



# Sedgefield NEWS

## March 2010

### Topically Tropical

Staff and children at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School had a wild time when they enjoyed a collapsed curriculum week based on the theme of jungles. Classrooms were transformed, bush hats worn and every subject linked to this theme, which provided a wealth of learning opportunities.

Everyone enjoyed a production of *Jungle Book* by Image Musical Theatre Company, which began with a workshop to learn songs for the show, based on an adaptation of Kipling's story, rather than the Disney version.



The actors selected volunteers who dressed up and were coached for their roles. Everyone agreed it was a fantastic afternoon!

The whole, wild week culminated in a celebration of the work done by each class. The children presented rainforest music that they had created, enacted jungle scenes, showed their art work, which included very imaginative jungle hats and read stories based on Kipling's 'Just So' stories.

Typically, the children were very enthusiastic about the week and brought in toys, clothing and other items related to the theme. It was a really wonderful way to finish the half term!

### Great offer for young drivers at Fire Station

Crew Managers at Sedgefield Fire and Rescue tell us that they have just started running a road traffic programme aimed at all drivers aged from 17 years upwards. This monthly programme is being run by the crew at Sedgefield station and they are looking for groups or individuals who would be interested in taking part and perhaps learning a thing or two about some of the perils of driving and how to avoid them.

The programme is a 2 hour presentation, which includes a real life extrication of two of the group by the fire service from a crash damaged car. It is an educational programme which uses graphic images to get a message across, so all participants must be over 16 years old.

To book a place on one of the programmes contact K. Ashton or A. Thompson at Sedgefield fire station on 01740 622536, on a Tuesday night between 6 and 8 pm, or pop in and see them between these times and they will be glad to help.

### Hats for Haiti!

Students and teachers at Sedgefield Community College donned their craziest and most colourful hats early in February to raise money to support relief and aid in Haiti. As part of their curriculum, students learn how to organise a variety of events which can help bring positive change to communities and support others.

The College has declared this academic year to be their 'Charity Year'. Since January, students have already raised over £1000 by participating in charity events including sponsoring the Head teacher, Mr Dave Davies, to dress up as Santa Claus and cheering on the College's rock bands, 'Anywhere But Here' and 'Feiron'.

To date students have chosen to support the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Research Trust and Support Our Soldiers as well as the Haiti relief fund. As a Specialist College for Sport, preparations are now underway to "go for gold" in the forthcoming Sports Relief event this March.



See page 2 for news of Sedgefield's

**Blues & Rock scene**

## DIDO - Days In Days Out

DIDO members had a real treat at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February when they enjoyed a taster session of African Food presented by Nobia. Born in Ghana, Nobia came to the area over 17 years ago with her two boys, and settled in Norton to train as a nurse, but her real ambition is to develop her own business in catering for dinner parties and all kinds of celebrations. We expected a small sample of her cooking but as you can see, we had enough to feed an army; a selection of chicken cooked in various spices, mackerel & spinach, fried rice with prawns, and several other dishes, all delicious and different. You can get in touch with her by telephone on 07742482879. On another note DIDO has once again been supported by Christ's Hospital in Sherburn with a grant of £500, and our own County Councillor David Brown has contributed £500, enabling us to continue for another year with this excellent project. Our sincere thanks to them.



## Active Alfie and a Basketball Bonanza

*Both village primary schools are now benefiting from Sedgefield Schools Sports Partnership.*

**Sedgefield Primary** is one of the lucky schools involved in a new project targeting pupils in Reception, from the Sedgefield School Sports Partnership. The initiative provides Start to Play equipment and story books, Active Play cards, a British Heart Foundation participation Award pack and a polo shirt, fleece and rain jacket! The aim of the project is for each pupil in reception to be encouraged to take part in an extra hour of physical activity every week for 30 weeks.

The Active Lifestyles coaches were given training on 21st January. During this they had to pretend to be 4 years old and sit on the floor in the 'story corner'! During the story they had to hop, skip, jump and slide their way around the room – which led to lots of smiles and a few red faces. Each school receives an Active Alfie Bear, Alfie and me passports, and 20 home bags each containing an activity card and equipment for pupils to practice with their parents.

Sedgefield SSP, in partnership with Durham Wildcats, is running a series of basketball festivals for Primary Schools. 27 Schools and approximately 220 young people have taken part. Prior to the festivals the schools received coaching from Durham Wildcat coaches.

**Sedgefield Hardwick** is among the schools qualifying for the Partnership Final on Monday 1st March 9.30am-12 at Ferryhill Leisure Centre.

A report from each cluster event is available at [www.durhamwildcats.co.uk](http://www.durhamwildcats.co.uk) in the community/schools section. The winner of the partnership final will represent Sedgefield School Sport Partnership in the County Durham Final.

## Sedgefield Library celebrates World Book Day

on **Thursday 4th March** with refreshments, tombola/raffle, quiz and children's crafts.

**All proceeds will go to charity so do call in and have some fun!**



## Got the blues for the Blues?

Well the time is finally right for Sedgefield's Blues Night! After years of procrastination (4 to be exact) and many discussions over beer and lager, Gary Jacobs and I decided we were tired of having to drive or taxi to Middlesbrough or Newcastle rather than walk into our own village to see some high quality blues bands. We both felt the support for the music was here and in Fishburn and Trimdon, we just needed to get the bands in. So in conjunction with the Round Table we've started the Sedgefield Rock and Blues Club at the Parish Hall. We're planning on shows every three months with the first on Saturday April 3rd.

