



Sedgefield NEWS

March 2012

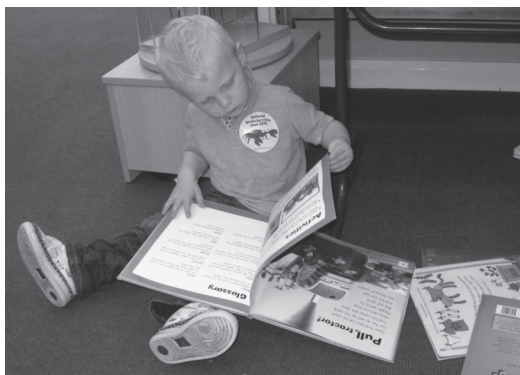
Reduction to Library hours: your response could make a difference

Did you know Sedgefield library hours are to be reduced to 20 hours a week? In 2010 it became clear that in order to keep our libraries we needed to "Use them or Lose them". I encouraged everyone to fill in the library questionnaire. Now the county, once again, is asking our opinions on the library service with another questionnaire, but they have already decided that Sedgefield library will only be allowed to open for 20 hours a week.

This decision is based on the size of the town or village and NOT on library usage. At present we have lots of oversubscribed activities which will have to cease, either through lack of time or the library staff having to cope with their workload compressed into a shorter week. Put into practical terms, our library will probably be open for one late night and a Saturday morning, which will leave eight hours to lose, divided between the rest of the week (one more day or two mornings?) At a time when recession is having such a devastating effect on people, it's more important to retain our library hours. Great social reformers in the past recognised the importance of free libraries to benefit people's health and welfare. **Our library does so much more than lend books.**

It may be possible for the residents of Sedgefield to have some influence though. Shildon Library appealed and has been successful and will be open for 30 hours a week. Please call in and fill in the new survey, and add your comments to what is a very biased questionnaire. Raise our concerns with local councillors and **generally make a FUSS!**

Thanks to Pam Lamb for raising this issue.
The Librarian adds: These changes are quite significant, especially to Sedgefield Library. Questionnaires and copies of the summary documents detailing the proposed changes, including changes to Sedgefield Library, can be obtained from the library or you can respond online via the DCC website - www.durham.gov.uk/libraryconsultation

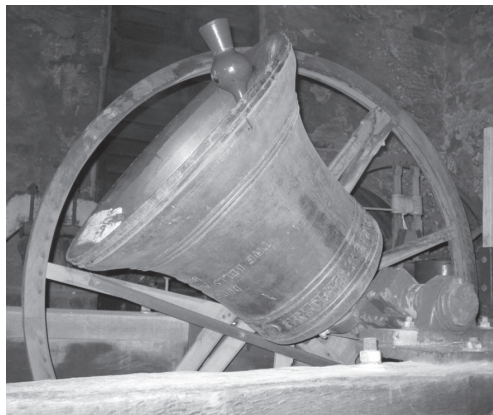


Bell ringing at St Edmund's

Has anyone noticed that the bells have often sounded differently on occasion over recent months?

There are six bells in the tower at St Edmund's but since one of our members relocated recently and others move on to University during term time, we only have 5 regular ringers now.

We are all volunteers who give up our time on a regular basis to practise on a Thursday evening, for any Saturday weddings we are asked to ring for and most importantly for calling the congregation to worship every Sunday between 9:30 & 10am.



We do ring on other occasions, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve being two regular fixtures, and we are occasionally joined by teams of visiting ringers to swell the ranks.

We need six people to ring all six bells. If one of the ringers has a commitment elsewhere, it leaves us short. We can chime the bells but this gives a much quieter and less resounding effect which sounds quite different from the normal sound.

The only way we can provide the full service is to recruit some more people to the team; as with all voluntary groups, the more members, the lighter the load for everyone. If you would like to give it a go and join our merry band of ringers we would very much welcome some new folk.

Bell ringing is a hobby that anyone can enjoy as long as you can get up the tower! It provides physical exercise and mental stimulation. There is no requirement to worship at St Edmund's, or indeed anywhere. You would need to undergo a short period of training with Janet, our Tower Captain, but it is fun and as a team, we don't take ourselves too seriously. This would take place on our regular Thursday evening practice nights, between 7:30 and 9 pm.

There is an element of commitment but we are conscious that everyone leads very busy lives and wouldn't want fear of not being able to attend every single week to put you off. The more trained ringers we have the easier it would be to devise a rota. Ring Janet Tiplady on 621855 if you would like to give it a try.

