

Produced by volunteers for the people of Sedgefield, Bradbury, Mordon and Fishburn
Published by Sedgefield Development Trust: Company No 4312745 Charity No 1100906

Sedgefield NEWS

January 2013



Many congratulations to Alison Hodgson - Sedgefield's new Citizen of the Year

Prompting comments like "She has no fear - she just gets stuck in!" and "She's always willing to help out", Alison Hodgson is a worthy winner of Citizen of the Year award and really is an outstanding citizen.

Alison and husband Bill settled in Sedgefield as newlyweds over 41 years ago. Their son and daughter were raised here and they now have six grandchildren. As parents they were active with their children, particularly in sport - orienteering, fell walking and later, badminton - and Alison always played an active role in the community.

With history as her specialist subject (she is heavily involved in the Sedgefield Local History Group) Alison played a major part in the creation, some years ago, of the very successful Sedgefield Heritage Trail - such a help and delight to visitors. She has also been active in bringing the historical delights of Hardwick Park to the public, as a volunteer ranger, a Friend of the Park and taking every opportunity to help at archaeological digs and historical re-enactments.

As well as being an active member of St Edmund's church for many years, Alison is joint treasurer of the 'Friends of St Edmund's', helping with fundraising activities and organising trips, but since retiring from a career in teaching, her commitments have burgeoned, and certainly her energy and commitment was much called for during the last year.

An active member of the Sedgefield 700 committee, Alison helped bring the many and varied celebrations of the anniversary of the Market Charter to fruition. July 2012 also saw her become a published author, with "Sedgefield in Victorian Times", which required an immense amount of historical research.

Having completed her own family tree, Alison now does the same for others, as well as sometimes advising people on how to trace their own roots - help which is very much appreciated. Involvement with Walking and Cycling groups, the Twinning Association, the Hand Bell ringers and the WI and probably more that we don't know about, lends an air of improbable truth to Roger Clubley's comment, as he announced the name of the recipient at the Mayor's Annual Cheese and Wine evening: "We lesser souls have a mere 7 days each week. Alison has 14, or so it seems!"

The Citizen of the Year Award is given jointly by Sedgefield Development Trust, The Rotary Club of Sedgefield and Sedgefield Town Council, after assessing nominations received from the public.

Chairman of the Council's Gold Medal for 2012

A further award was presented to David Hillerby and Tim Spearey, of Sedgefield Village Veterans. County Councillor Linda Marshall, Chairman of the Council, can be seen at the bottom right of the photograph. She is a very strong supporter of the group and gave a very sincere appreciation of the Veterans' activities in recognising the service and sometimes sacrifice of British servicemen, both in the past and in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In particular she drew attention to the Veterans' parades honouring each death in the current hostilities.

Accepting the award, David Hillerby insisted that it was for the whole group, not individuals, and Tim Spearey gave an emotional account of the important part that Sedgefield Village Veterans has played, in giving meaning to his life since the death of his beloved wife.

Thanks to Geoff Hill for the photograph.



A happy, peaceful & prosperous New Year to you all!

Please send your February news to 07572 502 904 or email sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Make a coffee date!

Sedgefield Village Veterans will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall from 10am till 12noon, every FIRST FRIDAY of the month (except Sept.) from January 4th. With usual Refreshments, Tombola, Raffle & a Book Stall.

Sedgefield Village Veterans Raffle

The numbers were drawn recently in the Town Council offices.

Prizes were won by:

No.	Name	Prize
0804	F Watt	Hamper
0689	M Hall	BBQ
0175	E Judge	Carpet Voucher
0919	C Clark	Car Valet
0149	S Howells	Footbath
1058	V. A. T	Purse+£20.
0344	P Thompson	Wallett+£20.
0599	A Robinson	£15 voucher
1001	G Thompson	£20 voucher
0773	T Poole	£30.00voucher
1252	L Parrish	Blow wave voucher
0583	I Grieve	Blow wave voucher
0471	G Smith	£10 voucher
0559	P Gaines	£10 voucher
0426	P Thomsen	£20 voucher
0360	C Hewgill	Picture
0385	R Tinkler	Champagne
0080	P Fairhurst	Vodka
0357	C Hewgill	Whisky
0394	J Suggitt	Whisky
0530	K Armes	Whisky
0037	B Cobb	Sherry
0482	Elaine	Wine
0521	K Armes	Wine
0405	J Redden	Wine
0480	I Spring	Wine
0526	K Armes	Floral arrangement

Thanks to everyone for your support.

