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Sedgfield NEWS

August 2009

Sedgfield family in Guinness World Record

When we heard that there was going to be a world record attempt for the most ukulele players playing together our family immediately started to plan how we were going to take part. For the uninitiated I should point out that the ukulele is *THE* up and coming instrument of the day, but we like to claim that we were ahead of this trend; all of our family play the ukulele and for the world record attempt we also press ganged a friend to go down to London with us.

The theme for the day was Hawaii so on the 20th June we set off with our ukuleles, grass skirts and flowery shirts and made our way to Devonshire Square in London for the event. There was a very festive atmosphere with lots of ukulele themed entertainment including the fantastic Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

At 3pm the world record attempt took place. We all had to leave the square and be counted back in so that the people from the Guinness book of records were able to verify the numbers. We started with a warm up that included a Mexican wave of ukuleles and then played through the song that we'd all practised, Sloop John B, made famous by the Beach Boys. We knew that the previous record was 400 people so you can imagine the cheer that went up when it was announced that we had more than doubled that with 851 ukulele players. So we are now officially ukulele world record holders.

In the picture you can see the four of us who travelled down from Sedgfield; Lol and Maxine Crallan on soprano ukulele, Eleanor Smart on tenor ukulele and Niall Crallan on baritone ukulele.



Educational awards offered by Sedgfield Charities

The Trustees of the Sedgfield Educational Foundation are offering grants to students going on to higher education after obtaining A levels or equivalent qualifications. The grants are available to young people under 25 and who live in the parishes of **Bradbury, Fishburn, Mordon and Sedgfield**.

There are also similar grants made available by the Trustees of the Sedgfield District Relief in Need Charity which are not restricted to those under 25 and are available to residents in the parishes of **Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgfield and Trimdon**. These are also for people embarking on qualifications above A level standard.

The Trustees of both Charities make a number of awards each year. The students to whom the grants are made receive the grant every year throughout the duration of their course as long as they make satisfactory progress and their circumstances remain unchanged.

Application forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Trustees, John Hannon.

Contact details: East House, Mordon, Sedgfield, Co. Durham, TS21 2EY

Phone: 01740 622512

E-mail: east.house@btinternet.com

Applications must be received no later than 30th September.

Sedgfield Show

The annual show takes place on Saturday 8th August in the Show Field on West Park Lane.

Gates open to the public at 10am. Let's support our local show - and hope for perfect weather!

Your **Letters** appear on page 11 this month

Send your news and views to
sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com

Sedgefield Folk Festival

Well known international and regional artists are performing in the Parish Hall, Ceddesfeld Hall and St. Edmund's Church commencing on Friday evening 4th September and continuing throughout Saturday 5th with a final Festival 'sing-around' on Sunday 6th in Ceddesfeld Hall.

The events timetable also includes free music workshops for children and adults who want to hone their musical skills on the fiddle, ukulele, Northumbrian pipes or the spoons.

Check posters in the Library, Ceddesfeld Hall, Council offices, local schools, various locations throughout the village and surrounding areas for details and times of events. **Visit the website**

www.sedgefieldfolkfestival.co.uk

or pick up a full programme of events from the Town Council offices.

Mordonbury Rocks!

Not even heavy rain showers and cloudy skies could deter the hardy crowd from making the third Mordonfest Outdoor Family Music Festival another roaring success. Held on Mordon village green on Saturday 20th June, the event featured 10 local bands and solo artists each playing a 45 minute set. It was launched at 1pm by **THE GASTRIC BAND** who play acoustic versions of popular songs and will be returning mid September for a gig in the village hall. They were followed by one of Mordon's resident bands **SPLIT THE KIPPER** playing more favourite party songs. We were then graced with the lovely voice of Spennymoor vocalist **CATHERINE LINDSAY** on her first appearance at Mordon. Next came **PETER SIMPSON**, formerly of Larry and the Actors, playing his own superb songs. Check out www.myspace.com/petersimpson335 to hear a sample. He's putting the final touches to his latest album which will be available soon. We then welcomed back Bishopton's brilliant young sax player, **CHRIS SMITH** for his second appearance at Mordon. Chris has a massive talent and great style. Willington's own professional rock guitarist, **IAN JACKSON** then rocked us all with his sheer power and energy. Ian is also currently putting the finishing touches to his album. Visit www.myspace.com/theianjackson to find out more. Ian was followed by **THE DRUMMATHON** which encourages children of all ages to join in a rhythm playing on the drums or pots and pans. It was great fun this year, being led by the talented 10 year old AJ and his great uncle Mike. Darlington/Teesside band **CASUAL SAX** are a soul/blues band with a real brass section, who charmed the crowd on their first time at Mordon with a wonderful set of favourites. They were followed by a delightful duo from Spennymoor, **GEM 'N' I** consisting of singer, songwriter, guitarist, Gemma accompanied by Matthew on congas, bongos and vocals. They were followed by the wonderful **SIXTIES LIVE AT THE VIC** band covering all the 60s favourites. Visit www.60sliveatthevic.com for details of the free 60s club nights they host at Tudhoe Victory Club every second Thursday of the month. Mordon's other resident and host band **STRAY DOGS** kept everyone dancing and closed the festival at about 10pm.

