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Sedgefield NEWS

December 2008

A Very Merry Christmas

from the editorial team to our Advertisers, Printers, Contributors, Distributors and Readers.
Thank you for your tremendous support throughout the year.

A pat on the back for 2008's brilliant CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

What a lot of hard work has gone into raising money for good causes this year in Sedgefield. We have enjoyed reading about it and always welcome the chance to publicise your endeavours, some of which have required really hard training (others not *quite* so)!

You have run half marathons, climbed mountains, dangled from great heights, sung for your supper, collected and sold everything from jam to jewellery; all the while bringing pleasure to your supporters and real benefit to your chosen charities.

Why worry about the credit crunch when there's all this fun to be had at virtually no expense. *Go on then* - tell us what's in store for 2009!

All round success for Emily STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Emily Chaytor is a young lady who thoroughly deserves her success in 2008. Recently, a string of Sedgefield Community College subject awards, in English Literature, Textiles, Geography and French plus a Special Technology Award, went to this talented 16 year old, gaining her the title 'Year 10 Student of the Year'.

Emily's talents don't stop at school work. In fact, the award was partly in recognition of the fact that she achieved all of the above whilst training extremely hard to pursue her ambition to be a successful competitive swimmer. Her favourite events are backstroke and 'fly and this year for the first time, she has competed at Regional level.

It's tiring, slogging it out in the training pool 5 nights and 2 mornings every week, but Emily is aiming high - very high. Asked to name a hero or heroine the name Rebecca Addlington came up as quick as a flash!

Alongside all the usual teen interests, Emily loves her music too, singing with Lyrics Youth Choir and playing piano; her other two instruments have had to take a back seat while she is so busy. Added to that, she's modest (a photo was completely out of the question!) very good company and though she may not like me saying it, something of an inspiration. *Editor.*

*We would love to hear about other Students of the Year -
please write to sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com*

Your Christmas Diary Highlights

Details of these events plus all the regulars are on page 11

Three Choirs

Lyrics, SLYC & Lirica
Christmas concert

Cricket Christmas

Live Music Party Night
at the Cricket Club

Christmas Farmers' Market

With a visit from Santa!

Carols on the Green

Traditional carolling

Seasonal Songs & Winter tunes

CeddesFolk Christmas Jam

Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates

The Sedgefield Players
Pantomime

Festive Fireworks

Come to the Green for the bells
& a fabulous midnight display
to welcome 2009

We've an EARLY DEADLINE for next month

**Please send your January news & adverts to
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com by
MONDAY 8th DECEMBER to guarantee entry**

Charity climbers conquer 'Everest, K2 and Ben Nevis' in one day!



On Friday 31st October over 70 intrepid climbers met at Rock Antics indoor climbing wall in Newton Aycliffe. They had been set the challenge of climbing the 8,848 metres needed to climb the height of Everest.

There was a wide variety of participants from those terrified of heights and facing their first indoor climbing wall with trepidation and those who had vast experience and wanted to see how many climbs they could do, with 2 teams – 'Stuck in a Crack' and 'Liam's Climbers' managing 900 metres in less than 2 hours!

With representatives from the fire service, Middlesbrough FC's Kickz project and members of Rock Antics joining together with Framwellgate School 6th Form, Spennymoor School, Woodham School, Hummersknott and Sedgefield Community College involved, the atmosphere was fantastic with some gentle rivalry amongst some teams but a true focus on why they were there – to help raise money to build, equip and run a children's hospice to benefit terminally ill children in our region.

The youngest climber of the day was Martin Catchpole of Auckland Park. Aged only 9, Martin managed a fantastic 360 metres and resembled a young spiderman making mincemeat of the 9 metre wall.

The grit and determination of all the teams paid off with a total height climbed of 19,386 metres – which is more than the combined height of Everest, K2 and Ben Nevis. Undoubtedly an amazing result!!

All the money raised will go directly to Grace House North East Children's Hospice Appeal. The teams are still accepting sponsorship money. If anyone would like to sponsor a team or to find out more about the appeal and how they can get involved please contact Heather McLean, Regional Fundraiser on 0191 5166302.

Top Marks for Bolams

In July this year George Bolam Foods played host to a group of children from Yr 3, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School. George took time out of his busy schedule to show the children around the premises, to explain the processes and the different aspects to running such a complex business. The children were fascinated and here are some of their comments from their personal letters to George. Unfortunately we could not print them all.

"I enjoyed it when the butcher turned the pork into bacon! I found it interesting when the fish lady told us about the different fishes. There were cod, salmon, haddock, mussels, prawns and lots more fishes and sea animals..." Megan Hope. "My most surprising bit was the twenty nine different types of cheeses there were. All of the fruits looked really juicy." Jack Lisle. "I want to say thank you again. I had a great time at Bolams." Rhys Piercy, Their teacher Mr Lennox said, "Taking children out of the classroom and into the real world is an important part of learning and we all appreciate the opportunity that we have been given."

