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Sedgefield NEWS

March 2009

SEDFIELD'S BEST KEPT SECRET?

In 1946 two adjoining houses on Rectory Row, one occupied and the other derelict were put on the market. Both were purchased by Captain Ramsden, a local property owner and philanthropist best known for contributing the land on which the cricket club now stands, to the community. However, on this occasion his motives were not totally philanthropic as his intention was to convert the houses into Sedgefield's first social club.

During the Second World War Sedgefield had its own Observer Corp, mostly comprised of local businessmen, they patrolled and protected the village on a nightly basis. As far as we are aware they had no major incidents to contend with but they had been in the habit of meeting regularly at a local pub in order to "compare notes on the night's activities and organise the forward rota". However, as the Observer Corp was disbanded they needed a new excuse to meet regularly!

The Sedgefield Social Club was formed in 1946 but as there is very little written information on its establishment, the following relies heavily on anecdotal evidence from current members. We do not know how much was paid for the initial purchase or how much was spent in the refurbishment and the conversion of the properties but we do know that each person wishing to be a member donated £50 to the project and others donating £100 were given the title of Vice President; we do not know what, if any, extra privileges this bestowed.

In its original form it was for members only, meaning those who made contributions; practically this meant local businessmen. In keeping with the standard practice of the time the constitution did not allow for women members.

Heating was by way of a pot belly stove which stood in the middle of what is now the main lounge and seating was courtesy of the first treasurer, Mr T.G. Thompson, who was also the owner of a bus company. Every time he scrapped a bus the club got additional seating. In the 50s they installed a more traditional heating system, opened the upstairs section as a second bar and improved upon the seating arrangements. Pity they didn't keep a few of the old bus seats as they would have been an interesting link with the past. They also changed their rules to widen the membership, reducing the membership fee and annual subscription.

In 1997 they extended the ground floor to create a third lounge which now boasts a pool table, dart board and large screen television for the sports enthusiasts. It was during the excavation for foundations that they found 36 skeletons, not entirely surprising since it is next to a graveyard, but that fact didn't stop the wags from suggesting they were the remains of past committee men. Since then there have been very few changes to the premises but the rule book is presently under review.

Like most hosteleries in Sedgefield they are suffering from a decline in sales and are looking at ways in which the revenue can be increased. Several suggestions are being considered, including, greater use of the upstairs lounge for functions (you don't have to be a member to book it), and a change in the constitution to allow women members, so watch this space! There are 9 places in Sedgefield where, depending upon the time of day you can purchase alcoholic beverages, so why does The Sedgefield Social Club deserve your special attention? Well, consider this;

it is a "not for profit" organisation specifically founded for the benefit of the community. It is not owned by the breweries; the committee manage the club for the benefit of members and it offers a relaxing atmosphere with competitively priced beer.

Ten years ago when I arrived in Sedgefield I was advised to join; luckily the advice came with directions or I would never have found it. It is on Rectory Row and as it does not have a large sign announcing its existence, here is a photo. Next time you are passing, just walk through the door and ask a member to sign you in. You don't have to live in Sedgefield to join, membership is just £10 and that includes your first year subscription of £5. It has a friendly atmosphere and "the crack" is good. Give it a try and you too can enjoy "Sedgefield's Best Kept Secret". *Paul Heathcote would like to thank the members who contributed to this article.*



Houses before conversion. Photo courtesy of John Bell



Courtesy of Ian Hunter

Young wind players blow their own trumpets!



Local members of Sedgefield District Wind Band are celebrating success following recent music exams.

Rebecca Clegg, Megan Hetherington, Joseph Etheridge and Megan Devine all passed their Grade 2 Trinity Guildhall exams in December last year. These were followed by Aiden Sedgewick, who gained an Associated Board Grade 3 Merit, and Kelly Dobson who gained an Associated Board Grade 1 Distinction in January. Members of the Band are taught through the Durham Music Service, with music lessons at their own schools during the day, and band practice held at Cleves Cross Primary School most Thursday afternoons.

The children are seen here with their instruments, and as usual are taking the subject very seriously!

Are you interested in wildlife?

Sedgefield Wildlife Group are a local group of Durham Wildlife Trust and we have regular meetings in the parish hall in Sedgefield and short walks in the Summer.