Despite the weather, it was a wonderful day with everyone in good spirits and enjoying the music. 60s drummer Mike celebrated his 60th birthday there with a busload of family and friends.

Thanks must go to Mordon Parish for the use of the green, the local residents for their co-operation, the village hall committee and helpers who worked hard behind the scenes, the superb performers and everyone who attended. Your support has again made Mordonfest a success, raising over £400 for the village hall charity. *Kev Stevens*

Below: AJ and Mike lead the Drummathon



Sedgefield Farmers' July Market report

New stallholder Christine Hewitt from Burnhope Hall Walled Garden was delighted with her first experience of Sedgefield Farmers' Market. Asked if she will be attending next month her reply was "Definitely, yes!"

Christine was selling free-range eggs and also home-grown tomatoes. New also was Richard Crawford's idea of creating a Farmers' Market email list; all you have to do is to send your email address to Richard's email and he will send a monthly reminder of the date and any information about the next Farmers' Market. The address is **crwfrdjoan@tiscali.co.uk**

We hope that you too will participate in this information sharing idea.

More new customers may be seen at the market during the summer months. I chatted to visitors from Lincoln and Nottingham, who were very impressed with the high quality produce on offer.

Cake and biscuit stall "Crumbles" enjoyed a record day at Sedgefield today; they have been just twice before but have already built up a following for their exquisitely produced individual cakes and biscuits, sure to delight as little gifts. Orders for celebration cakes are also welcome.

New and old customers are always very welcome; do come along to the next Farmers' Market on the second Sunday - August 9th.

Cricket Club news

Our new changing rooms progress well, with tiling being fitted to the new showers. We're almost ready for decoration and completion of external work. The whole project was funded by the Borough Council with a Local Improvement Programme grant, enabling us to design & develop the facilities to include changing rooms for men, ladies and disabled.

We are now in fundraising mode as we look to bring the existing premises up to 21st century standard, hoping this will allow us to generate the finance to fund future expectations of competing at the highest standard. The pitch continues to improve as we have increased financial outlay in recent years. Unlike most social outlets our clubhouse fortunately maintains its usual income.

Junior teams are now receiving quality coaching from a level 3 coach. This year's Captain's Cup, sponsored by John Walker, is now under way, with the final 2 Sundays on 2nd & 23rd August commencing 2pm. Local teams made up of non-cricketers compete for this most valued trophy, always guaranteeing a fun day out!

Cricket fixtures foot of page 6.

Mystery photo update

I'm very pleased to let readers know that, since the July issue, I have heard from the man himself. Barry Hutchinson and his wife Hazel moved to Holy Island in 2000, when he was appointed Director of the St. Cuthbert's Centre, a Christian retreat, owned and managed by the United Reformed Church. Open to people of all religions and none, the centre was developed during the 1990s to offer island residents and visitors a modern, well-equipped building in which to meet for worship, fellowship, prayer and sacrament. Inspired by the life of Cuthbert, the centre aims to provide ministry under the five themes of hospitality, teaching, solitude, reconciliation and worship.

Surrounded by quiet paths and pleasant borders under gothic arches, with attractive garden sculptures, a bench in the centre's garden marks the beginning and end of St Cuthbert's Way, a popular walk from the border town of Melrose to Holy Island. The centre and its gardens are accessible to wheelchair users and are open to the public from morning prayer until dusk, Tuesday to Sunday, when not booked by groups. Used by a wide range of groups and churches for quiet days, retreats and away days, the centre is close to the centre of Holy Island village, within easy reach of island facilities and attractions. It sounds delightful and Barry will be very sorry to leave when he retires from the island in 2011. If you would like to know more about the centre, you can visit the website - www.holyisland-stcuthbert.org or email centre@holysisland-stcuthbert.org. Barry himself can be contacted at The Manse, Lewins Lane, Holy Island, Berwick upon Tweed TD15 2SB.

I also had a phone call from Dorothy Nodding (now Riddle) an old flame of Barry's from years back. She has fond memories of the Methodist Youth Club in Fishburn, run by a lady called Jean, and wonders if anybody in Sedgefield



Newsland might have old photographs of trips out and Methodist Weekends. Dorothy's mother Edith Nodding was president of the local WI. Born in Hardwick Hall in 1947, Dorothy is now a hairdresser in Stockton, where she shares premises with her husband Steven's Oxbridge TV shop. She remembers Barry joining the Stockton Baptist Tabernacle Church at the age of 16, as does Phil Smith of Number Four. To become a baptist, Barry had to undergo total immersion, but, only a little boy at the time, Phil was puzzled as to why there was a swimming pool in a church. Phil's older brother Bill (or William), who sadly died at the young age of 46, was a long standing boyfriend of Dorothy. She would be happy to hear from old Sedgefield and Fishburn friends on 01642-614967 or email dotriddle@hotmail.com.

Norma Neal

Northumbria in Bloom

Northumbria in bloom judges were in our village on Tuesday 21st July, and our thanks go to the volunteers who very kindly turned up on the Saturday morning to tidy up the village green and trim the tree growths. It made an enormous difference to the workload involved in preparing for the judges' visit.

