



Sedgefield NEWS

August 2011

Award for community legal work

Solicitor Rebecca Hagan, of Community Lawyers, a service which offers people in this community free legal advice, received a highly commended award at the LawWorks Annual Awards ceremony held in London last month. The awards were judged by Law Society President Linda Lee, Guardian journalist Ros Taylor and former Solicitor General Vera Baird QC, who also made the presentation.

Rebecca was given the award for her individual contribution to the free legal service which she has offered for the past 8 months and applauded for the positive impact it has had on those she has helped. The clinic officially opened its doors in October 2010 with support from Sedgefield Development Trust (SDT). Rebecca writes; "I am extremely honoured and delighted to receive an award for my contribution to Community Lawyers. I have received unwavering support from SDT, LawWorks, The Law Society and Sedgefield County Councillor David Brown."

Chairperson of SDT, Gloria Wills commented "Working in partnership with LawWorks, we have been able to secure funding through Durham County Council, County Durham Community Foundation, and sponsorship from Landmark Chambers in London. This is the only Legal Clinic of its kind in County Durham, the next nearest being in Newcastle. Community Lawyers has only operated for a few months and it has without doubt proved the need for its service. We have already advised and supported more than 45 people, with savings on fees of around £80,000. We hope to develop our network of solicitors willing to offer pro bono advice in the North East."

On the current situation, Rebecca continues, "Sadly, with the impending government cuts to legal aid affecting many areas of law, there will be a desperate need for more free legal advice clinics in the region or many people will be denied access to justice. Over the years, legal aid has enabled people to fight injustice through the courts and the cuts will hit all levels of society except those who can afford large legal bills. This will have a huge impact on people in the region who will have nowhere to turn to for free legal advice. It is likely that those who will suffer from these cuts will be ordinary people for whom there will be no legal aid for them to secure compensation, say, for the birth of a baby who is injured due to clinical negligence; an employee who has been unfairly dismissed and who cannot afford legal advice to go to tribunal; or a husband who looks after a disabled wife whose carer's allowance has been wrongly stopped. In essence many people with a legal grievance who cannot afford the cost of legal fees will suffer."

If you need to access legal advice, call and leave a message on the Community Lawyers phone and they will return your call as soon as possible.

The number is 07899 022 133



Gloria Wills & Rebecca Hagan at the LawWorks awards

Seven apprenticeships offered by award-winning employers

Sedgefield Borough Homes, which recently featured in the 'England's Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers' list, is recruiting seven apprentices as part of its Great Future Partnership scheme, in conjunction with partners Mears and Bullock.

The vacancies include two apprenticeships in housing with sbh, one apprenticeship in IT and two multi-skilling apprenticeships with Mears, and two apprenticeships in business administration, one with Mears and one with Bullock.

To apply for an apprenticeship contact sbh's human resources department on 0845 505 5500 or download an application pack at www.sedgefieldboroughhomes.co.uk.

Completed applications must be returned no later than 4pm on Friday 12th August 2011.

Sedgefield Show August 13th 2011

Grand Draw

£100 Prize

Cut out coupon - details overleaf



The Winkers' Race for Life

Known in Sedgefield as the Winkers, we are a group of friends who constantly raise money for charity. When Lucy, the daughter of one of the group, developed leukaemia, we adopted Leukaemia Research as our first charity and raised a lot of money by holding coffee mornings, car washing, raffles, etc. The Rheumatoid Arthritis Fund became our next good cause, when Louisa, another of our groups' daughters, was affected. Again we raised hundreds of pounds. On July 3rd, ten of us ran the Race for Life at Aykley Heads in Durham. 12 months ago Anne, one of the Winkers, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Thanks to the excellent care she received at North Tees hospital and James Cook Holistic Centre, she is very well and carries on a normal life - even going back to full-time work as a school secretary. Anne really is an inspiration to breast cancer sufferers, which is why we ran for her. We Winkers will carry on raising money and want Lucy, Louisa and Anne to know that we are very proud of them.

Support your local Show

The gates open at 10am on Saturday 13th August for the 158th Sedgefield and District Agricultural Show. Car parking is free, the marquees open at 12 noon and there's a full range of competitions and displays. New this year is the Bunny Hop Display Team, and Turners Funfair will be present along with the latest concept for kids' party fun, Go-Kart Party.

For animal lovers, Farmyard Flyer will give the opportunity to get up close to farmyard animals by climbing on board the bus, and alongside the amazing range of stalls and displays in the marquees, there's the Sedgefield Town Crier competition with classes for junior and senior competitors. The winners will have a unique opportunity to help celebrate the Sedgefield 700 Activities in 2012.

The popular food hall is back, with a vast range of local and regional delicacies. The Gingerbread Mam visits the Show for the first time, offering a fine selection of homemade ginger related products, and you can sample spirits and liqueurs at Keith Langham's Frere Quenelle Liqueurs stall.

