

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

December 2012



Blessings all round!



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The Right Reverend Justin Welby, Bishop of Durham & Archbishop of Canterbury Designate, revealed his sense of humour (not to mention that of our very own PC Keith Todd!) after blessing the new Market Cross.

He had been invited to the Sedgefield 700 Celebration Service at St Edmund's Church earlier in the afternoon. Following the Blessing he joined everyone at Ceddsfeld Hall, where he was presented with a painting of Sedgefield by local artist Angela Simpson, as a lasting reminder of his visit.

Bishop Justin thanked everyone for his warm welcome to Sedgefield and added that the painting would be hung in his new home – in Lambeth Palace!

Above photo courtesy of Chris Hope who, with Geoff Hill took all the official photos for Sedgefield 700



The spirit of Christmas came early to the **Hope Inn** when the Bishop popped in after the ceremony on the green and proceeded to bless the pub too! It was to say thank you to Pat and Darren Bell, who had taken coffee out to people on the Green who had given up their time to plant remembrance crosses for all those heroes who have not returned from war. Darren and family have not been at the pub for long, but they really love the way they have been made welcome in Sedgefield.

Festive Fun at Hardwick Park

Santa's Grotto

Every weekend until Christmas
11am-3pm: £3 per child.

Meet Santa in our magical grotto and take a present home. Please call to book a time slot

The Santa Run

Sunday 2nd December 10.30-11.30am
Details from 01388 603 003

Natural Decoration Making

Help us decorate our woodland for Christmas!
Sunday 16th December, 12noon-3pm
£2 (all money raised to Butterwick Hospice)

**THANK YOU to all our Contributors, Readers, Advertisers
& Volunteers - and a Very Merry Christmas to you all!**

**It's an early deadline for the January issue so please get your news in by Monday 10th December
To contact Sedgefield News call/text 07572 502 904 or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**



Elizabeth Peebles (bottom left) with "Betty's girls", clockwise, sisters Rachel Turner, Beth Simpson & Helen Neale

Charity Bonfire Party

After losing her mum, Elizabeth Peebles, to a rare cancer, Rachel Turner held her first Charity Guy Fawkes event in Bishop Middleham last year and repeated it with great success this year. "Cancer leaves families devastated, I just had to do something and what started as a small bonfire party for village children grew into a huge event for Cancer Research UK." Hundreds gathered this year and Rachel is quite overwhelmed by their generosity. Money is still coming in and she hopes to top £3000.

Rachel wishes to thank the many local businesses who donated to the event: Chic, Baroque, Bolams, The Crosshills, Broom Hill Day Spa (Ferryhill), Stuart Reid Builders, Bogma Hall Fireworks (Coxhoe), Co-op, Ticketyboo, The Old Mill, Asda, Mrs Cupcake, Big Als Snax, The Fleece, Fiona's Butchers, The Post Office & The Cross Keys (Bishop Middleham), Sedgefield Racecourse, Plastic Mouldings Northern, C&A, and all the friends and family who generously offered support, hard work and donations. Companies like Know How, Tesco Stores, Sunderland Empire, Sunderland AFC, Rockliffe Hall, Arc(Stockton), Gala Theatre(Durham), The George (Piercebridge) and Star Radio also contributed.

Celebrations at Mordon

Mordon and District Ladies Circle celebrated their 40th Birthday at the end of September in the Village Hall, enjoying a lovely buffet supper with some 28 members. The group was set up by members of Bradbury & Mordon Village Hall committee with a view to increasing local community involvement, particularly ladies who were unable to access social facilities in the nearby towns due to poor transport links. Over the years, members have continued to enjoy a varied programme of visiting speakers, demonstrations, meals out, theatre trips, outings to local towns, and much more, as well as raising funds for worthwhile causes.

Present members not only come from Bradbury, Mordon and the surrounding small villages, but also from Sedgefield, Newton Aycliffe, Chilton, Fishburn and Windlestone.

The group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Mordon Village Hall, and new members and visitors are always welcome.

