

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury & Mordon, and published by
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Sedgefield NEWS

December 2009



Merry Christmas Everyone !

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

Sedgefield Community College: a thriving community

On the outside, Sedgefield Community College may not look like a state of the art building; however you can't judge a book by its cover. On the inside Sedgefield Community College offers a different story. As a group of year ten students at the college, we feel proud to be part of this establishment. Having already spent three successful years at the school we also feel we are experienced enough to comment appropriately and insightfully on current standards: fundamentally what goes on behind closed doors.

There have been many fresh and exciting changes to happen as a result of our new Head Teacher, Mr Davies, joining the school at the beginning of this year. Firstly there has been a recent review of the uniform throughout the school. While our uniform has not changed in the main, Mr. Davies has successfully introduced a black school coat for all years. This subtle change has continued to raise standards, providing everyone, teachers, students and parents alike, with a sense of equality, uniformity and consistency.

Secondly, while the fabric of our school may be in a state of disrepair and past its sell by date, all members of our community are looking forward to inhabiting a new building that is in the process of being constructed. We look forward to moving into this new site when we will be in Year 11, and feel privileged to be able to share in the experience of this event. We are sure the school will continue to move from strength to strength, and students will continue to thrive in this new and exciting educational establishment.

Finally as a year group we have begun the process of a unique opportunity to begin our GCSEs early: at the end of Year 9. This has allowed us a head start in achieving success at GCSE standard, and we have

embraced this chance to achieve.

As well as this unique educational opportunity, we feel that there are other reasons to be proud of our school. For many years now, Sedgefield Community College has operated with a sports college status. This has afforded us many positive experiences. These include a variety of multi-disciplinary sports: from trampolining to rowing, skiing to horse riding, table tennis to mountain biking. The latter sport was undertaken at the end of the summer term and a number of us took part in the Coast to Coast. This was both a challenging and rewarding experience that stretched the students who participated, beyond the realms of standard sporting activities within a school environment. This sort of experience is offered to us on a regular basis. Other fantastic opportunities involve "Girls in Sport" week and "Boys in Sport" week. Our school was one of the first to promote such an event to our students, providing a multitude of various sporting activities that would not normally be offered in an average P.E. lesson. Through these special weeks of sports celebration we have been lucky enough to meet people as famous as Kelly Holmes. However, this excellent exposure to the world of sport is not the only thing being offered to us at the school: the academic side to our educational studies is also excellent and provides everyone with a chance to achieve academically. For example, how many schools can boast the feature of a working farm on the premises?

Sedgefield Community College continues to be a thriving and successful school and we have no doubt that it will remain so for future generations of enthusiastic students and staff alike.

Written by Year 10 students at the college.

Thanks to the Year 10 students who took the trouble to compile this excellent article.



Carols on the Green

Friday 18th December at 6.30pm

Fireworks for New Year

Celebrate with your friends on the Village Green

Please note the early deadline for January's edition of Sedgefield News - 10th December

Email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

'Goths' trip - or was it the 'unlikely lads'?

Having ascertained that a planned trip to Whitby on 31st October coincided with a special Goth weekend, a group of Golden Lion regulars decided to enter into the spirit of things. They moved the trip back a few hours so as to leave Whitby shortly after midnight, dressed in black and giving those who needed time to invested in some black hair dye!



Whilst sightseeing in Whitby a local told them that vampires didn't like the smell of beer. Purely as a precaution, therefore, they each forced themselves to down a couple of (extra) pints. This must have worked because all returned safely. The trip was organised by popular local builder Gordon Smith. *Photo Ian Hunter*

Prestigious award for Hardwick Park

The magnificent restoration of Hardwick Park has been nationally recognised by coming first in the annual Georgian Awards in the 'Restored Georgian Landscape' category. Maria Murphy, Countryside Information Officer, and Sara Fortune, Hardwick Park Education Officer, accepted the award on behalf of Durham County Council. Sara said "We are overjoyed to have won this award. The Council has put a lot of effort and funding into restoring Hardwick to its former Glory and it is wonderful to have this recognition." Over £9m has been spent on the restoration of which £4,056,000 was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in the North East, Ivor Crowther, said: "The award means so much to everyone that has been involved with this project, proving all their hard work was worthwhile. It means that the park itself gets the recognition it deserves. It is a wonderful space that is right at the heart of the community." A new Visitor Centre is open daily and now has the added facility of a café open from Tuesday to Sunday (closed Mondays). The Friends of Hardwick have recently released a DVD chronicling the restoration project which is available from the Visitor Centre or by phoning 01740 621431.