New this year, readers of Sedgefield News can enter a Show Day Prize Draw to win £100. The winner will be announced at the Show.

Complete the voucher below and place in the posting box in the Show Secretary's tent – don't forget to be there for the draw at approx. 3.45pm (Terms & Conditions Apply).

Name

Address.....

Phone.....

PROMOTOR Ian Mason for Sedgefield show Tel 01740 621841
(terms & conditions apply)

Draw supported by Ultimate Climate Control Ltd

Musical contrasts

During a visit of the Brunen Church Choir from our twin town in Germany, they will be singing a mix of popular Classics at a musical evening in the Parish Hall on Saturday 27th August. Sharing the evening with them is the Windy Ghyle Band, direct from Whitby Folk Festival, with their traditional blend of Northumbrian & Geordie instrumentals & songs. *Details p 11*

Sedgefield Folk Festival

September 2nd - 4th

Time's running out for the purchase of concert tickets, but some are still available for Saturday evening in the Parish Church with Fishburn Silver Band, Maxine & Laurie Allan, Northumberland Pipers and Lirica. Contact Festival Office on 621347). Free events at Ceddesheld Hall include instrumental workshops and a vocal harmony workshop with the Young 'Uns. A storytelling event for children will be held in the Library on Saturday morning with award winning professional storyteller Tony Wilson. As usual, the World Spoons Championship will be on Saturday afternoon in Ceddesheld, as well as traditional and contemporary song writing competitions.

There's lots of fun and entertainment for young and old, finishing on Sunday in Ceddesheld with a free singaround & buffet lunch.

SLYC's world premiere

At a summer concert in July with the Lyric Singers, Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir was thrilled to give the first performance of a brand new work. "We Never Know How High We Are" is a lovely setting of 4 poems by Emily Dickinson, composed by Rob Guest to celebrate the choir's 25th anniversary.

Next up is an eagerly anticipated appearance at Sedgefield Folk Festival on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd July, in the Parish Hall. The choir has been working with its own 'house band' and is really developing its folky side.

Sedgefield Charities: Grants to Students

The Trustees of the Sedgefield Charities make a number of awards each year to residents in the Sedgefield area who are taking up full time study beyond A level or its equivalent.

Applicants must live in Bradbury, Bishop Middleham, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield or Trimdon.

Application forms & further information can be obtained from John Hannon, Clerk to the Trustees, East House, Mordon, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 2EY

Telephone 01740 622512

Email east.house@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th September 2011

London 2012 at Community College

In June, pupils and teachers celebrated their official welcome into London 2012's Get Set network, in recognition of their commitment to Olympic and Paralympic Values and to acknowledge their involvement in the London 2012 education programme. They join schools and colleges across the UK and will have access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities. During Olympic Year, activities will be hosted within curriculum time to celebrate the Games and give students a chance to learn about the different cultures and religions involved. Dates will be on the new School website.



Friday 8th July: 400 athletes aged 11-15, from 7 secondary schools in the Sedgefield School Sport Partnership headed to the fantastic new facilities at Sedgefield Community College for their own 'Olympic' event, complete with inspiring opening ceremony, eye catching dance item, and team march past. Young Ambassadors Linzi Davis & Amy Hardy read the Olympic Oath on behalf of the athletes, judges and officials.

Headteacher Dave Davies formally declared the Games Open and the action began. Girls and boys football, rugby 7s and rounders teams all battled it out on the fields. Inside, competition raged in table tennis, boccia and cheerleading. Everyone came together for the sportshall athletics, with an enthusiastic crowd cheering their teams on in a grand finale.

Diane Snowsill, Manager of Sedgefield School Sport Partnership and event organiser was delighted. "It was a brilliant day that gave youngsters a real flavour of a multi-sport Olympic event, building the excitement as we move towards London 2012. Competitors rose to the occasion and competed in the real Olympic Spirit."

Honours were shared amongst the schools, but topping the medals table and winning the first Sedgefield SSP Olympics was Sedgefield Community College. Winners were: Athletics, Greenfield Community & Arts College; Boccia, Sedgefield Community College; Cheerleading, Spennymoor School; Boys Football, Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College; Girls Football, Sedgefield Community College; Rounders, Woodham Community Technology College; Rugby, Tudhoe Grange School; Table Tennis, Sedgefield Community College.

Student Prom

Ominously, heavy rain preceded the Community College's 6th annual prom at Hardwick Hall on Tuesday 5th July, but as the first limousine arrived, the skies brightened. Students arrived by a variety of means; party bus, huge stretch limo, horse & carriage, even on the back of a sports motor bike. The girls looked spectacular in gorgeous Prom dresses and the boys, not to be outdone, sported an array of smart waistcoats and ties.