For more details, contact a committee member on one of the following numbers: 01388 720263 or 01388 720502 or 01740 622414.

Right, founder members, Mrs Anne Elders & Mrs Mavis Elders cut the birthday cake



National award for College

Sedgefield Community College is celebrating after being awarded top marks for their extra-curricular activities.

The school has gained the prestigious QISS award for their range of voluntary out-of-school-hours learning activities and commitment to extending learning beyond lessons.

To qualify for the QiSS (Quality in Study Support) award, the school had to demonstrate a strong commitment to activities such as homework clubs, revision sessions, school day trips and residential trips as well as extra-curricular artistic and sporting activities and clubs.

Upon receiving the award, Dave Davies commented, 'as Headteacher of one of the North East's highest achieving schools I find myself regularly praising students for their tremendous achievements. However, on this occasion I must congratulate college staff, who have every reason to be proud of this achievement so soon after being recognised for the quality of their teaching through the 'Thinking Schools' award. It shows that staff of the college not only deliver quality lessons but also go that extra mile, out of school hours, to provide students with new experiences and extended opportunities to succeed'.

Left

Cheerleading is just one of the popular extra-curricular activities available to pupils at the college





Gigs-to-go-go-go-to ...

There will be a special **Punk Xmas Party** at Sedgefield Cricket Club on Saturday 15th December at 7.30pm. England Screaming (*pictured right*) will play two sets and King Kenny Dryden will be DJ for the evening. It's pay at the door, so please plan to come early!

And, following the incredible success of their debut gig, **OASISJAM** returns to The Black Lion on Sunday 30th December at 8.30pm, with Dave Pratt, from "England Screaming" joining members of 101 again for The Jam set. It's sure to be a popular night again, with the greatest hits of The Jam and Oasis being played in 2 sets.

St. Edmund's Explorers deliver Christmas again!

As usual, St. Edmund's Explorer unit will be running a Christmas card delivery service in Sedgefield. To use the service, drop off your fully addressed cards (Sedgefield addresses only please!) at Number Four or Tickety-Boo on the High Street before 22nd December, and the Explorers will do the rest.

Any donations made in exchange for providing this service will be gratefully received and will allow young people in the village to continue to learn life skills and enjoy great experiences through Scouting.

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary Christmas Market

Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School recently appointed a new head teacher, Mrs Sally Newton. Together with the Friends of Hardwick School, Mrs Newton would like to invite you all to the school's first ever Christmas Market.

Breaking away from the traditional Christmas Fayre, the school hopes to attract the whole community. The children have recently studied the topic 'Sedgefield Speaks', and what better climax to their work than to invite you all to share this fantastic Christmas Market.

Trimdon Brass Band and Sedgefield's town crier will start the event at 3.15pm on Friday 7th December. There will be carol singing from the school's wonderful choir, Christmas craft stalls, refreshments, Santa's Grotto, face painting, raffle, tombola and much more. Please come and join the fun at this wonderful Christmas event at Sedgefield Hardwick School.

Christmas concert

Sedgefield Lyric Singers, Lirica and Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir (SLYC) warmly invite you to St Edmund's Church for their festive feast of carols at 7.30pm on Friday 7th & Saturday 8th December.

Tickets (Adults £5, under 16s £4) include refreshments, and are available from "Tickety Boo", from Audrey Lofthouse on 0174 620625, or from any choir member. We look forward to seeing you!

Anyone for Crafts?

If you are interested in meeting and helping people who are keen on Crafts, why not join us in the Swinhoe Room at Ceddesfeld Hall? We meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 - 10pm. Further details from Jean Easson - 620656. (Check Regular events, p 11 from January).

Sedgefield News deliveries: Station Road

A few months ago I became aware that some people on Station Road weren't getting a Sedgefield News. The round there has always been a bit complicated, but with a lot of help from Jan, who delivers part of the road, I think we have now got everybody covered. So, if you live on Station Road, and either get two Newses or none at all, could you please let me know? Anyone else who knows of someone not getting

a copy, please ring me!

