



# Sedgefield NEWS

## December 2011



### A very Merry Christmas to all our Readers



### Two very young librarians!

Niamh Saggoo & Aleisha Grimes proudly display their certificates after becoming the first children to complete the new **Junior Librarian Award**. The 6 week scheme is aimed at children aged between 8 and 11, and gives them the chance to find what out goes on behind the scenes at the Library. They especially enjoyed stamping and shelving the books. Congratulations to both!

### Panto World Premiere

Sedgefield Players bring a brand new Cinderella to Sedgefield this year, showcasing a fantastic array of home grown talents: the writing skills of Thomas Guest and David Jasper combined with brand new musical compositions by 17 year old Tim Jasper, with lyrics by father David. The young musicians are led by Tim on keyboards, sister Ciaran on saxophone and school friends Jo Humprey and Libby McCollom on drums and guitar.

The youthful theme continues, with many leading roles, including Cinderella, Buttons, Dandini, Gerald the Herald and the two knockabouts, Smash and Grab, played by members of SPYS. Thomas Guest and Terry West glam up beautifully as the Ugly Sisters, Sarah Legender's Prince is utterly Charming, while Fairy Godmothers Sarah Atkinson and Jacqui O'Meara use all their magic powers to bring about a happy ending. Director Walter Howell talks proudly of the Players' proud tradition of bringing heart warming family panto to the stage of the parish hall and looks forward to giving us a home grown panto second to none.

Don't miss this exciting world premiere here on your doorstep.  
*For details of times and ticket prices, please see the diary page.*

### Your Christmas card delivery service

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sedgefield Scouts Explorer unit will once again be running its Christmas card delivery service in December. If you would like to use the service, please drop off your fully addressed cards (for Sedgefield addresses only!) at Number Four or Tickety-Boo on High Street, before 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and the Explorers will do the rest. All donations for making deliveries will be very gratefully received and will help 1<sup>st</sup> Sedgefield Scouts continue to deliver great experiences and skills to young people in the area.

### ... and our Sedgefield News delivery service

It's a good time of year to say thank you to everyone involved in keeping this community enterprise going. Thanks to all our advertisers, without whose support we couldn't operate, to everyone who sends news, features and diary events, and most especially to those who go out in all weathers to make sure Sedgefield News goes through every letterbox in our distribution area.

### Bring your sedgefieldweb page up to date and help us keep our New Year's resolution!

The first step in the huge task of updating sedgefieldweb.co.uk is to make sure that the content of all sections is current and correct. I would like to appeal to everyone that has an entry on the website to log in and see if you want to:

- keep the section and the contents
- delete it entirely
- amend the content (perhaps to point to your new website?)
- make any other changes (to a different classification etc.)

To help with this we have established a new email address, so please could you look at your entry and email me, John Fitzpatrick, at **sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk** to let me know what you want to do.

### Lyrical Notes

Song writing talent is to the fore at Sedgefield's traditional Christmas concert too. A beautiful new carol by Tim Jasper and Elaine Thomson will be premiered, amongst other favourite carols and seasonal songs sung by Lirica, Slyc and the Lyric Singers. *Dates & details on page 11.*

SLYC also sing at a gala concert at Durham Cathedral on December 2nd. If you would like to support them call Rob on 07813601731 for details.

## COUNTY DURHAM & DARLINGTON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE Retained Duty System Firefighter Recruitment



As a retained firefighter you will provide an 'on call' part time service, responding to fire and emergency calls in the same way as Wholetime Firefighters, using the same appliances and equipment.

The difference is that you will be 'on call' in your home or at work rather than at a fire station. You would be required, during your hours of declared availability, to remain within 5 minutes traveling distance of the fire station, so that you can respond quickly, but you don't have to be confined to the house.

It's like having a part time job – you have to commit to the cover you've agreed to – and like a part time job, you get paid for it!

### Could you be a Retained Firefighter?

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals with common sense, the ability to deal with physically and emotionally demanding situations and also have the ability to work as part of a team. To apply to join the service as a Retained Firefighter, you do not need any qualifications, instead you will need to:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be physically and medically fit
- Have good hearing and eyesight
- Have a real interest in the fire service and helping the community

**Most importantly, you must live or work within 5 minutes of Sedgefield Fire Station. We are especially looking for anyone who can provide availability during the hours of 8am and 6pm (or any part of).**

Interested? For further information please contact either:

**Robin Turnbull 07545 207195 [rturnbul@ddfire.gov.uk](mailto:rturnbul@ddfire.gov.uk)**

**John Walkden 07795301914 [jwalkden@ddfire.gov.uk](mailto:jwalkden@ddfire.gov.uk)**

## Snapshots of Sedgefield

The December snapshot will be the last for a while, but Sedgefield Local History Society would like to thank all those helpful readers who have phoned or emailed with fascinating information. We are also very grateful for all the additional photos so kindly loaned or donated, which have added significantly to our archive. Our final Snapshot, taken in 1893, shows officers and nurses at Winterton Hospital. The photograph comes from a wonderful album donated a few months ago, containing several groups like this, many of them staff groups, some with patients too. The lively social life of Winterton is beautifully captured in numerous photographs of amateur dramatics, annotated with the names of the productions, performers and the parts they played. A superb insight into a vanished world. Sedgefield LHS meets on the first Monday of every month and new members and guests are very welcome. Details are on the diary page.