Last month the business, which was rebuilt after a fire in 1996 and employs some 75 staff, was recognised as one of the Top Fifty fastest growing businesses in the North East, at an award ceremony sponsored by Ward Hadaway Solicitors. George Bolam Foods came 11th out of fifty and was the only food producing company, beating much larger companies like United Carlton Office Systems Ltd, Komatsu UK Limited etc. Well done Bolams.



New Yorkers Christmas Spectacular Show

The New Yorkers present their annual Christmas Spectacular on 20th December in the refurbished Sedgefield Parish Hall. It starts at 7.15 pm and tickets are £5. There will be light refreshments on the tables with soft beverages, tea and coffee available. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic refreshments. Full disabled facilities are available in the hall. We'll have a Christmas raffle and Lucky Programme draw, with some really good prizes (watch out for Santa with his bag of goodies in the 2nd half!) Tickets are already being booked for this fabulous cabaret style variety show, so don't delay; ring George Wilkinson on 01740 620807 or Enid Bilton-Gale on 01740 650297 to secure your seat. If you would like to bring a party please ring for price concessions. Groups of elderly or disabled people will receive a very special rate.

The New Yorkers pride themselves on introducing new and exciting numbers for almost every show they do. At present they are working on a new production for both Christmas and 2009, featuring new glamorous and glitzy costumes, a feature everyone comments on.

The programme will suit all ages, from 9 to 90 years. It's not to be missed if you like a good variety show with lots of comedy and songs ranging from Elvis to Marilyn Monroe and Dean Martin to Sarah Brightman (plus a host of others, too many to mention).

The New Yorkers first Album, launched in June, will be on sale at the show at £5, profits being donated to the Great North Air Ambulance.

The New Yorkers did the first spot at this year's Proms in the Park and were hailed a huge success. They also boast that two of the band members are from Sedgefield. George Wilkinson has been a very popular lad in the community for many a year and has entertained the folk of Sedgefield with his great skills as a singer and performer. Rosemary Jones, also a local, has been a member of the Sedgefield Players for many years and has played several spectacular roles. Rosemary has also taken part in the Pantomimes in Sedgefield, so those of you who have seen her perform will know of her many theatrical talents, and those who don't know either George or Rosemary, it's time to come along to see them - you will not be disappointed! The other entertainers in this exciting and colourful variety show are Enid Bilton-Gale, Wendy Church and Denis Gale.

Sedgefield Girls Professional Début

Rebecca Ayton & Lily Grundy enjoyed the privilege of appearing at Darlington Civic theatre alongside finalists from BBC TVs "Any Dream Will Do" in the national tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Both girls attend Stagecoach Darlington as well as activities in the village.

The girls said "It was a fantastic experience; sometimes hard work, but worth it when we saw our friends from Sedgefield in the audience. Thanks to you all for supporting us."



Pianist needed. Can you help?

For over 30 years, Sedgefield Lyric Singers have enhanced the musical scene in Sedgefield and the surrounding area with their varied repertoire of choral music, as well as supporting local and national good causes.

But now, the Lyric Singers find they are in need of a little support themselves – they need a new piano accompanist, from January 2009; someone who would be able to support the choir at both rehearsals and concerts.

Rehearsals are at 7.30pm every Friday night at Ceddesfeld Hall, Sedgefield, with concerts throughout the year.

If you are interested, or would like more information about the choir, please contact the Lyrics secretary Joan Green on 01325 317039 or email joan.green6@tiscali.co.uk.

101 keeps it local this Christmas

On **Thursday 18th December** you can enjoy a Tim Lowe solo acoustic show at The Golden Lion.

Then on **Sunday 21st December** 101 play their last Sedgefield gig of the year at The Black Lion.

The band would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support they have given in 2008. 101 will be appearing at The Black Lion and The Golden Lion again throughout next year and would also like to thank the staff from both pubs.

1st Sedgefield Scout Group's Christmas Postal Service

This festive season, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group and the St. Edmund's Explorers Unit will once again be delivering Christmas cards within Sedgefield village (including the Winterton estate).

Number Four on Front Street has kindly agreed to collect the cards, so if you would like to use the service, please address and deposit yours in the box that has been placed there.

Any donations for card deliveries will be gratefully received and help 1st Sedgefield Scout Group to continue to provide youngsters in the area with a great range of activities and opportunities to learn new skills.

Community SAFETY

N/Hood Watch AGM & Meeting held on Tuesday 14th October

Reports and audited accounts were circulated and submitted for approval at the AGM. There were no queries and these were approved and adopted by all present.