Judith Edgoose 620244

SEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Sedgefield Primary School has a vacancy for a Community Governor to join our very pro-active Governing Body. We need someone with enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education, who will be able to support us in providing the best education for the children of Sedgefield and in our drive towards being an Outstanding school.

No specialist qualifications are needed and you do not have to have a family member attending the school.

If you are interested, or would like further information, please call into or contact the school for an application form.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel Members' message from the Executive Team



The next Panel Meeting is our **Christmas meeting**, earlier in the month than usual, **Tuesday 4th December at 7pm in the Parish Hall**.

Regular N/H/Watch members will be aware that this is intended to be a *social gathering* rather than a normal meeting so the intention is to zip through the normal agenda and Keith will be brief (we trust). Also, attendees will hopefully come prepared for their requirement for January's PACT priorities for Keith (hint to all). Looking forward to sharing a convivial hour with all our regular attenders and contributors.

Jottings from November Residents' Forum meeting

There was a great deal to cover in this month's meeting but as always there was lively discussion on a variety of issues.

A presentation was given by a representative of Hardwick Country Park on the 3 day outdoor music event they plan to hold in the park next summer. They estimate 7000 people will attend each of the 3 evenings, car parking will be in East Park with a proposed new 'agricultural' entrance off the small roundabout at the Park. Park management are working with experienced organisers to deal with parking, people and noise! Whilst concern was expressed at the scale of the event and potential problems there was clear support for the Park in its efforts to raise revenue for the upkeep and continuation of the Country Park.

The major worry, and we are asking the Town Council to look into this, is the cumulative effect of the many planned outdoor/marquee music events at venues around the village. There is a potential for noise disturbance on a great many occasions if all go ahead.

We had a quick **AGM** with no resignations from steering group members. It was agreed to all being re-elected; there was only a change - the treasurer. The meeting went on to discuss ongoing issues, but disappointingly there was no representation or information from Town/County Councillors. Of course, of continued major concern is the proposed housing in the village and the potential effect on everyone. Residents in the area directly affected by the proposed 450 new homes have been sent letters by Durham County Council. More information has been sent out by the Town Council in the Sedgefield Extra but here is the response the Forum made to DCC regarding the plans:

Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum has again considered the latest proposals in the County Durham Plan. The Forum view remains that local communities know best what is required in their own areas and their views should take priority.

It appears that Durham County Council are taking a developer lead approach rather than addressing the needs of local communities.

We are aware that many communities around the County require more housing and regeneration and are not being included in development proposals, whilst areas such as our own made it clear from the first consultation that 300 new homes was far too many for Sedgefield and would put an unacceptable strain on already stretched services and infrastructure. However, DCC completely ignore this and without further communication increase the number of proposed homes to 450.

We find this totally unacceptable. We wish to retain the character of our village/town; we recognise that there will need to be some development but what is being proposed is not what the community wants. Developers and those with land for sale wish to make a quick profit and do not have the interests of our community as a priority, and have a totally wrong perception of our village/town.

The already approved 300+ caravan site will put an unacceptable strain on our community without 450 more new homes. We repeat that we wish to preserve Sedgefield's character; further large development will destroy it. DCC should be working with our community to make sure the character of Sedgefield is retained and protected.

The Forum has also written to Durham Diocese expressing our objection to their view that Sedgefield can easily support more than 300 new homes. The next Forum meeting will be on January 7th at 7pm in the Fletcher Room, Parish Hall. We and look forward to seeing you in 2013.

PC Todd

With the onset of dark nights, Theft and Burglary are on the increase. Don't allow criminals to make money for their own festivities by relieving you of your well earned goods. Four burglaries have been reported in recent weeks on the outskirts of Sedgefield, where motorbikes and electric tools have been stolen. On one occasion a car was taken and later found in pieces ready to sell as spares. Other crimes include theft of a tailgate from a vehicle parked in Eden Drive, number plates taken from a vehicle parked in Elm Avenue and window damage in Spring Lane.