They were a credit to themselves and the school. The 100+ guests had a 3 course dinner, then danced the evening away. It was a great success and the College looks forward to seeing the students again in August for results day.

Ecuador Challenge

Owen Robinson, a BT Openreach apprentice from Sedgefield, has been given the opportunity to participate in the Ecuador Challenge, run by the Challenge Charity (Reg:1130522). Owen is writing to local companies to ask for their support. He explains: "In October, a group of apprentices and recent graduates travel to Ecuador to participate in 3 events; cultural (staying with a local family); physical (renovating a poor quality local school, and climbing Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world); and environmental (a 3 day trek in the Amazon, learning about effects of global warming, and ways to prevent it). This is the fun part for those of us lucky enough to be going! The second part of the challenge is to raise £3500 to pay for the things we do in Ecuador. My employer has paid my air fare, and the infra-structure costs of being there, so all the money I raise goes directly to the people and the area we are visiting. We want to really make a difference in some of the poorest places in the country, building and improving local services for the local population. We hope to make a real difference to the local people and gain some really important life skills along the way. But £3500 is a massive total. I am doing a sponsored three peaks challenge, coast2coast hike, bag packing in a local supermarket to raise as much as possible. I know everyone faces economic problems at the moment, but every little amount towards my total will really help me and the cause."

Owen hopes local companies will see this as an opportunity to raise their profiles and offers to provide photos and publicity on his return. He would, of course, also be very grateful for readers' support.

For more information, please email owen.robinson@openreach.co.uk or call 01740 629268 / 07501239395 or visit www.charitygiving.co.uk/owenrobinson



Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

It is with much relief and pleasure that we can inform members and residents that the recent rumour that our local Police team were to be managed & directed from Peterlee is simply **not correct**. Following concerns from residents at the July Residents' Forum about the possibility of that change, (due to organisational changes being made by Durham Police, principally driven by government budget cuts), Neighbourhood Watch contacted the Police Authority, who promptly passed our queries to Durham Police who equally promptly replied and have been more than helpful and informative.

Senior officer *Chief Inspector Bill Dutton*, who is heavily involved with the Force Review and Re-organisation for the Police, has taken time out personally to respond in writing to our concerns; he has freely provided us with excellent information on the new structures and their functions. "I can put at rest any fears about Sedgefield falling into the East Durham Command Area. Our view is that Sedgefield village and those areas currently covered by (Inspector) Andy Neill and (Sergeant) Brian O'Connor and their teams, remain firmly in the South Durham Command Area."

The Chief Inspector also informed us that there *were* discrepancies between their 'Partner' groups and the Police. This has been addressed and the Police now have a commitment from DCC that they will re-arrange groups of staff into "matched geographical areas" to align with the Police new areas.

This can only be good news for the public, as users of these services. For example it means that the Anti-Social Team that covers Sedgefield will cover the same area that we fit into for Neighbourhood Policing – the South Durham Command Area.

For this help and direct response we are extremely grateful to *CI Bill Dutton* and wish to say so publicly on behalf of our members. This is openness and good communication at its very best.

Members attending the August (9th) Panel meeting can obtain more details if they wish, and hopefully they will be able to report that they have not noticed any – adverse – change!

Reminder: Home & Garden Safety & Security. During the summer months our area regularly experiences an increase in thefts from garden sheds and also the garden itself. Please do everything you can to keep your property safe. Just having a clearly visible deterrent in place really does help to deter the casual thief, who will usually try elsewhere.

Once Again - Relevant Telephone Numbers:

Remember if you don't contact them, the Police/Council Community Force will not know that a problem exists.

Local Police: 0345 60 60 365

Durham County Council - Wardens etc. (All reports & complaints need to be logged via Customer Services initially.) Call **0300 123 70 70**

Police Crime Prevention Officer, 01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne, 01325 742755

Jottings from July Residents' Forum meeting.

The Forum met on July 4th with quite a full agenda although there was not much update news on many of the issues. Responses are still awaited to several of the Forum's queries. There is still no date for the Foxton/Spring lane wind turbine application planning committee. The proposed very large wind turbine site at Bradbury and the Isle is receiving quite a lot of attention. Phil Wilson MP has led delegations to Westminster to make the point that County Durham and in particular our area has more than our share of turbines and the County has already met its target for 2020 for renewable energy. We still await the Local Government Ombudsman's report on our complaint about the section 106 monies attributed to the Cunningham Court Development. The woodland that the Council proposed to buy has never been for sale until recently, it goes to auction on July 20th. It will be interesting to see if the Council still try to buy it and at what cost and indeed what on-going costs if they do.