Anyone who has not received their prize, please call 01740 621343

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sedgefield News helps family history research

- a letter sent recently to SedgefieldWeb

Many thanks for going to the trouble to put your interesting newsletter on the web. I picked it up by researching the Mowbray family and was delighted to read Dulcie Claxton's memories of living there in the mid 1800's.

She referred to William Mowbray the blacksmith and one of his sons John H ... William was my Great-great-grandfather, making John H's sister Ann (known as Annie) my great-grandmother. It was a delight to read Dulcie's memories, which brought to me an insight into the life of those living in Sedgefield all that time ago. At about the age of 12 I stayed for a few days with Mowbray relatives in about 1959 ... a beautiful village no doubt changed adversely by time and "progress". Again, my thanks, *Rosslyn (Bower), Berwick upon Tweed*

All back issues of Sedgefield News, from 2003 to the present, are now available on the website -

www.sedgefieldweb

College announces free bus service

Stockton Sixth Form College has announced it will run a free return bus service for students living in the Sedgefield area from September 2013.

The college, situated in the Whitehouse Farm area of Stockton, has confirmed its free transport will be extended to cover Trimdon, Fishburn and Sedgefield due to popular demand.

Martin Clinton, Principal at Stockton Sixth Form College, said: "We are delighted to extend our bus services to cover the Sedgefield area and allow more of our students to travel to and from college safely and completely free of charge."

Further details on the confirmed bus route will be announced in due course on the college's website **www.stocktonsfsc.ac.uk**

Beanstalk

The national children's literacy charity Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) has changed its name to Beanstalk to celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

The idea behind the new identity is to clearly indicate that Beanstalk is a children's charity which provides the largest national volunteer reading scheme for primary school children in the UK. Beanstalk is also a legal name change of the charity.

"We want to get across the magic of what happens when you combine a child who is struggling with their reading with someone who has a passion for reading and has the time to provide sustained one-to-one support," says Sue Porto. "The service Beanstalk provides is more relevant than ever before - almost 71,000 children left primary school in 2012 unable to read to the required standard. They face the a lifetime of underachievement and social/economic exclusion if they don't catch up. We would encourage people to contact us to find out how they can help us achieve this by becoming a Beanstalk reading helper, supporting our work financially or working with us in their local primary school."

Website **www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk**

Christmas Party

As part of their 'wider key skills' course, five Sedgefield Community College students were asked to plan and deliver a project of their own choice. Back in Summer, the students decided that they would like to organise a Christmas celebration for older members of the community. Despite several barriers along the way they persisted and achieved their goal, as 25 guests from Homebryth House came into school for a Christmas Dinner on 5th December. There were treats and surprises all the way; raffles, presents and chocolates. The students organised the event, from costing the project to setting tables and serving. After the dinner was enjoyed by the guests, the students set about tidying up, including doing the washing up! This type of project helps break down barriers, binds communities and empowers students to do things for themselves and others, whilst giving them new experiences, skills and opportunities. The college is grateful to the Sedgefield Rotary Club for their support with the project.



New Year Bells

Happy New Year, we ring you our six,
Tower captain calling the festive mix

High up out of sight in St Edmund's tower,
No one else can see, only hear our power

For the countdown and the fireworks, ringing true,
Concentration and co-ordination only for you

Three tonnes of metal above our heads, striking into song
Could pull us through the roof if we get her wrong

So spare a thought when you hear chimes from afar,
Campanologists work hard but you'll never know who we are

The Unknown Poet

Sedgefield Primary School requires a Dinner Nanny

with effect from 7th January or as soon as possible.



You will be required to supervise the children in the hall and outside in the playground; encouraging them to eat their meal and then to play positively and imaginatively.

You will be required to be kind but firm, to communicate well with the smallest 4 yr old or the biggest 11 yr old, and to manage and mediate in any quarrels or differences.

You must be able to work with the other members of the team, helping to set up for lunch and ensuring children behave appropriately.

Hours are 11.55 – 1.10 Mon – Fri (Term-time only).

The position is open to job share on a 3/2 day basis. Please contact school (01740 620359) if you would like further information or an application pack.

Blocki's boys make it four in a row!

Despite being without team captain Mike Blocki due to a back injury (get well soon Mike), his team went on to win a closely contested Bishop Auckland Town quiz for the 4th consecutive time in December.

39 teams took part and £918 was raised for charity, which this year was the Great North Air Ambulance. Bishop Auckland Civic Society send heartfelt thanks to all the local businesses and private individuals who contributed to the Grand Raffle, to quiz master, Glynn Wales and especially to all the teams who took part to make the evening a huge success.



