bell at the Blakey Blitz fell race



Rosie Sims and Janet Raper. The Harriers contributed 20 individual runners to the Mermaid 10k and the same two days later at the North Tyneside 10k on Easter Sunday, an achievement unlikely to be matched by other clubs in the region. This turn out illustrates the appeal of the club to all abilities and the continuing success of the club in encouraging participation.

As usual at this time of year there are a lot of races available for runners to enter and Harrier Rob Morrison should be congratulated on entering the Glenlivet 10k in his native Scotland for which he not surprisingly received a dram.

Harriers have introduced two new running sessions in the past couple of months. In partnership with Durham Sport, a session aimed at young women has been introduced in Hardwick Park at 5.15pm each Wednesday and has focused on beginners, developing confidence and ability. Another session has been introduced by club member and run leader Kerryanne Everret in Hardwick Park at 9.45am every Tuesday with similar aims and both sessions have been successful in encouraging those who are new to running. The success of the new beginners' groups and the participation of 20 runners of all abilities in two races at Easter demonstrate the Harriers' appeal to runners of all abilities, whether they run for fitness, socially or to compete. To find out more please contact Ean Parsons (07771 828 568) or ean2005@hotmail.co.uk.

Sedgefield Harriers Juniors

Sedgefield Harriers Juniors had another excellent day at the Anne Marie Redshaw Open Track & Field Meeting in Shildon on 18th April. Star performance has to go to the under 13 girls for taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the shot put with Zoe Dobson (4.92m), Megan Devine (4.52m) and Elise Brown (3.81m). George Pilkington again showed his potential by adding the under 13 boys 100m 1st place, out-sprinting a Chester-Le-Street athlete, to his 60m 1st from last year's meeting in the younger age group; an excellent performance considering he is 'bottom age' meaning he was racing against boys a year older in this prestigious meeting. One of the stand-out performances from any club at the whole meeting was from Sedgefield Harrier Scott Kippen who took first place in the under 17 boys 800m. This was only the second time Scott has competed over 800m, having taken first place in his previous outing in a County Durham Athletics Network meeting at Maiden Castle. With 200m to go Scott was in 5th, approximately 10m

behind the leader, but then he kicked at the 150m, outsprinting competitors in the home straight to win by a margin of five metres in an excellent time of 2:03. An hour later Scott went on to compete at his more usual distance of 400m and took first place in 53.5 seconds. Like George Pilkington, Scott was competing at bottom age against older runners. Junior athletes representing the Harriers at the event were Tom Flatters (60m, long jump) Joesph Devine (60m, l.jump) Emily Robertshaw (100m) Naomi Morgan (60m, 600m) Zoe Carr (60m, 600m) Kate Carmichael (60m, 600m, l.jump) Cleo Waggott (60m, 600m, l.jump) Eleanor James (60m, 600m, l.jump) Amy Carr (60m, l.jump) Josh Hetherington (60m) Sadie Able (150m, 600m) Ellie Gaines (800m) Elise Brown (Shot, 800m, l.jump) Emily Robertshaw (800m) Rory Varley (800m, 3000m) Scott Kippen (400m, 800m) Seb Reichal (300m) Gemma Varley (3000m) Ben Hetherington (3000m) Lucy Robertshaw (l.jump, c.ball) Zoe Dobson (Shot, l.jump) Megan Devine (shot, l.jump) Adam Flatters (l.jump) George Pilkington (100m, l.jump).

The meeting brought success for some athletes and, equally important, competition experience for others. All acquitted themselves well while representing their club. The numbers competing and the diverse events are testament to the range of athletics disciplines offered to young people by the Harriers. Every Wednesday, the coaches at the club cover a lot of ground, developing skills and the Harriers provides an excellent opportunity not only for young athletes of all abilities, but also for anyone wishing to get involved in coaching or assisting. Assisting a coach with a session enables the coach to spend more time with the development of individual children. If you are interested please contact Scott Hydon on 07883 886 305.

Football

The Sunday league football season is, despite the fixture backlog I reported last month, now almost complete. I'll try and bring a full end of season report next month, but for the moment will highlight the fact that Sedgefield Black Lion FC have made it to the final of the Durham Sunday League Cup. The match will be played at New Ferens Park in Durham, kicking off at 7.30pm on Friday 21st May. The Black Lion's opponents will be Kelloe WMC. Supporters from Sedgefield will be very welcome.