Our village again is receiving lots of attention for developments; the County propose 300 new houses and a new supermarket (believed to be Sainsburys) is proposed for the industrial estate. The supermarket developer is to be congratulated on their comprehensive pre-application consultation, we have some bad experiences on pre-application consultations in the past but this developer is certainly a good example.

The Government propose many changes to the planning process and the Localism Bill is supposed to give communities more say, but there is great concern that new proposals will allow communities to build more houses etc. if they wish, but it will be very difficult to object to developments which communities do not want.

It is really important that residents make their wishes regarding future developments in our community very clear. **This may be our last chance** – the Town Council and the Together Partnership are hosting an event on September 19th so everyone can give their views on what they do and don't want for the future of our village. It will be a very interactive event, you don't have to get up and speak just make your views known by using interactive charts etc. It really is essential that this event 'captures' the majority view on many issues so please watch out for further information and get along to give your views.

There's no Forum meeting in August so the next meeting will be September 5th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. We will have more information then on several issues including the consultation event on September 19th.

PC Todd reports

Crime remains low within Sedgefield village with only five crimes reported this month. Vehicles were damaged in Boynston Grove and Wellgarth Mews. A handbag containing a purse and mobile phone were stolen from the Boot Fair at the Race Course. Jewellery was stolen from an address in the Leas and a wheelie bin stolen from Wallington Drive. Please report any suspicious activity and help reduce these statistics even further.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Hope Inn. One male has been warned regarding his unacceptable behaviour in a member premises over the weekend. Members launched the poster "Supporting our Heroes" which will be displayed in member premises. This small token by members indicates the strong feeling of support for our troops serving abroad. The Pub Watch wanted to show its appreciation for what they are doing and sacrifices they have made and continue to make.

P.A.C.T.

A meeting was held directly after the Residents Forum meeting. Details of last month's priorities were explained along with any crime details.

The priority for the Beat Team to consider for the next four weeks was discussed and agreed to be speeding traffic along Stockton Road You have been warned!

Keith

Wanted! Community champions

Durham Police Authority is keen to recognise outstanding individuals who go above and beyond what is expected, by presenting them with an official Police Authority Award. For a nomination form, call **0191 3835511** or visit www.durham-pa.gov.uk. Closing date: 16th Oct '11

Sedgefield Veterans

VJ Day Commemoration

Sedgefield Village Veterans, in conjunction with St Edmund's Church and the Town Council, will hold a ceremony at the War Memorial on **Sunday 14th August** (VJ Day actual date 15th).

The ceremony at 10.50am will follow St Edmund's Church Family Service. We will be laying wreaths, led by the Mayor, Councillor Alan Blakemore. Anyone else wishing to lay a wreath is welcome to do so, but please let us know as soon as possible.

David Hillerby, secretary, Sedgefield Village Veterans tel. 01740 621343

Thank you for support

The response to our recent Coffee Morning was overwhelming. The winners of our Prize Draw were Jeannie Willis from Trimdon who won the Football and Barbara Nichols who won the "House of Commons" Chocolates.

We took a staggering £210 - truly wonderful. I would like to thank the customers - God bless you, one and all - our members and especially my wife, Enid and sister, Phyllis who worked really hard in the kitchen; they all helped raise this money (by the way, this one is for our funds). I really must thank the Community College Cupcake Cafe staff and pupils, who provided us with the Corned Beef Pie; it was scrumptious.

Northumbria in Bloom

Judges visited Sedgefield on Friday 15th July. Many thanks to residents for helping to keep up the high standards which, last year, helped to bring great success. Fingers crossed for the results in September.

Snapshots of Sedgefield



No response yet to July's snapshot from 1915, but Geoff Thompson, formerly of Sedgefield, recognised himself and his brother Alan in May's photo of the choir, when here on a recent visit. They are the two small boys in front, Geoffrey on the left. Their parents, Gordon and Evelyn Thompson, ran Wilkinson's Motor Services. Gordon built Leylands in North End, next to the building now occupied by Wright's Builders. Both boys were born in Hardwick Hall Maternity Hospital and had a sister, Pat, who passed away some years ago. Geoff now lives in Derbyshire with wife Christine (nee Bennett), also from Sedgefield. Alan is married to Jay and lives in Brentwood, Essex.

The June snapshot featured Geoff's uncle, Alf Wilkinson, who ran the grocer's shop where Evolution now stands. Brother Tom Wilkinson founded the bus company. Alf also figures prominently alongside Gordon Thompson in this month's wonderful photo (page 4), taken about 1926 in the parish hall. Does anyone recognise faces in the crowd? Please contact me on 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk.

I am very grateful to Eddie Orwin for the loan of this month's snapshot and to Geoff Thompson for his childhood recollections. Thanks to the generosity (and long memories!) of Sedgefield News readers, Sedgefield Local History is developing an extensive photographic archive. We meet in Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm on the first Monday of every month except August. New members and visitors are very welcome.