In February we had an excellent talk by Sedgefield Countryside Officer, Ian Armstrong about Barn Owls. He had some stunning slides and described the owl's ecology and talked about the population decline in Co. Durham.

March saw a talk by Robert Woods from the Industry and Nature Conservation Association based on Teesside. It is surprising the diversity of fauna and flora that can be found very close to the industrial sites. He explained how many companies were putting together biodiversity action plans to help industry consider wildlife when managing their sites.

In April, we have our AGM, Faith Supper and plan the summer trips. The summer trips are very informal usually local with a guide - no previous experience necessary just come along and enjoy a walk in the countryside.

So if you would like to join us come along at 7.45pm on April 30th in the Parish Hall or contact Steve Ashton on 01740 620559.

Lily Grundy, Jessica Davison, Charlotte George and Sophie Mason from Sedgefield and Fishburn, having fun cleaning cars and **raising £223.50 pounds for Comic Relief.**

A big thank you to all our generous customers and sponsors.



To advertise with us or to send in your contributions, email

sedgefieldnews
@hotmail.com

Sedgefield Out of School Fun Club Rectory Row, Sedgefield

Easter Holiday Club

**Open: Monday 6th April – Thursday 9th April
Tuesday 14th April – Friday 17th April
and Monday 20th April**

Open to ALL children aged 4-14yrs
A Variety of Easter activities & Crafts:
eg. egg hunt, card making, magnets,
Easter baskets, Krispie cakes

Cost: £15.15/full day, £8.70/half day (any 5 hours)

Places must be booked and paid for in advance
Phone **01740 623565** for booking or further details



SEDGEFIELD SOCIAL CLUB

Reg. No 196W

Available for all types of functions

Private bar

**Wide variety of ales including
cask & lagers**

Reasonable prices

Licensed for music

Sky Sports

Pool table

New members always welcome

Kirkgarth, Rectory Row, Tel: 01740 620591

You **AND** your special memories please, for Sedgefield Primary School centenary

This year, Sedgefield Primary's theme for the Medieval Fayre Parade will be 'The Past 100 Years.' This is in celebration of the School's Centenary Year. Anyone who has a connection with the school, whether you are a past pupil, staff member, lollipop lady, caretaker or 'dinner nanny', is welcome to join us for the parade.

The PTFA would also like to compile a book of school memories, so please start digging out your old photos, and trying to remember the names of the children you were sitting beside!

Look out next month for details of how to share your stories.

Songs to intrigue and delight

Lirica and Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir take the stage in St Edmund's Church on April 25th, with a programme which promises to lift your spirits and perhaps revive some musical memories.

Both groups have been working to broaden their repertoire, and of course the church setting lends itself to some wonderful music which can't really be best appreciated in other venues. But don't run away with the idea that it will be all terribly serious - that wouldn't be our style at all!

**Get your tickets for a spring evening of musical treats from
'Selections' or through any of the singers.**

Let's bloom again!

Sedgefield in Bloom is now entered for the Northumbria in Bloom contest and judges will be visiting the village on Thursday 9th April for spring judging. Last year Sedgefield won The Best Small Town Trophy.

We invite everyone to continue growing beautiful flowers and keeping your area tidy for this event. Volunteers to help smarten up the village for the judging are very welcome - please contact the Town Council Offices on 01740 621273.

Also on Sunday 19th July we have an entry in The NGS (national open gardens scheme) yellow book. Again, please contact Town Council Offices if you wish to take part.

Great British Fish & Chip Supper

Friday 15th May is

Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day

Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives. Raise awareness of spinal cord injury and support the SIA's information and support services.

Maybe a Fish and Chip Lunch in your work place would suit you better, or your local community group may enjoy a fun evening together.

For a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes, contact Elizabeth Wright on

0845678 6633 ext. 229

fishandchips@spinal.co.uk - www.spinal.co.uk

£500 bonus for SDT projects

Durham County Council Members Initiative Fund is a sum of money given each year to local Councillors to spend on projects within their community and on any community group or project which will be of benefit to people in their divisional area.

Councillor David Brown approached Gloria Wills, Chair of Sedgefield Development Trust, and said he would like to support the Trust with the sum of £500, because of their work within the community.

