



Sedgefield NEWS

April 2010

Watch out! There really is a thief about and we are making it SO EASY!

At the time of writing, just over half way through the month, no fewer than 13 cars in Sedgefield have simply been opened and emptied of anything valuable or remotely sale-able. And the reason it's so easy? We don't bother to lock our cars.

Apparently lots of us regularly leave our second most valuable possession completely unprotected, so it's a piece of cake for our thief to walk around in the early hours and help himself to all those small items we leave in the car; briefcase, laptop, CDs, mobile phone, a jacket with wallet, cash - you name it - he profits from it.

PC Keith Todd naturally wants to get the crime figures back down to their usual healthy level, but he is also very keen to help us hang on to our stuff! So he's asking us to keep our eyes open for any suspicious behaviour, especially if we're up and about in the early hours, and report it to police straight away. Please remain vigilant and if you see anything that causes you concern, call **0345 60 60 365**.

It may not be 'cool' to read and heed page 4, but you certainly feel the chill when you become a victim. **Lock up your car and let's make it stop.**

Congratulations! Jonathan Baines named Ron Hill Athlete of the Month in 'Athletics Weekly' - more in Sports Update on p6.

SDT Announcement: After meetings between community representatives from Fishburn and the Sedgefield Development Trust, the Charities Commission has approved Fishburn becoming part of the area to benefit from Trust activities. SDT is also now able to support Fishburn in developing new projects.

Below - a photo call for members of Fishburn Dance and Drama before their performance of 'All in One Lifetime', a musical theatre production written, directed and choreographed by Gill Rowe.

Performers aged between 3 & 21 celebrated grandma's 100th birthday and took a trip down memory lane with her as she recalled the changes in music and dance styles during her life. From Charleston to Hip Hop and other styles in between, they entertained their audiences and gave a truly professional performance.



Spring Judging

Northumbria in Bloom

On the morning of Wednesday 7th

April the judges will be visiting Sedgefield, so please help us to make the very best impression by making sure your garden looks blooming lovely!

Anyone who can help litter pick on the morning is very welcome. If you can help in any way, or need further information, call Angela at the Town Council offices - 621273.

Newsround

We are looking for someone to deliver Sedgefield News to

North Park Road & Boyne Court

Please contact Judith Edgoose on 01740 620244 if you can help.

Distributors tell us their 'customers' are always pleased to see them, so there's an incentive!

Sedgefield young people's drop-in

February was all go for the 13 - 19 year olds who use the drop-in space at 58 Front Street, with two 'residential' and a local band and singer supporting a fundraiser in Newbottle.

The residential weekends were to Edinburgh (the girls group) and Manchester (boys). Whilst in Edinburgh the girls had an opportunity to visit a number of local attractions, including Mary Kings Close, the Zoo and the Dungeons. On Saturday evening they saw The Sound of Music, and for the majority of the group this was the first time they had visited a theatre. The boys group took part in snow activities such as Snowboarding and Skiing at the Chillfactor in Manchester and alongside this they experienced a simulated sky dive at AirKix. The ideas were developed by the young people and they actively applied for money from the Youth Opportunities Fund. Local band 'Anywhere But Here' and Kieron Clarke (solo singer) took part in the fundraising event in Newbottle, for a young man who suffered 90% burns last year. The young people were supported by their friendship group and helped to raise a large sum of money on the evening.

These are just examples of the activities we do and support. During most holidays we have a number of activities like go-karting, rock climbing, kayaking and the adrenaline assault course. During the week-day sessions we look at issues that can affect young people, such as sexual health, alcohol and self esteem problems. Throughout every session we also offer a safe environment for young people to access free condoms and the Chlamydia Screening Programme.

If you are aged 13-19 and would like to be involved in any of the activities or sessions, please come along to the Drop-in (between Theakstons and the fish & chip shop.) We are open on;

Tuesday 3.30-5pm (Girls only), Wednesday 3.30-5pm (Boys Only), Thursday 3.30-5pm (Mixed), Friday 4-7pm (& 5-6pm, Outreach).

Growing spaces: new land bank is a reality

The Youth Drop-in mentioned above is one project of Sedgefield Development Trust (jointly with Durham County Council.) If you are following Geoff Hughes' search, via the letters page, for somewhere to grow his vegetables, you'll see that he has forwarded the information he has gathered to the SDT. In doing this, he created yet another project, because at the last monthly meeting, Trust executives agreed to take on the land bank. It's clear that there is an urgent need for someone to organise for the demand that Geoff has uncovered. Details will be published next month.