Floral Art

An exhibition of paintings by residents from Thurlow Grange & Wykes Close proved very popular during the strawberry cream tea in St Edmund's Church on 11th July. (see below)

The residents painted the flowers for the Northumbria in Bloom judges to view, during their visit to our village, emphasising the community involvement.



Right: the cheeky face of Marta, one of the Von Trapp children in The Sound of Music, the recent summer production at Carmel R.C. College.

Marta was played with great enjoyment, as you can see, by Ciaran Jasper.

This time it rained donkeys!



Damp Weather did not dampen the high spirits of our intrepid bears, zebras or donkeys, as they bravely made their descent from the tower of St Edmund's on a wet Saturday in June. A wide variety of cuddly toys helped the Sedgefield Primary School PTFA raise £420 which will be shared with the Friends of St Edmund's. All lived to tell the tale although a couple of the more daring bears spent a while in the treetops – many thanks to the rescuer, whoever you were! Many thanks to all who supported us and thanks also to all the helpers and the year 6 Brass ensemble who gave up their time to assist and entertain. We are immensely grateful to Specsavers, Stockton who again generously contributed £100 sponsorship for the event. Their green 'brollychutes' added colour to a dull afternoon.

Alison Etheridge



Community SAFETY

Village Primary Schools

Next month we will be able to report on our annual Alan Sowerby Memorial Citizenship Awards to pupils at each of these schools. Each year it is extremely difficult to select just one pupil at each school **because** there are always several eligible in both schools; they are simply good, caring, considerate and helpful children. So why is it that each year there are several, mindless (but very expensive to our community) acts of vandalism & damage to the property & premises at our schools?

If anyone sees such acts please follow the recent public spirited example of a member of the public who witnessed a youngster damaging play equipment at Sedgefield Primary school; **report it**. On this occasion photographs allowed the culprit to be identified and the School/Police can now prosecute.

Home Security - a Brief Reminder

During the summer period, with changeable weather, it is all too easy to forget about the open window, the unlocked door. Your chance forgetfulness is the chance the thief or burglar is waiting for.

Garden Security

Mark your valuables with your post code using a simple UV pen (available at most stationers) & don't leave tools etc out unattended, lock them away, preferably out of sight.

Door Callers

Trading Standards, the Police & N/H/Watch urge everyone **not to buy at the door**. It is usually a costly exercise and gives the dishonest their opportunity to con honest folk out of their cash at best or actually steal from them at worst. Why not display a **No Cold Calling Home** sticker and ignore any uninvited callers - especially those who ignore your notice. Stickers are still available **free** from the Town Council Offices (next to the Doctor's Surgery).

Walk in Theft

This happens to the least expecting & often to someone who is usually careful.

Police *Crime Prevention* continually stress the need to keep doors locked or secure even when you are in the house and *especially* during the fine weather when you might be in & out of the garden; opportunist thieves do operate in our area. Neighbourhood Watch advice for householders is:

- **KEEP THE DOOR CHAIN OR DOOR BAR ON AT ALL TIMES**
- **ESPECIALLY WHEN ANSWERING THE DOOR**
- **IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!**
- **A LOCKED DOOR PREVENTS UNWANTED VISITORS**

Door bars are still available, now from Community Warden, Tim Spearey

Flask in the Fridge

Please remember to update your data sheet inside the flask, following any change to either your medication or to your health. It is vital that if the Emergency Services are called and refer to the information that it is **accurate & up to date. It is for your benefit only.**

P.A.C.T. Meeting

July's Police Priorities meeting (for our village) was held during the Residents' Forum Meeting and was valuable to both residents & the Police. Whilst there is always more for the Police to do, it was worthwhile finding out just how many good things were achieved by the Police last month. The next meeting will take place during the N/Hood Watch meeting on **Tuesday 11th Aug in the Parish Hall**. If you want to improve our village come to the meeting & air your views or at least ask someone who attends to bring your request to the meeting.

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

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

For Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield ring **623654**
via Chilton Control Room, **01388 721351**

For advice & assistance from

Police Crime Prevention Officer, Neil Langthorne, ring **01325 742714**

PC Todd reports

Sedgefield Primary School on Rectory Row has become the target again of a minority of youths intent on causing mindless damage and disruption. A burglary, damage to windows and to newly installed play equipment, have occurred over the past 4 or 5 weekends. More concerning is the fact that a pupil cut her hand on the broken glass bottles carelessly discarded and smashed. Groups of youths have been found hanging around various areas of the school and have been informed that the school is out of bounds. Action will be taken against anyone found on the school grounds without permission.

Another area of concern, which has previously been highlighted but continues to cause problems, is the church grounds, especially behind the wall to the right of the main gate. Youths gather in this corner causing damage and leaving litter including beer cans and bottles.

Recently, a piece of broken headstone was used to damage the inside of the boundary wall. The wall is very old and has stood the test of time. We do not appreciate those few who wish to destroy it. Other crimes reported recently include a burglary at Ceddesfeld Hall. The youths caught on CCTV wearing the stolen theatrical costumes may well be getting a knock on their door.