In an effort to impress, we were able to book the Lyndon Anderson band, which features one of the UK's best harp players and another group, Sam Sullivan, featuring amazing guitar, keyboards and saxophone.

For every one of the Blues nights, half of the proceeds will go to the Round Table for distribution to local

people and charities, with the other half going towards a) building a kitty to pay bands in advance or, if we know that the evenings will sell out, b) thanking those who attend with an all day gig in the summer.

If we know that the shows will sell-out then we can book the best bands we can afford and only bring top talent to the Club. We've already booked Chantel McGregor for October and will be looking for a show in July as well.

Information can be found on our website, [www.sedgefieldblues.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldblues.co.uk) or by calling 07861897652 or 07931448469 and tickets will always be available through the Sedgefield Post Office.

Hope to see you there! *Eric Hemmings*



## and more music from "Headrush"

is a new 2-piece acoustic based band featuring Tim Lowe from local band 101, right, and singer Laura Wilkinson, left, who you may know from recent occasional appearances with 101.

Tim points out that it is not the end of 101 but a side project to run alongside it.

Headrush have their local debut at The Black Lion on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm, and they would love your support. "A few friendly faces in the crowd will settle our nerves on our local debut."

Music from bands such as Texas, Beautiful South, K T Tunstall and many others will be on offer.

101 also have their usual Sunday night at The Black Lion on March 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Joan's trip to India

*As promised, Joan Seymour has sent this report on her recent visit to Rajasthan*

I-CONNECT Friendship in India gave me the opportunity to further my ambition to use my nursing skills in an area of great need. Firstly this involved me returning to work in order to save up for my flight, accommodation and spending money. Thank you to all who helped me raise money for the charity by attending the events I arranged: coffee mornings, tie sale and evening of music at the Cricket Club with Joan Edmundson, the John Wrightson Band and friends. My husband and family had to be convinced that this was a dream I was determined to accomplish. Those who know me know that, when I make my mind up, very little will stand in my way. Of course, I was excited and scared by the prospect of my adventure. The trip was a very humbling experience. The folk I met were friendly and had a contentment about them sometimes missing in our society.

Whilst in India we set up our medical camps in villages where they had little or no medical care. Malnutrition is an ongoing problem and, unless witnessed at first hand, it is hard to imagine. The complications of malnutrition were treated with multi-vitamins and

children were wormed. Head lice, impetigo, ringworm, dry skin conditions and infected insect bites were most frequently seen. Of course there were cases of TB and undiagnosed HIV, particularly distressing to see in children. Sadly, our ability to support was limited; through interpreters the TB victims were advised to go to hospital. This is not an easy option because, whilst in hospital, the family must feed and look after their sick relative. The people associate hospital with death, of course advanced TB is a killer disease.

For a brief time we were able to offer some relief of symptoms. Also we were a source of great entertainment (no, I didn't sing) - these odd looking foreigners tending the sick and needy.

There was no evidence of toys or books yet the children and adults waited patiently to be seen, often for hours, without complaint. At the end of the day we gave out one balloon and sweet to the children. Their beaming smile and delight will stay with me for a long time.

Where do I go from here? My support will continue if I can help a child gain a good education so as not to be condemned to a life of hunger and hardship. I am very happy to be reunited with my family and friends. As a healthy OAP I feel rich and very fortunate indeed!

# Community SAFETY



## Details from the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting held on Tuesday 9th of Feb. in the Parish Hall

Matters Arising from the Dec. meeting - 2.1 Alcohol Ban in Public Places (Sedgefield Village): - Chair of Res. Forum Julia Bowles informed the meeting that the Res. Forum had been advised by PC Todd that the Pub Watch Group does not operate in a formal way - there are no minutes or notes taken, they are really focussed on looking at their own pub issues. This was by way of an explanation as to why there had been no reply to the Forum's letter (to Pub Watch Group) about restricting alcohol in the streets. Julia also pointed out that there was a difference in the views of what a ban of drinking alcohol (in public places) in Sedgefield should mean, between the Res. Forum & the N/H/Watch Panel. Chair Ken Saiger stated that the Panel's Exec. had met and agreed formally that the only practical arrangement should be to exclude consumption of alcohol in all public areas except those already covered by a (Premises) Licence, with exceptions being allowed on specific events (e.g. Medieval Fayre etc.). He concluded by indicating that this matter was now considered closed from ongoing N/H/Watch business and wished Julia & the Res. Forum good luck in their endeavours to persuade our Town Council, local Police and the Publicans to agree to their proposals, much needed by residents.

4. Representative Reports: 4a) Community Force: Tim Spearey circulated his report and discussed in some detail the issues of disputes and inconsiderate behaviour in Cross Street, Spring Lane and Front Street referred to in his report. Tim's other report held back for Agenda Item 5.

4b) Crime Prevention Officer: Keith Lownds informed the meeting that crime in the village continues to be very low and that year on year all crime for our area is actually down by 4%, in particular burglary is very low. Keith indicated that Operation DARC (keeping a light on / making the property appear occupied) appears to have been successful across the borough this year.