Singers start young

Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir

organisers are opening up the group to boys & girls aged 7 and over, starting after Easter, so if your child enjoys singing, this is an ideal time for them to start.

If they are glued to 'Glee' or mad to be the next Joe McElderry (winner of the last X-Factor) here's what you need to know.

**Time: 6pm on term-time Fridays
Place: Ceddesfeld Hall.**

Come and meet us and let your child experience the lasting friendships and the sheer fun of being part of our happy team.

In the middle of celebrating 25 years of singing, the choir is looking to the future in more ways than one. SLYC accompanist, Rob Guest and helper, Kristen Peacock, both members of the spin-off singing group, Lirica, are in the middle of a course on leading a choir. Both will conduct the choir at concerts this year.

If you have any questions, please call Sandy Clubley on 620609.

Sedgefield Community Association

St George's Day Dinner

Saturday 1st May

at 7pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tickets are £20

Call Wendy Gill 620206,

Pat Buckley-Atkins 620607

or ask at Ceddesfeld Hall Bar

The Power of Politics at Sedgefield Community College

Students at Sedgefield Community College ditched their usual classroom based lessons to work closely with a wide range of community representatives and theatre companies recently. Keen to explore how they can contribute to improving their community through the power of politics, Year 7 & 8 students were challenged to create their own political party. Collaborating with key members of our community, including local MP Phil Wilson, Labour, students devised party names, logos and manifestos. They then underwent a grueling election campaign and voting process to elect the winning team. Many thanks to Messrs. Phil Wilson, MP, Ian Sutherland, Town Council, John Robinson, Durham County Council, Mick Hills and Paul Trippett, who organized the team.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students were exploring how to make the right choices regarding their future career plans. Amid theatre productions and drama events, the highlight of their day was an "Employers' Roadshow" where students were able to quiz employers from a wide range of work sectors about their jobs.

This event is just one in a series where Sedgefield students benefit greatly from working closely with adults from the wider community to enhance their understanding of the skills required for successful futures.



Left to Right: Bethany Edwards, Ruth Christian, Ruth Smart, Mrs Deborah Murphy (Assistant Headteacher), Rhys Tate, Adam Elders, Mrs Rachel Ripley (teacher of English), Mr Dave Davies (Headteacher), Mr Ian Sutherland (Town Council), Mr Phil Wilson (Labour MP), Laura Foakes, Ryan Humphrey, Ben Bradford, Joshua Hodgson

Joking about smoking?

Pupils put the clowns right!

Children in Y5 and Y6 at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School were both educated and entertained by two actors from 'Tin Arts' in the last week of February. Although the theme, the dangers of smoking, was serious, the actors were very funny and had everyone laughing. 'Briefcase Brenny' and 'Pinstripe Penny' who worked for 'Foolproof Advertising Agency' had the job of talking to school children about smoking. They had misunderstood their task, however, and started to talk about how smoking makes people happy and that it is good to smoke with your family! The children at Hardwick were quick to point out that they were wrong and then helped the clowns to develop a new advertising campaign.

The afternoon involved some fabulous teamwork where the children were given a very short amount of time to use their bodies to represent washing machines, chairs and a cigarette. They also worked together to add facts and comments to a huge banner about smoking. Emma Thompson, aged 10 said, 'It was better than a normal science lesson and I like science.' 'It was fun,' and 'really good' commented Charlotte Scurr and Georgina Letts. This novel approach to learning certainly made an impact.



A Grain of Wheat is harvested

The producers of the CD 'A Grain of Wheat' would like to pass on this letter to everyone who was kind enough support their efforts. It was received from the Little Way Association after they had received first cheque.

"We are very grateful to you and your friends, for producing the wonderful CD, which we have enjoyed listening to. The very generous donation of £1790.00 that you have sent us recently, proceeds from the sale of the CD, is being used to provide food, medicine and other aid for large numbers of children in mission lands. We thank you on behalf of all who will benefit and assure you of our prayers and good wishes."

Trust thanks

Sedgefield Development Trust thanks Cllr. David Brown for his support to a number of its projects, from his Durham County Council Member's Initiative Fund. The new project, Community Lawyers, as well as DIDO (for senior citizens) and the Youth Drop-in for 13-19 year olds have each benefited.

Apart from SDT projects, Cllr Brown also helped Sedgefield Village Veterans, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group, Sedgefield Primary School New Stage Fund and Activities for Children and Young People in Bishop Middleham.