The Beat team, with the help of the drugs dog, attended many of the pubs in the village on a Friday night recently, not only to reassure customers and staff that positive action is being taken to deter drug misuse but also to catch and prosecute offenders. The dog showed an interest in 6 customers, 2 of whom were arrested for possession of drugs and prosecuted. Drugs will not be tolerated in Sedgefield and, as the Terminator says, 'He will be back'! Everyone should know it is an offence to purchase alcohol and hand it to persons under 18 years. A female was handed an £80 fine recently for doing just that. More fines are to be carried out in the coming weeks. **Don't do it!** Until next time, Keith

Pub Watch

At meeting held recently in the Social Club, members were informed of the P.A.C.T. priorities and were asked to take a more responsible view of the use of glass outside their premises and any form of drug misuse within. No incidents were reported requiring further action from members.

Jottings

from the Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum meeting, 6th July

The meeting was well supported and residents attending for the first time were welcomed.

There was concern expressed about the extension to the Racecourse licence and possible noise intrusion to neighbouring areas as well as the helicopter rides which are currently taking place. Loud music from pubs in the centre of the village was also raised and, again, there was much discussion about the anti-social behaviour, noise and drinking in the village at varying times. Police and Local Authority continually emphasise that nothing can be done without 'evidence' of complaints. So it is no good any of us complaining about things if they are not properly reported. It is acknowledged that it is not always easy to report incidents but residents should direct their complaints about noise nuisance to the DCC environment officer and also to the Sedgefield Town Council, and any other issues please report to police.

To help gather 'evidence' of issues the Forum will put a 'post box' in both the Library and the Town Council office. While we emphasise this is not a replacement for reporting things properly to the authorities it will help us measure what is being reported. So please, whether you report things to the authorities or just want to report it to the Forum, pop a note in one of the post boxes, anonymously, if you wish. The note should record the time, date and nature of any disturbance and whether or not it was reported to the Authorities. PLEASE REPORT ANY DISTURBANCES AND ISSUES it will really help in getting problems dealt with.

It was also agreed that the Town Council be requested to take urgent action regarding the anti-social behaviour, noise, intimidation and drinking in the village centre at varying times but in particularly at weekends.

The Forum is still seeking to get answers to the many questions raised by residents regarding the granting of planning permission for the Caravan Park. Getting answers is proving to be rather difficult but we will continue to take action. The correspondence file the Caravan Park questions will be kept up to date and is in the Library and Town Council Office for anyone to read.

Information from the Forum meeting held on 6th July 2009 can be found in the minutes which will be in the Library and Town Council offices at least one week before the next meeting. Since it has been agreed that there will be no meeting in August, minutes will be out by the end of July and any update notices will be circulated and shown on the village notice board.

The Forum has written to the residents of Wootton Bassett expressing admiration and thanks for their continuing show of respect and recognition to our troops killed in Afghanistan and their bodies being returned through Wootton Bassett.

**Please note that there will be NO AUGUST meeting.
The next meeting is on Monday 7th September at 7pm in the
Fletcher Room, Parish hall. Everyone is welcome.**

Mother urges parents on MMR vaccine

A mother has urged parents to have their children vaccinated after she claims she nearly lost her teenage son and daughter to measles. Gary Bridges and Billy-Jean Nicholson developed serious complications after both contracted the highly contagious illness, which has seen a major resurgence in the North-East. Neither were immunised as babies because at the time there were unfounded scare stories about the MMR vaccine.

Both children ran dangerously high temperatures. Gary, 16, also had chronic vomiting, an angry rash from head to toe, delirium and sight loss. His sister's condition was so severe it triggered her asthma and she had to be given oxygen by paramedics as they rushed her to hospital by ambulance. Both lost a stone in weight in a week.

Director of public health for County Durham and Darlington Dr Tricia Cresswell said the region was experiencing the worst outbreak of measles in 20 years. "It is a real concern and we know it's happened as a result of the drop in uptake of immunisation following the unfounded concerns about the MMR vaccine," she said. "Measles has become thought of as a mild and unimportant disease but it is in fact a serious killer and every year more than one million children in the developing world die from measles.

It's never too late for a child to have the MMR. The vaccination is free, and available from your GP.

Sandra Morris 1941 - 2009



We are saddened to report the death on 2nd July of Sandra Morris, a much loved and respected teacher here in Sedgefield.

Sandra's teaching career spanned 34 years, 21 of which she spent in Sedgefield. First appointed to the staff of Sedgefield Primary School in Rectory Row in September 1966, she then became Deputy Head

Teacher at the newly opened Hardwick Primary School in October 1971. It was clear that her talents and practical common sense gave direction to so many young people and ensured that they had a valuable and enriched education.

A further promotion followed to a headship at Shildon Jubilee Primary School, another new school with all the challenges which Sandra seemed to enjoy.

Finally, she returned to Sedgefield Hardwick School as Head

Teacher in September 1984 - a school which she had always loved and to which she gave so much in patience, understanding, kindness and generosity. She remained there until her retirement in July 1995. Sandra maintained an active interest in education, continuing to teach at Bishop Middleham Church of England Primary School.

