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Sedgefield NEWS

February 2009

A festive round-up

The array of talent seen below, performing at the Cricket Club (story, p 3) is just a sample of the amazingly diverse events arranged by so many groups, to celebrate Christmas and the New Year in Sedgefield. Of necessity, our January paper is produced too early to cover them, so we're making up for it on our first 3 pages, to lighten up this wintery month.



Sedgefield Harrier & coach, Scott Hyden, competes in the Loftus Run. Sports news on pages 6 & 7.

Extending our remit

Fishburn and Sedgefield are closely linked in many ways, formal and informal, but both have a strong identity, and, as any school child will tell you, a healthy rivalry!

For some time now, some Fishburn residents have been interested in reading this paper. Our publisher, Sedgefield Development Trust, also runs projects like DIDO, which could be developed to include Fishburn. This month 40 copies of Sedgefield News have been made available in Fishburn, and the Trust is in the early stages of discussion about extending its area of benefit. Maybe providing support to help Fishburn to develop its own projects would be a way forward.

The Trust would be very interested to hear readers' thoughts, both from Fishburn and Sedgefield.

To advertise with us, or to send your contributions for publication, email

**sedgefieldnews
@hotmail.com**

DIDO Christmas Party

'Days In, Days Out' is still going strong, and as ever, the Christmas Party, held in the Parish Hall on 15th December, was a great day. We would like to thank those who made it all possible; Sainsbury's, A Cut Above, Theakston's and the Dun Cow for their generous contributions to the raffle; the funders who have contributed to our Charity this year and have made this all possible, in particular the Sedgefield Charities and Sherburn Hospitals Trust; our own members who have fundraised this year themselves, and finally our volunteers who give so much of their time and their energy to make this project work. **Thank you everyone.**



Entertainment was provided by Brad Stevens, a local country and western artist. He went down well especially with our own line dancers, who seized the opportunity to join in and entertain us with their talents.

But the star attraction was the Choir from Sedgefield Primary School, who came along after school, in their free time, to sing carols accompanied by Margaret Waller on piano. They were brilliant!



The next meeting of DIDO is Monday February 9th in the Parish Hall at 1.30pm. Line dancing dates t.b.a.

Please come along and join us. Membership is only £2 for the year.

Tel: Gloria 01740 622447,
Linda 01740 620857

Two of Santa's Little Helpers enjoy a well earned rest!

All in all, it was another successful year for DIDO, Sedgefield.

(DIDO is a project of Sedgefield Development Trust Limited)



Sedgefield Winkers

At the annual Christmas party at the Sedgefield Cricket Club in December, and with donations still being received, proceeds are in the region of £1000. Funds were raised through ticket sales, an auction of a signed Middlesbrough shirt and a raffle and have been raised for The Anthony Nolan Trust. We would like to thank everyone who supported the evening, particularly Nudge who provided live music free of charge and Bolams, the Co-op, the Crosshills, Number 4, Sainsbury's local, Sedgefield Social Club, Selections and Theakston's who donated raffle prizes.



Fantastic dancing

In December, Victoria Brown's Dance Academy presented their third production 'Dance Fantastic' at Sedgefield Community College. There was a fantastic selection of dance from musicals, modern dance and swinging jazz, to classical elegance and some Christmas favourites. The productions were a huge success and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates

A little bit of Rio came to the Parish Hall in Sedgefield Players' pantomime for Christmas 2008. Members of SPYS, the Players' Youth Section, took on various roles, including villagers, sailors, pirates and cannibals.

Brother and sister Tim & Ciaran Jasper took the principal parts of Skullduggery and Crossbones; Robert McGuinness played Friday and Janine Yaxley was principal girl Juanita.

There was plenty of booing for chief pirate Cutthroat, played by Viv Jacobs, looking every inch like Johnny Depp. Laughter was provided by Terry West as Dame Margarita with her silly son Nutty Nick, Jack Evans. Everything was kept shipshape by David Jasper as Captain Seasalt, ably assisted by Sarah Legender as Robinson Crusoe. Trouble was always lurking, though, with Vee Cooper in two guises, playing Davy Jones, waiting to drag unsuspecting souls down to his locker and Hocus Pocus the Witch Doctor preparing the cooking pot with Jean Hewling as Mumbo Jumbo the Cannibal Queen. Magical help came to the rescue thanks to Good Fairy Coral, played by Annette Lawson.