A Kick in the Baubles

Sedgefield Players March production may not have been seasonal, but it certainly hit the spot with audiences who declared it the funniest thing they'd seen in along time. Christmas in the Bailey household is a bit short on goodwill, with Jean spending far more than they can afford and Frank dreading the annual visit from the snooty in-laws (Viv Jacobs and Geoff Clifford -Brown) and their dozy daughter (Rebecca Holmes). To make matters worse, their raucous neighbours invite themselves over and can't wait to show off their Christmas presents.

Thomas Guest as Gary, determined to entertain everyone with his karaoke machine, stopped the show with his appearance in high heels, short skirt and bunny girl ears. His wife Julie (Sarah Legender), complete with new boobs and a bunch of mistletoe, terrorised every man she met. When the Bailey's daughter Milly, played by Janine Yaxley, turned up unexpectedly with long-haired boyfriend Darren (Darryl Jones) things became even more heated.

Add to this a musical Santa Claus, a bauble swinging snowman, jangly ring tones, an assortment of Christmas chart hits and copious amounts of alcohol; certainly not a Silent Night. The technical team of David Jasper, Jonathan Reeve and Garry Jacobs supported the action expertly and director Walter Howell was delighted with the success of the play, written by local man Gordon Steel.

The Players next event is a 60s night in April (further details on the diary page.)

You can also find out more about the Players on their new website www.sedgefieldplayers.co.uk.



Girlguiding UK

girls in the lead

100

Girlguiding is looking for adult volunteers to work with the Rainbows (age 5-7), Brownies (7-10) & Guides (10-14) that meet each week in Sedgefield.

Guiding today is about girls and women learning together, sharing experiences, trying new activities and getting involved in their community. From guiding, girls & leaders develop new skills and have experiences that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Do you enjoy a challenge? Could you get involved in guiding and discover an extraordinary world of fun, friends and adventure?

All volunteers are fully supported by experienced leaders and tested training programmes and **will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.**

As Girlguiding begins its centenary celebrations why not contact us and find out more about guiding in your community and how you could get involved.

Contact Jane Vaslet, Sedgefield Division Commissioner, on

01740 630745

Community SAFETY

Follow up from February Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

In last month's Sedgefield News we gave an account of the above meeting. The regular reader may have noticed that there was no report from PC Todd and no crime figures. This was not an error, as PC Todd now reports under his PACT heading direct to the paper and normally we would include the crime figures for the two month period, covered by our meetings.

However at the February meeting Keith announced that crime was so low and as there had been no burglaries at all in the last two months in the village a formal report was not needed. This was welcomed by N/H/Watch members as good news indeed.

Unfortunately the good news has ended in March with a spate of thefts from cars overnight, which started 3/4th & 4/5th of March in the village itself - and there have been more since! The really bad news is that these were all avoidable. The most recent incidents occurred overnight on Tuesday 16th in Cragside and Hadleigh Close. None of the vehicles were forcibly entered; they had been left insecure. If you value your property and don't want the hassle of dealing with the aftermath of theft / burglary, please take the simple precaution of keeping it locked and secure. Also worthwhile is the use of lights on in the home and the benefit of "good neighbours".

Local Police have already delivered 500 fliers to various homes in an attempt to get residents to take basic security precautions. They also ask that the public report any suspicious persons / vehicles, no matter how trivial to the Police - see below.

Telephone Numbers (remember if you don't contact them, the Police/Community Force will not know a problem exists)

Local Police 0345 60 60 365 to report any concerns, seek advice or pass on information to them. NB it may be prudent to keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident number.

Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield: **623654** or via Chilton Control Room: **01388 721351**

Police Crime Prevention Officer Keith Lownds: 01325 742714 for advice or assistance

Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum March meeting

As the Residents' Forum meetings scheduled for April and May both fall on Bank Holidays it has been decided to cancel those meetings. Instead we will hold a **Special Meeting on Wednesday April 21st at 7pm in the Fletcher Room**. The meeting will report back on answers which have finally been gathered from Durham County Council and the Planning Inspectorate to questions residents posed about the process of the Caravan Park being granted planning permission. Since planning permission was granted the 'working group' of the Forum have been persistent in seeking the answers to residents' questions. Although it has taken some considerable time this Special Meeting will be an opportunity for all those residents who asked questions and those who are still curious to hear the views and comments of DCC and the Inspectorate and in turn give feedback on the answers provided. The meeting is open to everyone so please come along to hear and comment on the questions our community submitted.