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently at Ceddesfeld Hall, no incidents were reported requiring further action by members. A report was given regarding the closure of the Golden Lion and we look forward to its re-opening on 18th December. Members wish the new licensee Margaret Cooper every success in her new venture. Members also welcomed Steve Chatto, the new licensee of the Hardwick Arms, to the meeting and wish him every success in his new venture also. Drugs and Drink Driving have no place in Sedgefield. Please consider other customers/residents before you do something stupid and ruin your life!! You have been WARNED.

P.A.C.T.

At a recent Residents forum meeting it was agreed to focus local police resources on irresponsible parking problems especially in the area of the High Street/Zebra crossing. We welcome all safe and considerate drivers who park in appropriate designated parking areas. Those who choose to ignore the rules do so at their own risk.

And finally ...

Our new Police & Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, vowed to get a stronger grip on local issues hand is keen to be the voice of the people.



He is to establish community panels to become his eyes and ears on police and crime issues, and will host a public consultation day on Thursday 13th December at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington (morning) and Durham Town Hall (afternoon).

It is free to attend and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. For details please visit www.durham-pcc.gov.uk; call 0191 383 5511; email enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk or write to Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner, County Hall, DH1 5UL

www.doctorsnhs.co.uk/ should go in our online contacts lists right now!

It's the address for Dr Jones & Partners' new website, where you can find information on Surgery Opening Times, Holiday Closures and advice on what to do when we are closed, and who to contact.

There are links on the home page in the online services area, to allow you to order prescriptions through the surgery securely, online. You can also use the website to cancel an appointment with a Doctor or Practice Nurse, inform the surgery of a change of address, phone number or mobile number, or look for information on many topics, such as:

**The Practice Patient Participation Group Criteria for obtaining a Flu Vaccination
Guidance on Whooping Cough vaccinations in pregnancy... and much more.**

There are also useful links at the very bottom of the home page, which help you locate information about other services through NHS Direct, NHS Choices & the Department of Health.

The website is continuously being updated.



Sedgefield in Bloom

We scooped five awards at the It's Your Neighbourhood awards held in Spennymoor. Sophie Dawson, of the Royal Horticultural Society, presented awards to over 120 neighbourhood groups (see photo).

Designed to encourage participation, awards are graded Level 1 Establishing, 2 Improving, 3 Developing, 4 Thriving & 5 Outstanding. Winterton Allotments and Hardwick Primary School were judged to be thriving, while Crispin Court, Claremont Grove and the church wall planting along Rectory Row were considered outstanding. As the youngest gardeners at the event, the enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour of Hardwick School pupils impressed everyone.

If you would like to suggest a neighbourhood project or become involved with Sedgefield in Bloom, ring 01740-620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk. We meet every Wednesday at 10am, either at the lych gate for gardening tasks or, the first Wednesday of the month, for a planning meeting in the parish hall. New Bloomers are most welcome.

Useful contact numbers for advice & assistance

Police - 101

Police Crime Prevention Officer Mark Pheasant, 01325 742714

Police Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne, 01325 742755

Sports UPDATE

with Sports Editor, **Chris LINES**

As we hurtle towards Christmas, thoughts turn to the traditional end of year sports round ups and awards. Chief of these is the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year, which in 2012 promises to be even more stellar than usual. Last year, not a single woman made the final top ten shortlist for the public vote, which was scandalous. This time around (despite the male dominated panels up and down the country), there's no danger of that, thanks to the efforts of the likes of Jessica Ennis, Ellie Simmonds, Sarah Storey, Laura Trott and many others. In fact, making that final shortlist will be extremely tough, for women or men. Personally, I'd give it to Bradley Wiggins for the sheer scale of his achievements this year and for the quality of his sideburns, but it's going to be nip and tuck. I do hope no footballers make it onto the shortlist! Meanwhile, back in Sedgefield, we've also enjoyed a phenomenal year of sport, which I will try and review next month (and I will stick to Sports Review of the Year, as the Beeb's big programme used to be called - should still be, in my opinion - mini rant over!) Before that, sports action in the village doesn't stop for awards events, so I'd better get on.