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

Sports Relief

at Sedgefield Community College

Pre-match there was a non school uniform day - £1 to wear sports clothing for the day. All key stage 3 students (approximately 500) came down to the New Astro for a Wake & Shake session led by Sedgefield Dance Leaders and Ms Robertson (Dance Teacher) during registration. Students completed in mini dance, which involved coordination of body parts in time with movement - head



shoulders knees and toes - a wake up & shake up to kick-start the day.

A signed SAFC first team football was raffled as well as a signed T-Shirt and Boxing glove from James DeGale, who won Gold at the Beijing Games.

2 bands, SCC EmCeer's and Anywhere But Here, played on the Wednesday prior to Sport Relief to raise money.

Kick off! On the day, all students in KS3 and KS4 took part in a carousel of activities- including A Question of Sport (sport trivia), Just Puzzling (a sport relief treasure hunt) and Challenge Yourself (sumo suits - see photo) gladiator duels and bucking bronco.

Students ideas for raising money included making cakes, leg waxing, mile runs and more. They had the option to make a small contribution too.

The total raised at the time of writing is approximately £1500.

What a night!

Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club held their first Blues night at the Parish Hall on Friday April 3rd and what an amazing night it was. Sam Sullivan kicked off with their unique brand of funky blues and soul. All four are extremely accomplished musicians and we were treated to beautiful guitar and keyboard solos as well as the most subtle drum solo that I've heard. A raffle followed which was dominated by the Sedgefield Round Table but then, that's what happens when you buy more than half the tickets! Lyndon Anderson then took to the stage and made us all instant fans of this tight five piece with one of the UK's greatest Harp players in Lyndon (his harmonica and guitar playing was only eclipsed by his amazing voice). We can't wait for the next event in June and if ya'll keep filling the hall, we'll keep booking the best bands we can afford! Thanks to Graham from the Golden Lion for helping us out on the night. Lightnin' Willy is arguably, one of the very best Texas blues/roots/rockin' outfits ever to tread the boards, and they are back in the UK to tour in support a brand new cracking album "Tracks" on the 145 label. Combining a Texas feel with West Coast influences topped by peerless slide technique, the ultimate blues growl & Giles King's blues harp, this is low down dirty Texas blues, as good as it gets. Expect classy rockabilly injected blues from Texas, topped by Willy's dazzling slide guitar. Willie's track 'Bye Bye' has just been featured in the award winning Robin Williams film 'The Final Cut'.

Eric Hemmings

John Tate writes about the new Blues Club

The biggest misconception outsiders have regarding the Blues is that it must be a "depressing music." Well take it from me and the sell out crowd at the Parish Hall last week, it is far from that. The place was rocking that night. After four years planning (over the odd pint no doubt), Garry Jacobs and Eric Hemmings have come up with the goods; their aim is to bring the finest rock and blues music to our humble village hall (with big thanks to the powers that be that have given us such a great venue).

For those that want a taster of what they are missing, check out the website www.sedgefieldblues.co.uk or better still, nip down to the post office and buy a ticket for our next gig on 11th June when we are playing host to Lightnin' Willie & the Poorboys; a Texan who loves playing his blues in this country and made his name at the famous Stanley blues festival. I can promise you a night you won't forget. See you there!

And more praise for the Parish Hall as a venue came from Sedgefield Round Table, who wrote to congratulate the Town Council on "the quality of the overall sound of the music... I have heard a lot worse in so called professional venues. That coupled with the use of the spotlights etc. made everyone in the hall realise what the potential of the Hall actually was. Everyone was extremely impressed, particularly the performers, who had nothing but praise for the whole place as it made them look and sound as good as anywhere they had ever performed. All who attended had an exceptional evening and over £500 was raised overall for our local charities."

Soccer 6s comes to Sedgefield

6 a side football is a growing trend amongst followers of our national sport, not least because it can be played by anyone and is very easy to organise. Sedgefield College is hosting the "Sedgefield Soccer 6s", to be played on the state of the art 3G pitches on Wednesday evenings, starting late April.

Organiser Bob Oates, former professional footballer, enthuses about the new leagues; "The new floodlit pitches at Sedgefield College are absolutely superb, and you could not have better facilities to play football on. There will be a division to suit everybody, and the teams will find their own standard, with promotion and relegation at the end of each season, and also medals and trophies to be won. We expect teams to enter from all types of background - regular footballers, pub teams, maybe just friends from work. It is so easy to get involved; just pick up the phone to register your team and we do the rest!"

Entries will be limited, so the advice is to register early if you know you have a team. Cost is also very reasonable, at just £2 per player for teams with a full squad of 6 players plus 3 substitutes.