The March Forum meeting heard an update on current issues and an update from PC Todd on Policing issues in the village. There was discussion on the planning application to establish a rugby pitch at the cricket field. Whilst there were welcoming comments to this proposal recognising the benefits and success of the rugby club there was concern that open park land was being used when there are already rugby pitches at the sports college. There was no further information about the long requested bowling green which is again a possibility on land near the cricket club.

The Forum is still seeking answers from Durham County Council on what has happened to the circa £47K section 106 monies allocated as a result of Cunningham Court development. You wouldn't believe (or maybe you would) the number of letters, some recorded delivery, telephone calls and emails sent to DCC regarding this issue - all resulting in no reply to date. (8th March - we first wrote in Oct 09)

The March minutes will, as usual be available in the Town Council office and Library and will be circulated on the Residents email list.

Remember no meetings the first Mondays of April & May, but put the Special meeting in your diary: April 21st 7pm in the Fletcher Room.

PC Todd reports

Last month I highlighted 2 crimes - both the theft of property from vehicles left unsecured overnight. As you will have read on the front page, the number of such crimes has increased rapidly (13 at the time of writing).

Please, *please* make sure that you *always* lock your vehicle doors and remove anything of value from inside the car.

We are making every effort to catch the culprit, but in the meantime you can help yourselves and us, by locking up. If you see a suspicious male in the early hours of the morning, please report the fact to the police. Let's make the number 13 an unlucky one for this opportunist thief.

Other crimes reported include theft from a garage and a vehicle stolen from the Winterton estate.

PACT: The March meeting was held during the Residents' Forum meeting. Dog fouling on pavements seems to be on the increase. Please be sure to clean up after your dog.

Pub Watch: A meeting was held at the Chilton Control Room, but unfortunately we were unable to view the CCTV monitors on that occasion. Maybe next time. No incidents requiring further action by members were reported.

Stop press: from Sedgefield N.H.W. Crime Prevention Panel

A suspected attempted burglary was reported in North End at 5.40am on Monday 22nd March and details of a suspicious vehicle passed to the Police. It is pleasing to report that as a result of prompt police response 2 men have been arrested and are now in custody.

Willowdene seeks musical friend - and chatty ones too!

Willowdene Nursing Home (which nestles in the hollow between Sedgefield and Fishburn) has an electric organ but no-one there is able to play it! They are looking for someone who can play, who is willing to give an hour of their time occasionally to play for residents.

Willowdene is also looking for volunteers who would be willing to come in on an occasional basis to sit and chat to residents, some of whom don't have any family nearby and therefore don't get many visitors. Unlimited tea and biscuits and a very warm welcome are on offer in return! If you can help, please contact Activities Organiser, Claire Liddy or Manager, Lynne Smith on **01740 623644** or email **willowdene@mmcg.co.uk**

Snapshots of Sedgefield

Many thanks to Kenny Moyle and Joy Armstrong (nee Jobson) for coming up trumps with names of students and staff in the Sedgefield County Mixed School photo featured in March. The teacher is indeed the redoubtable Margaret Bell and the student beside her Miss Bibby. On the back row from left we have Alf Walton, Dennis Ferguson, Barry Workman, Kit Taylor, the late and much missed David Swinbank, John Allen, David Atkinson (who had a sister Evelyn) and Kenny Moyle. The middle row from the left shows Freddie Watson from Beacon Hill Farm, Keith Sirrell, David Merrington, Robert Barron, Carol Foster (now Raw), Ann Reed, Brenda Ducker and Linden Staples, who was a soldier's daughter and lived on Kerr Crescent, the married quarters for the army camp. Kenny remembers kids playing up there on the firing range and assault course. Next to Linden is Terry Canmore, then Jeff Sunter, Brian Haig (or was it Wade?) from Mordon and Jimmy Gilliland.

In the front row, the girls are Pamela Butler, Margaret Craggs, whose family had the fish shop, Gillian Swinbank, Joyce Hill and Sylvia Miller. After the staff, we have Denise Jackson, Jean Hall, Jill Eltringham, Joy Jobson and Irene Swinbank, sadly killed 2 or 3 years ago outside her farm near Darlington. Joy, who could remember every single person in the photo, reckons it was taken about 1954. We will have another school photo very soon, but in the meantime, does this sporting photo strike any bells? Obviously taken at the Cricket Club, but are they all in the same team? A snazzy assortment of jackets and cap, does anyone recognise the badges - or the faces? Sedgefield Local History Society is very grateful to everyone who has contacted us so far, with interesting information and offers of photographs from their own collection.