Eric Thompson art exhibition

Sedgefield Development Trust held an Art Exhibition and demonstration on Sunday 22nd November to raise money for their various projects within the village. Sadly the event was not well attended, with helpers outnumbering attendees. Nevertheless it was an event enjoyed by all who were there and Eric Thompson a local watercolour artist, gave an extremely interesting demonstration of his artistic techniques. He has also donated a print for our next raffle.

Eric displayed some of his work and there were many pictures on loan from local residents which gave a fine display. Tim Jasper in particular who brought along some of his own work, caught Eric's eye and he was commended for the quality of his work. Is there no end to this young man's talent?

The Trust would like to thank the people who contributed to the day, especially Geoff O'Hehir, Chris and Carole Vincent, Norma and Haydn Neal, John Macdonald and his wife, Margaret Stewart and the ladies from DIDO, and the young people from the Young People's Drop-In at no 58, plus our regular helpers John Doyle and Mel Kenny. Thank you to you all. We all had a lovely day but sadly not a profitable one!

Silver celebration for SLYC

On January 18th 1985 I faced a hall full of noisy youngsters, hoping I could succeed in establishing a new choir, despite my considerable inexperience! Then it was known as Junior Lyrics but as there were proud teenagers involved, it soon evolved into Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir (quite a mouthful, hence the shortening to SLYC!) Since that terrifying evening, I've had the enormous pleasure of getting to know a succession of amazing young people and had the time of my musical life with them. We're going to celebrate in various ways throughout 2010 and would like to start by throwing open the doors of our first rehearsal of the new year to anyone who has been associated with the choir. We'll sing some old favourites, but I would also like your help in planning our silver year.

So, if you remember Rooster Rag, Yanomamo, African Jigsaw, The Valley & the Hill, Adiemus, Chariots and a host of other songs from all over the world, now's your chance to do some reminiscing. Bring your memories! The current choir, plus Rob, Kristen and I look forward to seeing you in Ceddesfeld Hall on 8th January from 6pm - 7.15pm, and if the conversation flows, perhaps we could continue in the bar afterwards, over a glass of something that you are all now old enough to enjoy legitimately!

Sandy Clubley

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School celebrates!

We are delighted to have achieved the full International Schools Award this term. Our MFL co-ordinator, Mrs Jane Westerman, was invited to London on the 16th October to be given the award by BBC newsreader George Alagiah. It was a very prestigious occasion. The evidence file that Mrs. Westerman submitted was of such high quality that the British Council have retained it as an example to others. It is wonderful to know that all of the work that we have done to develop our children's knowledge and understanding of other cultures and peoples has been recognised.



On Tuesday 20th October, Head Teacher Linda Johnston, Teaching Assistant Wendy Nadin and school cook Susan Stapleton spent the day at the Riverside Cricket Ground, Chester-le-Street with eight children, to celebrate the free school meals pilot. Our school dinners are now so popular that the numbers have increased from an average of 40 a day to 150. Phil Barclay, Head of Finance services, greeted the 15 schools and set the tone for a fun, informative celebration. Some of our children interviewed him: *Hardwick*: Why do you like doing school dinners? *Phil*: I'm head of finance and there are only two areas in the country in this pilot. I like mums and dads saving money and I like talking to Head Teachers about the dinners. We also interviewed Mr. Taylor who is the Managing Director of Taylor Shaw,

the catering company. *Hardwick*: Do you like your job? *Mr. Taylor*: I love my job. We work with over 200 schools and prepare over 40,000 meals in Durham alone.

We enjoyed a super dramatic presentation by Shotton Hall Comprehensive School and a lively cookery and tasting session with Mark from Expochef. The most exciting part of the day was meeting former athlete and presenter Steve Cram. He talked to us all about the importance of a healthy balanced diet and led everyone in a fun run. At the end of the day, he presented everyone with a medal. He was kind enough to sign autographs and grant us an interview.