Caring, thoughtful and with a lovely sense of humour, she led a full life in the community. Always keen on sport since her College days and throughout her school career, Sandra had a passionate interest in golf and was an active playing member of Bishop Auckland Golf Club. In 2006 she proved to be a successful Lady Captain, who particularly enjoyed her year. We will miss her wonderfully warm smile and her great and loyal friendship. She was truly a very special person.

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

What a start to the sporting summer! The British Lions did not triumph in South Africa, but they played a big part in some of the best rugby union test matches in history. Tennis fans may not have seen Andy Murray take home the men's singles trophy at Wimbledon, but they witnessed a phenomenal final and Roger Federer making history by winning his 15th Grand Slam tournament and beating the record of Pete Sampras. In golf, the Open Championship nearly saw 59 year old Tom Watson becoming the oldest ever winner of a Major, agonisingly missing out to fellow American Stuart Cink. And of course, in cricket, the Ashes have got off to a fantastic start. Thanks in large degree to the heroic efforts of Durham lad Paul Collingwood, England fought a rearguard action at Cardiff, drawing the first Test. And as I type this, the home team ended 75 years of disappointment to finally beat the Aussies at Lord's and take a 1-0 lead in the series. Three Tests to go and the excitement is building nicely. Egbaston will be well underway by the time you read this – the scene of England's first victory in 2005. Here's hoping for a repeat. Meanwhile, back in Sedgefield...

Squash

Seven teams from three primary schools battled it out in a mini-squash competition hosted by Sedgefield Squash Club at the end of June. With so many teams this year, a qualifying tournament preceded the knockout competition. Many players in the qualifying tournament were competing in their first ever matches, and the games were all closely fought and full of skill.

Sedgefield Hardwick 'B' team won both their matches to qualify; who would join them rested on the last match between Trimdon Junior 'A' and Sedgefield Primary 'B'. Trimdon were desperately unlucky: they won 3-2, but their points total was inferior to Sedgefield Primary (36-44) and the Sedgefield team went through. In the knockout stages, both 'B' teams played their hearts out but were no match for some very experienced 'A' team players. In the final, year five representative, Daniel Skilbeck, got Sedgefield Primary 'A' off to a winning start before two wins for Zoe Dobson in the girls' match, and Francesca McMillen, in the third string match, gave Hardwick 'A' a commanding 28-18 (2-1) lead. 2nd string Josh Hetherington sealed it for Hardwick with an 11-5 win.

Although the game was effectively over, this fact was kept secret from the number ones, and the spectators were rewarded with Jake Lennox's best ever game against County under

13 player - and referee for the qualifying tournament - ten year-old George Peden. Jake was very pleased with his four points!

Hardwick 'A' won the final 43-34 (3-2) and were presented with the cup by Dr James Larcombe, who organised the competition, with help from Emily Sarsfield, a world class skier, but new to squash, from the Sedgefield Schools Sport Partnership. The final results were: winners - Sedgefield Hardwick 'A'; runners up - Sedgefield Primary 'A'; third place - Sedgefield Hardwick 'B'.

The competition began in 2006 after the Sedgefield club's first tentative school visits. With the support of a 'Koolkash' grant from Sedgefield Borough Council, they introduced 700 children in South Durham to squash in 2007, and this year were chosen as a pilot site for school visits by England Squash area development coach, Colin Wheatley. He visited four schools in Trimdon and Sedgefield. Now that many children have been introduced to the sport the club hopes to work with players who want to improve their skills, as well as beginners. Sedgefield Squash Club, which practises on Saturday mornings, already has three teams in the County Junior Leagues, but has the capacity for more young players who want to take up the sport.

Sedgefield Harriers

The 14 miles Northumberland Coastal Run may have been voted Britain's best race, but it can be very tough, as well as scenic, especially if there is a wind blowing from the south on a warm day. That's what the situation was on Sunday 12th July when this year's race was held and eight Sedgefield Harriers took part. They set out from Beadnell Bay under blue skies, headed down onto Low Newton beach and then south to the half way mark beyond Craster, finishing the run in Alnmouth.

Shining for Sedgefield were Gary Hetherington (1:25:59), Rosie Sims (1:46:36), Marie Walker (1:54:19) and Jo James (1:59:39).

Finding it tough were Ean Parsons (1:50:40 – hamstring and post holiday blues), Nick Burchall and Helen Parsons (2:07:12 and 2:11:29 – both struggling for training time) and Graeme Addison (2:11:05 – recovering from injury). These kinds of races expose any weakness. It was another good turn out by the Harriers and there won't be shortage of Sedgefield entries when entry opens again next February.

On Thursday 9th July the Harriers staged their Summer Invitation Handicap over 6.5 miles. The weather was kind, enhancing the scenic

course. First home, and winner of the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy, off a handicap of nine minutes was Robin Horn with a run time of 46 minutes and 23 seconds. First Sedgefield lady was Jane Spink, 11 minutes handicap and run time of 47:36, and first Sedgefield man was Chris Holt, 11 minutes handicap and run time of 46:56.

Harriers' next event is The Sedgefield Serpentine Trail Race on Sunday 13th September. For more information call Matthew Jones 07866 441 097.

Sedgefield Junior Harriers

Scott Kippen competed at the English National Schools Athletics Championships at Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield on 10th July. Running in the 400m, Scott finished 5th in his heat, missing out on a place in the semi-finals, but this first experience of national competition will be invaluable.