If you have any photos you would like to donate or loan, we would be delighted to add them to the ever expanding Sedgefield archive. You can contact me on 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

Sedgefield Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is well known to many readers of the Sedgefield News, but not all readers may have visited us, so here are details of regular events. We are situated at North End, opposite the B.P. Garage and next to Wrights Construction Ltd.

The congregation meets for worship on Sundays at 10am and 6pm. Children's group, Genesis, meets on the first Sunday of the month at 10am (all ages welcome) and there's a family friendly service on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

During the week a number of groups meet on the premises. These include:

Mothers & Toddlers - Mondays @ 1.30pm

Wives & Friends - alternate Mondays @ 7.30pm

Ladies Fellowship - Tuesdays @ 2pm

Singing for health - alt Wednesdays, 1 - 2pm

Seekers Group (a ladies group exploring the Christian life in a relaxed setting) - alternate Wednesdays between 1.30 & 3pm

Sunshine Corner (a group for pre school children with parents/carers, sharing play, crafts, and Bible stories) - Thursdays between 1.30 & 2.30pm

Prayer Circle every Saturday morning between 9.30 and 10am (if you wish to make a prayer request, please let us know)

A Coffee Morning is held on the first Saturday each month - 10-11.30am

For further information, contact David & Margaret Glass 621618, Bob Adamson 621838 Margaret Dickerson 621093, Anne Jackson 622252, Christine 622655 or our Minister, Revd. Michael Pullan 01388 815198.

You will be given a warm welcome at any of the meetings.



SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

Spring does finally seem to have arrived, but despite that the Sunday league football programme has continued to suffer disruption during the last month. Frozen pitches were for a while replaced by waterlogged pitches and even though games are now being played regularly again, there's a degree of fixture chaos at the moment that will endure for some time yet. When the clocks go forward, for 'Sunday league' we will be able to read 'Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday league'. Challenges ahead aplenty for the players, management, support teams and whoever washes the kit. Away from the latter stages of the domestic football season (both in and around Sedgefield, and in the Premier League, Championship and the rest), cricket will be coming to the fore again soon.

Internationally, it's another Ashes year, so the England team will be working up to their trip to Australia and hoping to win down under for the first time in almost 25 years. Here in England, Durham CCC will start the season as County Champions...again. The squad still looks very strong and with the likelihood that Steve Harmison won't be called away for England duty this summer, they have a bowling attack that every other county will fear. A third successive title is by no means out of the question. Sedgefield Cricket Club is also preparing for the new season – more on that in future months. Given that the summer sports are about to take the main stage, it's slightly strange that this sports update is dominated by a decidedly indoor pursuit, but there are good reasons for that.

Sport Relief Squashathon

On Saturday 20th March, Sedgefield Squash Club hosted a Sport Relief 'Squashathon', (pictured opposite) organised by club member Simon Hill. In the morning, 16 junior members with partners (either friends or parents) took part in a knock out competition at the squash club. In the afternoon, sports clubs and social groups of Sedgefield were invited to enter teams of four into a competition – the Ladies Circle, Sedgefield Harriers, table tennis, badminton and tennis clubs took part. Meanwhile, children were invited to take part in a mini Olympics type event in Ceddesfeld Hall, consisting of a range of

challenges that involved using racket and ball.

The same evening, a quiz night was held in the Nag's Head, with many local business kindly donating prizes for a charity auction. Overall, the day's activities raised £750 for Sport Relief – a fantastic effort all round. The club would like to thank everybody who supported and participated in such a successful event.

Youth Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club hosted the fifth annual mini-squash competition for local primary schools in February. The competition and pre-competition coaching attracted three schools this year: Sedgefield Primary, St. William's (Trimdon) and Trimdon Juniors. Despite being hampered by ice and snow, Stephen Rowsby, now at college in Cumbria, and Ian Woodhead, a professional from Harrogate, delivered two half-day sessions of coaching to each school. In the end, St William's were unable to attend the competition itself, which included four teams of five players: three teams from Sedgefield and one from Trimdon. The event was organised by Dr James Larcombe, with help from teachers at both schools, Sarah Hepples (sports co-ordinator for Sedgefield Community College) and the two Daniels (Skilbeck and Toas), Year 6 pupils at Sedgefield, who refereed all of the matches between them!

As teams have to include a mixture of players (in terms of level of experience), almost half of the children were competing for the second or third time. The teams unanimously decided to shed their official titles and played under four chosen pseudonyms (see below). Each had two matches in a round-robin format. While there was a clear winner, the race for second and third place was very close. The day was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game, alongside the more experienced players. Final results:
1st Bulls (Sedgefield) 109 pts;
2nd Lions (Sedgefield) 77pts;
3rd Vampires (Trimdon) 67 pts;
4th Dragons (Sedgefield) 62 pts.