Hardwick: When did you first start running? *Steve*: I started running seriously when I was 12. *Hardwick*: What foods do you like? *Steve*: Well I don't like cheese! I think my favourite is steak in a pepper sauce. Because I've travelled so much I've tried foods from all over the world. I've had sheep brains, kangaroo sausages and frog's legs. I don't always like it but you have to try it to be polite. We enjoyed a truly memorable day!



'A Grain of Wheat'

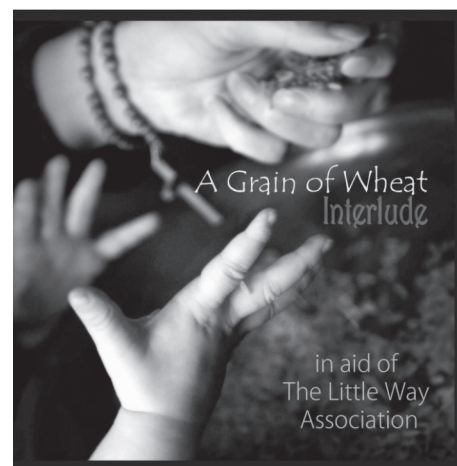
Three local mams, Joanne Dunn, Catherine Lines and Kristen Peacock have recorded a CD to raise money for *The Little Way Association*. They tell the story...

We have been singing together for some time and our rehearsals take place around the rather unconventional and chaotic setting of a kitchen table. Chaotic because between us we have 7 children, aged 6 and under, who are everything that little children should be and - above all - noisy! It is not an uncommon sight to see whomever's turn it is to provide lunch for the ten of us standing with a spoon in one hand, music in the other and a toddler on each leg. We feel so blessed with our wonderful children that we decided to do something to help children who are suffering and in need.

The Little Way Association is a charity whose 'Fund for needy children' helps children all over the world, such as the street children in Latin America and the children in South East Asia who have been abandoned due to their being born with a disability.

Our initial idea was to get our friend, Anthony Robb, to record the CD for us, to run off 100 copies and sell them locally, but Anthony challenged us to think bigger. The result was 1000 copies made by a professional recording company. We enlisted the help of a very talented local photographer, Stephen Cooper, to create the artwork for the CD and 8 months after conception, the CD is now ready for sale.

Due to the generosity of our friends and the fact that the *The Little Way Association* does not deduct administrative costs (they have private benefactors who cover their running costs) 100% of the proceeds from the CD will go directly to help these children. If you would like to purchase a CD, at £10 each, and help us raise our target of £10,000, please contact us on **629909**, or email **interludesing@aol.com** or listen and buy online at **www.robbpipes.com/HookyMatRecords**



Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch

The month of November is especially important to those who have served in conflict for our country and for the loved ones who have lost family in the service of our country. Neighbourhood Watch in Sedgefield have for many years supported this important day in the lives of many of their members by providing wreaths at the Cenotaph on the village green and at the Cross at Winterton.



Veterans remember their fallen comrades
Sunday 8th November 2009

The Remembrance Sunday service on the green at St. Edmond's was very well supported by veterans, the public, scouts, guides and local representatives; Wilf Garbutt Neighbourhood Watch's longest serving member who also served throughout World War 2 in the R.A.F. can be seen at St. Edmond's (above) poignantly laying a wreath to fallen comrades.



Following Remembrance Sunday this year the actual day of the 11th and the official day of remembrance fell on Wednesday, a day of work for most, however at Winterton amongst those assembled were a number of pupils from our Community College led by Deputy Headmaster John Thomlinson. Jessica Gallagher can be seen giving a reading from the Kohima Epitaph and this was followed by a commemoration from the Right Honourable Reverend Michael Pullan. C/man Ken Saiger notes that it is so uplifting to have been present at both ceremonies (as is usual for Ken) and to have seen again the input to the community from local youngsters, carried out in such a dignified manner.

Finally a reminder to everyone that Tuesday 8th December is our next N/H/ Watch Panel meeting (which is accompanied by PACT) and it is the custom for Christmas we hope to make it brief and spend more time with a few nibbles and a chat to round off the year.