*Our grateful thanks to Norma Neal for bringing us this fascinating and always popular Sedgefield News feature.*



*Winterton Officers & Nurses 1893.*

## BREAKTHROUGH BREAST CANCER 'MUSICALITY' event

After months in the planning and a few sleepless nights, Saturday 1st October dawned as one of the hottest days of the year. No sun worshipping for me and my stoic helpers - far too much to do! Baking, sandwich making, transporting a thousand things. Prizes to display, tables to adorn with pink 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' helium filled balloons, stickers and beautiful floral centrepieces. The result was a sight for sore eyes. Tables in the Fletcher room groaned with donated food. We had an Honesty Tombola (unmanned), every ticket a winner! The 50 raffle prizes donated by local businesses, friends and family were exceptional - the 15th prize being a 3 course Sunday Lunch for 4 people at The Hardwick Arms! Thank you so much to all who donated.

To a full capacity Parish Hall, our entertainment was an eclectic mix to suit everyone. The Old Age Travellers started the evening with a light hearted, foot stomping up-beat mood which set the scene for the evening. The very talented Lol & Maxine Allan followed, entertaining us with a fabulous array of musical instruments and great singing. The second half of our evening, my daughter in law Sarah, who sings professionally, belted out an array of pop and rock and had everyone dancing in the aisles! I was fortunate to have two contacts to make the night possible, Sarah and Joan Edmundson, a long time close friend; thanks to her input the show came together. The John Wrightson Band ended our fantastic night with another great show of upbeat music to dance to.

A huge thank you to everyone involved and my gratitude also to Sedgefield Town Council for their donation of £50; Sedgefield Round Table, £200 and Barclays Bank, who match funded up to £750, making our grand total of £2600.

Breast Cancer affects 46,000 women a year and we all know someone in Sedgefield who has developed this dreaded disease. Some have sadly not made it, others, like myself and Joan are the fortunate ones.

Our fund raising event is to contribute to research for the sake of all our grandchildren's future health. The Breakthrough scientists have made a massive step towards answering one of the fundamental questions in breast cancer research; where the disease originates. This discovery could eventually lead to more effective treatments and ultimately the prevention of the disease.

*Maureen Legender; 621183*  
**[Breakthrough.org.uk/donate](http://Breakthrough.org.uk/donate)**  
*Picture opposite page top left*



### A note from **Sedgefield Round Table**

We have raised quite a lot of money this year and would like to encourage local good causes to come forward to request funding. Recent examples include our donation to Sedgefield Primary School for all-weather play clothing for the children, as well as to the 'Musicality' event featured opposite.

## A bright night for Cancer Research UK

The community of Bishop Middleham gathered en masse to support a charity bonfire and fireworks night, to raise essential funding for cancer research. Local mum, Rachel Turner held the November 5th event for the charity after losing her mum to a rare cancer. "I wanted to arrange this event because our village no longer has a bonfire party for local children and I thought it would be great to do something for Cancer Research UK."

The night raised well over a thousand pounds with parents, children and friends taking part in a Guy Fawkes competition, auction and raffle.

Many local businesses donated to the event and Rachel especially wants to thank Sedgefield Racecourse, Bolam's, Ministers, the Co-op, The Dun Cow, Tickety-boo, Sedgefield Fisheries, Evolution, Hardwick Arms, Enchantments,

Peridot, Sunkissed, Baroque and the many local companies, friends and family who generously gave their time to make the event such a success.

## Rock 'n' Blues Club

What a night our last event was.

Beyond superlatives, as all present will attest! Tony Moore, a sub editor from "Blues Matters" (the magazine in the UK) visited (our fame is spreading) and this is what he said of us.

"There's a great blues venue in Sedgefield Co. Durham. I was there last night to see the Oli Brown band with support from the Mentalls. Fantastic show, the best sound from the sound desk I have heard in years. The room holds 120, the venue has just had a beautifully done revamp. The place was full, friendly atmosphere, you should check this club out, Sedgefield blues.co.uk". Praise indeed! If you would like to take the advice of a National authority on quality music, our next event is on December 3rd and features **24 Pesos** (winners of numerous national awards, including Best New Band) supported by Tom Attah and his acoustic guitar.

**Tickets** from the Post Office, if you haven't got them already. With a Round Table priced bar till late, too, it really doesn't get better than this!

## Dropswell Farm Shop & Farm Yard Cafe

**01429 880661**

Open Thursday 10-4, Friday & Saturday 9-4 & Sunday 10-4 and

**Craddock's Butchers, Trimdon**

**01429 883498 Tues-Fri 8-3, Sat 8-1**

**\*for the best of Festive Food\***



## Fond Farewells

**Mrs Sandra Cummings** is retiring from Sedgefield Primary School at the end of this term. She has taught at the school for over 25 years, initially teaching Junior children and then spending several years as a very effective Reception teacher before taking responsibility for Year 2 and KS1 SATs.

The children's great results and high achievement are due, in no small part, to her commitment, enthusiasm and encouragement of their individual talents and skills. Who will forget her 'death of a thousand kisses', used in equal part to motivate and inspire stragglers or to commend a good piece of work.

Her special interest in music and drama led to lively, colourful and entertaining Infant Christmas performances – percussionists always a special feature!

**Mrs Sandra Mark** (pictured right) also retires at Christmas, having spent the last 15 years as the Deputy Head. Her commitment to the maintenance and improvement of school results and achievement led to many new initiatives in classroom procedures and she was always available to support and encourage members of staff in their professional development. Mrs Mark very ably led the school in the year between Mr Irvine's retirement and Mrs Cox's appointment, inspiring the development and renovation of the Junior part of the school, as well as ensuring the safeguarding of our pupils with CCTV and new security fencing.