Dancing was provided by the girls of Fishburn Dance and Drama with choreographer Gill Rowe. The technical team of Thomas Guest, Garry Jacobs and Jonathon Reeve kept everything moving along and the whole show was directed by Walter Howell. The sumptuous costumes came from the Haslemere Wardrobe in Surrey and the very lively script was written by Alan P Frayn of Stage Right Creative Limited. Chairman Norma Neal was very pleased with the success of the production which combined the talents of younger and more experienced members of the Players to bring a traditional Christmas treat to Sedgefield.

L-R: SPYS, Louise Palfreeman, Chloe Howell, Jessica Miller, Chelsea Palfreeman, Lauren Easton, & in front, Robert McGuinness.



A chorus for Christmas

The three choirs - Lyric Singers, Lirica and Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir - sang the season in with a festive selection ranging from classic Christmas carols and calypso to jazz tinged standards and a little bit of Steeleye Span! Something for everyone.

... and a winter solstice celebration

In a new departure, Ceddesfeld Hall opened its lounge early to **CeddesFolk** so that children could join in their Festive session. The place rang with cheerful voices and an amazing array of instruments from 7pm until closing time (the babies had gone to bed by then)! CeddesFolk will in future hold the open session in the lounge, other events allowing, so if you're in for a drink on the first Wednesday of the month, you could be entertained too.

Who's this old fella?

Young Owen Archer meets Santa on the village green, courtesy of Sedgefield Round Table.



Cricket Club Xmas Talent Show

Another year on and another successful night at the Charity Xmas Show. There maybe a Credit Crunch but this did not dishearten either performers or audience, as the whole evening went off like a bang!

The grand opener was immediately followed by a Showaddywaddy tribute which went down a storm. The acts which followed throughout the evening were up to the usual high standard. (pictures front page) A comedian started the second half, which was a first. "Good original material" one said. Another said "he's doing ok but when is he coming off, because I want to see the remaining talent and I've got a bus to catch". Problem was, the comedian was one of the committee who was enjoying himself so much he lost all track of time and forgot there was a strict schedule to adhere to. To lighten things up a little Benny Hill made a visit and gave the audience a fine rendition of the Milk Cart Song - a long forgotten classic.

The Finale was a huge success. Paul Rodgers live at the Cricket Club - and not to forget the band "Free". (We think the band took things literally as only "Free" - oops I mean "Three" of them turned up). The Charities which are to benefit from the evening are The Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA) and the Durham Area Disability Leisure Group (DADLG)

Many thanks to all the performers, who excel themselves year after year. Judging by the end of evening comments the show was another huge success.

Community SAFETY

Mary Hodgson

It is with deep regret that this year's first entry in Sedgefield News is one that has to include our tribute to a most valued member of Sedgefield Village N/Hood Watch who so sadly passed away on the 26th of December 2008.

Mary Hodgson is missed and will be missed by our group for her contribution over the years, her strong sense of right and wrong, her forthright views on local issues. Never frightened to "stand up & be counted", Mary was always there to give a hand in our activities for the village that she cared about so much.

N/Hood Watch send their sincere condolences to Mary's family, sharing in their sorrow for everyone's loss.

Report from the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting held on December 9th 2008

Under Matters Arising No Cold Calling it was recorded that the Executive have decided this task is now complete. By request details from an article in the N. Echo 4/12/08 "No Cold Calling Zones Reach 200 Milestone" were read out. This demonstrates North Yorkshire's Trading Standards' latest achievement and their total commitment to creating No Cold Calling Zones to combat unwanted callers and hence doorstep crime. In 3 years they have created 200 zones and in the last 2 years no-one in a zone fell victim to the common even though there were 600 doorstep crime complaints. A North Yorks. Trading Standards Councillor said "We believe that No Cold Calling Zones send a clear message to those people who target vulnerable householders that they are not welcome". They are keen to create more zones where all residents are in full agreement.

This report further demonstrates the real value and benefits of "No Cold Calling" to members of the public.

Under Representative Reports:

Community Force: Tim circulated copies of his report & provided details to members. The report was in two parts a) Environmental Matters, b) Anti Social Behaviour and Tim gave further details about log entries.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Mel described the Crime Prevention "seasonal" leaflets she had brought for members to collect and use accordingly. Mel gave strong advice regarding unwanted callers "stand your ground and ask them to leave". Mel thanked members for making her so welcome to the group and praised them for doing an excellent job.