Sedgefield Harriers had a busy winter. A number of teams and competitors went to Leeds in February to compete in the National Cross Country Championships. A number of juniors competed at

School County Championship Level and Jonathan Baines and Ben Hetherington represented County Durham Schools at County Level. In addition, Jonathan Baines; U17's and Gemma Varley; U20's represented Co Durham at an Inter-Counties match at Birmingham on Saturday 13th March.

Very well done to **Jonathan Baines**, who featured as February's Ron Hill Athlete of the Month in Athletics Weekly. He also represented County Durham Schools at the National Schools Cross Country Championships in Manchester on 20th March.

On 18th April the junior Harriers will take a large contingent to represent the club at the Anne Marie Redshaw Open Track and Field in Shildon where last year they won two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. For the senior club a number of runners have been taking part in the North York Moors Winter Fell Race series of 11 races from October to April. After 9 races Gail Bell is leading the senior ladies category and Ean Parsons the men's over-50 category. The last race is the Gisborough Moors Race on the 11th April.

More information on these races is at www.eskvalleyfellclub.org.

Five Harriers are heading to the capital to compete in this years London Marathon on the 25th April including Gary Hetherington, Rosie Sims, Anthony Long and Helen Parsons. The club holds a number of sessions every week starting at Sedgefield Community College, the main session being Wednesday at 6.30pm. Anyone interested in coming along should e-mail Ean Parsons at ean2005@hotmail.co.uk.

That's about all for this month. Before I go, as many of us start to turn our thoughts to the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, I'll leave you with the thoughts of comedian Dara O'Briain. In a column he writes, he recently wondered what might have been the content of Fabio Capello's team talk that was secretly recorded by a 'spy' in the camp. O'Briain speculated that, in fact, Capello's instructions were probably very simple and went something along the lines of: "Gentlemen. For ten of you, your job is to get the ball to Wayne. And Wayne – don't get hurt."

As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com

The Comic Relief Squashathon; report in Sports Update, opposite page



Cricket Club News

As a member of our committee for several years now, Margaret Horn, having reached the grand age of 90 years, has decided to retire from her position. As a fund raiser and friend to us all, including league umpires, who she never failed to buy a drink for after the games, she will be sadly missed in her official capacity, but we all hope to see her on a regular basis throughout the season.

Our new club developments are now progressing further with the receipt of further financial support from local government. A new garage and external improvements, as well as a new kitchen and internal refurbishments are planned.

Early signs from indoor nets are very good, with a high turnout of players keen to get started. Our season starts at 1.30pm on Saturday 17th April (match sponsor Teesside University) and Sat 24th April (match sponsor Mr Ed Lowe, Accountancy). Your support at games or using our social facilities are always appreciated.

Following recent press releases, you are probably aware that Sedgefield Rugby Club, pending planning permission, will be using Cricket Club facilities on a rental arrangement from next season. Our changing facilities, parking and access arrangements will be offered for a fee to cover expenses.

Cricket Club Annual Fundraising Concert Saturday 8th May in the Parish Hall.

Main guest, Stony Big Band with support from Martin Nesbitt and John Wrightson Band. Stony is very popular so tickets will go very quickly. Call 621347 for tickets, price £10 inc. buffet. Please bring your own drinks.

Sedgefield District RUFC

Training: Wednesdays 7.30pm at Sedgefield Community College on the 3G pitch. People aged 16+ and all abilities welcome.

Call 07578316499 or email www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk or visit the Sedgefield District Rucf Facebook page

Sportman's Evening in aid of Butterwick Hospice Thursday 6th May at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club

Guest speakers: former Scotland & Newcastle Falcons player Doddie Weir, & Steve Kindon - guaranteed to have you rolling with laughter.
Tickets £20 (incl. 2 course dinner) Telephone 01388 603003.

Butterwick Charity Golf Day

Teams of 4 are invited to Wynyard Golf Club on Thursday 20th May

Format is 4 Ball Better Ball, Stableford. Best 2 scores to count from 4, maximum handicap 24, 3/4 allowance. Played from yellow tees.
£200 for a team of 4 players (includes green fees, bacon sandwich & coffee on arrival and a two course meal). Limited places are allocated on first come first served basis. To reserve a team place, please call 01388 603003 or email lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk.