Telephone Numbers

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

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

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

For advice & assistance

Crime Prevention Officer Keith Lounds 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne 01325 742755

Veterans will mark each loss of life

The Sedgefield Village Veterans are continuing to hold services on Sedgefield village green each time that service personnel are returned home after losing their lives overseas. The services commence at 10.50am and the Last Post is sounded, followed by 2 minutes silence at 11am, to coincide with the Repatriation flights landing at RAF Lyneham. We hope as many people as possible will join this gathering to show their support and sorrow for all our service personnel who are constantly putting their lives in danger for this, their Country. WE ARE PROUD OF THEM and fully support them, wherever they are.

PC Todd reports

The recent tragic deaths remind us all that life is precious. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hall family and the families of the two men who died in the motorbike accident. Dark evenings and wet roads combine to make driving conditions very dangerous. Please take care and reduce your speed.

Crimes reported recently include the theft of an angle grinder from contractors and theft of number plates from a vehicle in Maple Grove. In White House Drive a garden fence was damaged, and paintwork scratched on a vehicle in the Gables. In St Luke's Crescent a house was flooded when youths put a hosepipe through a letterbox.

Have a Happy but Safe Christmas.
Keith

PACT Meeting

The priorities for the beat team to consider for the next few weeks include:

Parking problems on the High Street, including the bus bay and pedestrian crossing. Please park your vehicle in an appropriate location. A number of £30 fines have already been issued.

Speeding between Sedgefield and Fishburn. I remind motorists this road has a 40 mph speed limit. Action will be taken against offenders.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Black Lion. No incidents were reported which required further action.

Vacancies for 2 new councillors on Town Council

Two vacancies were declared on the town council in October.

Following publication of the statutory notices on the Town Council Noticeboard, and also in the Sedgefield News, no-one has completed the statutory form to call an election. Consequently the town council will co-opt two new members at their January meeting.

If you are interested in being co-opted then, a full information pack is available in the Council Offices.

Jottings from November meeting of the Residents' Forum

A facility for viewing planning application plans at the Town Council Office was welcomed.

Concerns that money could be spent duplicating youth facilities already available instead of extending those currently operating are to be investigated.

A resident's confirmation of noise intrusion from wind turbines raised further concerns about the current proposals for more sites in the region and the lack of a regional strategy.

The Town Council is seeking clarity on how the £47000 from 106 monies following the Cunningham Court development is to be spent.

Questions raised by the community following the granting of permission for the Caravan Park have not been fully answered; a further meeting will be arranged to determine future action. A ruling regarding the Low Hardwick Off Road Motorcycle Course appeal is expected soon.

Those wanting to attend the AAP whole Forum meeting at Trimdon Station Community Centre on 12th Dec need to register their intention with DCC AAP Coordinator. There was strong feeling that these meetings should address local issues.

Residents urged clarification from the Town Council about the timing and display of information about 2 Town Councillor vacancies which had become available

Date of next meeting: 7th December at 7pm in the Fletcher Room.

There will be no meeting in January (unless a need arises) but there will be one on 1st February 2010.

How's the club doing these days?

This question can often be heard in the village whenever a member who hasn't attended for a while meets another whom he recognises as a regular.

At the beginning of this year members became so concerned at the possible closure of the club through financial difficulties that they called a special general meeting. This was very well attended and members learned that their concerns were well justified - the main problem being overdue VAT. There were other creditors too. Criticism of the committee came from all quarters of the room and was not gentle. The committee was left in no doubt that priority must be given to the VAT debt.

Four months later at the AGM members heard that a payment plan agreed with the VAT people was on schedule but should it fail then in all probability the closure of the club would soon follow. Members decided, without any dissenting voices, to increase the annual subscription from £5 to £10 and for the first time to charge pensioners. Their subscription was set at £5. These increases will be payable in January. Any member who doesn't agree with this only has himself to blame - either because he didn't speak up or because he didn't attend.