Crime Prevention Officer: Neil endorsed Mel's comments and thanked members for their contribution and for turning out in such good numbers on a very dark & cold winter's evening. He gave additional details of some significant successes in the fight against crime achieved on our patch and of some ongoing issues; members were very appreciative.

Neil alerted members to the harder line Insurance companies appear to be taking to claims and suggested they ensure they comply with what their policy states / covers. Some people have, sadly not had a pay out for vehicles stolen because of non compliance with conditions (even though it was not a deliberate disregard).

Neil gave an update on Operation DARC and the new "Red Cards" that local Bobbies would be dispensing to unlit householders in the coming weeks.

Village Constable: Keith's report for period 1/11 - 9/12/08 showed that there were 13 reported crimes consisting of 3 Burglaries, 6 Thefts, 4 of Damage within the village, giving details in respect of individual crimes, and advice as appropriate. He reiterated his previous (Ringmaster & S.News) messages about car thefts from drives in the village due to owners leaving them warming up and unlocked. His advice - don't do it, it is too costly for everyone. C/man David Hillerby thanked Keith especially for his turning out for us on his day off, members endorsed this.

Police Priorities: Secretary asked members to allocate their 1-3 priorities against Durham Police's list A-G so he could collate and submit to Durham as a consensus view from the Panel.

A.O.B. 1 Red Cross Nuisance Cold Callers w/e 6th Dec: Several members reported details of wilful disregard of our No Cold Calling Home notices, late night (dark hours) calling, pressurising elderly persons, disregard of residents request not to call at specific homes and pressurised entry to homes.

Mel asked the Secretary to provide details after the meeting so she could follow up with the Red Cross in the same vein as she had done with respect to problems experienced with energy company Go Warm.

Neil also suggested that if members experienced similar events again that they take full details of the caller (name etc.) and their company and pass them on directly to a member of the N/H/Watch Committee.

2 C/Man Ken Saiger: Everyone present expressed their concern that Ken was still in hospital. Wishes for a speedy recovery were sent via a get well card. C/man David Hillerby and everyone present thanked Bell Saiger for her and Ken's generosity once again, in providing food and wine to the members so that they would enjoy a "festive" meeting amongst friends.

3 Sarah & Abigail: Everyone present were absolutely delighted with the surprise visit paid by our ex N/H/Watch Co-ordinator Sarah Norman accompanied by her delightful and impeccably behaved 3 month old daughter Abigail.

C/man closed the meeting at 7.45 pm and invited everyone to partake of Bell & Ken's generosity. Everyone was extremely happy to do so. A record of thanks must go to those dedicated members who so kindly leapt into action to not only serve up the food but ensured it was all cleared away dishes washed and everything in the room & kitchen left spick & span before the lights went out - thank you ladies!

Two Raffle Prizes were very kindly donated by Wilf & Jeanette Garbutt.

The next Meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February at 7 pm.

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

Community Warden Tim Spearey at Sedgefield ring 623654 or via Chilton Control Room rin: 01388 721351

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

For advice / assistance: Crime Prevention Officer Neil Langthorne, Telephone 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer - Mel Elliot, Telephone 01325 742755

Sing for Health

Come along and enjoy the feel-good factor that singing gives. The only requirement is that you enjoy singing. There are no plans to perform, only to have fun exercising the instrument that we were all born with - the voice! Initially we will meet fortnightly on Wednesdays from 1pm-2pm, starting on the 18th February. The venue is Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall and a small fee will be required to cover hall costs.

For more information telephone me, Joan Seymour, on 620256.

Look forward to seeing you there; let's not allow community singing to die!

Jottings

from Sedgefield Village Residents' Forum meeting, January 2009

Only a brief report this month as there was no Forum meeting in January. The meeting would have fallen on January 5th and we thought it a little too soon after the festive season. We have however still been giving attention to ongoing issues, attending the Town Council meeting and of course keeping up to date on the planning application for the caravan park.

The planning application is the information we particularly wanted to give everyone notice of. **The application will go to the Planning Committee for consideration at 10am on February 6th 2009** we are presuming it will be at the Borough Council Offices in Spennymoor again. Final information from the Borough will come out later, nearer the date, too late for this newsletter, so we wanted to let you know now. In the mean time put that date in your diaries and watch the village notice board for any updates. Also, the next Forum meeting will be 7pm Monday February 2nd in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall – as always, everyone is welcome.