Gloria continues:

"I suggested the money could be shared between three projects and we agreed on £200 for the Young People's Drop In, £200 for DIDO (Days In, Days Out, for senior citizens) and £100 for the newly formed PLACE2B - another project for young people. David is very aware of what is going on in the community and of the difference a small amount of funding can make to a project. We would like to say a personal 'Thank you!' to him for his contribution."

The Young People's Drop In gives valuable help with a variety of health and social issues, and is very much appreciated by the young people who go along to the Trust's premises at 58 Front Street on weekdays after school.

The larger part of Cllr Brown's fund for last year was used in the Parish Hall Refurbishment.

Councillor John Robinson was also approached for some support towards the Young People's project, but he replied that money was no longer available as he had given commitment for the re-development of the Town Council Offices. They will use the £20,000 to 'lever in funding to support their bids'.

Community SAFETY



Unwelcome Door Knockers

Even though many residents in the village are now displaying NO COLD CALLING notices, several residents are still being disturbed by door knockers who simply ignore the notice. It is also fair to say that there are many occasions when "considerate" callers actually accept the notice displayed and simply move on without knocking at the door.

So far in response to residents' complaints of their notice being deliberately ignored, by representatives from two well known organisations, the companies have been approached by our local Police Liaison Officer & our own N/Hood Watch group.

The organisations are The Red Cross & Scottish & Southern Electric. Both have apologised for their reps. unacceptable behaviour (deliberately ignoring a No Cold Calling notice) and confirm that it is company policy for reps to respect these notices and not to call or knock at such homes.

Below is an extract from the reply received from the Red Cross organisation: -

"Secondly I should make clear that we take the issue of deterrent stickers on doors very seriously and have recently implemented a new policy that we hope will avoid regrettable situations like those in Sedgfield. Our new guidelines state that no fundraiser will knock on a door where there is a clear sticker saying 'no cold callers.' However, if the sticker or sign says 'no salesman', our fundraisers will still knock on the door.

Therefore if you do hear that residents have had their door knocked despite displaying 'no cold callers' stickers, please encourage the resident to contact our Supporter Care Team who will investigate the matter. They can be contacted on 0844 87 100 87, or at supportercare@redcross.org.uk "

Below are extracts from two letters from Scottish & Southern: -

(1) "I am concerned to hear that our sales representative has behaved inappropriately whilst visiting by ignoring your sign which requested "No Cold Callers" and would like to assure you that this matter has been taken very seriously. I would also like to apologise for any upset we have caused you.

As market leaders for quality customer service, we insist on high standards from our sales people and it is a matter for concern if we fall short of these usual standards. I can assure you that this instance is being investigated and the salesperson in question will be dealt with by their manager"

(2) "Following the letter above, I can assure you that it is company policy not to call on properties which display No Cold Caller notices."

It seems clear that if complaints are made to organisations, even by an individual (ask for a response in writing) most organisations will confirm that they don't want their reps annoying the general public and consequently running the risk of damaging their reputation; and as the above shows, direct complaints can lead to positive steps being taken to reduce unwanted callers. If you display a No Cold Calling Home sticker and still get door knocked, here are some options to consider:

- Don't answer the door (waste their time not yours).
- If answering the door, ask them for their name/I.D., company telephone details, then ask why they ignored the notice & finally ask them to leave. Then take the time & trouble to report them to their organisation & seek an apology etc in writing. Pass details on to either N/Hood Watch or our Police Liaison Officer.
- If any abuse received get personal details/description & contact Police immediately.
- If the caller is suspicious in any way, get personal details / description & contact Police immediately.

Telephone Numbers (if you don't contact them,
the Police/Community Force don't know a problem exists)
Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgfield ring 623654
or via Chilton Control Room: 01388 721351

To contact Local Police to report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to the Police, call 0345 60 60 365 (NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no.)

For advice / assistance:

Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne, Telephone 01325 742714
Community Liaison Officer - Mel Elliot, Telephone 01325 742755

PC Todd reports

Parked, unattended vehicles are an easy target for anyone intent on causing damage or taking it for their own use.

Two vehicles have been stolen recently; a Mazda from Milbourne Court and a Shogun from Rectory Row. Others have had paintwork damaged whilst parked in West End and Elm Avenue.