For more details and to enter your team, ring 07710 173918.

May Events Diary

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm
Monday 3rd May
 Tony Nicholson:
 Further Secrets of the Attic
All welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 4th May
 Ray Orme - **Growing vegetables
 in a small garden**

Willowdene Care Home

Clothes party
Wednesday 5th May 10am
 Refreshments available

Sedgefield WI

7.15pm, Parish Hall
Wednesday 5th May
AGM & discussion of resolution
 Members' competition - a pretty
 china cup and saucer
Visitors welcome - fee £2

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm
Wednesday 5th May
All acoustic players welcome

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 8th May
 Eyes down at 7.30pm

Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th May- 9.30 - 1.30

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 9th May
 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

Mondays 10th May
 Michael Pullen

24th May "It shouldn't happen
 to a nurse" Mary Nesbitt
New members welcome

Ladies Club

8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Tuesday 11th May
 Nora Fisher - New Zealand:
 Land of the Long White Cloud
Tuesday 25th May
 Joan Seymour: Trip to India
New members welcome

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 17th May
 7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
**"Great Great Grandmother -
 a Woman of the Pit Village"**
 Margaret Hedley
 Contact: Sylvia Hall, 620367
Visitors are always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Parish Hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 18th May
 NW Area Demonstrator
 Dawn Weaver "**Great Artists**"
All Welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 20th May
Visit to Houghall Woods
 Meet in Parish Hall Car Park 6.30pm
 to share transport.
*(Advance Notice 24th June Visit to
 RSPB Saltholme - £3) Details,
 Steve Ashton - 620559*

Blind life in Durham

CHARITY NIGHT
 starring Chyrelle Addams
 Songs from 60s to present day
Friday 21st May at 7.30pm
 at Redworth Hall Hotel
 For tickets (£10 pp inc. buffet)
 call **01388 763501**

Sedgefield Library Events

Toy Library
 Weds 5th & 19th May, 10-11am
Tickle Time - for babies
 Monday 10th & 24th May, 2.15-3pm
Rhyme Time
 Weds 12th & 26th May, 10-11am
Book Circle
 Wednesday 19th May, 2pm

Hardwick Park events

Contact 01740 621 505 or
 hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk
International Day Chorus Day
Dawn Chorus: Sunday 2nd May
 Please call for the time & book in
 advance. All welcome £2.50
Minibeast Hunt: Sat 15th May
 1pm - 3pm Families Free
 Just show up at Visitor Centre
*Join rangers & hunt for the smallest
 animals in the park*
Pond Dipping: Sat 22nd May
 1pm - 3pm Families Free
 Just show up at Visitor Centre
*Visit our bottle pond to discover the
 creatures lurking underwater*
Mad Hatter's Tea Party
Saturday 29th May
 11am - 3pm All welcome Free
*The Park becomes a Wonderland for a
 day. Meet the characters & play croquet
 with the Queen of Hearts!*

Sedgefield Racecourse

Wednesday 19th May
 Caribbean Night: First Race 6.30pm
 Last race 9pm
Wednesday 26th May
 First Race 2.20pm:
 Last Race 5.05pm

A FREE service to non-
 commercial organisations

Round Table

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

Café@St Catherine's

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

Sing for Health & Fun

Methodist Church Hall
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1 - 2pm

Sedgefield Playgroup

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

Coming up in June

Garden party

at Willowdene Care Home
Saturday June 5th
 Bouncy castle, rodeo bull, live
 entertainment & the usual stalls
Come and join the fun

May/June Music Events

Open Mic Night

Thursday 6th May 8.30 pm
Crosshills Hotel
 Local talent of all ages welcome:
 musicians, vocalists, poets...

101 at the Black Lion

Sunday 16th May

S'field Rock & Blues Club

Lightnin' Willie
Friday 11th June
in the Parish Hall

Tickets £12 in advance/£15 on the
 door, from the Post Office or call Garry
 - 07931448469 or Eric - 07861897652
 Doors open at 7.30 with the opening
 act on stage at 8pm.