Our community can again demonstrate its objection to the caravan park by turning up at the planning meeting – please try to be there it really does make a difference – **February 6th, 10am, Borough Council Offices.**

Work in progress will improve river quality

River water quality in the Tees, the Skerne and other waterways in the area will be improved as a result of work going on in Sedgefield during the next few weeks, to upgrade and screen four combined sewer overflows. These overflows are designed by the Environment Agency to discharge wastewater into watercourses in times of very heavy rainfall to protect properties and land from flooding.

The upgrades are at the junction of Stockton Road and Beacon Lane, in East End and in land east of the Leas and east of The Orchard.

Traffic management is needed in East End, but Northumbrian Water says that it is doing its best to keep disruption to a minimum.

Further information about the work can be obtained by ringing Northumbrian Water on 0845 717 1100 or by logging onto www.nwl.co.uk.

PC Todd reports

The New Year started on a positive note as crimes reported to Police remain very low. Over the Festive period burglaries were reported on Winterton Estate, Neville Drive and on The Lane. On White House Drive, a male was assaulted and his take-away food stolen. Vehicles were damaged on Thurlow Road, Neville Drive, West End and Queen's Drive. A car was stolen from Winterton and number plates in The Orchard. A house window was smashed in Cherry Tree Drive. Crimes reported so far in 2009 include a garden gate broken, and fence damage on Front Street.

I am disappointed to note that at least 6 assaults have taken place, mostly as a result of excessive alcohol consumption. My hope for the rest of the year is that we all remain vigilant and not give the criminal a chance to prosper.

Pub Watch

At a meeting held recently at the Dun Cow licensees were informed that in general the majority of people who enjoyed a social night out in the pubs and clubs were well behaved. Unfortunately a few embarrassed themselves by drinking too much and a small number of incidents were reported to the police. Enquiries are still ongoing.

A male has received a written warning regarding his unacceptable behaviour in a member premises.

Thanks, Keith (PC Todd)

New Year, New Challenge?

Have you ever thought about volunteering? Over 22 million people take part in voluntary activities nationwide each year. Once seen just for 'do-gooders', volunteering can provide as many benefits to volunteers as it does for the community and the organisations they help. Volunteers can gain qualifications, new skills, confidence and experience.

Volunteer Centre Sedgefield Borough, part of an independent voluntary organisation, CAVOS, currently holds over 350 volunteering opportunities including in administration, arts & crafts, counselling, driving, fundraising, practical work, shop and sales work, working with older people, young people, children or anything else you can think of.

We can offer opportunities to suit your current commitments and many organisations provide volunteers with payment of certain out of pocket expenses such as travel or any equipment needed.

So give volunteering a go: you might be surprised by what you can do. *For more information contact Sharon Vasey - 01388 811115.*

Snowdrop Walk

On **Sunday 22nd February** from 12pm to 3pm, thanks to the generous support of Julie and David Kilpatrick, the Child Bereavement Charity will hold a Snowdrop Walk at Hardwick Park. This is an ideal opportunity to admire the beautiful grounds in the fresh winter months. The Snowdrop Walk is a special day to remember babies and children who have died, as well as the many children who are bereaved each year.

Entrance fee includes a Child Bereavement Charity Snowdrop pin badge - £1.50 adult; £1 concessions/ children; Children under 3 FREE
www.childbereavement.org.uk
Charity No. 1040419

Snowdrop Planting

Individual snowdrops are available for you to purchase on the day, and we will be there, if you need, to help you plant snowdrops within the grounds of Hardwick Park. A Book of Remembrance donated by a bereaved family will be in a quiet corner for your individual entries. Teas and refreshments will be available in Hardwick Hall (50% of proceeds go to CBC)

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

We're a month into 2009 and I still haven't finished rounding up last year's sports news from Sedgefield. I'm not going to linger on the past too much, but have just realised that I haven't yet provided an update of how our various Sunday league football teams are getting on this season.

This month, I'm going to concentrate on St. Edmund's FC and Crosshills FC, and I will hunt out some news from the Black Lion for the next issue. Elsewhere, we have news from the Harriers and the sports development officer at Sedgefield Community College.

Further afield, England's cricketers are in the West Indies. Hopefully, they are settling some differences off the field and getting things right on it. It's a big year ahead with the Ashes on the horizon. With a North East hat on, I'm hoping that Steve Harmison can re-discover the form he showed on a previous tour to the West Indies that made him the world's number one fast bowler. That would be very timely.