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Donor Session

to be held for the first time at
Sedgefield Racecourse

**on Thursday 15th April
2:30-3:45pm & 4:30-7pm**

Regular & new donors welcome

*If you would like to book an
appointment please call*

0300 123 23 23

Send your advertising copy to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

April Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Churches Together
'Stations of the Cross' Service
MONDAY 29th MARCH
 7 pm at St John Fisher

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall
Saturday 3rd April
 Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Quiz Night
 Last quiz night of the season is presented by Mike Blocki
Saturday 3rd April
 Bar open 7.30
Everyone welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 6th April
 A talk by Dr Alan Pearson on
Plants of the Peloponnese

Sedgefield WI
 7.15pm, Parish Hall
Wednesday 7th April
(change to advertised programme)
"Images of Alaska"
 Illustrated talk by David Raeburn
 Members' competition -
 a handmade Easter Card
Visitors welcome - fee £2

The CeddesFolk Session
 Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm
Wednesday 7th April
All acoustic players welcome

Open Mic Night
 at the Crosshills Hotel
Thursday 8th April 8.30 pm
 Local talent of all ages welcome:
 musicians, vocalists, poets...

Live Music Night
 8pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club
Saturday 10th April
 Main guest: Bram Taylor & Roly Hindmarsh. Also featuring: Steel Strings, Out of the Blue and John Wrightson Band.
 £9 inc buffet. Tel 621347
Call 620090 to hire the Cricket Club

Farmers' Market
Sunday 11th April
 From 9.30 - 1.30 on the Green

NE Concertina Players
Sunday 11th April
 at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Local History Society
 Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm
Monday 12th April
 Jack Turton: Winterton Hospital -
 a brief history from the outside
All welcome

Ladies Club
 8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Tuesday 13th April
"It shouldn't happen to a nurse"
 Mary Nesbitt
Tuesday 27th April
 Fundraising for Mediaeval Fayre
New members welcome

Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting
Tuesday 13th April
 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
ALL Welcome

Cleveland Races
 at Howe Hills, Mordon
Sunday 18th April
 First Race 1.30pm: details p.7

Family History Group
 (branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 19th April
 7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
"The Women of Windlestone"
 Anita Atkinson
 For more information please
 call Sylvia Hall, 620367
Visitors are always welcome

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends
Monday 19th April
 Margaret Foxall
New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club
 Parish Hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 20th April
 Open meeting with NW Area
 Demonstrator Don Billington
"Out of the Wood"
All Welcome

Residents' Forum
Wednesday 21st April
 at 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Sedgefield Wildlife Group
Thursday 22nd April
 7.45pm in the Parish Hall
 AGM, Quiz and Faith supper
New members always welcome

Back by popular demand!
 Sedgefield Players present a
60s night
 featuring excellent local band,
Revival
Saturday 24th April
 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall Tickets
 £10, inc. pie & pea supper. Bar.
 Dress up if you like and dance your
 way back to your youth.
 For tickets, ring 01740-620091.

Winterton Wayfarers Walks in April
 4th. Wolsingham:
 Tunstall Reservoir 7m
 11th. Selset Reservoir 7m
 18th. Sutton Bank, Boltby 7.5m
 25th. Egglestone Abbey 7m
 Meet village hall car park at 9.30am
 Information: 620034 or 620434

Hardwick Park events
 Contact 01740 621 505 or
 hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk
Easter Eggstravaganza
Saturday 3rd April
 11am - 3pm Families Free
 Just show up on the day
Face painting, Easter egg rolling & painting. Hunt for hidden eggs!
Mini Mow
Wednesday 7th April
 11am - 3pm Families Free
 Just show up at Visitor Centre
Decorate your own pot and plant your own mini lawn. Take it home and watch it grow

Sedgefield Library
 Easter holiday children's crafts inc
Gruffalo Open Day
 Thursday 25th April
 Please contact library for details.
Toy Library
 Wednesday 21st April, 10-11am
Book Circle
 Wednesday 21st April, 2pm
Tickle Time - for babies
 Monday 26th April, 2.15-3pm
Rhyme Time
 Wednesday 28th April, 10-11am
Charity fundraising day
 supporting MS Awareness Week
 Thursday 29th April
 Coffee, cakes, raffle

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, North End
 I - 2pm, **2nd & 4th Wednesdays**