Blocki's Boys this year: Brian Lowes, Andrew Cannings, Chris Hancock, Tony Bland, Darren Young and John Race

Toe-tapping tunes end an excellent year for WI

At their December meeting, Sedgefield WI rounded off a great year of informative and entertaining talks and demonstrations, with an evening of music provided by Ceddesfolk.

After the ladies were piped in from the cold by band member, Steve (in full Highland regalia), the six enthusiastic and very talented musicians played an eclectic selection of instruments, and their music varied from medieval carols via Hungarian wedding dances to ragtime and tango.

The WI ladies began the evening gently tapping their toes along with the rhythm, but by the end they were energetically waving napkins in the style of Morris Dancers!

After the music, members enjoyed a delicious faith supper, and the chance to exchange ideas for the festive season.

Visitors are always welcome at Sedgefield WI, and details of our meetings can be found on the Sedgefield News diary page and on the library notice board.

Ceddesfolk, clockwise from drummer:

Lin Liddle, Geoff Walker, Sandy Clubley, Lol Crallan, Steve Liddle and Kristen Peacock.



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood and Crime Watch Panel

Chairman Ken Saiger and the Executive apologise to members for having to cancel the December festive meeting, due to unforeseen circumstances; however we wish to take this opportunity of publicly thanking all our valued members for continued support throughout 2012 and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. The first meeting of 2013 will be on Tuesday 12th February. Details next month.



Jottings for December from Residents' Forum meeting

There was no meeting in December but things have still been happening. Some residents and representation from the Forum attended the planning meeting regarding the erection of the marquee for music events at the Racecourse. Residents' concern, based on past evidence, was the possibility of ongoing noise disturbance and if the marquee was going to be given permission we wanted relevant protective conditions to apply. The marquee had been erected and events held prior to planning permission but there was no particular reprimand for the clear non-observance of planning regulations and permission was granted. The Councillors (from across the County) on the planning committee made not one single comment acknowledging residents' concerns and the words 'get a life' were even said. In our opinion this was shameful behaviour from councillors who are supposed to represent peoples' views. However, Cllr Brown (our own County Councillor) spoke well in supporting residents' concerns. Only about a dozen people attended the Town Council meeting which gave feedback on the results of the questionnaire circulated to gather the views of the village on future housing development. The Town Council, via employed consultants, have again sent in a very good and comprehensive response to the County Plan again stating that the maximum number of houses should be 300 and should be spread in small developments. We must remain very aware of housing development proposals for our village, whilst the County are still proposing 450 on land at Eden Drive other developers, in addition, are putting in planning applications for hundreds of homes. If you have open land near you watch out for information - and please do attend consultation meetings and give your views!

The next Forum meeting will be on January 7th at 7.0pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall - everyone is welcome. The Forum would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. We will look to continue to protect the character of our village, so come along and join us in 2013.

No Deputy for Police & Crime Commissioner

Durham's new Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, has vowed not to take on a Deputy PCC in his first term of public office. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, PCCs are entitled to appoint a deputy PCC. So far, 15 of Ron's 40 counterparts up and down the country have done so. However, Ron has confirmed that he will not be following this lead: "Unlike many other PCCs, I am fortunate in that I have over 30 years experience as a former police officer and know how the system operates. As far as I see it, the people of County Durham and Darlington elected me to represent their needs and having a Deputy PCC was never part of the deal."

PCC salaries have been determined nationally. However, it is up to each PCC to decide how much they pay their Deputy PCC. This has naturally sparked criticism from Police Think Tanks who believe that the substantial salaries emerging for Deputy PCCs would be better used on front-line policing.

In a statement in response to the intention to reduce the starting salary for constables by £4,000, Mr Hogg said: "I think this decision is absolutely outrageous and disgraceful and it is likely that this will impact on police recruitment in the future. Policing can be a very dangerous job, as recently seen in Manchester. Brave young people often put their own lives at risk and this is how they are treated by their country".

Ron Hogg launched his first public consultation with residents, just weeks after beginning his new role. He said: "I want to know what you think the police and crime community priorities within County Durham and Darlington should be, and what you think the increase (if any) in the police precept (police element of council tax) should be for 2013-14". He would like people to describe the three most important issues they believe the police should be tackling to improve the local area. A zero per cent increase in Council Tax will attract a 1 per cent Central Government grant worth £250,000 per year for the next two years only, whereas a 2 per cent increase would add £500,000 to the budget every year from 2013/14 onwards. Views are also sought as to whether the public would consider paying a 3 per cent increase, which would mean £750,000 per year from central government from 2013/14. Vote online at www.durham-pcc.gov.uk, by email to: enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk or by telephone on: 0191 3835511.