Chairman Ken Saiger thanked Treasurer Phyllis Hillerby for her support throughout the year and for her excellent book keeping (pp the auditors).

Additionally as is now customary Ken made his annual award, this time singling out Edith Ferguson, Mary Hodgson & Margaret Stewart for their contribution to our Neighbourhood Watch during the past year.

There were no new nominations for the Executive or "office" and all existing post holders were re-elected.

A normal meeting followed the AGM, PC Keith Todd was unable to attend (hence no crime figures or details) however reports from Tim Spearey, Mel Elliot & Neil Langthorne were appreciatively received by members present. There were no new issues of significance; Neil did advise that Operation DARC was being launched again, leading with the theme - "A light in every house".

Something to consider - Whilst we do live in a "relatively" low crime area it would be wrong to assume we live in a crime free area - in fact no-one does and as one resident recently found when Cold Called & buying at the door; the goods received were faulty - the sellers were long gone. Recently N/H/Watch launched the "No Cold Calling Home" in the village, providing window/door stickers to allow householders to declare they do not want unsolicited door callers (sellers). This recent experience in the village may serve as a pointer to others as to the benefits of displaying such a notice; users so far report that they are quite effective!

The problems some people unfortunately have to experience from Cold Callers is regularly highlighted by the Early Warning Network team of Durham Trading Standards (**0191 383 3586**). On 11th November they (publicly) circulated details of **4 Cold Calling incidents** in our County; providing a final message of: **DO NOT let anyone official in without an appointment and DO NOT give any personal details over the phone to anyone you are not absolutely sure about. PLEASE ADVISE - DO NOT EMPLOY COLD CALLERS**

To deter unwanted people from calling at your door, why don't you make your home **visibly** a **NO COLD CALLING HOME?** Simply place a Neighbourhood Watch "This is a No Cold Calling Home" window / door sticker to a prominent position to the front of your property. **Stickers are available free from the Town Council Offices.**

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

Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield ring **623654**

or via Chilton Control Room ring **01388 721351**

Local Police: Telephone **0345 60 60 365** (keep a note of details of any conversation & obtain an incident no).

For advice/assistance, CPO Neil Langthorne, 01325 742714
Community Liaison Officer - Mel Elliot, Telephone 01325 742755

Veterans' Badge Presentations

Sedgefield Village Veterans held a Veterans Badge Presentation day on Sunday 9th November, in Ceddesfeld Hall. Originally, the badges had been sent to individuals by post, but it was decided that they should be issued formally. After the badges received a blessing from Rev. Michael Gobbett, they were formally awarded to their owners.

The Mayors of Sedgefield Town, Tim Jeanes with his consort, Ann and Sedgefield Borough, John Robinson with his consort, Maxine were in attendance to witness the Ceremony.

Badges were awarded to veterans Wilf Garbutt, Les Butler, Johnnie Hill, Tim Spearey, B.E.M., PC Keith Todd, David Hillerby, Brian Stephenson, Keith Armes, Ron Suddes, Colin Hewgill and trumpeter Richard Smith.

Our apologies for the small size of the photograph. The file could not be expanded.



PC Todd reports

Last month I reported on a type of crime known as '2 - 1 Burglary'. This involves the criminal minded looking out for expensive cars to steal. They then break into the owner's property looking for the car keys and steal the car, taking anything else of value that takes their fancy.

Unfortunately, recently two families woke up to find that they had become the latest victims of this growing crime. Can you all look at where you leave your car keys at night and ask yourselves "is there a better place to hide them from unwanted visitors".

Other crimes reported to the police include a vehicle stolen from Cunningham Court, a works van broken into in The Lane, vehicles damaged on the High Street and North End and a mobile phone stolen from a youth in the High St.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently at the Social Club. Members were informed of an incident outside the Golden Lion on Friday 7th November involving a large group of people. There is an ongoing police investigation into this incident and anyone who was involved or who witnessed the events that took place is asked to come forward and inform the police on 0345 60 60 365 or contact myself at Sedgefield Police Office.

Acknowledgements

Last month I asked for volunteers to assist with a local resident who needed a little help. I am pleased to say a big "Thank You" to the many residents who offered help and support and who continue to do so. I would especially like to thank Sainsbury's and the Co-op for providing all the cleaning materials and food: the Rotary Club of Sedgefield and Newton Aycliffe for their kind donations along with the church organisations who provided various white goods, Jewsons for building materials and Tonks for providing a skip. Finally, the band of tradesmen who have given their time for free include: Ray Turnbull - Electrician, Brian Stevenson - Joiner, Andy Towler - Joiner, Neil Clark of NC Plumbing - not forgetting the Black Lion, the Hope Inn and the Golden Lion for all their support. Until next time, Keith

Jottings

Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum meeting, November 3rd 2008

The November meeting consisted of the AGM and the ordinary monthly meeting.