Oompah pah oompah - is that how it goes?

Students from Sedgefield Community College and local primary schools participating in a 2 day musical workshop as part of Durham's Brass Band Festival. Sedgefield Community College played host to the event where students worked alongside the Oompah Brass Band to produce a short concert for family and friends. The project was a huge success and the college aims to continue to provide opportunities for young musicians in the near future.



SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

It's high summer (could someone please mention that to the weather gods) but by the time you read this, the new football season will almost be upon us. In fact, the Scottish season is kicking off as I type (23rd July). That really doesn't feel right! Thankfully, there is still plenty of traditional summer sport to command our attention. The cricket season is in full swing and Durham CCC are still in contention in all forms of the game, while England are taking on India in a test match series that should determine which is the number one side in the world. Meanwhile, the Tour de France is reaching its conclusion (tomorrow, again as I type this) and unless something dramatic happens, Mark Cavendish (the Manx Missile) should have secured the green jersey as best sprinter. Cav is already a sporting colossus in my eyes and I really hope he bags gold in the road race at the London 2012 Olympics - talking of which, the World Athletics Championships take place in Korea later in August and will give us a decent insight into how well British athletes are progressing ahead of London. As things stand, Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis & Phillips Idowu seem to be genuine gold medal prospects at the moment, less than a year from the games, and with an on the longer game, keep your eyes on Jodie Williams, a young sprinter who won gold in the 100m at the recent European Youth Championships and appears to be the 'real deal'. British athletics has witnessed far too many unfulfilled careers in recent years, but I've got a feeling that Jodie won't disappoint. London is probably too early for her to really make a mark, but she could be a huge star in the future.

Sedgefield Cricket Club *(Cup winning team above)*

Despite poor recent weather slowing down the excellent start from all Sedgefield teams, at the time of writing this, the first team still sits in a promotion spot, and both second and third XIs are safe in mid table of their respective leagues. One match the weather didn't put pay to was the Haith Cup Final (the North Yorkshire South Durham division one league cup) in which Sedgefield took on league leaders Thornaby, away. Batting first, Sedgefield racked up a competitive 134-8 in 25 overs, with sizeable contributions from Dave Humphries and Eddie Johnson. In their reply, Thornaby fell 23 runs short after an outstanding spell of bowling from Martin Lower, who claimed six wickets in his man of the match performance, giving Sedgefield their first, but hopefully not last, piece of silverware this season.

Sedgefield Community College Sports Awards

Parents, staff & students, along with special guest, Karen Greig (former England Netball International) celebrated Sedgefield Community College's 13th Annual Sports Presentation evening at Hardwick Hall Hotel on 20th July.

The award winners were:

Year 7, Sam Marshall, Rebecca Hocke

Year 8, Brandon Ward, Megan Hetherington

Year 9, Joe Potts, Beth Donaldson

Year 10, Robert Pearce, Megan Telford

Year 11, Scott Waterson, Chloe Bagshaw

Commitment to Sport, Jake Lennox, Ellie Gaines

Sports Leadership, James Bell, Olivia Alderson

Commitment to Dance, Danielle Hind

Sports Apprentice, Ben Hetherington

Team of the Year, Year 10 football team

Special Endeavour, Victoria Sirrell

Outstanding achievement, Beth Donaldson,

Robbie Tinkler, Luke Towler, Melissa Lowe

Armstrong Award for dedication - Jack Rutherford

Boys Sports Personality of the year - James Marshall

Girls Sports Personality of the year - Jodie Young



Sedgefield Harriers

There was a good turnout of Harriers at the inaugural Sunderland City 10k run on 26th June, which attracted about 1,700 runners. Held on an undulating course that started and finished at the Stadium of Light, the run took in many of the city's major landmarks, on a day that was remarkable for the unusually warm weather. In hot, sunny conditions with little in the way of a breeze offering relief, it wasn't a day for personal bests, but the Harriers put in some decent performances. First man home was Chris Lines in 41 min 53 secs & 42nd position, followed closely by Roger Whitehill (42:36 & 48th), Ean Parsons (45:35 & 105th), Jason Catterall (46:10 & 126th) and David Walker (49:34 & 266th). Christine Hearmon led the women home (50:36 & 255th), followed by Diane Baines (53:47 & 471st). Harriers also had two representatives in the 3k junior race. Samuel Hearmon finished 8th in the boys race in a time of 10:19, with younger brother Thomas in 32nd in 17:03, while Abigail Hearmon came a fantastic second in the girls race in 10:45. Great news for Harriers was that the team (men, women and juniors combined) came third in the Sunderland City 10k Club Challenge, beaten only by two clubs from Sunderland that had entered large numbers of runners into the races. The cash prize will help the Harriers continue to provide coaching and host events.