As is normal following the AGM the committee stood down and this year a new committee under the leadership of new Chairman Kevin Jones took over. It is still early days but already the new broom is sweeping clean and this is despite severe financial constraints. Because the previous committee couldn't afford to pay the VAT when it became due this committee must not only do that - it must also pay a set amount per month off the arrears.

Thus with no money in the kitty when the committee identified that the upstairs lounge (often used for christening and other parties) was in need of redecorating one new committee man used his trade contacts to source, at no cost to the club, the necessary materials and other new committee men applied them without charge. In addition members who are due to honoraria payments for their efforts have agreed to forego them.

The club newsletter which hadn't appeared since a previous chairman stood down in 1995 has been reborn and brought into the modern computer age - you can keep up to date with club life in your own home simply by reading your e mails. All you have to do is email sjarcher@btinternet.com and request it. New committee man Steve Archer will be pleased to add you to his address list. The last issue even included an appropriate cartoon to illustrate a point. It is well worth the effort.

Once again the club has a committee which recognises that the club belongs to the membership as a whole and that committee men are there to manage it as best they can on behalf of that membership. The intention is that all debts, except for the interest free 'brewery' or suppliers' loans will be cleared before the start of the new financial year and the next AGM. These suppliers' loans are reduced every time a pint is sold.

The answer to the question is that although not yet out of the wood the club, through the efforts of its new committee, is doing much better than it was and some light is beginning to show through the trees. If you are one of those members who have asked the question then both the club and its new committee are worthy of your support so why not arrange to meet your mates in the club and save money on pub prices. It is surprising how quickly this differential will pay for the increase in subscriptions.

Scouts Christmas card delivery service

The Explorers unit of 1st Sedgefield Scout Group will once again run a Christmas card delivery service in December. Fully addressed cards (for hand delivery in Sedgefield only please!) can be left in a box at Number Four, between 1st & 21st December, where you can also make donations for the Scouts' efforts. Fundraising like this has helped the group send youngsters on international camps, like next year's World Jamboree in Sweden, and offer other opportunities through the Scout movement. The Explorer unit (Scouts aged around 14-18) is growing all the time, so there will be a large team to deliver the cards. If you're interested in being part of the Explorers, contact Gary Hetherington on 621214.

Have you seen Oscar?

On Wednesday 28th October our much loved family pet Oscar went missing. We have put up posters & leaflets through doors on our housing estate around Boyne Court, but he is still missing.

Oscar is a 2 year old long haired ginger & white tom cat.

We would like to ask for the help of the Sedgefield community to find him & reunite him with our family.

We have some sightings of a possible Oscar up near Winterton Cottages and on Winterton Avenue recently but as yet to no success. Please call us on 07881641803 if you think you have seen Oscar.



SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

By the time you read this, I think that the draw will have been made for the group stage at next year's FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa. Assuming that all the stadia and the rest of the infrastructure get completed in time, it should be another exciting festival of football to light up the summer of 2010.

In the end, most of the 'big names' made it to the finals, one way or another (yes, I'm looking at you Monsieur Henry!). For once, England qualified with ease and the nation will be hoping that the team can carry some of that form through into the later stages of the tournament. In this country, the spotlight will be on the fitness of key players between now and next June. Time and again, Premier League and international managers have called for a mid-season/winter break and there is plenty of evidence that such a respite can have significantly beneficial effects on the fitness of players later in the season (but not on the coffers of broadcasters). Well, there seems to be little prospect of a break of that type in England (unless it happens by chance thanks to a particularly bad winter!), so fingers crossed that Gerard, Rooney et al get through to the World Cup in one piece.

Back in Sedgefield, the sporting year continues apace.

Football

I reported on St. Edmund's early season progress last month. This time, I have news from Sedgefield NetPark FC. Now back at their spiritual home in the Crosshills, the team has continued to make good progress after last year's promotion winning season. In the league, the team enjoyed a great start, rattling off three straight victories and scoring some phenomenal goals in the process. NetPark were then brought back down to earth with a bump through a run of five defeats, but the team spirit and resolve that were key characteristics of last season have since come to the fore again.

The last seven games have seen one defeat and one draw, but also five excellent wins and some of the best football that the team has ever played. NetPark are handily placed just below the promotion places in division three of the Durham District League and have progressed to the later stages of two cup competitions. There's a lot of hard work ahead and the whole squad needs to stay fully committed, but the signs are good that this could be another successful season.