Above: Under 12 cyclo crossers line up at the start of their race

Right: Darren Binks, winner of the main cyclo cross event

Left: the under 14 & 16s event took its toll on the riders!

Report next page



Sedgefield Harriers

The cross country season is now in full swing. Both senior and junior sections of the club have decided to enter the North East Harrier League this year rather than the North York South Durham League. The Harrier league is based more in the north of the region and it is a more competitive league with higher entry numbers in each race and it was viewed that it would be a better league to help the club develop.

The club has had good turn-outs so far at the first two events, in Cramlington and Blaydon. There have been notable runs, particularly from juniors Abie Hearmon and Kieran Walker who are making strong progress in their age groups. The championship cross country races get underway on December 8th with the North East Championships at Hartlepool and Sedgefield Harriers will have strong teams competing. The club has targeted the North Easterns to benchmark progress in improving competitive performance with the senior men's team aiming for a top six team finish in the next two years, as the club pushes on to become one of the top competitive clubs in the North East. The championship cross countries are always exciting events, with a continuous stream of events during the day and seniors supporting juniors and vice versa as competition unfolds. The Northern (regional) championships will be held in Knowsley, Liverpool on 26th January and the Nationals on almost home turf at Herrington Country Park in Sunderland on 23rd February.

Meanwhile junior Harriers are competing in the Gateshead Indoor Athletics series this winter in all events, including throws, sprints and jumps, except pole vault! All in all, there is a strong competitive strategy in the club and some very promising athletic talent and it will be good to see results as the winter progresses.

Junior Squash

In its seventh year, and possibly the longest running event of its kind in the UK, a mini-squash competition for local primary schools was hosted by Sedgefield Squash Club. For the second year in a row, four schools took part in both the competition and some pre-competition coaching. Stephen Rowsby toured Trimdon Juniors, St. William's (Trimdon), Hardwick Primary (Sedgefield), and Sedgefield Primary, in late September and early October. James Larcombe organised the round-robin competition, which had five players in each team. Each team included a younger player (Year 5 or below), and at least one girl, though most teams had two or more. Children refereed the games aided by teachers and Stephen and James.

Last year's competition was the closest ever - until this year! For the first time every team scored more than 100 points. Trimdon Juniors had easily their best year ever and were one of three teams going into the final round with a mathematical chance of victory, which they maintained with a 52-44 win over Hardwick. 2011 champions, St William's, on 103 points after two rounds played four-times winners, Sedgefield Primary, on 101. All five games were close, and despite second string David

Worthington, keeping a 100% record in his third appearance in this competition (he isn't even a regular player), Ben Toas ensured the title returned to Sedgefield, pipping Robert Peacock 11-9 in the final match of the day.

The competition was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game and more experienced players. Sedgefield Primary will now represent the area in the second ever Durham and Cleveland inter-primary schools competition. Final results: 1st Sedgefield Primary 155 pts (3 wins); 2nd St William's 143 (2); 3rd Trimdon Juniors 132 (1); 4th Sedgefield Hardwick 106 (0). Anyone who wants to take up the game (or to practice for their next competition) is very welcome to turn up at 10.45am on Saturdays during term-time for club coaching (at the squash club, in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall). The club offers two free taster sessions for new players.