4c) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Neil Langthorne gave details of the new *Voice Connect* system which is now operational, but the e-mail capability for ring round type messages is not yet available due to a Police procedural requirement that needs resolution. The *Confidential Reporting Number* for our area to allow anyone to ring in and leave details of any matter of concern / observation / intelligence for which they do not want any response back to themselves is now available. The Confidential Reporting No. is: - 01325 742297. *Business Watch*, Neil informed members that all bar one company is signed up in Sedgefield.

### 5 Dog Fouling & Littering:

5.1 C/man Ken Saiger received Tim's report covering the period 07-29/01/2010 recording 5 reports of littering and 6 of Dog Fouling. Residents' (specific) complaints from the last Panel meeting had been dealt with eventually. However they had needed further complaints & requests to Tim (and his immediate manager) despite Tim having actioned them immediately following that Dec. meeting. Members felt this was most unsatisfactory but were very appreciative of Tim's efforts. Everyone at the meeting felt very strongly that the state of the village at present is quite disgusting and this is predominantly from dog fouling. This "state" has also been reported to the Town Council. C/man pointed out that when Tim was appointed to our village "the deal" when we obtained an office and a phone for him was that Tim would spend 75% of his time in Sedgefield itself; and yet again it is obvious that this is simply not happening. Tim was asked directly what is his allocated time for Sedgefield itself, he advised that it is one day in four i.e. 25% of his time. Secretary was actioned to write formally to Durham Council, expressing residents' anger over lack of service, adequate action following Tim's reporting, not honouring "no detriment" promise (made on Unitary authority changeover) and to request that Tim be allowed to spend at least 75% of duty in the village to tackle this serious problem once & for all. Tim was asked how many fines were issued in Sedgefield since last meeting - there were none, but he had issued 2 fines in Aycliffe. Tim did point out that there is a staff shortage & recruitment is to take place; however when asked he could not confirm whether overall numbers would be more, less or the same as before the organisation changeover. Despite whole sale dissatisfaction with this continued problem, members were at pains to let Tim know that they really do value his commitment and efforts for the village in the time that he is present.

5.2 Community College - Lunch Problems This was discussed again, Tim informing members he has talked with the College's responsible officer and it is accepted the problems still exist. Tim hopes to be issued with a "head-cam" which will be used by the school to finally identify the pupils who are causing the problems / nuisance. Members are appreciative but simply believe this will not happen for as already observed, Tim is simply not around enough hours in the village to sort this **and** the dog fouling problem.

PC Todd confirmed that teachers are in fact "out of school on a lunch time & around the village"; in a car to try and resolve this ongoing problem.

6. A.O.B. Julia Bowles who is one of the village representatives on "our" Area Action Partnership gave an update on their activities, for which the C/man thanked her.

Meeting Closed (next meeting 13/04/10) & PACT opened

## Operation Hatton 2010 Test Purchase

Ten off licensed premises were tested in an undercover operation on Friday evening, 12th February 2010. The operation involved a 14 and a 15 year old teenager, who with parental permission, visited off licensed premises in Sedgefield, Bradbury, Fishburn, Trimdon Village Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Colliery to see if they were able to purchase alcohol. This joint operation between Durham Police and Durham County Trading Standards Officers has been coordinated through the Safe Durham Partnership. The partnership is committed to promoting multi-agency working in tackling issues around the mis-selling or misuse of alcohol. As a result of the Police operation, only one premises failed, which was Bradbury Service Station in Bradbury. An £80 Fixed Penalty ticket was issued to a staff member Premises successfully challenging test purchasers were:

**Trimdons:** Sanders (Jacks), Church Rd, Trimdon Village; CO-OP, Church Road, Trimdon Village; Sue's, Redesdale Court, Trimdon Grange; Jordan's, Commercial St, Trimdon Colliery.

**Fishburn:** CO-OP, Butterwick Road; Sanders (Billy's), Walden Terrace.

**Sedgefield:** Theakstons - Front St; Sainsbury's, Whitehouse Drive; CO-OP, High St.

*Sergeant 919 Brian O'Connor, Sedgefield Neighbourhood Police Team:* "Overall the operation was a resounding success. It confirms the good work being undertaken by the licensees in the areas licensed premises. Many premises visited, operated a robust challenging policy. One of the aims of the operation was also to reinforce the need for constant vigilance. Anti-social behaviour is often fuelled by alcohol, and it is important that as well as carrying out high visibility Police patrols in the area, we target the source in which the alcohol is being purchased from. We will continue Operations like this over the next few months in order to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area."

If you would like to discuss the recent operation or any other issues in the Sedgefield Fishburn and Trimdon area, you are invited to attend your local PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting. For more information please visit [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)



## Jottings from Sedgefield Residents' Forum February meeting

There was not the anticipated presentation regarding any planned repairs to village pavements, we will try to have information for the meeting in March. Replies are also awaited regarding information on the circa £47,000 which was allocated to the area as a result of the Cunningham Court development and the ongoing attempts to get clarification on planning issues. Again it is hoped to have updates for the March meeting.