Meanwhile, most of the talk in the

dressings room is over who will wear what costume at the NetPark FC Christmas party in early December. The theme is 'countries' and, if previous club parties are anything to go by, the results will be as spectacular as some of the goals scored on the pitch during the early days of the season. Ooh la la.

Rugby Union

It has been a busy month for Sedgefield RFC as the club continues to play in the South Durham league. The team has come up against some tough opposition in recent weeks and the season is proving to be a steep learning curve. However, Sedgefield have had some success on the pitch with a 30-20 win over Washington in a closely fought match and a draw with local rivals Stockton RFC in a recent friendly match.

The club has also been busy off the pitch and recently made two charity donations of £500 to local lad Jack Smith who suffered an injury playing at Billingham Rugby Club, and £500 to the local air ambulance.

Sedgefield RFC has also recruited a new head coach in Ted Woods. Ted has many years of coaching experience behind him and in his time has helped to develop players such as Will Greenwood. So, the club is in good hands and looking forward to progressing in the league. Anyone interested in getting involved with the club either on or off the pitch should visit www.sedgefieldrugby.co.uk.

Athletics

In early November, Sedgefield Harriers' younger athletes acquitted themselves very well at the inaugural County Durham Athletics Network U11s Sportshall Athletics Championships (blimey, quite a mouthful!), which was staged at Stanley's Louisa Centre. On the day 23 Harriers made the journey to Stanley and competed against strong

teams from Derwentside Athletic Club, Durham City Harriers and Chester-le-Street Athletic Club. The event saw the teams compete in four field events and four track events. In the girls competition the Harriers won both the 1kg chest push and the six lap Paarlauf (paired runs in a relay format). In the overall standings, the Harriers' girls finished second overall to Chester-le-Street, leaving both Durham City Harriers and Derwentside Athletics Club in their wake.

Harriers' boys were on top form, dominating their overall competition and winning six of the eight events. These included the standing long jump, chest push, javelin, 4x1 lap hurdles, six lap Paarlauf and 4x1 lap relay. Given this level of performance, it was no surprise to see the Harriers' boys take the overall boys title leaving Derwentside Athletic Club, Durham City Harriers and Chester-le-Street Athletic Club a distant second, third and fourth place respectively. Both Harriers girls' and boys' teams were presented with medals for their fine efforts. In addition, the U11s head coach, Marie Walker, was on hand to receive the boys' championship trophy on behalf of her young charges. Congratulations to the Junior Harriers for an outstanding team effort.

Anyone in school year three or above can join the Harriers. For more information, please contact Scott Hydon on scotthydon@yahoo.com, or just pop down to one of the club's training sessions at Sedgefield Community College on Wednesday evenings, starting at 6:30pm.

That's all for this month.

As ever, if you have any sports news, please send it to

chrisjlines@aol.com



Can this really be the last chance to enjoy Boxing Day racing?

One of the region's oldest festive sporting traditions, dating back to the 1920s, takes place for the last time this Christmas when Sedgefield Racecourse holds its last ever Boxing Day fixture. Northern Racing Ltd has moved the fixture to one of its other courses in West Sussex. Sedgefield manager, Jill Williamson, promises the traditional Christmas event will go out with a bang. "We have lost the fixture to Fontwell Park. It is staying within 'Northern Racing' but going down South. The reasoning behind the decision is mainly due to the new grandstand development at Fontwell Park which should be complete in July 2010. Boxing Day at Sedgefield Racecourse is as popular now as it was then. To fully appreciate the end of an era we will be keeping the bars open long after the racing and playing music to keep the atmosphere cheerful and pleasant. We want to ensure that our loyal customers have a thoroughly enjoyable day at their racecourse."

Entry starts from £7 and tickets are available by visiting sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk or calling 01740 621925.

email
sedgefieldnews
@hotmail.com
for details of how to
advertise on these pages.

There was no room last month for the Sedgefield Youth Football Team to show off the smart new kit which was funded by the mayor's charity, so here they are. As you can see, Tim and Anne Jeanes were delighted to meet representatives of the team and to wish them the best of luck for the season.