Both have contributed such a lot to the school and we have really appreciated their dedication, hard work, superb teaching and caring support of the hundreds of children who have attended the school over the years. They'll be a hard act to follow!



**101** returns to the Black Lion on **Sat 3rd December** at 8.30pm. Please come along and help fill the place! Songs from Kings Of Leon, Killers, Foo Fighters, & possibly a special guest!



## Sedgefield Community College

### Head Boy / Head Girl

Seven students were recently nominated for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl at the College. Following a formal interview, which mimicked the intensity of a professional job interview, the panel, Headteacher, Dave Davies, Deputy Headteacher, Sandy Baird and Chair of Governors, John Bowler, chose Sebastian Reichel (right) as Head Boy and Lily Grundy (left) as Head Girl. Both students demonstrated the qualities required to represent the values and ethos of the college.

### Retirement

A long serving member of staff at Sedgefield Community College finally hung up her apron for the very last time. Yvonne Houston, pictured with Lily Grundy and Dave Davies, has worked at the college for over twenty years as a lunchtime supervisor. We wish her well for the future.



# Community SAFETY



## Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

### Alan Sowerby Citizenship Awards 2011 at Sedgefield Community College

On November 1st, N/H/Watch Vice-Chair David Hillerby (presenter) & Chairman Ken Saiger (photographer) were pleased to be able to re-start this valued award at the prestigious new Community College in our village. The qualities considered when deciding who, of all the students at the College, merits this award include; showing kindness, care, help and consideration to pupils and staff at the College and for others outside College; and being recognised by fellow students and staff as a good person, supportive of others and willing to put others first.

"**Elise Mitchell** was the outstanding choice for this award", said Year Head Dave Bowden. She is always to be seen standing up for fellow students. Elise has the ability to calm any given situation in the classroom. She can reason so well, communicate so openly with others that she has the ability to diffuse matters. Elise is a key member of The Community Cohesion team; actively seeks to be involved in community activities, from litter picking to helping the Village in Bloom efforts, to writing Christmas cards to the local community."

"Elise is caring and supportive not only to her peers but also to other members of the school community; having such a large group of friends is evidence that she is valued by many. She is an outstanding ambassador for the school and most deserving of this award." In presenting the inscribed cup, and framed certificate for Citizen of the Year, David Hillerby congratulated Elise on her achievements and wished her every success in the future.



### Dark Nights – Security Concerns

With dark nights comes the Burglar & Sneak Thief's greatest opportunity. Take the time and trouble to prevent them having an early Xmas Bonus. Don't leave your house unlit after dark. Use light timers and draw your curtains. Don't leave valuable or desirable items on show. Lock your doors even when you are at home. Don't leave keys (including car keys) where a thief can see them or where they can be hooked and retrieved via the letterbox. If you have a trusted neighbour, tell them of any extended periods of absence and ask for their help to push all letters and papers fully through the letterbox; to draw curtains, remove mail & newspapers out of sight and generally keep an eye on your home whilst you are away. Report any suspicious persons or out of place vehicles to Police (see below) – this is the core of crime prevention! And now, those all important telephone numbers:

**Local Police: 0345 60 60 365**

**Durham County Council Wardens: 0300 123 70 70**

**Police Crime Prevention Officer: 01325 742714**

**Police Community Liaison Officer, Neil Langthorne: 01325 742755**

**Police Crime Prevention Officer, Mark Pheasant: 01325 742714**

**Footnote correction.** Last month we thanked police representatives for assisting when a member of the public was hurt in the car park before our meeting. We regret that the story was incomplete, resulting in credit not being given where it was deserved. By the time the message was passed to Mark and Neil, Enid Hillerby had already taken the lady into the kitchen and cleaned the wound. Unfortunately she could not find the Parish Hall First Aid box, so she asked the police if they had one. Mark had one in his car and took over treatment at that stage. Enid rang the lady next morning to check how she was. **Many thanks to Enid Hillerby for her prompt and caring action.**

### Accident & Emergency, or Urgent Care Centre?

Knowing how to access medical treatment is especially important over Christmas and New Year, with so many bank holidays. The choice can be confusing, so here are some basic guidelines.

**Call 999** in life-threatening situations such as serious injury or signs of critical illness, poisoning or heart attack; also severe blood loss, chest pains, shortness of breath, choking, blacking out: any situation where speed is essential.

**Call 111** when it is not a medical emergency, but you need treatment fairly quickly. Your situation will be assessed (this is known as Triage) and you will be offered a suitable appointment time at whichever Urgent Care Centre is most convenient for you. Urgent Care Centres offer outstanding medical facilities, for situations that are not considered life threatening. The nearest to Sedgefield is at Bishop Auckland General Hospital. What ever you do, don't worry that you might get it wrong. Experienced operators will assess your medical situation and channel you towards the appropriate service. Our thanks for this information to Derek George Atkinson, Elected Governing Council member, Sedgefield area, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. **01325 301395**

## PC Todd reports

Now that the dark evenings are drawing in on us it would appear to give some young people the green light to run amok around the village. Not only are youths knocking on doors and running away but more concerning is throwing stones at windows and pulling up plants to use as ammunition to throw around. These childish games are upsetting for the elderly who are frightened by the loud noises etc..