Even number plates are not safe as yet again both front and rear plates were taken from a works van in Elm Avenue.

Sadly, a bus was targeted on High Street, by youths throwing stones. They didn't hang around to give their details, of course, but they did leave a bus with no windows and very shocked passengers.

Other crimes reported include;
theft of 2 JCB buckets from the industrial estate;

workmen's container in Spring Lane broken into - nothing stolen but a lot of mess left behind.

Police & Communities Together

After consulting with various interested persons, the neighbourhood beat team has decided that the monthly **P.A.C.T.** meeting would be better served if incorporated into an existing, well-known meeting which already does a grand job of looking after the interests of residents, by which I mean the Residents' Forum. Other groups such as the Crime Watch & Neighbourhood Watch Panel are just as important in crime matters. They help provide a balance of information, public awareness and pro-active initiatives to assist police in providing a quality service to the public. I will continue to attend these meetings, which are held every two months in the Fletcher Room at the Parish hall. I know that anyone reading this article who would like to know more about crime issues would be most welcome at the next meeting. (See Diary on page 11 for details).

Until next time

Keith

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently at the Black Lion the general feeling was that the Ball Game was a success, though it was in part marred by youths trying to purchase alcohol or demanding to use the toilets.

No incidents were reported which required further action to be taken by members.

Jottings

from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum meeting, March '09

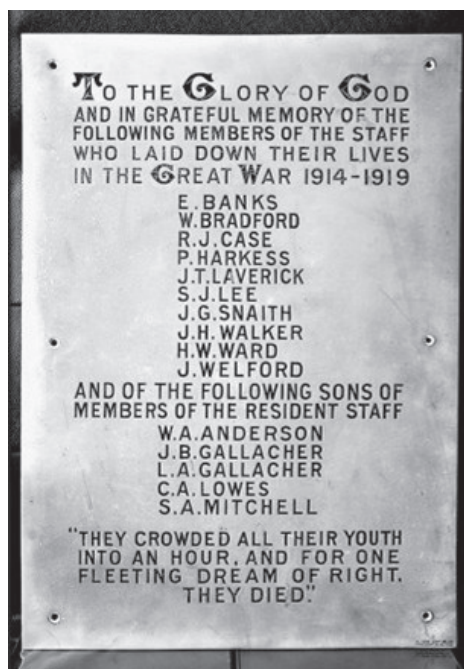
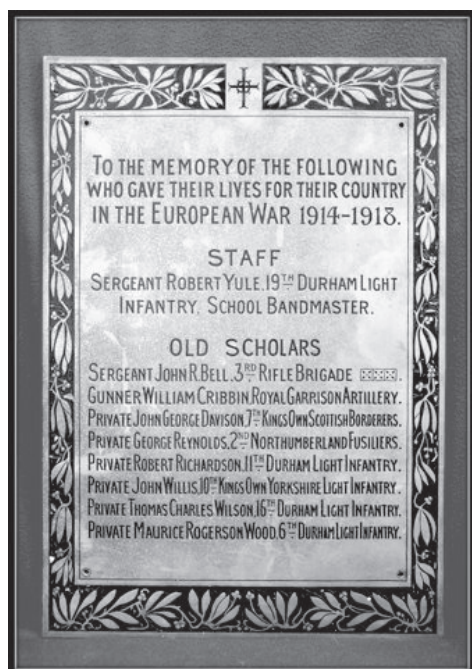
- The planning approval for the Caravan Park next to Hardwick Historic Country Park was met with strong disapproval by the residents at the meeting with pleas to explore means of reviewing the decision. They felt the rejection of the original application was based on sound planning policy and there was not one letter of support from any resident of this village. The residents' concerns have been discussed with Rt. Hon Phil Wilson MP who has contacted the SBC to clarify for us why the councillors made a turnabout decision on this reapplication especially as, apart from a small reduction in the number of units, nothing else had changed. We are waiting for an official response from Brian Allen, Chief Executive of SBC. The working group agreed to take concerns forward but in the meantime residents intended to write to express their dismay at the total disregard for the local community which is going to be directly affected by this development.
- Residents are encouraged to write to DCC a.s.a.p. if they have concerns about the siting and access for buses to the college new build.
- In local government reorganisation the first meeting of the AAP East Durham Rural Corridor (includes Fishburn, Coxhoe, Trimdons, Kelhoe, Cassop, Quarrington Hill & Sedgefield) will be held on 29th April. Watch the SVRF notice board outside the library for time and venue.
- Sedgefield Town Council has responded to a request to curb the number of banners/fly posting that has emerged around the village. The appearance of some business properties was also a concern.
- Date of next meeting: Monday 6th April at 7.00p.m. in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Sedgefield Village Veterans conduct some poignant historical research: can you help?