December Events Diary

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 1st December
Christmas Party

No meetings in January or February

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 2nd December

7.15pm Parish Hall

Social Night

With music from "Us Two"

NB: Pooled Supper

Members' competition - Small

Wooden Decorative Box

Visitors always welcome (fee £2)

The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

Wednesday 2nd December

All acoustic players welcome

101 at the Golden Lion

Final hometown gig

Thursday 3rd December

with special guest Laura Wilkinson.

The boys would like to thank

everyone who has supported them

this year and made all the

Sedgefield gigs a success.

Sedgefield Hospital

Christmas Fayre

2pm in the Community Hospital

Saturday 5th December

Teas, Stalls, Raffle

Bring children along to meet Santa

and receive a gift

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 5th December

Eyes down at 7.30pm

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 6th December

4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the

Welcome Room at St Edmund's

Residents' Forum

Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Monday 7th December - 7 pm

Everyone is welcome

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Monday 7th December

Emeritus Professor Gordon Batho

The Wizard Earl of

Northumberland & Alnwick

Mince pies & mulled wine too

All welcome

Ladies Club

8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Tuesday 8th December

Christmas Social & Buffet

New members welcome

Neighbourhood Watch Panel Christmas Meeting

Including PACT meeting

Tuesday 8th December

7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

All Welcome

Together at Christmas

Lyric Singers, SLYC & Lirica

Christmas Concert

in St Edmund's Church

Friday 11th &

Saturday 12th December

7.30pm at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 / £4 concessions from

"Abbracciare" or call

Audrey Lofthouse on 620625

Live Music Christmas Party

8pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Saturday 12th December

Main guest: Happy Cats

Also featuring: Scratch Band

Martin Nesbitt, John Wrightson

Band, John Weighell &

Carols with Billingham Silver Band

Admission £9 inc. Christmas buffet

Tel 621347

The Cricket Club is available for hire

for private parties, christenings, etc.

Call Jane in 620090

Christmas Farmers' Market

Regular traders selling first class

produce, plus warm mince pies

and mulled wine for all.

Sunday 13th December

From 9.30 - 1.30

PS. Santa will be there too!

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 13th December

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Methodist

Wives & Friends

Christmas Carols

with Ginger Wine & Mince Pies

Monday 14th December

New members always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 15th December

Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Members' Night

with Faith Supper

All Welcome

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 21st December

Christmas Dinner

at the Dun Cow

For more information call 620367

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

Christmas Carol Concert

Mordon Village Hall

Tuesday 22nd December at 7pm

Join in the singing of carols

& Christmas songs

Musical items with collection for

local charity

Sedgefield Players

present this year's Pantomime -

"Little Miss Muffet"

by Paul Reakes

2pm, Sunday 27th December

7pm Sunday 27th, Monday 28th,

Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Tickets £6 (Concessions £5) from

Abbracciare & members of

The Players (620 091)

10% discount for parties of ten or more

By kind permission, Samuel French Ltd

December @ the Library

Toy Library

Wednesdays 2nd & 16th, 10-11am

Tickle Time

Monday 7th, 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesday 9th, 10-11am

Christmas Crafts for Children

Saturdays 5th & 12th, 10am - 12

Drop in FREE

Café@St Catherine's

Fishburn -Drop in for friendly chat

and latest gossip, each Friday

morning, 9.30 till 12 noon. Tea,

coffee, toast & good conversation

All are welcome

Sing for Health & Fun

1 - 2pm on

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Methodist Church Hall, North End

Contact Joan Seymour on 620256

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

Contact Rob on 629079

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Coming up in January

Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

Monday 4th January

Alan Morgan on "Newcastle - From

Tropical Swamp to Modern City"