On Wednesday 8th July four teams of Junior Harriers were in action in a four way meeting at Maiden Castle track in Durham to launch the County Durham Athletics Partnership involving Sedgefield Harriers, Chester Le Street AC, Durham City Harriers and Derwentside AC. Sedgefield won the U11 category, emphasising the strength of the club in the younger age group. There were many fine individual performances including those of Scott Kippen over 800m and Rory Varley over 600m.

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

Below: Robin Horn, winner of the Gerry Kearsley Memorial Trophy, is congratulated by Peggy Kearsley



Cricket fixtures in August

- 1st.** 2nds Darlington RA 1.30pm
- 3rd.** Under 17s Hartlepool 6pm
- 8th.** 1st team Middlesbrough 1.30pm
- 9th.** Under13 Hartlepool 10am
- 9th.** 1st Seaton Carew 1.30pm
- 16th.** Under 15s Yarm 10am
- 22nd.** 1st team Marton 1.30pm
- 29th.** 1st Richmondshire 1.30pm
- 31st.** 2nds Marske 1.30pm

Holiday Fun at Hardwick

On Wednesdays during the holidays there will be activities in the visitor centre for families to enjoy. Art & craft based and varying from week to week, you can drop into the sessions throughout the day. All are welcome. Small charges may apply to cover material costs (max £2 / child)

29 July – 'Tree' Shirt Designing

Learn all about leaves on trees then create your own nature inspired designs on t-shirts.

5 August – Mini Mow

Make your own Mini Mow by decorating a pot and sowing grass seed.

12 August – Cloud Climbers

Decorate, build and fly your own wooden glider.

19 August – Wheelie Bugs

Learn about mini beasts then build & decorate your very own wheelie bug.

26 August – Kite Making

Build and decorate your own kite, then learn how to fly it in the Park.

Wildlife Walk

20 August 12pm - 2pm

Walk round Hardwick Park with a local expert. A great opportunity to learn about the wildlife flourishing here.

Landscape Painting Workshops

15 August 10am - 3pm

£15 per person (includes lunch and all materials) Work with a local artist to a landscape painting of Hardwick Park. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills. No prior painting experience required.

To book please call Sara Fortune on (01740) 621505 or email sara.fortune@durham.gov.uk

Who's Who at Hardwick Park

A selection of the current staff at Hardwick Park. More faces next month.



Darryl Cox, Senior Ranger and Kate Phillips, Park Ranger (site maintenance)

Below: Paul Everson. Visitor Services Officer (runs the Visitor Centre) and Sarah Fortune, Education Officer.



Richard Gater, Volunteer Ranger, a familiar sight for visitors to the Park over a number of years.

Our Hidden Jewel

'NETPark' - What do you imagine when you see the signs at the roadside when approaching Sedgefield? It doesn't sound very romantic but, in fact, it is Sedgefield's hidden jewel. Recently, John Hildreth of the County Durham Development Company showed the Sedgefield News team around one of NETPark's original buildings, the Incubator, that has just been hugely extended. NETPark is intended to be North East England's premier science, engineering and technology park for the commercialisation of cutting edge Research and Development. Companies can lead the way in developing world-class technologies that create new products and new markets.

And it has been spectacularly successful! The first company, Kromek which produces semiconductor crystals by a novel process, to move onto the site in 2004 has grown from an initial 2 employees to the current 40. This was in the Incubator Building which rapidly filled and has recently been extended to house even more companies. The facilities are very flexible, sizes varying from a small room to many connected rooms, the walls are moveable so that spaces can be tailored to businesses requirements. When they outgrow the Incubator Building space can be made available on the site for purpose built buildings. Several university groups are in residence in addition to other expanding companies like: ANT - biohazard monitoring systems. de Burka - E-learning Kromek - optoelectronic crystals Ithaka Life Sciences - Biotech consultancy ROAR Particles - forensic nanotechnology

Petec - UK national prototyping institute for the development and commercialisation of printed electronics

Durham Maglev Systems

In addition local Universities are well represented - Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside are all involved.

An exciting element of NETPark is its virtual community "NETPark Net", which allows companies not physically based on the site virtual access to all its facilities; more on this in a future article.

We will also look at how NETPark is providing employment for local people, and how the ancillary services which will grow along with the Park in years to come, could provide opportunities for small businesses. So you see, the old mental hospital site has taken on a very different guise; the number of employees is growing and happily, is set to continue.

Living Well at 50+

The Young At Heart Activity Club,

Ferryhill Leisure Centre - FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

If you remember the 60s and your youth club days, why not grow old disgracefully and join us on Friday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm to have another go! The initial 6 week programme includes gentle aerobics, step, short tennis, trampoline (with safety harness), archery, Wii room, Lindy Hop/swing, Salsa, dry curling and many others. Even if you're lazy we still want to see you - it's a social thing, so come along, have a coffee and laugh at the others! You never know, you might find an activity you enjoy. We should all try to take 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five times a week, so we have developed a varied programme with qualified instructors to help you have fun and join in.