Cycling

In very challenging conditions, the latest North East Cyclo Cross League event was held in Hardwick East Park on Sunday 25th November. The day started with the under 12s race, with 13 riders aged five and above, including several from the village, tackling a shortened but tough course, all while the rain was still falling. The winner was Ben Dowson of Hetton Hawks in 14:49 minutes. All went home with full goodie bags courtesy of the Rotary Club of Sedgefield. The under 14/16s race, on a full course, was very tough for the kids, and was won by Angus Brown of Infinity Cycles in 42 mins, followed by Mathew Walker, Harvey Lines and Cameron Storey. The main race, for seniors, vets, juniors and ladies had 29 entries, including four first timers. It was won by Darren Binks of BlackHawk Bikes in (approx.) 48 mins, with Rob Powell of Malton Wheelers in second place and Paul Whitehill of Infinity Cycles in third. Local man Eddie

Buist was in the prizes as first in the vet 60 category. The novice (first cross race) prize was won by Dan James. The main race was sponsored by Ringland Scaffolding and the event was organised by Ian Dunn of Ferryhill Wheelers. Thanks go to the volunteers, and the staff at Hardwick Park, who helped ensure the races ran smoothly in very testing conditions.

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

Letter

For 26 years we have felt proud to say we live as the closest neighbour to Sedgefield racecourse but we are more and more concerned by the extreme changes which seem to be taking place. There was a planning committee (on 22nd Nov) to decide on permission to erect a marquee for Christmas party events; bizarre, as they have already erected the marquee and begun to have events, before the meeting has even taken place! With recent adverts in the press and flyers in Sedgefield news for wedding marquees, is this current planning application just for Nov/Dec, or the 'tip of the iceberg'?

We understand that the racecourse is a business and needs to make money, but they do have a licence for inside buildings all year until 2am. Historically, Christmas party nights and weddings have been held inside and, as far as I am aware, have never generated any complaints relating to noise. Do they really need to bring such events outside, into marquees, with the noise problems this creates for residents?

We want this integral part of the village to remain successful, but surely their inside licence is more than adequate for these events?

Marian Cant

My apologies for having had to substantially shorten this letter. Ed

Sedgefield Rugby Club Guinness World Record Attempt

On Sunday 28th of October we travelled to Durham City Rugby ground to participate in a world record attempt. The idea was to play one continuous game of rugby in 10 minute halves, then every 10 minutes 2 new teams took to the pitch. The record stands at 286 people in one single game.

Unfortunately a few clubs didn't turn up and the event fell short, with 175 people turning out to play.

With that in mind though, a good day was still had by all and some money was raised for Help for Heroes.

Sedgefield had a great outing, winning both our games in style against a College team (we never found out where from) and Clem's Pirates.

December & January Fixtures (Kick off 14:15)

08/12/12: Sedgefield v Newton Aycliffe
15/12/12: Sedgefield v Yarm
05/01/13: Sedgefield v Seghill
12/01/13: STC v Sedgefield
26/01/13: Sedgefield v Washington

December Events Diary

This page is free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 1st Dec: Mike Wilding

Sat 8th Dec: Sheryl Austin

Sat 15th Dec: Ray Peachey

Christmas Eve: Alan Watson

Sat 29th Dec: Alan Stevens

New Year's Eve: Kevin Christie
Cover charge of £1.50 per person
Members & guests welcome

Wed 17th Dec: Country Night
Xmas Party with Ray Bamks & Emma
Cover charge of £3 per person.
All welcome

Concert room available for functions
Call 01740-620591 for bookings

Sedgefield Snow Party

Saturday 1st December

Santa Claus & his reindeers in the
Parish Hall 1-4 pm.

Tickets to see Santa £2 per child
(includes small gift), plus stalls &
exhibition stands from local schools
& nurseries

Christmas Craft Fair & Tea
in Ceddesfeld Hall, 1-4 pm
Snowman Parade on the village green
Christmas lights switch on 4.30pm
Christmas Disco
Carol singing in St Edmund's Church

Crickets Club Quiz Night

Saturday 1st December

8 pm. Quizmaster Peter Burnip
All welcome

Christmas Farmers' Market

Sunday 2nd December

Eddies@4

Sunday 2nd December

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

Local History Society

Monday 3rd December

7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall.
Eve Gamblin "A German Christmas"

Neighbourhood Watch

Christmas Panel Meeting

Tuesday 4th December

7 pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall
ALL Welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 4th December

7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall
Christmas Party with Faith Supper