Not all the youths of the village are engaged in this mindless anti-social behaviour and I ask that all parents remind their children of the consequences on elderly/vulnerable members of our community. Crime remains low with reports of damage to a window (by youths) to Ceddesfeld Hall, 4x tyres slashed on a vehicle in Neville Drive and damage to a shed in Thurlow Road. Outlying farms have also become victims with four farms suffering the loss of metal gates from entrances to fields. Until next time – Keith

### P.A.C.T.

At a recent Residents' Forum meeting it was agreed that the Beat Team would focus their attention on Rectory Row, particularly at the junction with Burton Mews. Parents of children attending the nearby Sedgefield Primary School have complained about the inconsiderate parking of parents dropping off / collecting children at school times. Restrictions are in place at this location and any offenders will be prosecuted. If this is you, please refrain from this behaviour and keep the crossing area free for the benefit of all.

### Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Black Lion. As the last licensee had already left, we welcomed the new licensees Gordon and Elizabeth Hindson to the Pub Watch scheme. No incidents were reported that required further action by the Pub Watch members.

### Sedgefield Borough Homes

has renamed itself "livin" and plans to diversify into three new business areas; **livin communities, livin homes and livin futures.**

Investment of up to £1m will enable them to tackle such issues as poor health, unemployment and the quality of its neighbourhoods. To find out more visit [www.livin.co.uk](http://www.livin.co.uk)





## Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum AGM & November meeting

A quick AGM was held at the start of the meeting where new members joined the steering committee. There was a brief report of past year's issues, some of which continue to crop up, others on-going.

It had been hoped to have a speaker from Durham County Council to outline their initiative doing 'character appraisals' on villages with a view to help to protect the unique characteristics and important historic features of settlements. The speaker was not able to attend the AGM but we have asked that the Town Council request information and involvement in the project.

There was no information from our Area Action Partnership or from Sedgefield Together Partnership, feedback is still awaited on the 'Planning for Real' event organised by the Together Partnership.

Members requested that a funding application go to the Town Council to help the Forum with room hire and administration costs.

It was also agreed that the Forum would start to meet bi-monthly instead of monthly, the meetings to alternate with the Neighbourhood Watch Group so that the Police PACT meetings could still be held each month. This means there will be no Forum meeting in December and since the next meeting under the new timing will be January, the first Monday in the month is too soon after New Year so it will be a week later, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Forum meetings will then continue on the first Monday of March, May, July, September & November 2012.

The AGM was followed by the ordinary monthly meeting where reports and updates were discussed on ongoing issues affecting our community. New issues raised; the state of the surface of the A689 near the Fina garage and roundabout; the ongoing parking and crossing problems outside Rectory Road School. Police will monitor the situation in Rectory Row and the Forum will try to have someone from DCC at the next meeting to discuss the problems and hopefully solutions.

A comprehensive report on issues was given by Cllr Robinson - extremely useful in keeping everyone up to date on what is happening in our community. He has agreed to do this for all future Forum meetings.

The bi-monthly schedule may leave too long a gap between opportunities to discuss urgent issues; obviously if this occurs the Forum will call special meetings to address issues. We will also keep you updated by Sedgefield News, the village information Board and Library. Don't forget you can receive information from the Forum and other village news by email by giving your email address to jane@sedgefield.net. So don't forget the next Forum meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012, 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall; everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

## Remembrance

Sedgefield Village Veterans would like to say a great big thank you to all who turned up at the War Memorial, St Luke's Winterton for the 11th hour, 11 month, (20)11th year Armistice Day Service. It was our largest gathering since we started in 2006. Special thanks to employees of companies at NetPark for such a good turn out, as well as to a contingent from the Community College; to Councillors and friends from Boundary 500, and to members of the public. We would also like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Allan Blakemore, Father John Caden and Rev Alison Richardson for their parts in the service, and special thanks to 3 pupils from the Community College who played an active part. It is very gratifying to note the increasing number of young people who take part. We try to encourage them by inviting them to taken leading parts. Our very grateful thanks also to Ken Saiger for the high quality photographs he has produced for us over the years. *David Hillerby, Secretary.*

*Right: Pam Royle lays a wreath at the War Memorial on Sedgefield village green, during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony.*



## Road safety outside Sedgefield Primary School

My wife Ailsa, other parents/carers and school staff have contacted various people, including police, previously but the problems still exist. Mrs Cox has sent numerous requests via the school newsletter asking parents to park with consideration. Despite signs, yellow lines and zig zag lines, people continue to put children at risk whilst they cross the road.

The photo, left, shows the situation at 3.15pm on a school day; 3 cars parked on the 'No Waiting' line (moments earlier there wasn't a gap at all). It is often worse than this and the same is true at 8.50am.

The signs could not be clearer. I can think of no excuse why parents/carers dropping off can not find somewhere safer and legal to park. It would take a matter of seconds to walk the short distance to Ceddesfeld or to parts of Rectory Row, The Square or The Green where safe, legal parking is provided. To those who are abusing, ask yourself, is a few seconds of your time really so much more important than the risk to a child? If you think it is then take a look at yourself.

Last month Sedgefield News reported on the Walking Bus scheme. Can I ask all parties to highlight these concerns? I have copied this to the local MP and Council in the hope that they could consider road improvements outside the school. Would the council consider Road Narrowing to provide a safe crossing point? Some kerb work and bollards could allow some parking whilst narrowing the crossing point to allow pedestrians into the road without having to cross between parked cars. This has been done outside Hardwick Primary School. A similar idea could effectively narrow the road from the Green where paths almost converge to allow pedestrians safely into the road to cross. Parking would no longer be an issue on that side, restrictions could be lifted and the zig zags at the school entrance would be all that is left to police.