We are conducting a search for items that were taken from Winterton Hospital (St Luke's Church) when the hospital closed in 2002. The pictures below are plates that we have managed to recover.

We are currently researching the history of Winterton, but in particular the connections with war veterans from the Crimea, Boer War, India, Egypt and the 2 world wars up until the closure date.

If anyone has any knowledge of these or other artefacts, memorabilia or documents then please contact Tim Spearey on 623654, or David Hillerby on 621343; email davidh.no10@btinternet.com



Local business fights to save 13 month old baby Ethan



Gemma Holmes, proprietor of a Sedgefield web design company, GHG Design, has taken on a project to hopefully save a baby's life. Thirteen-month old Ethan Collins was born with a rare condition called Gastroschisis, where his bowel was outside of his stomach. He is now fighting for his life and is in desperate need of a liver & bowel transplant. The website has been developed to raise awareness of Ethan's story but also to inform people of how donating organs can be life-changing!

After working with Ethan's family, Gemma says "You don't realise until you're talking to people who are going through so much pain every day, wondering if their little boy will survive from one week to the next, how important raising awareness and donating is! I took on this project because I want to get the right result for Ethan. I want nothing more than to find a donor for him now! Sadly, for Ethan to stay alive a liver and bowel has to come from another 1-3 year old child. I can't imagine what it's like to lose a child, and trying to persuade parents to donate organs really is hard! - I just urge any readers to spread this news, and hopefully we can raise awareness together and save lives!"

To read Ethan's story or for more information on how to donate see www.ethanproject.org.uk

If you have an interesting story to tell, contact us at 58 Front St, Sedgefield, TS21 2 AQ, telephone 01740 629011 or email

sedgefieldnews
@hotmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

"I certainly wouldn't say I'm the best manager in the business, but I'm in the top one." I thought I'd start with a quotation from the late, great Brian Clough OBE (Old Big 'Ead). By the time this issue of Sedgefield News has been delivered, a film about Mr. Clough, *The Damned United*, will be showing at cinemas across the UK. The film is an adaptation of a novel by David Peace, about Brian Clough's disastrous 44 days reign as manager of Leeds United, in 1974.

The Clough family has strongly criticised the book's portrayal of Mr. Clough and stated that they have no intention of going to see the film. However, from pretty much all that I have heard so far, the film is quite a celebration of the life and talent of a unique character. Personally, I can't wait to see it. I hope it does justice to this man of the North East (born in Middlesbrough, player for Middlesbrough and Sunderland, and manager of Hartlepool United) and opens the eyes of a new generation to the enigma that was Brian Clough.

Back to Sedgefield and as the winter recedes, there definitely seems to be a collective spring in the sporting step.

Senior Harriers

There was a fantastic result for Gary Hetherington of Sedgefield Harriers in the Dentdale Run, over 14 miles on Saturday 14th March. Gary finished in 1hr 24:44, making a Sedgefield vest first over the line in the vet 40s race and 6th over the line in the whole field. The Dent run is a popular event, which attracts runners from across the North of England. Rosie Sims of the Harriers produced a good performance and finished 15th lady in 1hr 50:25. Other Harriers at Dent were Scott Hydon, Gail Bell and Graeme Cherry. A number of the Harriers are in full training for marathons in the spring, with four members 'doing' London on 26th April and a great entry of ten heading north for Edinburgh on 31st May.

The Harriers have their Neptune Relays coming up on Wednesday 22nd April in Hardwick Park. These are four stage relays with each leg run over 1.7 miles. Teams of four are invited to take part though they need not be members of athletics

clubs. Last year there was a great turn out on a lovely spring evening with a good atmosphere. It is a good event for spectators as the race starts and finishes at the Temple and is in view most of the way as it follows a figure of eight route around the lakes.