Like to walk? The 'Walking the Way to Health' group take local walks in the countryside as well as further afield. The walks usually take around two hours, but there are shorter walks for those who may not be able to keep up with regular walkers. Don't worry - we will look for ways to help you build up your fitness gradually. There are days out to the coast and countryside to enjoy too.

On your bike? The popularity of the walking groups is such that we are also hoping to bring together people with an interest in cycling. We can even loan cycles and safety helmets for days out on the Co Durham Rail trail network. If this could be your thing, come along and talk to us about it.

You can try out a wide range of fitness activities to suit all abilities on Friday afternoons for a small admission charge of £2 per session. We want people to enjoy being more physically active, to experience new things and most importantly, to make new friends. Why not try it, you've nothing to lose but a little time (and maybe a little weight). Call Jim Nutt on 01388 816166 for more details.

August Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Your Letters

It's a small world!

We were in Barbados recently to attend a friend's wedding. After the service and during the "photo session" I was making small talk with one of the professional photographers. During our conversation he asked me where I lived in England. When I told him I lived in the north of the country he went on to say he once lived and worked in a small village in northern England but didn't think I would know it. You've guessed, it was Sedgefield! He has asked to be remembered to anyone who may have known him - his name is Bill Blackman, he was a nurse at Winterton around the early/mid 70's and (of course) he played cricket for the Winterton cricket team. Bill now has a thriving photography business in Bridgetown.

Anne Blood

Dame Memory-Jogger of Sedgefield

Dame Memory-Jogger of Sedgefield wishes to announce that she intends to grace the Great North Run 2009 with her presence. She will be jogging, sedately, the 13 + miles on September 20th to raise funds, through sponsorship, for the Alzheimer's Society.

Dame Memory-Jogger has chosen the beautiful Hardwick Hall Hotel, as her training venue. A full dress rehearsal jog will take place in early September. Warning notices will be posted for people, and dogs, of nervous disposition.

The costume for this run has been kindly loaned by the Sedgefield Players who know full well how to enjoy a successful run. Dame Memory-Jogger sends her thanks and also her congratulations on their continuing success.

Dame Memory-Jogger is possibly better known by the "common name" of John Nicholls, and definitely better known as Barbara's husband, Greeny's dad or Sophie's proud granddad.

Charity card sale thank you

Many thanks to all who came to support my charity card sale in July. Thanks to your generosity I was able to send £65 to the NECCR to help towards their research into children's cancer in the North of England.

Alison Etheridge

Your Letters will return to the usual place on page 12 in September. Ed.

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm
Wednesday 5th August
Join our fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 5th August

7.15pm Parish Hall

"Craft Evening"

Members' competition - a small fresh flower arrangement (under 6"/15cms)

This is an open meeting;

please come along and see displays & demonstrations of various crafts by members of Sedgefield WI
Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

Sedgefield Show

Saturday 8th August

Gates open to the public at 10am

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 8th August

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Farmers' Market

on the Village Green

Sunday 9th August

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 9th August

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

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

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 17th August

Sedgefield Library at 7pm

"Queries and Questions Night"

Perhaps we can help you with your family history problems? Access to internet and library's other research facilities. For more information call 620367 **NB Change of venue & time for this meeting only**
Visitors always welcome

Sedgefield Development

Trust Limited

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

This is to give notice that Sedgefield Development Trust Limited will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting on **Monday 17th August 2009 at 7.15 pm at No 58 Front Street, Sedgefield.**

Business to be conducted

To consider and vote upon a Special Resolution to change parts of the Articles of Association of Sedgefield Development Trust Limited, namely paragraph 3.1.1 of the Company's Objects. The intention is to widen the area of benefit to include Fishburn in addition to Sedgefield, Bradbury and Mordon. The proposed new paragraph 3.1.1 will read: "to bring together individuals and groups to address the needs and desires of the whole community living and working in the communities of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn."

Sedgefield Development Trust is a company limited by guarantee; Company Number: 4312745 and is a registered charity; Charity Number: 1100806

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, Parish Hall

The following groups do not meet in August ...

Civic Trust

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Local History Society

Residents' Forum

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Sing for Fun

Our advertising costs have been kept at the same level for some years and they represent good value for their impact at a local level. We are often asked to give an idea of pricing so that potential customers can decide on whether or not to place an advert. This should help:

The popular 6 x 4 cm box costs £20 per entry.

6cm wide x 8cm high is £40. Other heights are priced pro rata.

A large box across 2 columns, 12cm+ x 9cm high is £85

We can also insert & deliver your own inserts for £140

NB. These prices are to benefit advertisers from our area of distribution.

Companies from outside the area pay 25% extra.

Deadline August 15th

For September edition please send copy, adverts or letters 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 copy & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. Please send contact details with correspondence.

The Royal Observer Corps, Sedgefield

William Bayston contacted us with these detailed and personal memories, after reading your letters about the Royal Observer Corps.

Royal Observer Corps Group No 30 was based in Durham City (CO Group Commander F. N Charlton) and there were 3 posts in this sector - F1 Horden, F2 Sheraton Ridge 9 (probably part of the A19 now) and F3 - Sedgefield.