The next big event is the Sedgefield Serpentine on 11th September; a scenic six and a half miles cross country route starting in Sedgefield and taking in Hardwick Park and Bishop Middleham. In 2010, almost 200 people took part, and it is more popular every year. If you are interested in having a go, contact Matthew Jones: matt.j@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk or 07866 441 097.

Junior Harriers

In partnership with Durham County Council, Sedgefield Harriers will deliver three separate UK Athletics Startrack holiday programmes through the school summer holidays. The two day courses take place at Shildon's Stadium 2000 athletics track at the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Middridge Lane. The first course runs from 10am-3pm on Mon 1st & Tues 2nd August, the second from 10am-3pm on Mon 7th & Tues 8th, and the final course, from 10am -3pm on Mon 22nd & Tues 23rd August. Each child who completes a course will receive a UK Athletics Startrack goody bag. The cost of a two day course is £30 per child. All courses are led by Sedgefield Harriers' UK Athletics qualified and CRB cleared coaches. For further information / application form please contact Scott Hydon on scott.h@sedgefieldharriers.co.uk or 07883886305.

Well, for once, I have managed to be quite succinct, and that's all for this month. As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

18th June: almost mid-summer: heavy clouds & pouring rain - It must be **MORDONFEST DAY!**

It certainly is, but it would take much more than a couple of showers to deter the faithful few from their annual festival fix of nine continuous hours of diverse music on Mordon Village green.

This year's event was again opened by The Gastric Band fronted by Dave Crawford in his Borat style mankini... getting it all tangled up in his little ukulele. Catherine Lindsay sang a lovely set to an appreciative audience and she was followed by Teesside guitar wizard Geoff Parkin, joined by members of Stray Dogs for his set. Then it was time for a change of pace.

Classical concert pianist, composer and artist John Leo Horgan from Chester-le-Street played an amazing set to a mesmerised audience. John was followed by Mordon's resident band and hosts for the day, Stray Dogs playing their party favourites. The Drumathon again proved that the youngest members of the audience had the best sense of rhythm as they joined in playing all kinds of drums and jamming in with the next band, Sedgefield's very own Black Water Fever who rocked Mordon good and proper with their own brand of rock and blues. Next came the ever-popular Two Alans, (Pudhoe and Leightell to be exact) assisted by the brilliant Dave Hodges on guitar, playing such wonderful gems as The Lumberjack Song amongst others.

Rock guitarist Ian Jackson, actually bribed the audience to dance with a tub of Roses chocolates. He didn't need to though, as the impulse to dance took over most people anyhow. Following the raffle prize draw, the auction and thank you announcements, Mordonfest 2011 was closed by Spennymoor's brilliant band, Get Over It - back by popular demand after last year's stunning debut.

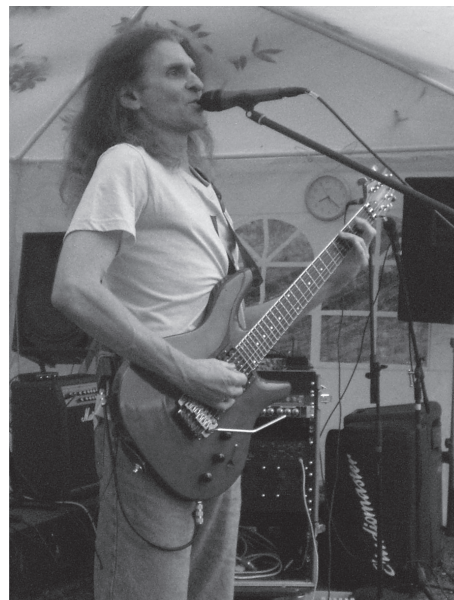
Yet again, wet weather failed to dampen spirits and at times the sun shone for a while. There were ball games for the children and a great selection of raffle prizes including a specially baked Mordonfest 2011 cake. John Leo Horgan donated a specially produced painting, 'The Spanish Lady' (see right), which was auctioned on behalf of Village Hall Funds, and we were supported this year by Sedgefield Round Table who kindly provided a bar for the event.

The organisers would like to thank Mordon Parish again for permission to use the Village Green and local residents for your co-operation; the Village Hall Committee and their significant others, family & friends for all the help behind the scenes; to all performers and the attendees, who helped to raise almost £500 for the Village Hall charity; to Joe Hall and the performers who generously made a donation; to Betty Parkinson for the kind use of her gazebo and lights; to Viv and Garry Jacobs from Sedgefield Blues Club for the loan of marquees and all the help and support this year; to Sedgefield Round Table for all their help throughout the day; to Nida Horgan for the Mordonfest cake and to John Leo Horgan for 'The Spanish Lady'.