As I type this, Andy 'slightly-less-grumpy-these-days' Murray has breezed into the fourth round of the Australian Open. He now looks like a genuine contender for a major title, rather than a dark horse. The rugby union Six Nations tournament kicks off in early February, with England hoping to forget recent history and become contenders again. So, as ever, there is plenty to look forward to for sports fans near and far. Oh, and of the course the biggest day of the sporting year is just around the corner – Sedgefield Ball Game takes place on Tuesday 24th February.

Football

As I have stated before, St. Edmund's FC is the leading club in the village, consistently competing with the best Sunday league teams in County Durham. Playing in the top division of the Durham District League, St. Edmund's have had a good first half to their season, both in the league and in cups.

They started 2009 with a convincing 7-2 victory against Hetton social club to move into the quarter finals of the league cup. St. Edmund's have only played seven league games so far, winning six and drawing one. While that represents a fantastic return, it

means that the team will have to cram in loads of fixtures between now and the end of the season. Also, amazingly, of the 17 league and cup games that St. Edmund's have played, 16 of them have been at home (good for home advantage, but a huge drain on resources when referees have to be paid!). So, the latter part of the season is going to represent a huge challenge for the club – here's hoping they can maintain their form, avoid too many injuries and perhaps grab some silverware.

Talking of injuries, they have been a constant problem for Crosshills FC. Several squad members have been out for much of the season with long term problems, which has put extra pressure on those players who have been fighting fit. Despite that, the club has enjoyed a lot of success in the league and have been a regular presence in the promotion places. However, the

table is quite misleading – some teams have played 13 or 14 games, while others have completed as few as six.

Crosshills FC hit a rough patch in January, with two disappointing league defeats in a row. Nevertheless, the team is still confident that a good run of results is just around the corner and promotion is still a realistic ambition this season. Some of the longer term walking wounded are starting to return to fitness, which will boost a fairly small squad. So, the club's management is looking forward to a really positive second half of the season.

Look out for news from the Black Lion next month, along with the latest from Sedgefield Youth FC.

As ever, if you have any sports news please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

Gym-tastic news from Community College

Congratulations are in order for all the members of Sedgefield Community College Association Gymnastics Club. The club has run since September and has been a huge success, with between 70 & 75 participants turning out each week. Many have already received some of their gymnastic badges and are continuing to work through their proficiency awards. The gymnastic club is held at the college and runs in 4 four different sessions on a Thursday and Friday between 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

This year the club is aiming to apply for some external funding, to enable it to continue growing and develop a higher standard of Gymnastics. A big thank you goes to Sue Fox a Level 3 Tumbling and Level 3 Sports Acrobatics coach who is head coach at the club; also to Christina Fox who is currently undergoing her Level 2 Sports Acrobatics and is assistant coach at the club. Other new children's sports sessions include Tae Kwon Do club, Trampoline club and a Durham Wildcats Basketball club.

For more about sports clubs and sessions please contact Phil Seymour (Sport Development Officer) on 07967 817206.

FOOTBALL, GOAL-KEEPING & MULTI-SPORTS COURSE

In the February half term holiday week the Shay Given Foundation is again running a 4 day course from

**Monday to Thursday, 16th to 19th February
at Sedgefield Community College.**

There will be football, goal-keeping and other sports including cricket, basketball, table tennis & rounders.

The course is open to boys and girls aged between 5 and 15. Each child will receive a gift, a signed photograph of Shay and a certificate and there is the opportunity to win medals. There will also be the opportunity to purchase at a reduced price to participants, exclusive Shay Given items including goal-keeping gloves, shin pads and footballs.

**More information at www.shaygivenfoundation.org
To book a place (£40 for 4 days) please call 07826 403292
or email shaygivenfoundation@yahoo.co.uk**

Junior Harriers review of the year

2008 saw continued growth of Sedgefield Harriers' junior section and now 60 children between the ages of 8 and 16 regular attend the main training night on Wednesdays at Sedgefield Community College.