PC Todd

I'd like to remind people to remain vigilant for suspicious persons driving or walking around our streets. Please report vehicle registration numbers and driver descriptions to the police. This evidence is vital if we are to prosecute offenders. Recently a suspicious vehicle was driving around the Cragside area of the village. Shortly afterwards a local builder's van was stolen whilst the owner was working inside a house. The vehicle was later found abandoned in a layby. The tools and equipment from inside the vehicle are still missing. A man on a mission has returned in the dead of night to the Eden Drive area, where he removed both rear light clusters from a pick up type vehicle. Last month I reported the same male had removed the tailgate from the same vehicle. Anyone know someone with a Ford Ranger who has recently been in an accident? Call me.

Pub Watch

At the time of going to press the December meeting had not taken place. However, I can inform residents that a police operation took place in various pubs in Sedgefield using the passive drugs dog. The Black Lion, Hope Inn and Hardwick Arms were all visited. No drugs were found on any customers on this occasion. This operation may well be repeated over the Christmas/New Year period. Also, a drink drive campaign will be in force. Don't be the one caught and named in next month's Sedgefield News. You have been warned.

P.A.C.T.

A meeting was held recently at the parish hall, where members of the public were able to speak with local officers. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood police team would focus their attentions in Durham Road; in particular, the manner of driving of some motorists going through the chicanes. There have been some complaints of near miss accidents. Please slow down on approach to the chicanes and drive with consideration for other road users when passing through them. The next P.A.C.T. meeting is on Monday 7th January 2013 at 7pm in the parish hall, as part of the Residents' forum meeting. I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas/New Year holidays.

Until next time, *Keith*

Useful contact numbers

for advice & assistance

Local Police - 101

CPO Mark Pheasant, 01325 742714

Community Liaison Officer

Neil Langthorne, 01325 742755

Local Church clarifies position on housing land

I write as Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Upper Skerne. The Parish consists of five churches, St Alban's & St Mary Magdalene's in the Trimdons, St Michael's, Bishop Middleham, St Catherine's, Fishburn & St Edmund's, Sedgefield.

The land proposed for sale in the Thurlow Road / Eden Drive area is not owned by the Parish but by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance. The Board has a duty under charities legislation to make the best use of its assets to help and support the mission and ministry of the Church of England in the Diocese. Funds available from rental income or the sale of glebe land contribute towards clergy pay and housing throughout the Diocese of Durham.

At a meeting of the PCC held at St Edmund's on Monday 10th December 2012 we resolved to submit an objection to the Board concerning the proposed sale, expressing our concerns over the impact this would have in Sedgefield and on the relationship between the Church & the community.

If the land were to be sold the Parish would receive no monetary benefit from the sale & continues to be extremely grateful to all those members of the community & organisations who generously support the work of the Church throughout the Parish.

In this season of Epiphany, I pray that God's blessing will be upon each of our communities throughout the coming year.

Ken Threlfall



Paralympic champion and disability campaigner, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE joined 'livin' for the official opening of their Durhamgate headquarters.

No reprieve for Sedgefield library

The protests and petitions were all to no avail. Despite Sedgefield's status as a small town (we have a Town Council and win Britain in Bloom trophies in the small town category); and despite the fact that ours is a busier library per head of population than a number of others with longer hours, Durham County Council did not relent and our (community) Library is now down to 20 hours per week - 3 half days and 1 full day. The new opening hours are on page 11.

Author requests help

I have started to compile information for another book which will be called "Sedgefield Men at War". I will be covering the period of 1854 (Crimean) up to the War in Afghanistan 2013.

I would appreciate any information (in writing preferably) that anyone has about relatives, friends and acquaintances who took part. It will include the men with names on the War Memorial, and although I have some details, such as age, Regiment, place of death and resting place, I would appreciate any extra information you may have about them.

You can contact me at 10 Boynston Grove or call 01740 621343.

Thank you and Happy New Year to everyone. *David Hillerby*

Hardwick Park

Special Offer. Come along to the cafe throughout January and quote "Sedgefield News Special Offer" to receive a free hot drink when you spend £3. Limited to one per transaction.

What's in a name? Inventive individuals are being asked to come up with a new name for our cafe. The winner will see their idea used in the park and will also receive a 12 month parking pass for Hardwick Park worth £75. To enter, email your suggestion to hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk, stating 'café name competition' in the subject box, by Monday 11th February.