**Tickets for last show sold out a
 month in advance so don't wait!**

Cricket Club Family Open

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

Church Floodlighting

As a former rector of Sedgefield, may I reply to R Willis's letter about the floodlighting of St. Edmund's? He has a very good point to make about the environment, and the sooner carbon-neutral electricity comes on stream the better. I had not arrived here when the lighting was installed and can only guess at the motives of those who installed it, but the church is the visual icon of Sedgefield, and is worthy of showing off. Also to the point, my colleagues and I used regularly to collect the detritus of those who drank, smoked and fornicated in the churchyard into the night, and all too frequently there were signs of urination and defecation; sometimes I would actually see people when I was going into church late in the evening, and no doubt others have done so too. If these things happen with lighting how much worse would it be if the church was in relative darkness? The one door which is not floodlit and fortunately hidden from most users and visitors, has indeed been attacked with eggs and graffiti. It could be argued, however, that lighting might be turned off at, say, 1 a.m. rather than 3. I believe it may still be we council tax payers who foot the bill - someone at the Council offices might be able to answer the question of cost.

Martin King (Rev)

Back to Front

Over the years I have visited Hardwick Park for the beautiful walks and scenery, taking my children and grand children. I have often wondered if, in addition to the nature interest, this area would ever incorporate added attractions for today's children of **all** ages. This area has taken a long time to develop and in my opinion some rustic adventure areas around the paths, for children of all ages to enjoy besides the natural beauty would encourage young people to spend more in this area. The small fenced area with play equipment is woefully inadequate: equipment is only for young children, the location is poor, adult seating is sparse and the size of the area is far too small in the vast space of Hardwick Park. Perhaps more information boards and stands with interactive quizzes and facts would stimulate the interest of older children. Eagerly I visited the new information centre and thought it excellent, then on into the café. The coffee and

Your Letters

scones were very good and if you *stand* at the coffee shop counter there are wonderful views of the water, ducks, children playing and families enjoying the area. What a pity when I sat down to enjoy my refreshments I was looking at a grass bank and road, not the park. The planners have missed the point; that it is important for visitors to enjoy the main reason for coming into the café which is to admire and enjoy this lovely park while having some refreshment. Perhaps the layout could be altered? We are very lucky to have such beauty on our doorstep but today's children and their families want and need more encouragement to enjoy it and I think added attractions would help.

Ann Carr

Party thanks

Jim McMillan, The Lane, recently celebrated his 10th birthday with a Party in the Parish Hall. Thanks to the generosity of all his family and friends. The North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund will benefit from their donations, in lieu of presents, to the value of £1125. Jim and Sheila offer very grateful thanks to all their guests.

Election litter

How horrible it is to see the amount of visual pollution littering our beautiful village! Seeing campaign posters thrusting unwanted political opinions at us wherever we turn, I can only applaud the actions of those people currently engaged in removing them. Here's to the silent minority who put actions above words! Certain liberated residents. *(Contact details supplied)*

RE: Community College

I am sick of reading anti-youth letters in the Sedgefield News. It seems every time I pick it up there is another complaint made at the expense of students at Sedgefield Community College. Before I start I would like to stress that I am not defending the people who were throwing food in to the graveyard as this is unacceptable. However, the issue that seems to come up quite frequently is that of dinner time. I am not a student at SCC but I was until last year when I moved on to QE. Having the privilege of going down the village is one that I loved. The chance to chose from a wide variety of food outlets rather than being made to eat what was in the

school canteen or carry your pack lunch around with you all day is, in my eyes, a positive thing. I don't agree with students leaving litter or making a mess as it, obviously, isn't right. However arguments that state students are loud or boisterous are very closed-minded. I invite you back to your youth. Going by your attitudes towards current youth you must have never run around, spoken loudly or had a bit of a "mess about". We all know that this isn't the case, so please, I ask you to be slightly more tolerant. If you are so bothered about litter or loudness why do you never write in to complain about other adults? Look outside the pubs on a weekend and you'll see glasses, cigarette packets and butts strewn all over. Also, the amount of dog excrement around the village points to dog owners not being considerate, yet you fail to mention them. I think that of all the things you could complain about, students at lunch time is fairly low on the list.

Christopher Magee

News distribution thanks

My thanks to those who volunteered to distribute Sedgefield News to North Park Road and Boyne Court - that slot has now been filled. In particular, thanks to those who have volunteered to deliver on one-off occasions when people are away. Particularly in the summer, that is extremely welcome! Please don't be offended if I haven't asked you to help yet - I always try to ask people to take over rounds near where they live. I haven't forgotten the other volunteers! I would also like to apologise to anyone who received their May News late - most of us who distribute to the deliverers, plus a few who deliver individual copies, are away in Germany with the Twinning Visit! We all do our best to get your News to you on time... thank you for your understanding!

Judith Edgoose

June deadline for copy is May 15th

Please send your articles, letters and advertising copy to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com
or post to

**58 Front Street, Sedgefield
TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011.**

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