It was very encouraging to hear from PC Todd that there had been very little crime in the village, hopefully that will continue. PC Todd welcomed the installation of the Youth Shelter in front of the Town Council office, those at the Forum hoped it would solve some of the anti-social behaviour problems experienced in other parts of the village and would reserve judgement until use of the shelter had been monitored for some months. However, it was highlighted that the shelter had been placed in the conservation area without any visible community consultation, and questions were asked as to why residents in the conservation area had such great problems with planning issues yet such structures as a Youth Shelter could just go ahead. Appreciation was given to the decision not to establish an entrance to East Park from Matfen Court, such an entrance had the potential to cause residents in that area considerable problems.

The Forum's representative on several health related panels gave a comprehensive update on Durham Link Health News and proposals for future health care in the area – things which are very relevant to our community. Discussion took place on the draft Town Plan being formulated by the Town Council (TC) and Sedgefield Together. The draft plan could be read on the TC web site and comments needed to be in by Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Plan will then be launched at the next Together Forum meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. General comments from the Residents' meeting were that the Plan needed really strong statements on the needs and wishes of the resident community about future development and protection of our surrounding countryside.

As always the minutes of the meeting will be available in the Library and TC office at least one week before the next meeting which will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall, all are welcome. And of course any resident can register to receive email information on Residents' Forum and other issues by contacting Jane Young on [jane@sedgefield.net](mailto:jane@sedgefield.net)

## Snapshots of Sedgefield

Our fame is spreading! Dennis Ferguson, now living in Somerset, sent this photo of Sedgefield County Mixed School, taken in the early 50s.

On the back row, he can identify himself (2nd left) then 5th-7th left, David Swinbank, David(?) Allen, David Atkinson & Kenny Moyle.

In the middle row, he remembers Terry Canmore (9th left) & Jimmy(?) Gilliland (12th left).

On the front row, Jean Hall is 9th left. Dennis wonders if our readers can fill in the many blanks. Is the teacher Margaret Bell?

I am grateful to Irene Webb, who tells me that in last month's photograph of the ball game, the gentleman in front with the trilby is her grandfather, Herbert Waite, who worked at Winterton as a shoemaker and used to make the ball. Irene lived with her grandfather in Spring Lane and always used to get first kick of the ball. Herbert later married a lady connected with Alderson's garage and moved to Norton. Steven Raw picked out his father Stan, right at the back, behind Mr Waite and wearing a flat cap. Stan later farmed at Lizard's Farm, before handing it on to Steven. Just along from Stan at the top of the photo, another young lad in a cap was called Shand or Shann.

Joan Davison was able to supply a lot more names, although she doesn't specify where they are on the photo. Mr T. Spence, Eric Hutchinson, Peter Hoggett, Billy & Mary Stelling, John & Veronica Needham,



Mona & Arthur Catterson, Colin Grant, Tom West, Norma Quinn, Ronnie Murray, Ronnie Blakey, Harry Bexley, Jean Stubbs, Sheila Dargue, Edith Patton, Rosemary Hart, Gordon ?, Enid Corner and Mary Robson. Joan is there too and she tells us the lad bending down to the bull ring is Cyril Edwards, soldier grandson of Mrs Agnes Ward, also pictured. Perhaps he was home on leave. The large number of children rather than men suggest this was taken during the war years.

If you have any more information about either snapshot, please call me on 01740 **620091** or (better still) email [norma@neal.myzen.co.uk](mailto:norma@neal.myzen.co.uk). Sedgefield Local History Society would be very grateful for the loan or donation of interesting local snapshots or postcards to add to their increasing archive. Please contact me if you have anything to offer.

## PC Todd reports

This month I would like to remind vehicle owners to secure their vehicles at all times. Recently property was stolen in the early hours by unknown persons who had been checking car doors. They were lucky this time as two vehicles were unlocked. A wallet containing, cash and cards, was taken from one vehicle while the other had its Sat Nav stolen. Other crimes reported include copper wire stolen from the industrial estate, number plates stolen in The Lane and damage caused to a window in West End. Until next time – Keith.

### PACT

The February PACT meeting was held immediately after the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. Priorities identified for the Beat Team to monitor and take action include Anti-social Behaviour in the Church grounds and parking/dog fouling outside Hardwick Primary School.

### Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in the Nag's Head. Two incidents required further action by licensees. Two persons received 6 month bans for causing damage and in another incident, two received warning letters for aggressive behaviour inside a member premises.

# SPORTS UPDATE

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

Last month, I confidently predicted that the weather would improve and I'd have plenty more news from our Sunday league football teams. I do have a short update, but winter has continued to reign and play havoc with the local sporting calendar. In fact, I believe that Sedgefield is putting together a proposal for the International Olympic Committee, with a view to hosting the Winter Olympics in 2018. If the bid is successful, the event could be the start of a great double, as England's campaign to bring the FIFA World Cup to these shores is really starting to gather momentum.

## Sedgefield Harriers

Ben Hetherington continued making strides of improvement with an excellent 14<sup>th</sup> place in the U15 boys for Sedgefield Harriers at the Northern Athletics Cross Country Championships in Blackburn at the end of January. Ben finished in 14 minutes and 1 second in a field of over 200 runners from clubs all over the north of England. The Harriers had a strong junior representation at the championships. Also in the U15 boys, promising runner Jack Snowden finished 100<sup>th</sup> in 15:35, Seb Reichel 153<sup>rd</sup> in 16:27 and Sam Hearmon 198<sup>th</sup> in 18:14. The U15 boys team was 19<sup>th</sup> overall.