Muddy Mayhem. Registration has opened for our Muddy Mayhem event on Sunday 24 March. Join in with either the 5k or 10k race, involving extreme obstacles, lots of mud and fun. Either register as an individual or a team, fancy dress is encouraged but not compulsory. You must be over the age of 16 to take part due to the nature of the obstacles but all are welcome to come along and watch. For further information please check out our website at www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark or like us on our facebook page.

Volunteering. Hardwick Park already has an amazing group of volunteers regularly helping out in the visitor centre, assisting with school groups and events and also working out in the park with our rangers. Benefits of volunteering are: 50% café discount, car parking permit, learning new skills and making new friends. If you would like further information please give us a call on 01740 621505. We'd love to hear from you!

Sports UPDATE

with Sports Editor, **Chris LINES**

So, we reach the end of 2012, and of course we all know that the highlights were at the start and at the end, during the two darts world championships.

Only joking. It has been an incredible year of sport, both here in Sedgefield and for the whole of the UK. I've just been watching BBC Sports Personality of the Year and the show brought back so many wonderful memories, particularly of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, and of some of the events closer to home that preceded them. I'll never forget the day the Olympic Torch came to Sedgefield, signalling the start of our own Village Games and a summer of sport that I doubt will ever be surpassed. In any other year, each one of the 12 shortlisted sportspeople, could/would win the main award, but by any definition or judgement, Bradley Wiggins thoroughly deserved his prize. It was great to see Seb Coe honoured too. The last word on London 2012 has to go to him: "When the time came, we did it right."

Moving on, sport in Sedgefield doesn't stop for televised national awards events and there's a fair bit to report this month, including some annual presentations in our part of the world.

Athletics

Sedgefield Harriers held their annual dinner at the end of November and, as always, it was a special occasion which recognised all of the work done over the past year to continue the success of the club. Special guest was Allison Curbishley, BBC commentator and 400m Olympian from Teesside, who gave a fascinating fly-on-the-wall review of London 2012. Harrier Richard Fearnside presented his latest poetical offering on the club's year and then made the Time Trial presentations, with Jonna Baines winning for the men and Abie Hearmon winning for the Ladies. Gail Bell and David Greatorex were winners of the annual club Grand Prix.

The climax of the night was the presentation of the annual club awards, presented by Allison Curbishley. Volunteer of the Year is an award decided by the club committee and made to someone who is not necessarily a member but who has contributed significantly to the club in the past year. The award went to track and field coach Tim Dredge for the work he has done with juniors and also for all of the other things that he does, including supporting other coaches, organising transport to events and contributing to the club website. When the results of the voting by club members on the night were revealed, the winner of Runner of the Year was a very surprised Diane Baines who has made significant improvements in her marathon times. The winner of the Club Member of the Year award was Jane Spink, for her fantastic work setting up Sedgefield parkrun and the mini-Harriers group. The dinner was once again an excellent event and a showcase for the Harriers. The club is grateful to Caroline Hirst and Anne Gladwin for their excellent organisation.

A few days before the annual dinner, the Junior Harriers held their own event. Organised and hosted to a great extent by the young athletes themselves, the evening celebrated the fantastic progress that the juniors have made over the last 12 months. During the event, a series of awards were presented for performances and progress during the year:

Boys field: Robbie Till Girls field: Zoe Dobson and Megan Devine

Girls track: Aimee Barlow Boys track: Joseph Dredge

Girls cross country: Abie Hearmon Boys cross country: Kieran Walker

Most improved athletes (various categories): Olivia Skillbeck, Emily Robertshaw, Sam Morrison, Hannah Scarborough, Joseph Dredge, Tom Birkill, Adam Playle

Team of the Year: Quad Kids (54 children!)

Club Person of the Year: Hannah Featherstone.

Sedgefield Harriers had a strong turnout at the North East Cross Country Championships at a very muddy Summerhill in Hartlepool on 8th December. A team of eleven senior men and six senior women competed well to finish 18th and 17th in the team positions. Chris Lines took the honours for the Harriers, just pipping club mate David Greatorex by the width of his vest on the line, as they finished 78th and 79th overall. Justin Cox was third Harrier in 94th position. In the women's race, Gail Bell, who had been unwell during the week, was first for the Harriers in 42nd place overall, with Jane Spink next in 51st and Christine Hearmon third Harrier in 70th place.

In the junior races, there were standout performances from Abie Hearmon, 6th in the U17 girls, Kieran Walker, 6th in the U15 boys, Hannah Featherstone, 15th and Emily Robertshaw, 19th in the U15 girls. The U15 boys had the highest team finish for the Harriers, finishing 5th in the North East, with Sean Haycock and Robert Temperley making up the team with Kieran Walker.