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

7.45 in the Parish Hall

Thursday January 28th

Craig Best on Hedleyhope Fell -

Past, Present & Future

Sedgefield Festival Blues

The week before I came up here,
I had another festival to judge
The organisers had a simple rule on which they would not budge.
It was a feast of comedy, laughter was the aim
It was impossible to win unless the audience felt the same.
We chuckled, wheezed and gasped and hooted with delight,
Gales and gales of laughter filled the theatre every night.
So I headed off to Sedgefield, wondering what would come my way,
I thought it would be more mixed – some light, some dark, some grey.
But the week that I just had – and there was no escape
Had 18 murders, 2 massacres, 2 deaths, 1 funeral and a rape!
On Monday, it wasn't too bad, they almost had me fooled.
We only had 9 kids who wanted to drop out of school.
But then it grew darker as Elton hammered on the pianer
I realised we were at the funeral of Diana.
Tuesday was when it went downhill, the roadway to Hell,
Two gunmen murdered 13 others and shot themselves as well.
The next death was a mum in bed, it almost seemed natural and nice,
Or at least it would have been except she did it twice.

My eyes bulged, my jaw dropped and I began to gape,
18 murders, 2 massacres, 2 deaths, 1 funeral and a rape.

Wednesday, we lost hundreds of Welshmen with backs against the wall,
As for the 3,000 Zulus – they didn't count them at all.

Then we were in the paintball park, the workers didn't give a toss,
Suddenly society outside collapsed and one of them shot the boss.

Thursday seemed more hopeful, in a jolly friendly bar,
But oh no, it all came out, the death in the car.

Then an American bloke with all tattoos covered a girl in gore
Not only raped and murdered her, but then came back for more.

By this time I was on my knees, begging for escape,
18 murders, 2 massacres, 2 deaths, 1 funeral and a rape.

Friday seemed quite bearable, with one death at the most.

A murder in the park – oh, did I mention the ghost?

So finally we came to 'Bouncers', surely we'd have some fun.

What a way to finish after all we'd seen and done.

John Godber said feel free, if you have ideas just float 'em,

But Theatre of the Absurd is better than Theatre of the Scrotum!

That was the last straw, I give in, peel me a grape.

18 murders, 2 massacres, 2 deaths, 1 funeral, 4 scrotums & a rape!!

Mike Kaiser (from his darkened room)

Written and performed on the last night of the Festival by the adjudicator. It went down very well and really summed up the week.

Only Yesterday

The litter of the November leaves are gone,
So are the early birds that used to burst into song
The sun hangs low in the sky, not up a height,
Black and white clouds obscuring her shaft of light
White smoke exits from chimney pots,
Frozen spider's webs looking like a game of dot to dots
Sedgefield in the grips of December two thousand and nine,
Throw another log on the fire as you read the next line, yeah
What goes around comes around, so they say,
It seems like only yesterday since last Christmas day
St Nicholas calls, forever out of sight,
A zig zag from house to house, a tango in the night
Lovers and families enjoy your festive season,
Always a must to write a rhyme with a reason
Get ready for the "Snowman" my favourite broadcast,
A timeless classic best saved until last

Unknown

(A name tag in the tradition of folk poets through the ages, but we do know who our modest poet is!)

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

Your Letters

Our Postcode

I am an off comer, having only experienced 3 years at Durham University in the late sixties and the last 20 years in County Durham at Lanchester, Durham City and for the last two years in Sedgefield. I believe myself extremely fortunate to have lived in such lovely places within County Durham. However, I now find myself living in Stockton, Teeside, when I know I live within the County Durham boundary. If I had wished to live in Stockton I would have moved there, but I very much prefer Sedgefield. Other places such as Houghton le Spring and Hetton Le Hole whilst having DH postcodes are at least addressed as Tyne and Wear, which is where they are. Similarly Seaham, whilst having an SS postcode is addressed as Easington Co. Durham.

We are not only wrongly postcoded we are also wrongly addressed. This should be taken up by all who are County Durhamites, including councillors and MPs and corrected as a matter of principal. The fact that the TS postcode results in extra expenditure as far as insurances are concerned and critical confusion as far as the Health Service is concerned, is of equal consideration, but are just two examples of the important consequences that this postcode anomaly causes for everybody in Sedgefield and its County Durham environs.

Kit Fletcher

*Thanks to all our correspondents for an interesting and at times, controversial, year.
We always look forward to the post, snail-mail or otherwise!*

Please note early deadline - 10th December

For inclusion in the January 2010 edition, please send your copy to **sedgefielnews@hotmail.com**

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

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