In the U13 girls, three athletes made their cross-country championships debuts; Ellie Gaines finished 196<sup>th</sup> in 15:57, Megan Hetherington 202<sup>nd</sup> in 16:23 and Emily Robertshaw 210<sup>th</sup> in 18:16. In the U15 Girls, Sam Hearmon ran an excellent race picking up places in the latter stages to finish strongly in 107<sup>th</sup> in 18:43. In the U13 boys, Rory Varley (despite losing his shoe in the mud!) finished 173<sup>rd</sup> in 14:33, Josh Hetherington 179<sup>th</sup> in 15:15 and

George Peden 180<sup>th</sup> in 15:20. In the U17 boys, Jonathan Baines, who had been unwell, unfortunately had to retire after one lap.

This was another good day for the Harriers, demonstrating the steady progress of the junior section. For a lot of the juniors competing, the day was about gaining experience and building confidence for improving on positions in future races. They will now go on to race in the National Cross Country Championships in Leeds on 27<sup>th</sup> February. With the breadth and depth of the junior section and experience gained, the Harriers are hopeful of top three placings in championships within a few years. Three seniors also competed over the tough course in Blackburn; Gary Hetherington, Ean Parsons and Peter Carden. Meanwhile, Jonathan Baines and Ben Hetherington have gone on to run well in the Durham Schools cross country championships and were picked to represent Durham Schools in an inter-counties match. As a result, Jonathan Baines has been selected to represent Durham Schools in the National Schools Championships in Manchester on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. Both Jonathan and Ben are pupils at the Community College. The Harriers have been represented at a number of road and trail races recently, including the York Brass Monkey Half Marathon, The Loftus Poultry Run (which had to be rescheduled due to snow) and the Anne Johnson Absent Friends race in Billingham. A number of members have also been racing in the North York Moors Winter Fell race series. For some runners training is now well under way for the London Marathon.

Congratulations to Kerryanne Everrett who has just completed a Running Leaders Course to become a level 1 coach. The club now has eleven qualified coaches working with juniors and seniors of all abilities. Finally, there's news of some great publicity for the Harriers. Junior Jonathan Baines has been selected by Athletics Weekly to be their Athlete of the Month for February and will have a full page feature in the publication read by athletes and coaches throughout the country. For more information about the Harriers and senior and junior sessions contact Ean Parsons on [ean2005@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ean2005@hotmail.co.uk).

## Boxing

Sedgefield boxer Bradley Saunders has turned his focus on the London 2012 Olympic Games. After his experiences in Beijing, Bradley took

the decision to remain in the amateur ranks, which means that he is still eligible to compete in the Olympics. He has won all of his 14 bouts since Beijing, but has also had to deal with an injury setback, after breaking his left thumb during a training camp in Milan last year. Bradley's main goal for 2010 is to bring home a gold medal from the European Championships; that would represent an important stepping stone as he once again starts the long build up to an Olympics year.

## Football

Like all the local football clubs, St. Edmund's have suffered badly thanks to the weather, so far playing only three times this year. One of these games saw the team secure a great result in the Heart Foundation Cup with a 4-3 win against Bishop Auckland Sausage to gain a semi final place. Steve Flockett's hat trick lit up the match. On the down side, a heavy 5-1 defeat by Hardwick Social in the last 16 of the County Cup was disappointing. It looks like being a frantic last third of the season with so many games left to play. Sedgefield NetPark FC have had even less match time recently, having played only twice since 13<sup>th</sup> December. The most recent match was a tie in the Deerness Driveways Cup, which saw the team from Sedgefield trounce Franwellgate Salutation 10-1. NetPark FC have now qualified for two cup quarter finals and are handily placed in the top five of the league with games in hand on all of the teams above them. It's going to be an extremely busy second half of the season, with a huge backlog of games, but the team is playing well and full of confidence.

Much of NetPark's recent success can be attributed to the stewardship of manager Craig Provett. Craig manages from afar during the week, as he's based in Nottingham. However, every Sunday he makes the trip to the North East to take charge of the team, which surely has to be the longest 'commute' for a Sunday league manager! News has just filtered through that Craig has reluctantly taken the decision to step down from his role. More on this, and future arrangements for NetPark FC, in the next issue. For the moment, everyone at the club would like to express their huge gratitude to Craig for the contribution that he has made off, and (very) occasionally on, the pitch.

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

## Squashathon for Sport Relief

Sedgefield Squash Club will support Sport Relief this year by holding a Squashathon on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March** at the club to raise money and to encourage participation from members, non-members and non-squash players alike. There will be **short competitions** for adult and junior club members - *nominal entry fee*. "**Squashletics**" will be held for old and young alike in the afternoon, plus a number of fun events that may well involve a racket and ball somewhere! Bring your trainers - *nominal entry fee*. A **Quiz night and auction** will take place (venue to be confirmed) in the evening. *£2.50/person. Maximum 5 per team. All welcome*. We only have 2 aims: to raise money for charity and to have a good time doing so!

Please come and support us, maybe even join in!