The Harriers teams now move on to the Northern Championships in Liverpool on 26th January before returning to home soil (or more likely mud!) when the nationals are held in Sunderland in February.

Sedgefield Harriers will be staging their annual Open Winter Handicap on Sunday 13th January on trails around Fishburn and Bishop Middleham - contact Ean Parsons on **07771 828 568** or visit **www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk** for more information.

Football

Next month, I'll have news from St. Edmund's FC, Sedgefield's leading Sunday league team. Meanwhile, I have updates from the other two teams. NETPark FC have so far only gained four points from a possible 21 in the league, leaving the team at the foot of Division One of the Durham and District Sunday League, albeit with plenty of games in hand and a first win now in the bag.

While league form has been very up and down, NETPark are very confident that there will be no repeat of last season's relegation dogfight as performances have given the management plenty of confidence that results will improve. The team recently lost out in the quarter final of the Alan Smith Trophy in a very tight game to Premier League team Washington JFC.

To find out more about the club visit **www.sedgefield-netpark-fc.co.uk**.

During the close season, Sedgefield Social Club FC (previously The Black Lion) suffered from the loss of several key players, through retirements and relocation. The team have so far endured a roller coaster start to life in Division Two of the Durham and District Sunday league. At the time of writing, the team sit mid-table and have been knocked out of all cup competitions. However, manager Kevin Jones is upbeat about a positive end of season surge, though he admits that a prolific goal scoring centre forward would help.

Youth football

Sedgefield Youth U12s have had a great start to their league campaign and are currently sitting top of their league, winning four games and drawing one, scoring 37 goals and conceding only three in the process. They are also through to the last 16 of the Challenge Cup after a recent 6-0 victory over Normanby. Normanby, who play two leagues above Sedgefield Youth, went into that cup game unbeaten, so it was a fantastic win for the U12s.

Find out more about the club at www.sedgefield-youth-fc.co.uk.

Squash

At the mid-season break of the Durham and Cleveland Squash leagues, Sedgefield Squash Club's teams are all in very strong positions to challenge for promotion. The 1st team top Division 3 by a healthy margin, having won all of their games. Having endured the disappointment of relegation last season, they hope to bounce back to a more competitive league next season. The 2nd team, also relegated last season, are joint leaders of Division 4, having only lost one game. The 3rd team are well placed at third in Division 5, which is proving a very tight league with the exception of the bottom two clubs. The 4th team, newly created this year, have gradually climbed up to the top of Division 6.

The ladies 1st team have found their division more competitive this season, and currently lie in 3rd, although have played one game fewer than the top two clubs. The ladies 2nd team lie closer to the bottom of their division, although they have competed well in their first competitive season.

Individually, the top 10 points scorers table across all divisions contains four Sedgefield players - Stephen Rowsby, Mark Simpson, Oliver Walls, and Gary Hetherington. In the ladies, Anne Holmes is the 4th highest points scorer.

In the juniors, the club's under 11s team (Jack Stephenson, Chloe Hill, Robert Peacock and David Worthington) performed superbly in their first ever match, winning by 213 points to 171 against Norton U11s, who are always a very strong side. The under 19s put up a brave performance against Yarm, but a relatively young side lost 284 points to 236. The under 15s (Oliver Walls, George Peden, Daniel Toas and Josh Hetherington) posted a big win in their first match of the season, winning 360 points to 141 against Barnard Castle.



Left - right: Robert Peacock, Chloe Hill, David Worthington, Jack Stephenson

Sedgefield Rugby Club

January Fixtures (Kick off 14:15)

05/01/13: Sedgefield v Seghill

12/01/13: STC v Sedgefield

26/01/13: Sedgefield v Washington

Rugby Union

Recent fixtures have seen a return to winning ways for Sedgefield, with a last minute penalty kick sealing a 25-24 win away to Houghton-le-Spring, followed up with four tries and a 20-12 home victory over Jarrovians. The club's big home derby was not so successful, requiring a herculean last 10 minutes to rescue a 12-12 draw against big rivals Newton Aycliffe. The club has now reached the half way point of its season and enjoying a winter break before the campaign is renewed in the New Year.

Well, that's all for this month, and this year. I'm not sure how we can follow 2012 in sport, but I'm sure we'll find a way. If you have any sports news from Sedgefield, please send it to chrisjlines@aol.com.

For now, it's time to relax and get back to the darts...