Sedgefield post: Principal Officer Mr W.H. Haggie, at that time Clerk to Sedgefield Council; Leading Observer Frank Alsop; A. Iceton, known as 'Anty' Blacksmith, from The Forge, Cross Street; Harold Wright, who became Group Secretary, S.W.Durham Health Authority and on retirement served with The World Health Organisation (he now lives in Leicestershire); the Roper Brothers and father (as Mrs Cant mentioned); Bill Bayston, E. Bayston (father), R.E.Bayston (brother Reg); W; J. Welch; Mr Hunter, late of Station Road. There must have been many others.

I attended an educational visit to the Durham centre, where I met a Miss G. Reed, who has been my wife for many years. From the list above, only Harold, my wife and I survive.

Location: Sedgefield post was approached from the cart track to the left of the cemetery building, past the North of the cemetery about 200 yds, post was on the right side of the track (see sketch).

Purpose: to observe, identify, track aircraft (hostile & friendly). To report location to Group.

Composition: the post included a wooden cabin, door facing South, with heating from a solid fuel stove, tables chairs, model black bakelite planes hanging from the roof. To the South of the cabin was a raised platform, with an air raid shelter, probably Anderson to the West, running parallel to the cart track. This area was protected to above waist height by sand bags. A Tripod was fitted in the centre of the platform and to this was fitted a Micklethwaite projector, this together with headphones including microphone, field glasses, completed to equipment.

Operation: the Micklethwaite, had an adjustable telescopic sight, which was used to track aircraft and rotated on a circular base, which displayed an Ordnance Survey map of the surrounding area. The map contained a grid, each square identified. A traverse pointer on the rotating instrument indicated the position of the viewed object. The telescopic sight was attached to a vertical height bar, graduated in feet. The machine worked on the principle of triangulation.

We worked mainly with F2 post Horden, as most hostile action was to the East and they were located roughly at Right angles to our North. They could identify the East to West square of the grid and report. We could report the exact North to South square. The intersecting square pinpointed the aircraft position. With the traverse pointer moved to the appropriate square, the object was then viewed by adjusting the position on the height scale. Position and height would then be reported to Group. At the same time the second crew member would attempt identification with the field glasses, this information completed the report. The most active Airport was Goose Pool (now South Durham & Cleveland) and during the war operated Squadrons of Halifax and Lancaster Bombers. These would be plotted, reported both out going and on return.

Training took place at meetings held at Manor House. Black silhouette aircraft images were projected to screen via an epidiascope, made from a bulk 56lb Wood Butter box with a lens from an ancient Bayston slide projector fixed in the longer side. Illuminated by 2x 100w bulb holders fitted to the base, with shades suitably cut out to direct a beam towards the lens. The shades were made from A1 size vegetable cans and the inside of the box was painted white. The image to be viewed was placed on a cut out in the lid and a mirror suitably fitted directed the image to the lens. You couldn't nip down to a store and buy a projector! Proficiency certificates were issued for tests successfully taken.

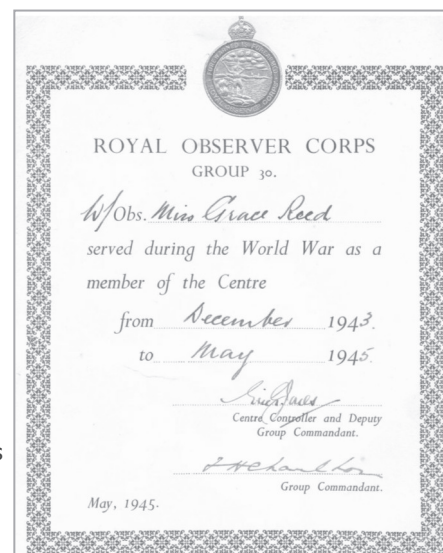
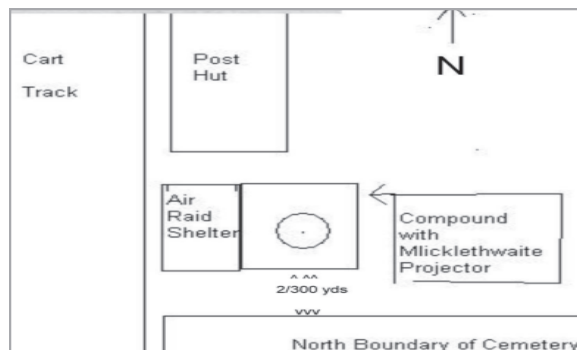
Uniform: in addition to the 2 piece RAF top & trousers we had service type gas mask and steel helmet.

Known Incidents: One morning during the early hours a German aircraft being harassed by fighters, jettisoned a string of bombs in the field between what is now Pineridge and the F3 Post. These exploded and much of the shrapnel went into a haystack between the point of explosion and the Post, so the haystack saved the Post and the Crew from damage and possible injury. Aircraft returning from raids would often have irregular sound beats indicating trouble, engine failure. These were plotted back to Goosepool, we hope to a successful landing.

Bill Bayston



Operations Room Group 30 Durham City with crew. Grace Bayston nee Reed, bottom left of picture.



These two certificates record Mr & Mrs Bayston's service and achievements during their time in the Royal Observer Corps. Sedgefield News is grateful for the time and effort spent bringing this remarkable piece of local history to life for us. Ed