More details on [www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk](http://www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk)

## Rugby; special report

*Paul Wilkinson is a player with Sedgefield District RUFC, a fledgling club still in its infancy. With the Six Nations here and everybody watching and talking about Rugby, he brings us this report on new Coach Mr Ted Wood, a great man of rugby and the very same man who won the Local Hero Award last year. There's information too about your local Rugby Team.*

For 30 years Ted Wood has been synonymous with Durham University rugby. During that time a stream of talented players, such as Will Carling, Phil de Glanville, Will Greenwood and Charlie Hodgson, passed through the portals of the Racecourse Ground. Wood's decision to step down at the age of 71 represents the end of an era.

So many owe him a huge debt. Greenwood described his contribution as "immeasurable" while Falcons England fly-half David Walder said: "He's a legend. He's given me and the professionals the chance to make it."

Born in Barnsley, Wood was educated at Queen Elizabeth School, Wakefield, a rugby school where he got his first taste of the game that was to be his life. He played for the Army, Barnsley (aged 14), Wakefield, Sheffield and Blackheath, and taught at Tunbridge Wells. He said: "It didn't really fit a boy from Barnsley, I was not really equipped to teach in Tunbridge Wells, it was something of a culture clash." Whilst at Tunbridge Wells Wood played for Blackheath, at the time the biggest club in the country. But he was eventually attracted to Durham and appointed Academic Bursar at Hatfield College in 1974 with a role in the School of Education. Wood fondly describes Hatfield as "a very, very special college." In the 1974 UAU final, 14 of the Durham University team that played Loughborough were from Hatfield and the 15th from St Hild and St Bede.

Durham won the UAU (now the BUSA) title in 1965 and 1969, played in the final in 1973 and 1974 and after a 12 years of near misses, won four titles in five years. It was a time when county and international selectors haunted the Racecourse Ground. "People comment on the fact that I have never been paid," said Wood. "Well, you can't measure everything by money. I'm a lot richer than most people for that. There are people coaching in clubs who hate it, but it is their livelihoods, and that must be a terrible scenario."

Although player development has always been his credo, Wood has had his successes with Durham, with the North of England when they beat Australia at Otley and with the North in the Divisional Championship, England Students and Durham County. "Rugby was strong long before I came to Durham" he added. "Players get tired of the same guy doing the same things and I'm delighted to see Howie Nicholson and Phil Harvey in charge now - they know what they are doing."

Ted is now Coach at Sedgefield District Rugby Union Football Club. In his short time at Sedgefield, training numbers have doubled, new players come every week. We have gone from struggling to turn a team out to full squad training sessions. We now have substitutes every Saturday, which is a huge bonus and the envy of a lot of clubs in the league. We are now the Team to beat in the league. Although we will not get promoted this season as Ted joined a quarter of the way through, we will be hunting for promotion next season. The club has turned a corner and is heading in a new direction.

**We train every Wednesday at Sedgefield College from 7.30, play at the School every other Saturday and have a Website and Facebook account. Sedgefield District RUFC is on the up, thanks to Ted.**



## New Playgroup leaders

Sedgefield playgroup has been running for over 30 years now, and recently, Margaret Glass handed over the reins to new managers Rachel McLean and Elizabeth Scurr, both highly qualified in child care and education. They are excited about the prospect of opening the new secure outdoor area once they receive funding.

Sedgefield playgroup prides itself on upholding its long held aim of allowing children to develop in a safe and secure environment where they can learn at their own pace through play. Spaces available. Telephone 621071 or 620572

## Farmers' Market

On Valentines' Sunday, 14th February, Farmers' Market traders were delighted to see a return to normal trading and very much appreciated residents' support. Newcomer Brackenhill Fine Foods was very well received, following the close of Pickled Pink preserves. Look out for another newcomer in Spring when Bluebell organic vegetables make an appearance. Your support will be valued on April 11th when Sedgefield in Bloom Group have a stall to promote their entry in the national "Britain in Bloom" competition. All proceeds raised on the day will be used to improve and increase planting areas in the village. Anyone interested in helping the group please contact Angela on 621273.

## Sedgefield Community Hospital Cancer support

**A new Cancer Information and Support Service has opened in the hospital foyer, next to Outpatients Department, on Wednesdays from 1pm - 4pm.**

Good quality, supported information can make a huge difference to people who have or have had cancer, and their families. These new sessions aim to extend the existing service to reach more people in the Sedgefield area.

Anyone can call in to speak to the team, and the service is confidential; you don't need to be referred and you don't need to be attending the hospital to make use of us. It is available to all people affected or worried by cancer, and offers advice and information on coping and living with cancer, prevention and screening. There's emotional support and a 'listening ear'.

Staff and experienced, trained volunteers are on hand to listen to your questions and help find and understand the information you need, and a Durham County Council Macmillan welfare rights advisor will answer benefit queries.

For more information about this service and our other venues call free phone 0808 1783277.

## Advertising costs in Sedgefield News

have been kept at the same level for some years - good value for their impact at local level. Here's an idea of costs. The 6x4cm box is £20 per entry. 6cm wide x 8cm high is £40. Other heights priced pro rata. A large box (quarter page) is £85. We can insert & deliver your inserts for £140. These prices are for advertisers in our distribution area.