January Events Diary

Sedgefield Social Club

Sat 5th Jan: Chris de Verne
 Sat 12th Jan: Ben Dillon
 Sat 19th Jan: Mark Thomas
 Sat 26th Jan: Kris Howe
 Sat 2nd Feb: Maggie Newman
 Cover charge of £1.50 per person
 Members & guests welcome
 Concert room available for functions
 Call 01740-620591 for bookings

Sedgefield Gardening Club

No meeting January or February
 Next meeting is AGM on March 5th

Sedgefield Village Veterans

Friday 4th January
 Coffee morning in the Parish Hall
 10am till 12noon
 Refreshments, Tombola, Raffle & Books

Sedgefield and District U3A

Friday 4th January
 2pm in the Parish Hall
 "The History and Stories of Darlington Civic Theatre" by Chris Lloyd
 Members Free, Visitors £2. For details, phone Ray Manning - 629276

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 5th January
 8 pm. All welcome

Farmers' Market

Sunday 6th January from 9.30am

Eddies@4

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

January in Hardwick Park

Sunday 6th: 2 - 4pm

Winter Lantern Parade

Make & decorate beautiful lanterns (£5 per lantern) and parade them through the park

Saturday 12th: 10am - 12noon

Art Walk: learn new art skills

£4 Adult, £10 Family inc. Free Parking
 Also see Hardwick Park article on page 5

Residents' Forum

Monday 7th January
 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

Local History Society

Monday 7th January
 7.45pm, Ceddesfeld Hall.
 Gordon Morris "Anthony Eden; some reflections on Windlestone"

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 7th January
 Carrier Bag Sale: Margaret & Dessa
 Monday 21st January
 Cycling experiences: Carol Ashton

Ladies' Club

Tuesday 8th January
 The Isle of Mull: David Rodway
 Tuesday 22nd January: Evening out

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 9th January
 7.15pm, Parish Hall
 "Song of the Tees";
 slideshow by Rev'd Robert Cooper.
 Members' comp. a fridge magnet.
 Visitors always welcome. Fee £2.50

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 10th January
 8pm in the Nag's Head

Country Market

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

Live Music Night

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club
 Friday 11th January
 Main guest : The Young 'Uns
 Also featuring : Mick & Suzie Darling,
 John Weighell and John Wrightson Band
 Admission £10, includes buffet.
 Tel 621347

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 13th & 27th January at 1pm
 Ceddesfeld Hall. Contact 01642 588197

Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

District Flower Club

Tuesday 15th January
 7.30pm. AGM in Parish Hall

Family History Group

Monday 21st January
 Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm
 "Growing up in a Durham Pit Village in the 1930s" by Allan Smart
 Visitors always welcome

Sedgefield Branch Library

New opening hours for 2013 are:
MONDAY & TUESDAY: CLOSED
WEDNESDAY: 9.30am - 12.30pm

THURSDAY: 10am - 6pm

FRIDAY: 1pm - 7pm

SATURDAY: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Library Activities

In association with Age UK;
Using computers for everyday life:
 Thursdays, 10:30am - 12:15pm
 Drop in and drop out learning for the over 50s and carers. Please book your session with the library staff.
Craft Club: 10am-12pm
 Thursdays 3rd, 17th, & 31st
Book Circle TBC
 The new telephone number is
0300 269 521 and the email address:
sedgefield.lib@durham.gov.uk

This page is free to non-commercial organisations

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

Sedgefield Playgroup

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

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

Craft Club

Swinhoe Room, Ceddesfeld Hall
 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7.30 - 10pm
 Further details call Jean, 620656

CAB Advice Session

Advice & Information Centre
 10am-1pm, Wednesday 9th January and every 2 weeks thereafter.

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

YOUR Letters

Racecourse responds

In response to the complaint letters received I would like to take this opportunity to point out the fundamental benefits of having such a thriving business on the edge of this village.

Sedgefield Racecourse has been a limited company since 1927 and is a major player in local community engagement, employing local staff, promoting Sedgefield as a place to visit, encouraging use of village facilities, hotels and shops to travelling clients whilst also generating further employee opportunities due to the increased events held.

There have been several events hosted which have raised funds for the local community and there is constant school engagement through the British Horseracing Education Standards Trust creating an insight into racing to encourage local children to understand the prospects of a future career within the racing industry.

The racecourse is restricted by conditions on the Premise Licence which are always adhered to and we will continue to work with the authorities and with the residents to ensure this continues. There is no intention to disturb local residents and to accommodate this we always advertise locally to ensure residents know exactly what the racecourse intends to do in the future.