For more details contact Ean Parsons, ean2005@hotmail.co.uk or call/text on **07771 828568**.

Junior Harriers

The Harriers' Juniors section has had a good winter with up to 60 runners training each week and a group of around a dozen training regularly at Maiden Castle track in Durham. Great progress is evident and Jonathan Baines from Bishop Middleham recently won his Durham County Cross Country jersey by being selected to represent the County Schools. Jonathan is running very strongly, making regular improvement in times, and at only 15 years of age he has a great future.

Jonathan needs to watch out as other Harriers juniors like Ben Hetherington, Scott Kippen, Seb and Matt Reichal, Jemma Varley and Lee Armes, to name but a few, are not far behind. The club had an excellent turn out at the recent Blakeston School Cross Country meeting in Stockton with 18 juniors taking part. The juniors are targeting the Anne Marie Readshaw Memorial Meeting at Shildon on 19th April to make an impact in a range of events, from throws and jumps to sprints and distance running.

Sedgefield District RUFC

Since the Christmas break bad weather has interrupted the second-half of the season. However, Sedgefield District RUFC finally kicked off again with a cup game against Washington RFC in mid January. It was a hard fought game, but a last minute penalty kick gave Sedgefield a 17-15 victory. A very relieved team was through to the semi-finals of the Durham Plate competition.

Sedgefield continued their winning ways, with successes against Hartlepool and Hartlepool Rovers in the league. They then went to face Seaham in the cup semi-final. Having been knocked out of the same competition by the same team last season, Sedgefield were

keen to make amends. As expected it was a tough physical battle, but once again Seaham came out on top with a 20-9 victory.

So, Sedgefield will have to wait another year for silverware, but there are still several games to play before the end of the season and the team is aiming for a strong finish in the league.

Anyone keen to join the club can find out more information on www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk or head along to one of the training sessions held at Sedgefield Community College from 7.30pm every Wednesday.

SCCA junior sport

A huge "well done" goes to all the participants of the Sedgefield Community College Association Gymnastics club. The children continue to excel and develop their gymnastics skills under the superb supervision of the mother and daughter team Sue and Chrissy Fox.

The club runs in four sessions, two on Thursdays from 5pm - 6pm then 6pm - 7pm and two on Fridays from 5pm - 6pm and 6pm - 7pm. Pictured on the page opposite are the participants from each night. Other children's sports clubs include Basketball, Dance, TaeKwonDo, a Trampoline, and brand new Cricket sessions held on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sedgefield Youth FC

*From our correspondent
Ryan Towler:*

At long last Sedgefield Youth FC have won not one, not two, but three games, but I will only be commenting on two of them. The first was against 21st Century Allstars away. It was a cold and windy day when we kicked off. We were playing into the wind during the first half and at the break the score was 1-0 to the Allstars.

In the second half, with the wind in our favour, Jamie Herd scored twice, leading to a final score of 2-1 to Sedgefield. We were over the moon, as was our manager, because every player on the pitch that day played to their full ability. The second match was also against the Allstars and the final score was 4-0. Again, everyone worked really hard; earlier defeats had taught us that we always have to put in maximum effort to achieve the



Harriers juniors among the field for the start of the U11 cross country at Blakeston School on Feb 7th - a cold day!

SPORTS UPDATE continued

right results. In this victory, goals were scored by Martin Worthington and Jordan Parkin, along with two more from Jamie Herd. Also, this was the first time in the club's history that we have kept a clean sheet! Sedgefield Youth FC are now recruiting for next season and if anyone is interested and under 14 on 1st September 2010, call Ian Parkin on 01740 620033 or come to training on Thursday from 6.00pm - 7.15pm at Sedgefield Community College.

Julie Towler adds (after the second victory against the Allstars):

Watching today's match we as parents were very proud of our boys. After a string of defeats our team has continued to try hard, turned up to every game and shown great character. They have continued to enjoy the game even when decisions haven't gone their way, and they have continued to show great sportsmanship and friendship with each other and the teams they play against.

Great stuff. Thanks to Ryan and Julie for that. I'm not sure who Sedgefield Youth FC's manager is, but he or she is clearly doing a great job at keeping the team motivated. And the club has stuck with their 'gaffer'. Which neatly takes me back to Brian Clough.