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

Party thanks

We would like to thank the Round Table for the wonderful afternoon which they provided for pensioners on Saturday 20th February. The afternoon started with the 3 Fenner sisters singing a medley of thirty/forties songs; very enjoyable and nostalgic. We were then treated to afternoon tea with sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and biscuits with tea or coffee; truly scrumptious. This was followed by an imported Chinook calling bingo, which went down very well (even though we didn't win), so well in fact, he over spent his allotted time. Lastly we had Bert Draycott, World Champion Spoon player. What can one say about Bert that hasn't already been said. Well, his song "My First Car" certainly went further than his spoons, on the day, but only just. Thank you Round Tablers (supported by The Ladies Circle) for an excellent afternoon! It was really appreciated.
David & Enid Hillerby

A growing land bank

Many thanks to all those people who replied to my request for part of a garden to grow vegetables. Unfortunately I can't manage them all but I was delighted with the response, so apologies if I've not been in touch! I hope those who responded don't mind but I have passed your details on to Sedgefield News so if there are others out there who would like to grow vegetables and help to look after someone else's garden then perhaps you would like to contact Sedgefield Development Trust. I know the Trust is short handed but it seems to me that there is an opportunity to establish a database of people with gardens they can't manage, with keen gardeners who are looking for land - over to you!
Geoff Hughes

The Trust connection - Page 2. Ed

Deadline for May APRIL 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.**

Opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent. We reserve the right to edit copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send contact details with correspondence.

**Sedgefield Development Trust is
a member of the Development Trusts Association**

Your Letters

Door replacement policy

Every house in Rowan Court has had new doors fitted except for ours and one other, just because we got a new boiler fitted last year, because it was faulty and condemned. I think it is very unfair that we have been put to the back of the list for the doors, especially as we complained to the council about the draught from our front door in January of this year. They came out and supposedly fixed it but the problem is no better and as a result of the door being so draughty our 14 week old son has had an ear infection and has also had cold 3 times, all because of the cold coming from the front door. We have tried to keep the draft out by putting curtains up at the front door and behind the internal door but despite this it is still not adequate for stopping the cold getting in the front room and it's costing us £30 a week in gas just to keep the house warm enough for us all.
C Kelly

Sedgefield Ball Game & the Rugby Club

Yet another year eagerly anticipated, the hustle and bustle of young and old, all coming together as one. It strikes me that the Ball game is as close to Rugby as any other sport that I have ever played. As I have played Rugby League and American Football I should know. But for that one day of the year everybody wants to play a game as close to Rugby as is possible.

People running with the ball, the thrill of the chase, the big tackle and not forgetting the big hits. Then for the rest of the year nothing. If you really enjoy the Ball Game why not try your hand at rugby, at Sedgefield Rugby Club. People of ages 16 up and of all abilities from begin experienced to beginners are welcome.

Ted Says 'I have coached many people from start to finish and loved doing it. I am currently taking two of the younger lads to play for the Durham County side who play for Sedgefield.' Could you be his next Will Carling? Don't forget Ted is one of the most highly sought after coaches in the country. Or just come and watch and lend a hand as it will be much appreciated. See the Diary page for contacts and details of our coaching programme

Paul Wilkinson

Community College

I read with interest the paragraphs under "Community Safety" in March's edition, in particular those about the lunch problems for the village resulting from some of the Community College pupils. Lunch time is not the only occasion when some pupils cause problems in the village. Might I suggest that as well as staff being "out of school" at lunch time around the village, there should be more deployed each morning when the buses arrive and that those extra staff should be present near the path to the left of the cemetery gates, the path which runs parallel to the cemetery. I and others witnessing this have stopped visiting family graves at this hour of the morning. Should staff be put "on duty" in Butterwick Road around 11.30 each day, they would witness pupils not only presumably having an early lunch, but throwing pies (their lunch?) into the cemetery. It seems there is no respect for the residents' environment, the dead, or those who attend their relatives' graves.
R Willis

The College is grateful to residents who draw our attention to any form of inappropriate behaviour involving our students. On each occasion incidents are investigated and actions taken as necessary. However, in order to ensure a prompt resolution to issues, I would ask that contact is made directly with the college rather than waiting for us to hear of a problem through the Sedgefield News.

*D. Davies, Headteacher
Sedgefield Community College*

Illuminating St Edmund's

Someone no doubt deems there to be a very good reason why St Edmund's Church is illuminated from dusk until well after 0300 hours each evening and night. I wonder if it is wise, when we are all exhorted to consume energy wisely, to be profligate with the both the energy and money this illumination is no doubt costing the environment and someone's pockets.

Incidentally who is paying the electricity cost - hopefully not the already over-burdened Council tax payers? I would like to know the reason why this, undoubtedly attractive and ancient, building is lit to this extent. If it is for "security" reasons, then understanding against whom, doing what, noticed by whom, would be enlightening!

R Willis

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