Crossing Rectory Row to school should be a relatively safe procedure. Pupils and parents should not have to weave through parked cars into the middle of the road to stop, look and listen. The single yellow line, there to safeguard the entry to school, is clearly marked 'no waiting'. The school bus even disregards the zig zags to pick up and drop off. Traffic reversing and pulling out should be minimised at drop off and pick up times. I hope that everyone can work together to resolve this safety issue. It is imperative that something is done to make the journey to school safer; I feel that it is only a matter of time before someone is injured or worse. *Andrew Quarmby*

# SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com)

**The Olympic Torch is coming to Sedgefield!** On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, it will visit our part of the world on its way through County Durham and on to Teesside. I don't yet know what time it will be here, but I'm sure it will enjoy a great welcome in Sedgefield and hopefully a few people from the community will even get the chance to carry it on that day. Of course, the torch parade has no real official role in sport, but it is hugely symbolic and will help to build excitement in the final lead up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I for one am pretty excited about the prospect.

As we rush headlong into the festive season, the BBC's annual Sports Personality of the Year show is imminent. I won't repeat all of my usual rant, but it really annoys me that the programme has changed its focus (and name) from being a full and in depth review of UK sport, into a personality contest. Many minority (and some major) sports don't even get a mention these days, while each shortlisted candidate for the big award gets a significant section of the programme dedicated just to them. Rather than celebrate all that is good about sport in this country, the programme seems determined to pander to the celebrity obsessed culture that we live in. I hope the show is different this year, but am not holding my breath. Ah, okay, that was pretty much my usual rant! Having said all of the above, if Mark Cavendish doesn't win this year, I will be really disappointed. His performances in both the Tour de France and world road championships were truly phenomenal and he certainly doesn't lack personality! Cavendish is also one of Great Britain's big gold medal hopes for 2012. The guy is so good, I reckon he could compete while holding the aforementioned Olympic torch and still win a medal!

## Cycling

Sedgefield will host its first ever cyclo cross race on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Ferryhill Wheelers Cycling Club is promoting a round of the North East Cyclo Cross League that will be held at Hardwick Park. The event will use the land at East Park, with three races in an exciting sport that is growing in popularity. Cyclo cross has a long history, and many will remember that it used to be televised in the early 1980s. In the last few years, more and more people are trying it out, along with other types of cycling. Cross, as it's often known, is a massed start event that takes place off-road, with riders competing for an hour over varied terrain, often with dismounts forcing riders to carry their bikes while running.

Races for seniors last one hour, on multiple laps of courses, typically 1.5 miles long. The event in Sedgefield will use the tracks in the extensive fields of East Park, which has also been successfully used for running events of late. Organisers expect 80-100 regulars will turn up to compete, from elite level riders on superlight specialist carbon bikes, to new riders on mountain bikes. For various reasons, cyclo cross is an ideal sport for anyone who wants to try out cycle racing: events are short in duration; individual laps are short; courses are relatively easy to ride on standard mountain bikes; and events are open to all abilities. Anyone wanting to have a go just has to turn up in good time to get signed on and have a couple of practice laps. Entrants simply need a suitable off-road bike and a helmet. Anyone under 16 needs a parent/guardian to sign the entry form on the day.

Hardwick Park visitor centre will act as headquarters for the event and all competitors need to sign on there on the morning of the event, from where they can get access to the course via the underpass. **Continues next column**

Race start times will be:

Under 12s: 10.30am (ride for 15-20mins, short course). Free entry  
Under16/14s/Novice Ladies:11.15am (30mins race, full course). £3 entry  
Senior/Juniors/Veterans/Ladies: 12.30pm (50-60mins race, full course). £10 (£5 for TLI members).

It should be a great day out for experienced riders and novices alike. Cyclo cross is also an excellent spectator sport and East Park will offer great vantage points for supporters and anyone wanting to capture some good photographs. For full details visit [www.neccl.co.uk](http://www.neccl.co.uk) or call Ian Dunn on 01740 620574. The organisers are keen to hear from anyone able to sponsor the event, in particular the children's races.

## Football

A couple of months ago, I reported on the first Sedgefield derby of the season, between Sedgefield NetPark FC and Sedgefield Social Club FC, which was won by the latter. Such is the random nature of the Durham District League fixture 'computer' that the return match has already taken place. It was another closely fought game and a tense start saw plenty of errors on both sides. However, once the teams settled, it was NetPark who took the lead with a close range finish from Martin Broom. The Social Club equalised early in the second half, from when the momentum frequently swung from one side to the other. Both sides had chances and the Social Club came very close to scoring, but that seemed to galvanise NetPark, who, with only three minutes to go, grabbed the winner thanks to Ryan Boardman's fantastic volley from a very tight angle. As in the first game, the best team on the day won. Honours even for the season – now both clubs need to focus on climbing the league as they move into the second half of the campaign.