It was noted that many of the issues highlighted at the AGM in 2007 were still 'live' in 2008. The year highlighted the variety of issues that the Forum is presented with and the many positive results that have been achieved. Too many individual items to mention here but credit must be given to our whole community on demonstrating such magnificent 'community action' on objecting to the proposed Holiday Park and its significant potential negative effect on Sedgefield village. It really does demonstrate that communities actually can influence decisions – unfortunately we are going to have to do it all again as the planning application for 330 caravans is to be re-submitted. So watch for information and notices and please offer your support; the small team working on the preparation of the objection put in a tremendous amount of work on your behalf – comment and help from anyone is always welcome. The Planning Committee meeting to consider the application will probably be January or February so watch out for information.

Last month we asked for anyone willing to give some time to progressing **youth provision** in the village to put their names forward by November 17th. It's November 15th as I write this and we have had 2 names volunteered – many thanks to those 2 people but the response is a little disappointing from the whole village, there are plenty of complaints about young people from residents and complaints from young people themselves but obviously not many 'willing hands' to address the problems.

Local Government Reorganisation is an ongoing concern to the Forum, we are finding it difficult to get information on the constituent members of the Area Action Partnership (AAP) of which Sedgefield village will be part, let alone what will be our Service Delivery Area. All this is supposed to be in place for an April 09 start which leaves little time when you consider Christmas and New Year take out quite a period for action. We will continue to agenda this issue for our December meeting. It will be really important for Sedgefield village to have a 'voice' on the AAP. It is hoped that the 'Sedgefield Together' partnership group will provide a focus for community views to take forward to the AAP, but the group is experiencing some difficulty in 'who should be on it'. 26 representatives from community groups put their names forward but these have been reduced to 9 by the Town Council (TC) with the TC having a further 7 places. The Forum believes it would have been more 'democratic' if the 26 representatives had been invited to a meeting to then agree numbers and representatives. We will be welcoming a speaker to our December meeting; - you will be aware of SBC transfer of council housing stock, you may think this does not affect private home owners in the village, but we have some unanswered queries as to what happens to SBC owned land in this transfer, not only the land on which there are council properties but areas such as the duck pond and play areas. So an officer from SBC is coming to the meeting to explain / answer questions – remember all residents are welcome at Forum meetings.

News on policing issues – we have been asked by our local police officer if the Forum can be used to help the police identify local Neighbourhood priorities in Sedgefield. This is in line with the Government PACT scheme (Police and Communities Together) to ensure that 'local residents' are being consulted and their concerns addressed at a local level. Similar schemes have been set up across the country, however rather than create another meeting/forum for residents to attend it may be more beneficial to encompass it into an already well established resident forum.

Of course we are very happy to assist in any way, and work closely with partner organisations. We will obviously gather any comments at Forum meetings but to make it easier for all residents we will be placing a box in the Library and the Town Council office in which any resident can 'post' a note with information on their policing priorities/issues. The boxes will be in place from December 1st 08.

Our next meeting will be on December 1st (apologies for the misprint of the Nov meeting date in last month's diary page). Everyone welcome - agenda's will be on the notice board, in the Library and in the Post Office one week before the meeting date. There will not be a meeting in January 09; the February meeting is on February 2nd 09. Remember to watch for notices about the Holiday Park application. **LATEST NEWS - SEE RIGHT**

Sedgefield Veterans enjoy (suffer?) a wet weekend in October!

The Re-enactment weekend on October 25th & 26th had to wage war on the inclement weather this year, but despite this the attendance was good, there was much more to see and people did enjoy themselves.

Earlier in the week, the 1940s night, with Will Garbutt was especially good - the best in the season according to those present.

Next year the Veterans hope for better weather - they will be having the weekend in September.

Tim Spearey

Latest from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum

Land Transfers

Do you want to know what will happen to land now that Council Housing is being transferred from the Local Authority?

It's not only land where there are council houses which is affected, but areas such as Wykes Close pond, the Eden Drive play area, plus other land in the village.

Come along to the Residents' Forum on **December 1st** and hear the answers from the Borough Council

URGENT NOTICE

Caravan Park Re-application

The adjusted planning application for Brakes Farm - still for 330 caravans but without the original 48 lodges - has now been submitted.

By the time you read this, there will be very little time left for your comments on the proposals to be submitted - the deadline is during December

If you have previously objected and feel that your earlier objection is still valid, despite the changes in the submission, it is important that you express your opinion once more.