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 5th December

7.15pm, Parish Hall
Music by CeddesFolk
Pooled supper.
Members' competition: a home-made
Christmas Stocking

Sedgefield in Bloom

Christmas Coffee Morning

Friday 7th December

Parish Hall 10-11.30am

Usual stalls, raffle & tombola plus
Christmas table centres

Sedgefield & District U3A

Friday 7th December

7pm in the Parish Hall

A Christmas Picnic: bring food and drink
Members Only. For details, phone
Ray Manning - 629276

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 9th & 23rd December, 1pm

Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 10th December

Christmas Night Out

Ladies' Club

Tuesday 11th December

Christmas Social & Buffet

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 11th December

7.30pm in Parish Hall

Party Night

Citizens Advice Bureau Advice Session

Wednesday 12th December

10am-1pm, Advice & Information Centre
Session re-opens January 9th
and is on every 2 weeks thereafter

Country Market

Friday 14th December

Parish Hall 9.30 -11am. Tea, Coffee,
cakes, cards, gifts & plants

Live Music Xmas Party

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Friday 14th December

Main guest: Happy Cats

Also featuring: John Wrightson Band,
John Weighell, Bertie Draycott and
Billingham Silver Band
Admission £10, inc. Xmas Buffet
Tel 621347

Christmas Music Quiz

Thursday 20th December

9pm at the Golden Lion

With Chris & Ryan

Sedgefield Players present

Jack and the Beanstalk

Thurs-Sun. 27th - 30th December

Parish Hall every evening at 7pm

Matinee 2pm December 29th

Tickets £6, concessions £5 from

Tickety-Boo, Council Offices

or call 621771

10% discount for groups of 10 or more

Regular meetings

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

Community College Bowls Club

Meets Mondays, 6 - 8pm. Carpet Bowls or
Short Mat. Individual coaching available. No
age limit. Contact, J. Kinghorn, 623198

Sedgefield Carpet Bowls Club

Meets every Tuesday & Thursday mornings
8.30 - 12.00 in Ceddesfeld Hall. Tea, coffee,
conversation & healthy exercise. Beginners
welcome. For more info call Sheila on 622532

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for the elderly & disabled at Ceddesfeld Hall
Join us for Tea or Coffee and biscuits on
Tues 9.30-12; Wed 10-12.30, Thurs 1- 3.30

Sedgefield 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

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wednesdays 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall
(First week of month - Monday)
Beginners welcome, contact 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

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

Round Table

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

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon, Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & Fishburn gossip! Fridays
9.30am-12noon: Tea/coffee/ toast & chat

Ready Steady Grow

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

Lyrics Choirs

Both choirs welcome new members
on Fridays in Ceddesfeld Hall:
Youth Choir, 8-18yrs at 6pm; Adults at 7.30pm

Not meeting in December

Sedgefield Family History Group
Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Looking ahead ...

Residents' Forum

Monday 7th January

7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Noise Pollution

I would like to add my voice to those who have already written about noise pollution. Living in Hardwick Road, we receive the full force of the noise from Hardwick Hall. This is usually not more than an irritation, but in certain atmospheric conditions it can be very intrusive. More than once we have been unable to hear the Ten O'clock News because the noise from Hardwick Hall was at such a volume that it overpowered the television, whilst the incessant electronic drum beat made windows and ornaments rattle.

Given the late hour I called the Hardwick Hall to ask if they could turn the volume down a bit. The lady who answered acknowledged that she could hear the music coming from our telephone, but said there was nothing that anybody could do about it. I then asked to speak to the Duty Manger, who informed me that there was no volume control, so nobody could turn it down! Having studied electronics as a second subject at university I find this very difficult to believe; but if true, it might explain the grossly distorted sound that we hear in the village.

I would therefore suggest that these comments are taken into consideration by Durham County Council when considering future licence applications, as it is clearly not satisfactory that the management at these venues are unable to reduce the sound level when reasonably requested by neighbours. Clearly the noise nuisance caused by these commercial events is outside of the control of individual householders for now, but there is an equally annoying noise nuisance that is entirely within our control.