## Sedgefield Harriers

It's never a quiet month for Sedgefield Harriers and November was very busy, both in competition terms and in other ways. However, with limited space in the sports update and loads of other contributions this time, I'm going to hang on until the next issue to bring a full report of what's been occurring, other than to say that the annual dinner on 18<sup>th</sup> November proved to be a big success. It was held at the Hardwick Arms and guest of honour Charlie Spedding was an entertaining speaker. The Harriers' annual awards were presented on the night; full details next month. By then, we will also know whether the Sedgefield



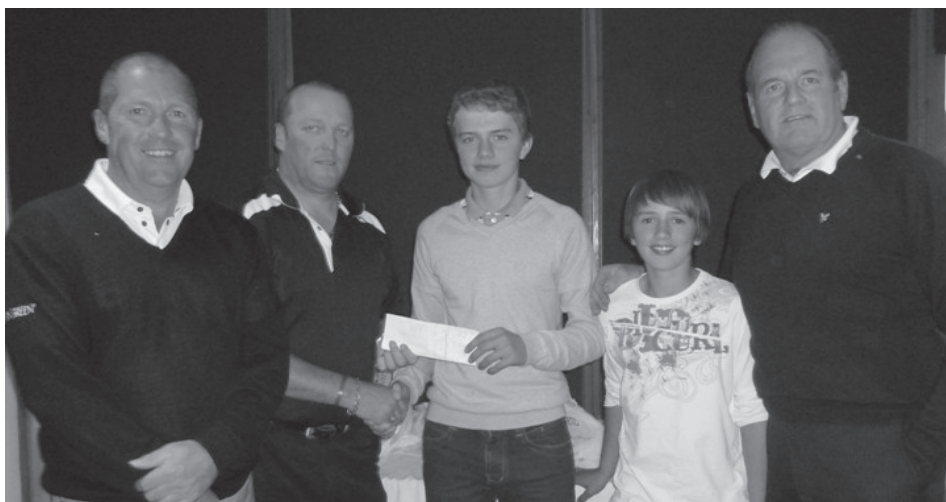
## Friendly Golf Day

On a rainy and cold September afternoon about 60 golfers turned out to raise funds in memory of Craig Yetman for the charity Diabetes UK.

Craig was an insulin dependant diabetic for 32 years and supported the charity regularly himself. He would have been very proud to see so many of his friends turn out and reach into their pockets to help raise the grand

total of £1127.37. Neil Hetherington, Mick Thompson and Alan King organised the day held at Wynyard Golf Club. It was an emotional day for me and also for plenty of others. Jack, Harry and I would like to thank everyone who supported the day and especially Neil, Mick and Alan who did all the hard work.

*Thanks to Julie Yetman for this heart-warming story and the photograph below.*



## Heavenly work for Clair Johnston!

After working from home as a dog groomer for 9 years, Clair made the move to new premises at Salters Lane a year ago, and her **Heavenly Pet Supplies & Woof Cutt's Dog Grooming parlour** has never looked back!

Thrilled by the welcome and reception she has had from customers in Sedgefield and around the area, she says "I feel as if the local community is right behind us, and I want to say thank you. I hope to be here for many years to come". Clair is pictured below, doing the job she so obviously loves, and we hope her good fortune continues.



## Sports update continued...

Harriers have won a prestigious Local Heroes award. Organised by the Northern Echo, Local Heroes celebrates the best of grass roots sport in the North East. Sedgefield Harriers have been nominated in the team/club of the year category. The result will be announced during a star studded event at Hardwick Hall Hotel on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Watch this space!

## Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club hosted the seventh mini-squash competition for local primary schools the day before the October half-term. For the first time, four schools took part in both the competition and pre-competition coaching. Emma Larcombe toured Hardwick Primary (Sedgefield), Sedgefield Primary, St. William's (Trimdon), and Trimdon Juniors in early October, and Dr James Larcombe organised the competition, helped by teachers from the schools and Diane Snowsill (Schools Sports Partnership).

The event was in a full round-robin format with five players in each team. This year's competition was the closest ever, with the outcome in doubt until the final game of the final match. However, the decisive encounter came in the second round when Hardwick beat St. William's three rubbers to two, but lost on the crucial points score (45-43) – this has never happened before! Both teams managed similar points against Trimdon Juniors and Sedgefield Primary, so St. William's, after finishing a close second last year, went one better this year with a squad that had great depth as well as strength.

The morning competition was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game, as well as more experienced players. The winners will go on to represent the area in the first ever County Durham inter-primary schools competition. Final results: 1<sup>st</sup> St. William's 155 pts (two wins); 2<sup>nd</sup> Sedgefield Hardwick 143 (three); 3<sup>rd</sup> Sedgefield Primary 134 (one); 4<sup>th</sup> Trimdon Juniors 77 (0).

Anybody who wishes to take up or just try out squash is welcome to go along to junior coaching on a Saturday morning at 11.00am (at the club, in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall). Newcomers will be able to try a free 'taster' session.

## Badminton

There is a shortage of badminton players for Monday nights (7.15-9.15pm) at the community college. Old and new players are welcome – if you have moved to the area recently and fancy getting fit, badminton is a great sport to try out.

**That's all for this month. As ever, if you have any sports news please send it to [chrisjlines@aol.com](mailto:chrisjlines@aol.com).**

# December Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

## Christmas Coffee Morning

**Friday 2nd December**

In aid of Sedgfield in Bloom  
Parish Hall, 10-11.30am  
Delicious home-made fare, book stall,  
gifts, crafts, tombola & raffle

## Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

**Saturday 3rd December**

Eyes down at 7.30pm

## Cricket Club Quiz Night

**Saturday 3rd December**

8pm start. Quizmaster, Peter Burnip

## Eddies@4

**Sunday 4th December**

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

## Methodist Wives & Friends

**Monday 5th December**

Hardwick Arms Christmas Meal

**& Monday 12th December**

Carols, Poems, Mince Pies & Ginger Wine!