His 44 days at Leeds United were the low point of an illustrious career, but whatever the circumstances, they should have given him more time.

Brian Clough left Leeds in September 1974 and four months later took up residence down the M1 at unfashionable Nottingham

Forest (at the time sitting 13th in the second tier of English football). By May 1980, Forest had won two League Cups, the English League Championship and, most famously, two successive European Cups. I'm a Forest fan so I am biased, but I think it's the most remarkable story in club football. Aim high, Sedgefield Youth FC.

If you have any sports news, as ever, send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Meanwhile, I'll leave you with another gem from Mr. Clough:

"They say Rome wasn't built in a day, but I wasn't on that particular job".

*SCCA
Gym Club
members
& staff*

*Top:
Thursday
night
sessions*

*Below:
Friday
night
sessions*



A Night on the "Stiles"?

On Friday 1st May there will be a **Sportsman's Charity Night** in aid of Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland, to be held at the Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland.

Guest speakers at the event will be **1966 World Cup hero Nobby Stiles and his son, comedian John Stiles**

Tickets are £12.50
(including supper).

For more information or tickets for what will undoubtedly be a terrific evening's entertainment, telephone 01388 603003.

Tickets are limited so early booking is advisable.

April Events Diary

Sing for Fun

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

Wednesdays

1st, 15th & 29th April

Methodist Church Hall, North End

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 1st April

Join our line up of fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 1st April

7.15pm in the Parish Hall

Barbara Beveridge

"Leazes' Dairy Preserves"

Members' competition: a limerick -
"A pretty young milkmaid named Sue..."

Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

The Inner Wheel Club of Sedgefield

Charity Fashion Show

by House of Fraser

at Sedgefield Parish Hall on

Thursday 2nd April

at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 from the BP Garage,
North End or call 622377

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 4th April

Starts at 8pm

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 5th April

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

Theme - Easter

Residents' Forum

Monday 6th April

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm

Local History Society

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Monday 6th April

Alan Wilby

"Cleveland Curiosities"

All welcome

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 6th April

8pm in the Nag's Head

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 6th April

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Bedding Plants

by George Richardson's

All welcome

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 11th April

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Live Music

Please note date - 8pm on

Saturday 11th April

Main guest: **Vin Garbutt**

also featuring Loose Connection
and John Wrightson Band.

Admission by ticket only -

£10 including buffet

Tel: 621347

*The Cricket Club is available for hire
for private parties, christenings, etc.*

Call Jane on 629616

Farmers' Market

Sunday 12th April

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 12th April

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

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

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting

Tuesday 14th April

7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

ALL Welcome

St George's Dinner

Change of date - now to be held on

Saturday 18th April

at Ceddesfeld Hall

Tickets for the 4 course meal and
drinks reception are still available

at **£16** per head from

Wendy Gill, telephone 620206

Sedgefield Town Council

monthly meeting

Monday 20th April

7 pm in the Council Offices

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 20th April

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Ann Fell

**"From Ripon to Norfolk Island.
The Story of John Fell - Convict"**

Visitors are always welcome

For more information please ring

Sylvia Hall 620367

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

Monday 20th April

Speaker - George Nairn

New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 21st April

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

"Memories are made of this"

Lesley Smith, National

Demonstrator

All welcome

A FREE service to non-
commercial organisations

Sedgefield Village Veterans

Monthly meeting: 7pm Parish Hall

Thursday 23rd April

New members always welcome

Lirica & SLYC in concert

St Edmund's Church

Saturday 25th April

at 7.30pm

Tickets **£5/£4** incl. refreshments

from 'Selections' on High Street

at SLYC rehearsals, or call

Caroline Wright, 655701 or

Katy Robinson, 623493

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

7.45 in the Parish Hall

Thursday 30th April

AGM and Faith Supper

All welcome

April @ the Library

Junior Reading Group

restarts Monday 27th, 5-6pm

Tickle Time

Monday 27th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 1st & 29th, 10-11am