New comments and opinions are also welcome. Write to

**Gary Swarbrick
Sedgefield Borough Council
Green Lane, Spennymoor**

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

About this time last year, I was starting to think about the first ever Sedgefield News Sports Awards. It was only as I sat down to write this update, that I recalled the fact. So, I haven't had a chance to give this any thought and I'm hoping that you can help me out. Over the next couple of months, I'd like to put together a review of 2008 to celebrate Sedgefield's sporting highlights. With that in mind, I would welcome any suggestions from you on this theme.

I'm not sure this review will end up looking, but as I begin to put it together, all contributions will be gratefully received (if not always used in full!). For the moment, in the front row of this month's bumper crop of stories is news from Sedgefield District Rugby Club.

Rugby

Sedgefield District Rugby Club's second season is well into its stride. After a difficult first match against a strong Hartlepool side, the squad responded well and went on to beat Redcar III 10-7 and Hartlepool Rovers III 8-0. A depleted yet confident team then played Acklam, but despite a second half comeback, suffered their heaviest defeat so far, losing 27-12. However, this setback was well and truly put behind them in the very next game, when Sedgefield beat a very strong Darlington side 30 points to 15. Head coach Mike Williams takes up the story:

"Darlington travelled to Sedgefield with only one thing on their mind and that was to secure a very comprehensive victory. The home side took the lead after just 10 minutes with a gift of a penalty, which Owen Robinson stepped up to take and make it 3-0. The visitors had the chance to level four minutes later but their long range effort from in front of the posts went wide. The home side then upped the tempo of the game and soon found themselves in the visitors' half when madness broke out and tempers flared. This resulted in two yellow cards being issued by the referee, one to each side.

"When both sides were back to 15 men apiece the silliness started again, resulting in Gordon Hurst having to be taken from the field with a very serious eye injury, requiring plastic surgery at the James Cook hospital (thankfully Gordon's injury is only cosmetic but it does mean that his modelling career has had to be put on hold). Phil Morley replaced him.

"Once the game settled down again a slick move in midfield between Pete Ryan and Hugh Carter saw Sedgefield break the visitors' defence and new arrival Morley was there to take the pop pass from Carter and go under the posts for the game's first try. Robinson added the conversion to make it 10-0. Soon after this, Darlington put their first points on the board with a penalty.

"As the temperature dropped the game heated up with the first half finishing with a flurry of activity, following a planned substitution by Sedgefield. The home side had to defend their line stoutly to keep Darlington out but after being stretched too far the visitors' went over in the corner. The conversion attempt was missed and the referee blew for half time, leaving the score 10-8.

"The start of the second half saw several changes to the home side with Darryl Pettit and Kai Scott coming on to replace James Forster and Neil Hetherington. The impact of the changes was almost immediate as the home side extended their lead, scoring their second try. Good work in midfield by man of the match Paul McCormack, and Pete Ryan saw the ball released to Hugh Carter who timed his pass to perfection to the on

rushing Jonnie Parish who went over in the corner to make the score 15-8. Robinson missed the difficult conversion, but soon made amends with a difficult penalty from the touchline to extend the lead.

"Darlington then had another chance to score and moving the ball from one side of the field to the other they finally took their chance and scored the try they deserved, the fly half added the extra points to make the score 18-15. Sedgefield then got back to basics, made a couple more substitutions (Steve Turnbull, one of the departing players, deserves special mention for an outstanding debut as hooker), and with another try made the score 23-15. This was followed by a final converted try just before the final whistle, resulting in the comprehensive 30-15 victory."

Thanks to Mike for his account of the match. The full report was actually considerably longer and more detailed, see www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk.

Sedgefield District Rugby Football Club is keen to attract volunteers to help out at the club (from physios to photographers, and reporters to match day supporters – not to mention more players) and can be contacted through the website or call Mike Williams - 07768 554854.

Sedgefield Harriers

The Seniors have got their winter Grand Prix series off to a good start with runs at the Derwentside 'Hell Hole' 10k (named after the woods near Beamish), the Gibside Fruit Bowl Trail Race in the grounds of the beautiful Gibside Chapel near Rowlands Gill and the Brampton to Carlisle 10 miles. The Grand Prix series is an opportunity for the Harriers to pit themselves against each other by gaining points for competing for the club. There are a series of challenging races this winter, culminating in the Redcar Half Marathon and the Dentdale 14 in spring. Although there is a winning prize for the highest points scorer, the challenge also brings out personal battles with runners of similar abilities who may finish further back down the field. There is a misconception that being a member of a club is for elite runners only and this is certainly not the case. The competition & encouragement benefits all members and helps maintain motivation to keep fit. The Harriers offer a range of sessions to suit all abilities. Details on the Harriers new web site at www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk.