**Companies from outside the area pay 25% extra.**

Send your advertising copy to **[sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com)**

## Contractual Statement

The person or organisation placing an advertisement in Sedgefield News shall pay to Sedgefield Development Trust Limited (SDT) the total of the agreed charges for the setting, printing and distribution of the Advertisement (the Service) within 30 days of receipt of the SDT's invoice.

SDT may issue an invoice at any time after the provision of the Service.



# March Events Diary

A FREE service to non-commercial organisations

## Residents' Forum

**Monday 1st March**

at 7pm, Fletcher Room, Parish Hall

## Local History Society

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

**Monday 1st March**

Alan Morgan

Newcastle - from tropical

swamp to modern city

*All welcome*

## Sedgefield Gardening Club

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 2nd March**

A talk by Mr M Hughes on

**Durham Botanical Gardens**

## Sedgefield WI

7.15pm, Parish Hall

**Wednesday 3rd March**

Jenny Medhurst on "Traidcraft"

Members' competition -

a glass paperweight

*Visitors welcome - fee £2*

## The CeddesFolk Session

Ceddesfeld Hall from 8pm

**Wednesday 3rd March**

*All acoustic players welcome*

## Bingo @ Ceddesfeld Hall

**Saturday 6th March**

Eyes down at 7.30pm

## Sedgefield District R.U.F.C.

at Simonside Farm, Garmondsway

*(just down from Hare & Hounds)*

**6th March 7.30pm - 1am**

A night in the Barn with

**'Kenny the Sax'**

Tickets £10 - on sale now from

the Nags Head, Sedgefield

Free hog roast & raffle ticket

Draft bar on site

## EDDIE'S @ 4

**Sunday 7th March**

4pm service for 2-6 year olds in the

Welcome Room at St Edmund's

## Sedgefield Methodist

**Wives & Friends**

**Mon 8th March**

Derrick Lofthouse

**& Monday 22nd March**

Trip to India, Joan Seymour

*New members always welcome*

## Ladies Club

8pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

**Tuesday 9th March - Lirica**

*New members welcome*

## Sedgefield Show

**Thursday 11th March**

8pm in the Nag's Head

*Everyone welcome*

## Mobile Movies

Parish Hall at 6.30pm

**Friday 12th March**

All ages welcome (under 8s

need accompanying adult)

*For more details call 620042*

## Cricket Club Quiz Night

**Saturday 13th March**

Quiz master Ron Hughes

Bar open 7.30

*Everyone welcome*

## Great Wine Tasting Evening

**"FIESTA CHILENA"**

Ceddesfeld Hall 7:30 prompt

**Saturday 13th March**

7 Chilean Wine Tastings

Two Free Glasses Wine, Themed

Food, Quiz, Prize for Best Costume

**Tickets £13** (until 5th March)

from Ceddesfeld Bar & Abbracciare

## Farmers' Market

**Sunday 14th March**

From 9.30 - 1.30 on the Green

## NE Concertina Players

**Sunday 14th March**

at 2pm in Ceddesfeld Hall

## Family History Group

(branch of Cleveland FHS)

**Monday 15th March**

7:45pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

**"Benjamin Flounders"** by Jim Fox

For more information call 620367

*Visitors are always welcome*

## Ferryhill, Sedgefield &

**District Flower Club**

**Tuesday 16th March**

Parish Hall at 7.30pm

North West Area Demonstrator

Zena Stone **"Into Springtime"**

*All Welcome*

## Sedgefield Players

present Gordon Steel's

**Kick in the Baubles**

7.30 pm in Sedgefield Parish Hall

**Thursday 18th, Friday 19th &**

**Saturday 20th March**

Tickets £6/£5 concs from

Abbracciare, members of the

Players or call 620091 or 621000

*The play contains material of an*

*adult nature & some strong language*

## Live Music Night

8pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

**Saturday 20th March**

Main guest: Mad Agnes - superb

trio from USA. Also featuring:

Maxine & Laurie Crallan,

Andy McLaughlin and the John

Wrightson Band.