Kev Stevens- Mordonfest organiser



John Leo Horgan with 'The Spanish Lady' painting & below, guitarist Ian Jackson rocks at Mordonfest



Swimathon pride

On May 8th at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Mrs Gibson and 9 children from her year 5 class (see below) at Sedgefield Primary School, competed in a sponsored Swimathon, in partnership with Sedgefield Rotary Club. In all, the children raised a huge amount - £655!

The children were to divide their total and could choose where half of the monies are to be donated. I am delighted, and very proud, to say that they decided, as a group, to donate their £327.50 to the Darlington branch of the Multiple Sclerosis (M.S) Society. On behalf of the Society I would like to say a big thank you to all the children, and of course Mrs Gibson, and to say how proud we should all be of these Fab 10 from Sedgefield Primary.

Katie Burkill



Beer Festival 2011

14 excellent real ales, many from local breweries, a BarBQ and great weather were enjoyed at the annual Beer Festival run by the SCA Social Club, on July 1st & 2nd. An added attraction on the Saturday was music from local group, Ceddesfolk. The Festival started in 1993 as part of the celebrations for Ceddesfeld Hall's 200th anniversary, and has been held on the first weekend in July ever since. It must be the best possible venue for a Beer Festival and if you missed it this year, fear not; we are already planning for next year's, on Friday & Saturday 6th & 7th July.

The SCA was the first Community Association in County Durham to be allowed bar facilities and there were dire warnings that it would not survive the first year. We have proved them wrong with the help of many volunteers over our 40 years. During those years all our profits have been, and continue to be, an important contribution to the income of SCA and help its survival in increasingly challenging times, so thank you to everyone who helps now and has helped in the past.

August Events Diary

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 3rd August

7.15pm, Parish Hall
60s Music Night - Will Marx
Competition, item from the '60s
Visitors welcome; fee £2.50

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 6th August - 7.30pm

Eddies@4

Sunday 7th August

Informal service for 2-6 year olds
4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's
Contact J Rowsby, 621125

N/H/Watch Panel Meeting

Tuesday 9th August

7 pm Fletcher Room - Parish Hall
ALL Welcome

Sedgefield Show

Robert Brown Showfield
Saturday 13th August

Sedgefield Blues Club

Saturday 13th August
Lynden Anderson Band & support
7.30pm in Parish Hall. £12 from PO

Sedgefield Village Veterans

Sunday 14th August

VJ Day commemoration at
the War Memorial. 10.50 am

Farmers' Market

Sunday 14th August

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 14th & 28th August

Ceddesfeld Hall at 1pm: all levels
welcome. Contact 01642 588197

Sedgefield Library Events

Book Circle at 2pm on

Wednesday 17th August

Summer holiday events & activities
for children include Crafts, 'Mister
Twister' and the fantastic Tony
Wilson who will tell stories on Sat
3rd Sept. Contact library for details.

Ukulele Workshop

Friday 19th August

Ceddesfeld Hall, 8pm
All levels welcome. Call 621729

Musical Evening

Saturday 27th August

7pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall

Brunen Church Choir & The Windy Gyle Band

Bar. Tickets £3 from Tickety Boo,
Council Offices or pay at the door

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday
walks, between 5 & 10 miles.

Contact 620034 or 620434

Café@St Catherine's

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

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church

Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45. Spaces for
children 2+ years Contact 620923

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays
Sporting, social and charitable
events. New members welcome
Contact Rob on 629079

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm

Nag's Head: new members
welcome, call 629070 or 620562

Ceddesfeld Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon
on Thursdays in Ceddesfeld Hall

New Generation Church

Meets Sunday 11 am
at the Parish Hall

Not meeting in August

Residents' Forum, Flower Club
Both Local & Family History
Societies, Gardening Club, the
Country Market and Sing for Health

Sedgefield in Bloom

Keeping up the agricultural theme in the month of Sedgefield Show, Community College students are restoring another piece of farm machinery as a contribution to Sedgefield in Bloom. Last year's beautiful vintage seed drill really caught the judges' eye, and now college farm manager Chris Young has donated this vintage plough. "It saw many years of service at Weterton House Farm in the hands of my father and grandfather" says Chris, "and this is my way of paying tribute to my family and farming heritage. I hope the restored plough will help to keep alive memories of the old days of farming." Students will use work experience week to clean the plough, get rid of the rust and paint it in appropriate colours. The vintage plough will soon take its place alongside the seed drill at the Beacon Lane entrance to the village. *L to R; Science Technician Neil Longstaff, students Jamie Icton, Shaun Robinson, Callum Ellison, Thomas Kelly, Callum Sirrell & Farm Manager Chris Young.*



Your Letters

Huge thanks, first ...

to everyone who sent cards for our Diamond Wedding on June 23rd. It was a wonderful celebration of 60 years of marriage - five gorgeous bouquets, a Calla lily plant and 54 cards, including a signed one from the Queen! We met when Allan was in the Army, stationed at Pollington in the West Riding, a few miles from my home village, Rawcliffe. When he came on leave we would go to York for the day, and we bought our engagement and wedding rings there. So to celebrate, we decided to spend a few days in York, where it all began and on the actual anniversary we went to Rawcliffe, hoping to get into the church. Of course, like so many churches now, it was locked, but just as we turned away a lady came up the path and asked if she could help. She was the vergers and was glad to let us in to look round and go over old memories in the place where I sang in the choir as a child. At exactly 2pm, Allan and I stood in the same spot at the same time in the church where we were married 60 years ago. Someone was looking down on us that day! Our diamond celebrations with family & friends have been very special.