Sedgefield Harriers' Juniors consolidated their position as one of the fastest growing and developmentally focussed clubs in the North East with strong team and individual performances in the third North Yorkshire and South Durham cross country fixture of the season at Middlesbrough's Flatt's Lane Country Park. The under 13 (U13) boys race saw an epic battle between the Juniors Club Person of the Year, Seb Reichel, and the talented Rory Varley. On this occasion, Seb edged out his younger rival, but this looks to be a battle that will continue throughout the winter and beyond. Adam Flatters produced a solid run to ensure another strong team performance from the U13 boys. In the U15 boys race, Jonathan Baines produced what could arguably be described as a breakthrough run when finishing a close third to the nationally rated Fergus Roberts of Richmond and Zetland. The U15 boys team ran Richmond and Zetland close in the team event to eventually finish second. This was



Senior Harriers at the 10k 'Hell Hole' run

an excellent team performance with fantastic supporting runs from Ben Hetherington, Scott Kippin and Matt Riechel.

The U17 girls race saw the officials mistakenly send the girls on an additional lap of an already tough course. Undeterred, Gemma Varley maintained her concentration to produce another highly creditable performance.

The Juniors are proving a tough bunch with a growing reputation. Anyone who feels up to the challenge of joining them and perhaps competing over some tough cross country courses in the winter should come along to the Community College on Wednesdays at 6pm and become part of a 60 strong team. More details at www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk.

Sedgefield Cricket Club

Sedgefield Cricket Club held its Annual General Meeting on November 3rd. A lively meeting heard reports from all senior and junior teams on what was the worst season in living memory for games lost to bad weather. Despite this, the club remains well supported both on and off the pitch, and the Committee wish to see ever increased use of the facilities all year round in order to maximise potential.

The most significant announcement was the confirmation of a successful award of nearly £30,000 from Sedgefield Borough Council's LIP scheme. This will be used to build new changing facilities as an extension to the existing clubhouse, and we'll continue to report on progress over the winter. Huge thanks go to Ray Lower for his toil in putting together the application, and to Nigel Bill for securing Clubmark status. Without their efforts, the application would undoubtedly have failed. The club is also grateful to Sedgefield District Rugby Football Club for its ongoing support, more news of which can hopefully be confirmed in the New Year.

The club is enrolling members for 2009 already and is offering a £5 discount until January 31st, for all categories of membership. Meanwhile, the bar is open every Wednesday and Friday night from 8pm-11pm, as well as over Sunday lunch-times, and you can read about forthcoming events in the 'What's On' section of the newsletter. Finally, details of winter coaching for seniors and juniors will be confirmed soon. Look out for more details of that in future sports updates.

Sedgefield Youth FC

Regular contributor Ryan Towler has kindly provided an update on recent progress:

"So far this season Sedgefield Youth have failed to win a game but some matches have been close, with a recent 4-3 defeat reflecting that. The team has suffered a couple of frustrating injuries, including torn knee ligaments for Jordan Parking. Interest in the club continues to grow and we now have a few more people coming to training at the Community College on Thursday nights from 6pm-7.15pm. Anyone (of a youth-like persuasion!) is welcome to come along – the cost is £1.50. Hopefully next month I will be able to give you our winning scores, if the ref's decisions go in our favour unlike in the past (to be fair, we have been taught by the manager to respect the ref's decisions – then again, he is a qualified referee!)."

Thanks to Ryan for the news, though I detected a whiff of Premiership style 'referee bating' in there – focus on the football!

That's all for this month. As ever, if you have any sports stories (or suggestions for the review of the year) please send them to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Well played Tim!

... not on the sports field but on the 'cello at the Darlington Young Musician of the Year Competition. He won the Strings 12 - 15 class, with a recital of the Largo from Vivaldi's 6th 'cello sonata. Tim is a member of both the Darlington & The Dales Youth and the 'Cobwebs' Orchestras.

**The Ladies Section of
Woodham Golf Club**
are organising a

Christmas Flower Demonstration

at the Golf Club on Tuesday 9th
December at 7.30pm.

Mildred Stafford presents
'Christmas –

A Tingle of Excitement.'

Tickets available at £7.50
(includes a glass of wine)
from lady members
or ring 01325 319989

November Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Please note: the following organisations do not meet in December: **Civic Trust, Wildlife Group, Sedgfield Show**

Sedgfield Residents Forum
Monday 1st December
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm.