Toy Library

Wednesday 22nd, 10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 15th 2pm

**Easter crafts & activities
for children.**

Please contact library for details

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Country Market

Friday mornings in the Parish Hall

101 gigs in April

03 - The Cleveland Hotel, Redcar

04 - The Penny Black, Stockton

05 - The Normanby Hotel,
Normanby

10 - Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough

11 - Wedding, Mainsforth Club

12 - The Crown, Brotton

13th - Easter Monday

Hardwick Arms, Sedgefield

Special bank holiday gig starts 5pm

18 - Ye Olde Horseshoe, Crook

25 - The Durham Ox, Coundon

Coming up in May

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 5th May: Alan McManus

Formation and Making of the

Gardens of St. Benedict's Hospice

Your support for Jack

A year ago our son, Jack Smith, broke his neck during a rugby game between Billingham and Darlington U17s.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support through the last, very difficult year.

Family, friends, health professionals and even complete strangers have been the most amazing source of support to Jack and the rest of the family.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to help us. Knowing how many people think of Jack and will him on makes a huge difference to us all.

Yours sincerely,
Jack and the rest of the Smith family

Under Siege!

Has anyone else noticed that Sedgefield and the surrounding district appears to be under siege from the mole population?

When I moved here a number of years ago I remember seeing a road sign opposite Hardwick Hall with a 'mole watch' number on it. Now they seem to be proliferating - are we now just giving in?

Leo McCormack

News from NetPark

The official opening of the £9.5m Printable Electronics Technology Centre (PETEC) took place on 23rd March just a few days after Business Secretary and ex Hartlepool MP, Lord Mandelson visited the new facility during a trip to the region.

News of planning permission for a high-tech prototyping and development facility capable of providing around 100 new jobs has also been announced. This could provide an ideal global headquarters for another cutting-edge organisation, following in the footsteps of the likes of Kromek and Roar Particles, both of which have become global leaders in their field. Kromek has developed digital X-ray techniques to combat terrorism.

Planning consent has also been gained to open up an additional eight acres of development land. Stewart Watkins, managing director of County Durham Development Company which manages NETPark, said: "This is a major milestone in the ongoing development of the most exciting innovation hub in the region."

It seems that the steady growth of jobs at the technology park will continue into the future.



Sedgefield Development Trust is a member of the Development Trusts Association

Your Letters

Caravans and turbines - a different point of view

Thank you for your latest Sedgefield News, (March 2009)

In nearly every newsletter issued, people complain about wind turbines being put up in the area and object against a caravan park.

It appears to be a case of "Not in our back yard".

Do people not realise, that in years to come, the cost of oil and gas will go through the roof, this is because there is less and less available. We may be ok and our grandchildren ok, but what of their children? They will find it very hard obtain gas and oil and will have to look at alternate ways to obtain fuel. The best alternate way is by wind turbines. The more turbines are put up the cheaper electric will be.

Nobody is complaining about people who have solar panels on the roof and yet these provide hot water and heating - a great way to save money. Unfortunately solar panels are expensive, however prices will reduce as demand increases.

As for the caravan park which has just been granted the go ahead for 330 caravans to be sited. People objected about them, however if you have a business where it needs people to come in and out and buy items then surely they will not object and nor will people who end up working at the caravan park. No doubt cleaners, gardeners etc will be needed. If you are unemployed and presently living in Sedgefield this could be the chance to obtain employment.

Please, before readers start shouting and objecting, they should look well into the future and not just their own but for the future of their families.

In my own personal opinion, I wish the owner of the future caravan park lots of luck as no doubt he will need it. As to the utility companies who are trying to put up the wind turbines, might I advise them to try harder as they have nothing to loose.

Mrs May, Mordon

A spare time interest that's just a bit different!

Producing Sedgefield News is quite a time consuming affair and inevitably the work falls upon a small band of volunteers.

It is very heartening to know that the newspaper has become a well read and trusted publication, and that many people look forward to receiving it each month.

Sedgefield Development Trust would welcome help from anyone interested in this kind of work; editing contributions, using computer skills to put the paper together, keeping the Diary page in order, helping with adverts, etc. Contact the team (see box below) if you would like to talk to those involved.

For inclusion in the May edition of Sedgefield News please send news or adverts by April 15th to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

or to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit contributions & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. **Please include contact details in correspondence** and, if you wish, ask to have your name/address withheld.

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