However, Harriers have only been able to accommodate such numbers due to the commitment and growth of their voluntary coaching capacity. Three coaches are qualified as UK Athletics Level 2 coaches and one is qualified at level 1. Two additional coaches are in the process of attaining their Level 1 and 2 qualifications with a view to completing these qualifications in March. This level of commitment and expertise has enabled a pathway for the Junior Harriers' development of fundamental skills and competencies through to competition at a national level. Also, three junior sports leaders living in Sedgefield and studying at local colleges and universities have assisted the juniors. This has enabled lead coaches to provide a better quality of provision and in so doing enhance the experience of children attending the Club whilst retaining their involvement.

The commitment of all the volunteers that assist the Junior Harriers is essential to the Club's continued growth and sustainability and provided the foundation upon which the following successes of 2008 were built. Notable amongst these has been the Club's continued development at a competitive level, with the Club winning its first North East medal in the U 13 boys' long jump at the North East Track and Field Championships at Gateshead in May. The Club also competed with distinction in the North Yorkshire and South Durham Track and Field and Cross-country Leagues. In the track and field league the Harriers were represented by more children than any other club, with up to 15 children attending each fixture. Meanwhile in the cross-country league the U15 and U13 boys' teams have real chances of winning the overall team titles for the 2008/9 season. These performances were further supplemented recently with a strong showing in the North East Cross-Country Championships. Here, the U13 boys' team finished 6th and the U15 boys' team, 5th - a significant achievement, with many long established clubs in the North East languishing behind the Harriers. There were significant individual performances too, from Jonathan Baines, 14th in the U15 boys' race and Gemma Varley, 11th in the U17 women's race.

Other developments through 2008 have seen the Junior Harriers involved in the consultation for the redevelopment of the Community College as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. We also recently purchased over £1000 worth of equipment for the junior section. Meanwhile, a Monday night training session at Durham University's Maiden Castle track has been established for children in school year 7 and above.

Finally, the Harriers have joined forces with 3 other clubs, Durham City Harriers, Chester Le Street and Houghton, as well as Durham University, to form an Athletics Network. As a Network we will be able to apply for up to £50,000 funding from England Athletics for each of the next 3 to 4 years, to support club development with a particular emphasis on school to club links. An initial application for the first year's funding has been made and if it is approved, Sedgefield Harriers' juniors will receive £8,000 funding in the first year to develop the club further through 2009/10.

Clearly 2008 was a significant year for the junior section of the Sedgefield Harriers and more significantly, it has provided a solid foundation for further development this year. As one U13 boy put it at the recent North East Cross-country Championships, 'It's great to feel part of a big Club'.

Harriers

The Christmas and New Year holiday period is always busy, with many races offering runners the chance to escape or recover from excess! There were four races on Sedgefield Harriers' Winter Grand Prix, meaning points up for grabs, and an even greater opportunity for those fortunate enough to escape the rampant colds and flu as some runners fell victim to the winter curse.

The Grand Prix series set by club treasurer Rosie Sims awards points for where the Harriers finish in races in relation to each other, the first Harrier taking 10 points, the second 8, down to 2 points for simply finishing a race. There are mens' and womens' competitions. This encourages Harriers to enter races on behalf of the club and encourages healthy competition between members. Whilst the bottle of wine in April for the winner of the winter series is welcome it can't match the warm glow for the winner from knowing they have represented the club on numerous occasions and competed well against their club mates. The points available over the holiday period can make a big difference come April.

The first of the four races was the Loftus Poultry Run, an 8 mile pre Christmas trail race with 600 entries. Eight Harriers competed on a cold day with a biting wind straight off the North Sea. Scott Hydon was first Harriers man in 53.33 (53rd overall) and Amanda Hetherington first woman in 65.51. Next up was the Durham Fell Runners Ayhope Skyline on 28th December. A 10 mile challenge in the forest and on the fells around Hamsterley. With Gary Hetherington still a victim of the winter curse Scott Hydon again took full opportunity for 10 Grand Prix points by finishing an excellent 10th overall in a time of 71.46. Scott is being rewarded for a high degree of application to his running in recent months and his times are his best for a number of years. Gail Bell was first Harriers woman in 88.03.