£9 inc buffet. Tel 621347

*Call 620090 to hire the Cricket Club*

## Sedgefield Wildlife Group

**Thursday 25th March**

7.45pm in the Parish Hall

**Darlington's Wildspaces**

By Phil Roxby

*New members always welcome*

## Serene & Sparky!

A concert with Lirica & SLYC

**Saturday 27th March**

7.30pm in St John Fisher Church

Tickets £5/£4 incl. glass of wine

from Sedgefield Post Office,

or call Katy on 623493

## Winterton Wayfarers

**Sundays in March**

7th: Sunderland Bridge, 11 miles

14: Eaglescliffe Yarm Aislaby, 5.5m

21: Cockfield Fell/Butterknowle 7m

28: Mickleton Egglesstone 7miles

Meet village hall car park at 9.30am

Information: 620034 or 620434

## Hardwick Park events

Contact 01740 621 505 or

hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk

**Saturday 13th March**

1pm - 3pm Families, Free

Track & Field: *Identify tracks & make*

*casts of their prints. Book in advance*

**Sunday 21st March**

10am - 3pm Age 16+ £5.00

Willow Weaving: *Create a willow plant*

*trainer. Please call to book in advance*

## Sedgefield Library

**Tickle Time** for babies - 2.15-3pm

Mondays 1st, 15th & 29th March

**Rhyme Time** under 5s - 10-11am

Weds 3rd, 17th & 31st March

**Toy Library** 10-11am

Wednesday 10th & 24th March

**Book Circle** Reading Group 2pm,

Wednesday 24th March

## Round Table

**1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays**

Sporting, social and charitable

events - new members welcome

**Contact Rob on 629079**

www.sedgefieldroundtable.org.uk

## Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat and latest Fishburn

gossip! Fridays 9.30am - 12

Tea, coffee, toast & conversation

*All welcome*

## Sing for Health & Fun

Methodist Church Hall, North End

I - 2pm, **2nd & 4th Wednesdays**

## Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church

**Mon - Thurs 9:15 - 11:45**

Ofsted inspected

Spaces for children 2+ years

Contact 621071 or 620572

### Growing pains - and pleasure (ALLOTMENT GARDEN WANTED!)

For 3 years I have grown vegetables in their wonderful back garden allotment, but now Betty and Jim Amlin are moving to a bungalow and the house is to be sold! The arrangement we had was great. I kept the weeds down, well some of them anyway and in return I cultivated a wide range of crops from potatoes to parsnips to squash and sugar snaps. Good exercise, sustainable and good craic with the people who leaned over the wall "good soil that isn't it" or "eeh I didn't know that was youa garden!" Well I guess all good things must come to an end. Betty and Jim and I will have to go back to buying our veg from the Coop! So this letter is to thank them for helping to keep me to keep fit and fed but also to ask if anyone has got a garden that is too big for them and you don't mind a Mr McGregor at the bottom of it on occasion give me a call.

*Geoff Hughes, tel. 01740 620928  
Mob 07709960337*

*email geoffhughes36@tiscali.co.uk*  
PS. There are others out there who would love some land to cultivate. Perhaps Sedgefield could start its own land bank, à la Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall. What do you think?

### Happy return!

We would like to thank all the people who helped us to find our cat Holly who went missing from The Meadows on February 4th. Many friends and neighbours searched their properties and many other people who saw our posters also helped to keep a lookout for her. After receiving phone calls from kind neighbours who had spotted her, we got her back home with her 'little brother' within three days. It was heart warming that we got so much support and shows that we live in a place with real community spirit.

*Stephen and Jean McCabe*



## Your Letters

### More on dog fouling

I and many other people I have talked to, agree with the lady who spoke out about Dog Fouling in last month's Sedgefield News.

Our village footpaths and grassed areas are littered with dog dirt, making walking with children or pushing a buggy constantly difficult. It is unbelievable that so-called Dog Loving owners can leave their dog's poo behind, when they can obtain Doggy Bags FREE from the Town Council office or Library (of course any bag would do!)

Even the area on either side of the path across the show field seems to be regarded as a dogs' toilet. Can you imagine the germs that are present in these areas, together with toxocara worm eggs, if the dogs are not regularly wormed. The eggs can remain active for up to two or more years and re-infest other dogs or, if ingested by humans, particularly children, can cause blindness.

It makes me sad that people have the cheek to encourage their dogs to foul in view of elderly people's flats at Homebryth House. Do they not realise that this view may be all the residents see each day and watch this happening several times a day, every day. Maybe this would be a good viewpoint to take photographic evidence, of those owners who do not clear up after their dogs, for the County Council to prosecute.

It is a privilege to live in such a pretty village, with many grassed areas, some preserved for hundreds of years, not just to be used as a dogs toilet. I have noticed a woman regularly allowing her dog to foul on the village green in the same spot, at the same time each day, telling her children to go on to school while she cleans it up. This dog seems intelligent to regard this area as a place for it to perform; don't you think it could be trained to perform in their own

back garden instead?

An incident happened to a three year old child in my care, the week the snow began to thaw. He is one of those children who loves to run and the heavy snow had prevented him doing so. When he saw the footpath before him, at last, clear of snow, he ran with excitement, slipping in one pile of dog poo then falling in another. He was covered and very upset. Now I ask you, does he have the right to use the footpath, or is it for what some dog owners leave behind?

I am pleading with those dog owners who do not already do so, to pick up their dog's waste and dispose of it responsibly. Then we will have a cleaner and healthier village for us all to enjoy.

*Julie Latheron*

*Editor's note: For dog fouling problems you should contact Community Warden **Tim Spearey** on 01740 623654 or via Chilton Control Room - 01388 721351*

### AJ Academy of Performing Arts

We would just like to say what a joy it has been to hold our DramaWorks group on a Saturday morning at the parish hall. Parents and students alike comment on what a lovely environment it is to work in.

When looking at developing our new business 'AJ Academy of Performing Arts', which will be offering more specific classes for example ballet, tap and glee club to name a few, we looked at various venues to use on a Monday night but after a great deal of deliberation we decided to base the new business at the parish hall as its open and friendly atmosphere could not be beaten.

We would like to thank everybody who works at the parish council for their continued help and support and look forward to another successful year with you.

*Angela Horwood*  
AJ Academy of Performing Arts

### Deadline March 15th

**for articles, letters or adverts in the April 2010 edition of  
Sedgefield News. Please send your copy to  
sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com**

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

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