## Local History Society

**Monday 5th December**

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall. Tony Nicholson.  
Final instalment of "Secrets in the attic"  
New members welcome

## Sedgfield Gardening Club

**Tuesday 6th December**

7.30pm. Ceddesfeld Hall.  
Christmas Party with faith supper

## Parish Hall Country Market

**Friday 9th December**

## "Lyrical Notes"

**Fri & Sat 9th & 10th December**

with Sedgfield Lyric Singers, Slyc & Lirica  
7.30pm in St Edmund's Parish Church  
Tickets include seasonal refreshments  
£5 adult, £4 under 16, from choir members,  
Tickety Boo or Audrey Lofthouse; 620625

## Live Music Xmas Party

**Saturday 10th December**

7.45 pm at Sedgfield Cricket Club  
Main guest Happy Cats: also featuring  
Trevor Bond, Martin Nesbitt, John Wrightson  
Band and the Billingham Silver Band  
Admission £10, includes buffet. Tel 621347

## Learn a new skill

The SCA launch some new courses  
at Ceddesfeld Hall in 2012.  
These non-accredited courses last  
5 or 6 weeks and provide a flavour of  
subjects that you may want to  
pursue in more detail in the future.  
The following are proposed for  
January - April:  
**IT for the 21st Century**, starting  
Thursday 12th January for 6 weeks  
**Digital Imaging**, starting  
Thursday 1st March for 6 weeks  
**Cake Decorating for Beginners**,  
5 week taster, dates tbc.  
For more details  
please call Wendy Gill, 620206  
or Pat Buckley, 620607

## Bumps & Babies Charity Event

**Sunday 11th December**

Sedgfield Race Course, 10-2pm  
All proceeds to **Count the Kicks** charity,  
which aims to reduce the number of stillborn  
babies in the UK. Bring the whole family!  
Over 20 stalls, including face painting,  
Daisy Birthing class demonstrations,  
a breastfeeding counsellor - and Santa too!

## Festive Farmers' Market

**Sunday 11th December**

## NECP Concertina Workshop

**Sunday 11th December**

1pm Ceddesfeld Hall. All levels welcome  
Contact 01642 588197

## Neighbourhood Watch

**Tuesday 13th December**

Christmas Panel Meeting  
7 pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall  
ALL Welcome

## Ferryhill, Sedgfield & District

### Flower Club

**Tuesday 13th December**

7.30pm in the Parish Hall  
Party night with faith supper

### Ladies Club

**Tuesday 13th December**

Christmas Social & Buffet

## New Yorkers Christmas Show

**Fri & Sat 16th & 17th December**

Starting 7 pm in the Parish Hall  
Tickets from George Wilkinson; 620807  
or TicketyBoo

Sedgfield Players present

### "Cinderella"

**2pm Tuesday 27th December & 7pm**

**Tuesday - Friday, 27th - 30th**  
in the Parish Hall

Tickets £6, concessions £5 with a 10%  
discount for parties of 10 or more,  
from TicketyBoo, the council offices  
and on 01740 620091 or 621771

**Please send January Diary dates**

**before 15th December to**

**sedgfieldnews@hotmail.com**

## U3A - is it for you?

Retired or no longer in full-time work and  
enjoy learning, cultural and leisure  
activities? The Sedgfield and District  
branch of the University of The Third Age  
will be born on **Friday 20th January** at  
2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall, with a talk from  
Dr Ray Manning on "Foods that Fight  
Cancer". University in name, but with no  
exams or huge annual fees, the U3A is a  
vibrant, thriving organisation, each group  
is autonomous and decides on its own  
programme and modest fees.  
The core of our programme is a series of  
monthly meetings, with speakers on  
various topics. Members are encouraged  
to start smaller Interest Groups to meet  
periodically; eg. garden visits, health  
topics, theatre visits...  
Please come along and be a member of a  
unique, friendly self-help movement.

## December in Sedgfield Library

**Thursday 8th, 10.30-11.30am Wynyard,**

The History of a Great House. Meet the  
author & learn more about this local gem.

**Tickle Time: Mondays 5th & 19th**  
2.15-3pm

**Rhyme Time Christmas Party:**  
**Wednesday 7th 10-11am**

**Craft Club: Tuesday 13th 10-12pm**  
Display of work produced by the group  
Please come along and get inspired!

**Book Circle Wednesday 14th 2pm**

**Finally, thanks!** - to everyone who  
donated food, prizes & money for our  
Charity Coffee Morning for South  
Cleveland Heart Fund. We made £260

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Bridge Club

Meets every Sunday & Tuesday at 7.30pm in  
Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. For  
more information call Jen - 01740 620434

### Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, from  
5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

### Café@St Catherine's

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

### Sedgfield Playgroup

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

### Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1pm in the  
Methodist Church Hall

### Round Table

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

### Rotary Club of Sedgfield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head  
New members welcome.  
Call 629070 or 620562

### Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon, Thursdays

### Ready Steady Grow

At Sedgfield Methodist Church., term time  
Fridays, 9.30-10.30am. For Parents, Carers &  
Children. Crafts, Songs, Bible stories,  
Refreshments. Call Margaret Glass; 621618

**Cupcake Café** at Sedgfield Community  
College, 10am-12 noon, term-time Fridays.

Tea, coffee, homemade cakes & biscuits.  
All profits to charity

### Lyrics Choirs

2 Community choirs welcome new members.  
Ceddesfeld Hall, Fridays.  
Age 7-18yrs, 6pm Adults 7.30pm

# Your Letters

## In the doghouse

After a lovely walk with my dog, Ruby (I have yet to meet a dog in Sedgefield by the name of Fido!) over the fields overlooked, I believe, by the home of Mr R Smeeton, I came home to the November issue of the Sedgefield News on my door mat. After reading briefly through it I wish to respond to the letter posted by Mr Smeeton (who I suggest could get a life!) It seems he has little more to do with his time than sit and look through his window and watch the number of dog walkers who frequent the fields behind his house. I walk my dog numerous times a day in the field, as do lots of other people and I do bag and dispose of my dog's droppings. Perhaps Mr Smeeton should vent some of his anger at the local farmers whose sheep deposit their droppings in the field and are subsequently eaten not only by my lovely beagle, but by other dogs as well. As to his suggestion that horse riders should attempt to "bag" the horse manure, pass me a bin bag please or even an unused charity bag! Quite frankly it seems to me that Mr Smeeton has lost the plot. *Mrs Allison Macnab (a very annoyed dog owner)*