Local History Society

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Monday 1st December
Robert Cooper

The History of Calligraphy

This local photographer will inscribe his own beautiful books of photos which will be for sale. They make excellent Christmas presents!
All welcome

Sedgfield Mags

Monday 1st December
8pm in the Nag's Head
'Sedgfield Mags' run a bus to all Newcastle United home games

Christmas Shopping

Trip to York & McArthur Glen outlet
Wednesday 3rd December
Tickets £8 each from
Sedgfield Town Council

CeddesFolk

Acoustic Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm
Wednesday 3rd December
Join our line up of fiddles, whistles, squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgfield WI

Wednesday 3rd December
7.15pm in the Parish Hall
Marion Watson - **"Belly Dancing"**
Members' competition; a small hand-wrapped Christmas parcel
Visitors always welcome - £2

December @ the Library

Christmas Cracker

Sing-a-long to Christmas favourites
Eileen Glenton, Weds 3rd, 2pm
FREE - booking required

Toy Library Christmas Party with Mister Twister

Wednesday 3rd 10-11am
FREE - booking required

Tickle Time Mon. 8th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time Wed. 10th, 10-11am

Book Circle Wednesday 17th, 2pm
*The library is closed from 12.30pm
Wed 24th Dec to Fri 2nd January*

Sedgfield Community Hospital Christmas Fair

at the Hospital at 2pm on
Saturday 6th December
Come and meet Santa!

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall
Saturday 6th December
Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Quiz Night
Saturday 6th December 8pm
Presented by Peter Dixon

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 7th December
4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the
Welcome Room at St Edmund's.

Sedgfield Methodist Wives & Friends
Monday 8th December 7.15pm
Christmas Carols
& Monday 15th December
Christmas Night Out
New members always welcome

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting
Tuesday 9th December
7 pm Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
ALL Welcome

Thurlow Grange

Christmas Dinner
Thursday 11th December, 1pm
Singer Jim Stark. £10. Places are
limited - ring Lynn on 621199

Concert - Three Choirs

The Lyric Singers, Sedgfield Lyrics
Youth Choir & Lirica
sing the season for you on
Fri & Sat 12th & 13th December
in the Parish Hall. 7.30 start
Tickets £5/£4 from Selections or
call Audrey Lofthouse on 620625

Cricket Club Live Music Christmas Party Night

Main guests: **Happy Cats**
also featuring Scratch Band and the
John Wrightson Band. Carols with
Billingham Silver Band

8pm, Saturday 13th December
Admission £9 with Christmas
buffet. Tel: 621347

*NB. The Cricket Club is available for hire
for private parties, christenings, etc.
Call Jane on 629616*

Christmas Farmers' Market

Regular traders selling first class
produce, plus warm mince pies
and mulled wine for all.

Sunday 14th December
From 9.30 - 1.30

PS. Santa will be there too!

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 14th December
at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 15th December
Christmas Dinner at the Dun Cow
Please contact Sylvia Hall: 620367
to book yourself a place

Ferryhill, Sedgfield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 16th December
7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Members' night with Faith Supper

CeddesFolk Christmas Jam

Bring a song, an instrument, join in
or just listen. 7pm start.
Wednesday 17th December
The Lounge at Ceddesfeld Hall
Bar open. Soft drinks available.
Children welcome

Sedgfield Veterans Group

Monthly meeting 7pm
Thursday 18th December
Oldham Room, Ceddesfeld Hall
New members always welcome

Carols on the Green

6.30pm Friday 19th December
mulled wine afterwards at
Ceddesfeld Hall

The Sedgfield Players

present Alan P Frayn's
Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates
Saturday 27th December at 2pm
then at 7pm on Saturday 27th
Sunday 28th, Monday 29th &
Tuesday 30th
in Sedgfield Parish Hall
Tickets £6, Concessions £5, & 10%
discount for parties of 10 or more
from Selections & members of The
Players - 621000 or 620091
*By kind permission of Stage Right
Creative Ltd*

Round Table

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

Ladies' Circle

2nd & 4th Thursdays
Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome
Contact Viv on 629079

Country Market

Friday mornings in the Parish Hall

Coming up in January

Sedgfield Gardening Club

Tuesday January 6th
Pests and Diseases - a talk by
Dianne Nichol-Brown

Your Letters

Hardwick Park Restoration

It was interesting to read the update on the Hardwick Park restoration project in the last edition. The park is looking lovely and when complete will surely be something that all those involved in its conception and undertaking can rightly take pride in.

Sadly, somewhere along the way one of the major attractions of the park prior to restoration has been lost; the ability for anyone to drop in for a few minutes quiet contemplation or an hour playing with our children or walking with or without the dog simply for pleasure, but all at no expense. We are now informed that after several years of upset and the spending of substantial sums of taxpayers' money, we will have to pay for parking, initially at £1 but rising to some undisclosed sum when the visitor centre eventually opens.

The spirit of freedom of the un-restored park has been lost, a sad reflection on the times we are living in.