The Noise Management policy in place ensures levels are satisfactory and all events are finished outdoors by 11pm. The noise levels from the events so far are much lower than the restricted allowances in the noise sensitive areas and we would like your continued support when noise monitoring is in progress.

The village should be so proud of the growth in business which enables people to spend their disposable income locally, ensuring the village remains a prosperous place to live and work in.

Jill Williamson, General Manager, Sedgefield Racecourse

One more letter appears on page 5

Sedgefield Development Trust

Company Secretary: 7 Melgrove Way
Sedgefield, TS21 2JN Email
sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk
www.sedgefieldweb email John
Fitzpatrick@sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

DIDO: 07899 022 133; Hare Hills Lodge,
Sedgefield, TS21 2EG

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

Harriers reply to Sedgefield Xtra

After recent letters in these columns we decided to rest our case and protect the public of Sedgefield from further details of our quest for an athletics track, for now at least. However, I feel it is necessary to reply to the article published by the Town Council in their own newsletter Sedgefield Xtra, if nothing else in order to reassure our members and club stakeholders of our position. Following a 'lively' meeting with the Town Council it was evident that council priorities differed from our own and we took a view that we would gain ground more quickly by pursuing our project using our own contacts and resources. This would also avoid exacerbating a (sadly) already inflamed situation and we took the course of sending a polite letter to thank the Town Council for assistance to this point and advising that we would take our own course at this time, while requesting that the door be kept ajar.

The article in Sedgefield Xtra is disingenuous, implying that our project has been offered unequivocal support that we chose to decline. The Town Council has failed to get behind this very worthwhile project for a significant piece of community infrastructure which would benefit the wider community, including young people and disability groups, as well as a nationally successful sports club. It is in fact the type of infrastructure that is essential to support the population of an ever-growing Sedgefield with a further 450 new houses proposed in the near future.

Sadly, far from the sentiment of the article in Sedgefield Xtra, at the meeting to which I refer, the passive ambivalence of the Town Council manifested itself on the part of some members as active opposition to our project. In the interests of good governance in local government, it would be best for these councillors to declare their interest and take no part in any decisions to be made on the allocation of funds and resources to projects that they are directly involved in, or any other over which there is a conflict of interest. This will help to maintain a level playing field for all.

Ean Parsons, Chair, Sedgefield Harriers

In Praise of the Bluesmen

May I be permitted to write a letter praising my husband, Garry and the other lads, Eric, John, Matt, Carl and Rob (I shall call them the bluesmen) for bringing such high quality blues music to Sedgefield. I know I am writing on behalf of the many happy, smiling faces I saw leaving Sedgefield Parish Hall on two evenings in November, having seen Buddy Whittington - they all knew they had witnessed an amazing man with his guitar. Someone said to me at the time 'I cannot believe that I am actually dancing in Sedgefield village to the legendary Buddy Whittington'. Another said that it was the best blues concert he had been to since seeing Buddy Guy in Chicago in 2001!

I cannot stress strongly enough just how great Buddy Whittington was; visit him on You Tube and you can see him on stage that night in our very own Parish Hall. Another international performer, Marcus Malone has said that in his opinion, Sedgefield Blues club is the best little blues venue in the UK!

I feel the need to write because all too often, people feel the need to write and complain about the use of the Parish Hall. The facilities there are second to none. The atmosphere that the bluesmen create, with great seating, tablecloths, candles etc is amazing, plus lighting effects and a fantastic sound system which puts so many professional venues to shame - all go together to make a night to remember. Everyone is very conscious of noise pollution and upsetting folks, and does their utmost to keep external noise to a minimum, but the fact is the hall is there to be used for public events. Some extraneous noise cannot be avoided.

There have been many letters in this paper regarding noise problems in Sedgefield, and I would just ask the complainers to consider that often it is just people who are out and about enjoying themselves and enjoying their community activities - people who prefer not to sit at home and watch television, but get out and take advantage of the wonderful activities which are on their doorstep - not just the Blues club, but Sedgefield Players, the Lyrics, the church, sports clubs and the pubs, hotels and restaurants, to name but few. Let us be thankful that there are still people who are prepared to put in a lot of work to continue to make these activities happen and to bring live entertainment and enjoyment within the reach of our community. Perhaps the dissenters should consider coming out of their houses and joining in. They may be pleasantly surprised!

Viv Jacobs

DEADLINE for FEBRUARY NEWS: 15th January

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

or write 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 your contact details with correspondence.

**Sedgefield News is published by Sedgefield Development Trust
and printed by The Print Factory, tel: 01429 264777**