Nancy Smart

... & second, to all our friends and my pupils, past and present, for the overwhelming number of cards and gifts we received before leaving Sedgefield.

I shall have many lovely memories to treasure. Special thanks to my 4 students who took part in the High Achievers' Concert in Stockton in June - a wonderful way to end my career in Sedgefield. Thanks also to all who took part in the CLIC concert last summer. I hope that each and every one will go on to great things, and never forget to share their talents with others.

One of the most memorable times Peter and I treasure from earlier days in Sedgefield is our involvement with The Burston Drum, for which Walter Howell invited me to take the role of musical director. I shall never forget sharing a stage in the Isle of Man with the Players, Peter turning the music and concentrating incredibly hard not to forget repeats, and the response from the audience when we took the Youth Award, and several others. Sedgefield is blessed with many excellent organisations but for me the Players deserve an A*.

We shall miss you all. Please remember to drop in on us in Alloway, Burns country, where all our friends are welcome.

Margaret Mowat

Contact details

for Sedgefield Development Trust
and its other projects

Corporate & Business Mail

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07899 022 133

Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield,
TS21 2EG

Fun Club does continue

As Sedgefield Fun Club manager, I have taken the time to write this piece after some parents raised the issue of rumours that the club had been condemned. I can confirm that these rumours are untrue; fun club has not been condemned! We are currently exploring different avenues to help us fund a new building, to enable us to continue offering good quality childcare. As we have an extensive waiting list for term time places we aim to build a larger provision to cater for all these children and their parents' needs.

We celebrate our sixteenth birthday this year and over the summer holidays we will be having lots of fun and games, with themed weeks and trip days. Places are available and we are open 8am-6pm, Mon-Fri, for your childcare needs. To book a place or for a summer plan, please call 01740 623565.

Many thanks, Paula Shotton

A dog's life?

I have just returned from walking my dogs around Hardwick Park. There was nobody there except me. Whilst using my pooper-scooper as every responsible dog owner does, I was approached by the warden and instructed to put my dogs on their leads. I responded that there was nobody there apart from me and him and that they were not doing any harm. He replied that they were disturbing the wildlife and it was policy. I questioned the legality of his request and he admitted that there was no legal requirement but that it was council policy. Who decided on this policy? Feeling amongst dog owners in Sedgefield is running very high on this matter. We feel that we are being penalised and indeed have had our park taken away from us. Surely the wildlife need to be a little afraid of predators, if not, God help them when it gets dark and the foxes are about. As it is my dogs never bother with the wildlife and just enjoy a good run and following a scent. What about small children who chase the wildfowl - should they be tethered to their parents? I can grudgingly see the point in keeping a dog on a lead during the day when it is busy, if they are the type of animal that will not walk by its owner's side on request, but it is Big Brother gone mad when I cannot go for a quiet walk to my local park (which I have done for the last 30 years) without officialdom interfering.

The Warden mentioned that it was not really worth getting upset about and it was nothing in the grand scheme of things, we should be thankful for the £10 million spent on our local facility. Stuff the £10 million! Bring back the old park when we all felt comfortable with no Big Brother watching. If you cast your mind back to the old park there was always an abundance of wildlife so his arguments do not add up. Sedgefield dog owners feel we are being forced out of OUR park. The warden argued that I was only the 20th person to complain. I can assure him there are a lot more unhappy people in Sedgefield. I know we can walk our dogs on leads, but dogs need to be able to run, play and exercise. Surely that is what the park is for, the enjoyment of ALL. This ridiculous rule predominately affects Sedgefield people. I know the counter argument will be that East Park is available (for the moment) to walk dogs, but it is not the same walking around a field with extremely long grass compared to walking round the lake, enjoying the wildlife and scenery, which most people will agree is a very calming experience and a good way to unwind.

I encourage anybody reading this letter who feels strongly on the matter to put their feelings in a letter or email and send it to Councillor John Robinson, Councillor David Brown and the Warden at Hardwick Park. Let's make the warden's quoted 20 complaints 200 or more!

Geoff Tonks

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Delivery of own insert is £150/£185

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for the September edition of
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