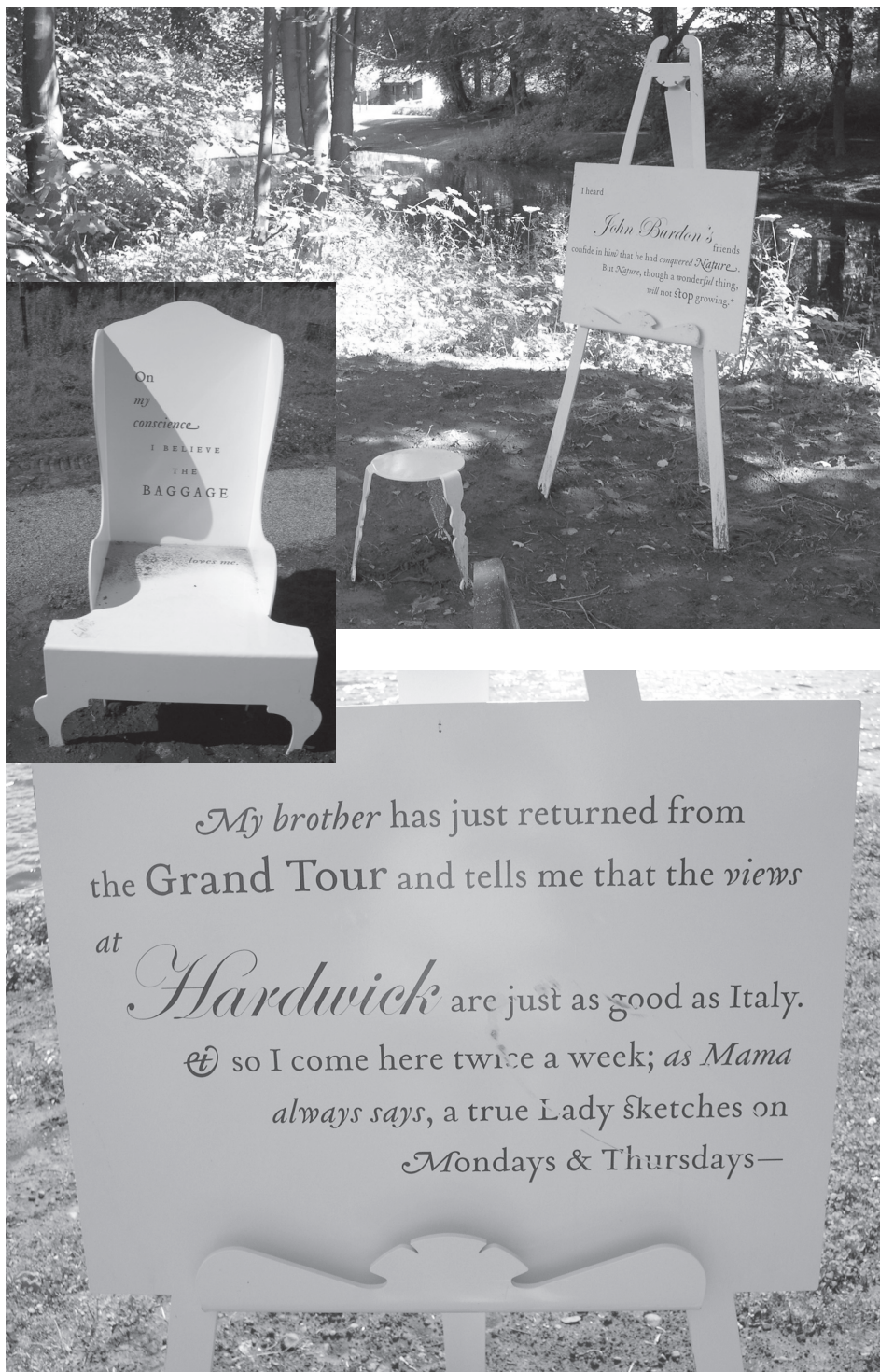
John Burrows

Sedgefield News Distribution

Anyone willing to deliver to
1-8 Durham Road, Woodland
Mews, plus Conifer, Pine Ridge &
Rosedale Avenues, please call
Judith on **620244**

Hardwick Park's new curiosity shop

Hardwick Park has taken on an 'Alice in Wonderland' air recently. Part of the interpretation of the restored landscape has seen the addition of white stylised objects at strategic points round the Circuit Walk. We now have a number of curiosities that could have graced Lewis Carroll's works. Each is inscribed with some whimsical quotation which is intended to evoke the period of the late eighteenth century.



*My brother has just returned from
the Grand Tour and tells me that the views
at
Hardwick are just as good as Italy.
☺ so I come here twice a week; as Mama
always says, a true Lady sketches on
Mondays & Thursdays—*



For inclusion in the January edition of Sedgefield News please send your news or adverts to us by December 8th
Post to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011 (leave a message)
or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

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