Five Harriers competed over a very scenic course on a nice winter's day. On New Year's day when the 5 took part in North York Moors AC Captain Cook's Fell Race, centred on Great Ayton. Gary Hetherington returned to action to be first Harrier finished in 34.59 while Scott Hydon was a victim of a cold on this occasion. Gail Bell was once again first Harriers lady in a time of 44.45. On 4th January 6 Harriers competed in the Hartlepool Burn Road Harriers Old Monks 6 form Hart Village. Scott Hydon was first man back in 32.44 and Gail Bell was first woman in 41.50. Others to pick up points over the four races were Graeme Addison and Ean Parsons who, although missing out on the 10 points capitalized from consistency by performing well in all of the events. Also scoring were Matthew Jones, Jo James, Marie Walker, Paul Templeton, Jonathan Wallace and Helen Parsons. As if competing in the Grand Prix races wasn't enough Graeme Addison also competed in the Guisborough Woods race on 27th December.

The Harriers were pleased to enclose a 2009 calendar in January's Sedgefield News and would like to thank all advertisers who supported them with this. Anyone interested in joining can find contact details and details of sessions on the reverse of the calendar.

February Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

EDDIE'S @ 4

Sunday 1st February
4pm service celebrating
Candlemas,
for 2-6 year olds in the
Welcome Room at St Edmund's

Residents' Forum

Monday 2nd February
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall at 7pm

Local History Society

7.45pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
Monday 2nd February
AGM followed by
a talk by Basil Watson on
"Petra, the rose red city"
All welcome

Sedgefield Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 2nd February
'North York Moors' by D Rodway
Monday 16th February
'Korea' by Ann Pullen
New members always welcome

Sedgefield Mags

Monday 2nd February
8pm in the Nag's Head
'Sedgefield Mags' run a bus to all
Newcastle United home games

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 3rd February
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30 pm
AGM and Pie & Peas Supper
Ring 620467 to book supper
All welcome

Neighbourhood Watch

Panel Meeting
Tuesday 3rd February
Fletcher Room, Parish Hall, 7 pm
ALL Welcome

CeddesFolk

Acoustic Session
Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm
Wednesday 4th February
Join our line up of fiddles, whistles,
squeezeboxes, guitars, ukuleles ...

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 4th February
91st Birthday Dinner
at Hardwick Hall.
Members please arrive 7pm for
meal at 7.15pm

Nappucino Coffee Morning

Parish Hall
Thursday 5th February
10am - 12 noon
Discover the benefits of real
nappies, with SBC's 20% discount

Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 7th February
Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 7th February
Starts at 8pm

Farmers' Market

Sunday 8th February
On the village green, 9.30 - 1.30

NE Concertina Players

Sunday 8th February
at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall
(Tutor group meets at 1pm on the
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

Sedgefield Development Trust Limited AGM

7.45 pm on
Monday 9th February
at 58 Front Street, Sedgefield.

This AGM is an open, public
meeting. SDT is owned & controlled
by the community, running
Sedgefield News, DIDO Sedgefield
and the Youth Drop-in, amongst
other projects.

Please come along and help us
'Refresh our Agenda'

Sedgefield Development Trust is
a company limited by guarantee;
Company Number: 4312745
and a registered charity;
Charity Number: 1100806

Sedgefield Civic Trust

Thursday 12th February
7.30pm at 4 Durham Road
All welcome

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 12th February
8pm at the Nag's Head
All welcome

Sedgefield Town Council

monthly meeting
Monday 16th February

Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)
Monday 16th February
7 - 9pm in Sedgefield Library
(Time & venue changed for this
meeting only)

"Queries and Question Night"

Bring along your own family history
research; perhaps we can help you to
track down those elusive ancestors!
Visitors are always welcome
For more information please ring
Sylvia Hall 620367

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 17th February
7.30pm in the Parish Hall
Malcolm White from Washington
"Fusion Flowers"
All welcome

Cricket Club Live Music

Main guest: **Stony** also featuring
Tom Townsend, Trish McLean & Ian
Wright, and John Wrightson Band.
8pm Saturday 21st February
£9 inc buffet. Tel: 621347
The Cricket Club is available for hire
for private parties, christenings, etc.
Call Jane on 629616

St. Edmund's Church Lighting Fund Luncheon

Parish Hall, Sedgefield
Sunday 22nd February
12 for 12:30pm
Tickets £12 incl. glass of wine
Ring 622894 / 629441

Sedgefield Veterans' Group

A.G.M. followed by Monthly meeting
Thursday 26th February
7pm Parish Hall
New members always welcome

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

7.45 in the Parish Hall
Thursday 26th February
Robert Woods on
Industry & Nature Conservation
All welcome

February @ the Library

Activities, storytelling & crafts for
children during half term holidays.
Please contact library for details