## Sedgefield Racecourse

Thank you all for attending the latest hearing to vary my Premise Licence to enable the Hunt Ball, held once a year. As I am the responsible person and trained Designated Premise Supervisor for Sedgefield Racecourse I always keep abreast of law changes. It seems unfortunate that the new conditions relating to temporary event notices had gone unnoticed throughout the community. The conditions of the temporary event notice are changing, therefore action was necessary to enable the above event to take place. My only intention, as was published in the Northern Echo, was to apply for the licence to include the Hunt Ball in February.

As I am sure by now you are aware, through marketing within Sedgefield News, I hold fun events here, and every event is geared towards families, young and old. There is

definitely a market to entertain our local teenagers and keep them out of trouble, off the streets and interested in their surroundings.

I have lived on site for four years with my children who are now at GCSE level – anyone who has met and knows me will understand I am a hardworking individual who strives to keep Sedgefield Racecourse on the map through this long recession. I am a team and community player, offering funds and fund raising opportunities to Sedgefield in Bloom, offering free venue hire to local charities and offering free entry to the local community to celebrate the Sedgefield 700 in 2012. I would like to thank those of you who did actually state these facts in the hearing as well as local authorities, with whom I am in regular contact for advice and guidance.

This venue will continue to host family focused events such as the Game Fair, the Xmas Fair and the charity It's a Knock-Out. Please join us to feel the atmosphere surrounding our family events. If you have questions or would like to chat to me anytime my phone number is 07980880801.

*Kind regards, Jill Williamson*

## What a tale to tell!

I was in the Co-op shopping on Sunday 13th November. Just paying my bill when a man in the entrance shouted in the direction of the till, to the man next to me, dressed in a reflective yellow jacket. "I'm coming", he replied. He had parked his white van on the pavement and totally restricted the access to the Co-op. As I walked out of the shop, he drove the van along the pavement, turned sharp right - ON THE CROSSING - then right again towards Durham road, unconcerned. The two ladies standing with me were flabbergasted. You know what they say - white van drivers - fastest in the west, or was that Benny Hill - the fastest milk cart?

*Jeff Wragg*

**Blood Donor Session**  
Sedgefield Racecourse  
**Monday 5th December**  
2.30 - 3.45 and 4.30 - 7pm

## Advertising Rates

The popular 6 x4cm box is £21 (£26.50 out of area). Other prices are pro rata. Delivery of own insert is £150/£185 For more details, email

**sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

**Contractual Statement:** the person or organisation placing an advertisement in Sedgefield News shall pay to Sedgefield Development Trust Limited (SDT) the total of the agreed charges for setting, printing & distribution of the Advertisement (the Service) within 30 days of receipt of SDT's invoice. SDT may issue an invoice at any time after provision of the Service.

## Heartfelt thanks

When our daughter complained of backache following a trampoline fall, Dr. Hearmon was quick to spot an irregularity in the shape of her spine. She referred her to the James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough and after MRI scans, X-rays, measurements and photographs, Ciaran was diagnosed with a 65% double major scoliosis. An operation was recommended in order to achieve the best outcome, in spite of the inherent risks. This went ahead in September. It took 11 hours and was very worrying for us all, but we had fabulous support from all quarters and want to say a huge thank you to all who rallied round with thoughtful gestures, prayers, kind words, offers of help, cards, flowers and gifts. The response has astounded us.

Our grateful thanks go to Dr. Hearmon for her prompt diagnosis, to Surgeon Mr. Kalyan and team at James Cook Hospital for their skill, Specialist Nurse Cheryl Honeyman, a tower of strength throughout, and Sue Toogood, the lovely ward hostess. There were many others at JCH too. We are grateful to all our friends and neighbours for support. Special thanks go to members of all 3 churches for their prayers and to Sedgefield Players, SPYS, Lyrics, SLYC, Ferryhill Stage Society, Sing For Health, Father Caden and Carmel RC College.

Cheryl wanted to produce a colourful picture booklet to allay the fears of young patients in future and asked Ciaran to model for her. She readily agreed and was photographed at every step of her treatment. "A Patient's Journey" will be available in the hospital, hopefully to remove any fears from the minds of children (and parents) facing a similar operation. She also volunteered to be a guinea pig patient at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle for a day for students preparing for exams to diagnose her condition and suggest treatment.

A few weeks down the line Ciaran is back at school part-time, wearing a body brace for 6 months to complete the correction. She swam for 35 minutes on her birthday and though she has had to miss some events, she hopes to pick up her musical and dramatic activities in spring.

*David and Julia Jasper*

## 15th December is the Deadline

for January's News. Email copy to **sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

Text or call **07935 447 455** or post to **The Editor, 55 White House Drive, Sedgefield, TS21 3BU**

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

## Contact details

for Sedgefield Development Trust & projects

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TS21 2JN**

**Community Lawyers & DIDO:  
07899 022 133**

**Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield,  
TS21 2EG**

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