Nuisance Alarms: For reasons best known to the National Grid, Sedgefield suffers regular power failures and voltage drops, often lasting for no more than a second or two. These 'brown outs' are usually no more than a minor inconvenience, and often go completely unnoticed; but they are invariably followed by a cacophony of wailing house alarms echoing around the village for twenty minutes or more until the next power failure, when the whole process is repeated again. Sometimes this happens several times in a single day or night. These nuisance alarms are caused by a failed backup battery in the alarm systems concerned, (usually inside the control box), which should maintain the supply for at least an hour in the event of a power cut. These batteries are easily replaced and readily available from electronics outlets. Maybe there is an enterprising individual in the village who could replace these batteries as a service? I am sure I don't need to remind anyone that apart from disturbing neighbours, and being illegal, a house alarm which constantly sounds for no reason is worse than useless, as neighbours soon learn to ignore it. If you have one of these alarms, and don't intend to replace the battery, please can you switch it off in the interests of peace and harmony?

Low Noise Road Surfacing: Finally, the DoT has done an excellent job of resurfacing major roads throughout the country with 'low noise Tarmac' wherever they run near to residential areas; except, it seems, around Sedgefield! The A177 is especially noisy and has many potholes which cause unpleasant vibration and shock waves whenever heavy trucks run over them; such as when the A1M is closed at night for maintenance works. Likewise the A689 creates a lot of surface noise, which can sometimes be heard across the village at night. Could the DoT be persuaded to resurface the roads around the village so that we can all enjoy a quiet night?

Name & address supplied

A further letter appears on page 7

Chicanes

In reply to last month's and all previous letters on the subject, in my opinion there is nothing much wrong with chicanes. It is drivers who are at fault.

Impatience - simply impatience!

If people just calmed down, as most do, waited their turn instead of trying to squeeze between two oncoming vehicles, there would be no accidents; it takes 2 to tango.

It's true, as stated, there are road humps in various localities. There are also chicanes in Spennymoor, Ferryhill, Newton Aycliffe, Wheatley Hill and Thornley, to mention but a few.

So just count your blessings and wait till the road is clear. You will probably get to your destination sooner! Merry Christmas to all.

David Hillerby

Your Letters

Employers taken to task!

My daughter has just completed her master's degree and is looking for work. She doesn't yet have her results but is applying for as many jobs as she can.

Applications are on-line, and one would think that potential employers, who are, after all, looking for responsible employees would programme their computers to 'bounce back' an acknowledgement explaining that if the applicant had not heard from them within a certain time-frame, regrettably they would not have been successful. The email could end wishing them good luck in their job hunt.

I have to express disappointment that this is not the case. Whether she's applying for jobs, or writing to express interest in working for local or national companies, she has had little response, positive or negative. Come on, employers - you surely remember how frustrating it is to look for work, and to wait in vain for a response from potential future employers? There was no excuse before computers, there's even less now. Programme your computers to send an automatic response email - it's just the same as when you're away from your office! It's cheaper than a letter!

Name & address supplied

Sponsorship thanks

Thank you to all in Sedgefield who sponsored me to walk The Inn Way in the Dales; a 68 mile walk in the superb countryside of the Northern Dales, starting and finishing in Buckden and taking in Askrigg, Reeth, West Burton, Kettlewell and Grassington. With companions, Alan Anderson and George Courtney, I completed the walk in 6 days, and, thanks to the generosity of those who provided sponsorship, we raised over £2750 to give to The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. Once more, many thanks.

Ian Thomson

We need a good DIY shop

in the village, now that a certain shop has closed! Let's hope someone can make a success of a good local shop selling not only home fixtures, but papers, milk etc. The nearest DIY is 11 miles away!

Jeff Wragg

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Email: sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com Call or text: 07572 502 904

or write to: **The Editor, 55 White House Drive, Sedgefield, TS21 3BU**

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