Tickle Time

Mondays 2nd & 16th - 2.15-3pm

Rhyme Time

Wednesdays 4th & 18th - 10-11am

Book Circle

Wednesday 18th 2pm

Family History

Monday 16th - 7-9pm

Round Table

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays

Sporting, social and charitable
events - new members welcome
Contact Rob on 629079
www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

Country Market

Friday mornings in the Parish Hall

Coming up in March

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday March 3rd
Buying perennial plants, with
Howard Leslie

Your Letters

Teens' Fridays - we just want to meet friends

In response to PC Todd's report, I am one of the teenagers who meet with friends on a Friday evening. Yes we do gather in large groups but Friday evening is sometimes the only time we can meet up with friends who attend other schools. As there is nowhere else for us to meet we congregate in the parks or around the streets. I'm not quite sure where else we could be expected to meet?

Neither me nor my friends cause any trouble, or create litter or graffiti, yet we are still asked to break up & move on nearly every Friday night. I'm sure PC Todd did not have the same harassment when he was a teenager. Recently, we were moved on because playgrounds 'were only for those aged 12 or less' - is this correct? I would like to add that I do not 'hang' around the streets every night; I am involved in after school activities most nights, all day Saturday & quite often Sundays too, so it would be quite nice to let my hair down without being targeted by the police just for being a teenager.

Maria



The Snowdrop Walk in Hardwick Park - details on page 5



DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS
ASSOCIATION

the community-based regeneration network

Mary's thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, gifts, letters and get well wishes which I have received prior to, during and since my hospitalisation with kidney cancer.

It was so heart warming to know that people care. After the diagnosis you feel totally alone, despite a caring family. I am going to put the letters and cards into a scrap book as a reminder that when I was at my lowest ebb I was given strength to face my operation.

The good news is - the cancer was completely removed and all is well. A belated merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all.

"May you have enough happiness to keep you sweet,
Trials to keep you strong, sorrow to keep you human;
Hope to keep you happy, failure to keep you humble;
Success to keep you eager, friends to give you comfort;
Wealth to meet your needs, enthusiasm to look forward;
Faith to banish depression,
And determination enough to make each day better than yesterday."

F. W Pitt, Writer and Poet.

Mary Thorpe

PC Todd's 'PACT' with the village

In January I held the first of my 'surgeries' - meetings with the view to finding out what problems or concerns are important to yourselves, as residents of Sedgefield, and which you would like the local Beat Team to deal with.

The surgeries are not designed to replace the police non-emergency number, 0345 6060 365, where you wish to see or speak with an officer at the time; or the emergency number 999, which may be more appropriate.

I see the surgery as a useful tool in support of the existing Crime Watch panel and Residents' Forum - both meetings that I attend.

The intention is to use the surgery to identify persistent or long-term concerns and other problems that arise from time to time; and to focus our attention on these issues. The theme behind this initiative of community engagement is collectively known as Police and Communities Together, or P.A.C.T.

The venue for my PACT meeting will be the Sedgefield Town Council offices, on one Tuesday evening a month starting at 7pm, until 8pm. The next meetings have been arranged for Tuesdays 10th February and 10th March.

The first meeting (12th January) identified problems still being experienced in St Edmund's churchyard and church circle, and parking issues outside Sainsbury's store. Both these issues will be robustly policed over a period of time to identify any offences and deal with offenders.

I will give feedback in person at various meetings and in the next Sedgefield News. I hope that you, as part of this community, will endorse this initiative and help support our attempts to improve the quality of life for every resident. I look forward to meeting you. *Keith (PC Todd)*

Sedgefield News editorial team

is always delighted to be contacted by a new contributor: this month we had a promise of regular news from the Sport Development Officer at Sedgefield Community College. It must be more interesting for readers to hear a new 'voice' now and again. Why not think about making your own presence felt on these pages? It could be a letter or an article, on more or less anything, within reason! News of active and interesting groups is always welcome too.

Maybe you are reading this in Fishburn. Let's hear from you!

For inclusion in the March edition of Sedgefield News please send your news or adverts to us by February 15th

Post to 58 Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 2AQ: tel 01740 629011 (leave a message) or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Please note: opinions expressed in Sedgefield News are not necessarily those of the publisher: we strive to be impartial & independent.

Also, we reserve the right to edit contributions & will not publish letters of unknown authorship. **Please include contact details in correspondence** and, if you wish, ask to have your name/address withheld.