The Cherry Stones

Musings from a seasoned people-watcher

Late one afternoon, not paying much attention, Christmas in full swing, I had just left my usual refuge feeling replete, warmed and pleased with myself, for no good reason. I was heading to the hole in the wall to replenish my depleted purse for whatever needs tomorrow might bring. Suddenly I hear shoes, in a hurry, rhythmically slapping the pavement. I looked up and just had time to turn my back to the wall as two rather large muscular young men with gallons of testosterone sloshing around their cardio vascular system, jogged by, chatting, without wheezing and in blissful ignorance of the rest of the world. I overheard an intriguing snippet of that conversation "only eleven more payments and it's ours" they quickly passed beyond my hearing. I wondered, eleven more what monthly, weekly, annual payments?

The speaker said, "It's ours" so there is a significant other in this scenario; the mystery deepens. The young man spoke with considerable feeling in his voice so whatever it was, he was looking forward to it being his or rather theirs, with some pleasure. This is one of the problems with accidental eavesdropping total frustration. I mean what in heaven's name is 'it'? Some of you would probably just forget it but I have the type of mind that loves a puzzle and will mither on until I have a satisfactory answer, at least satisfactory to me! However it is interesting to think that we are all prepared to give up non-returnable hours of our precious lives to raise money we then gladly give to another to ensure ownership of some inanimate object that we must have. That which people will suffer any privation, any amount of time with the patience of a St Jerome and will move Heaven and Earth to possess from the trivial to the grandiose never ceases to amaze. I still can't help wondering what IT might be!

Film Thursdays

at Bishop Auckland Town Hall

March 1st: "Beginners"

8th: "One Day"

15th: "The Princess of Montpensier"

22nd: "A Lonely Place to Die"

29th: "Jane Eyre"

Join our **Film Club** for special offers & a chance to have a say on films shown.

Free to join; just fill in a membership form when you next visit.

To book tickets, contact Bishop Auckland Town Hall - **01388 602610**

Email: bath@durham.gov.uk

GIVE BLOOD

You'll be amazed at what it can do

Each donation can potentially save the lives of three adults or seven babies.

It can help mothers and babies who suffer complications during childbirth, or be used to help premature babies, to replace blood lost during surgery and to treat patients with cancer and blood diseases like leukaemia.

Anyone wanting to donate for the first time should be aged 17-65, weighing at least 50 kg (7 stone 12lbs) and in general good health.

You can donate blood on

Monday 26th March at

Sedgefield Racecourse between

2.30 - 3.45pm & 4.30 - 7pm

Prepare your bears to JUMP!

Sedgefield Primary School PTFA and Friends of St. Edmund's hold their teddy bear parachute event from St.

Edmund's Church tower on

Saturday 17th March from 11am.

As well as parachuting teddy bears there will be a variety of stalls, activities and refreshments.

Jumps can be purchased in advance; £2 for the first jump and £1.50 for subsequent jumps or on the day for £2.50 and £2.

Parachutes are provided; you only need to bring your teddy!

For further information or to purchase jumps in advance contact

Becky Rowe on 629068

Notes from Sedgefield Veterans

For our **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** Year, in conjunction with the Town Council, we are flying the Union Flag daily to commemorate her Ascension to the Throne in 1952.

For the past 3 years, the Veterans have been saying "when you see the flag flying..." Now it is "when you see the picture boards on display, there will be a **Repatriation Service** that day."

We will continue to hold the services until the deaths cease.

God Save the Queen!

Have you ever thought about playing Croquet?

Croquet is played on a lawn or 'court' of dimensions 35 x 28 yards. Almost all croquet is played on completely flat, closely-mown fine grass (similar to bowls). Artificial surfaces, such as 'Astro-turf' or cinder, and indoor carpets are rare.

There are six cast-iron hoops set firmly into the ground, and a peg. The layout never varies. Balls, four to a game, each weigh one pound and have a diameter which, in top-class competition, is only $\frac{1}{32}$ " less than the inside width of a hoop. Mallets typically weigh three pounds. Modern materials improve durability and balance, but substantial change to their playing characteristics through design is banned.

There are two main variants of the game played in the UK: Golf Croquet and Association Croquet (International Rules). In Golf Croquet (or 'the sequence game') the objective of each player is to get his ball(s) through each hoop first. When the first hoop is scored all players move on to the second hoop, and so on. Each turn comprises only one stroke. The merit of Golf Croquet is simplicity and an analogy between it and 'Association Croquet' is like that between draughts and chess. Interestingly, the nation most adept at Golf Croquet is Egypt. Cairo's many clubs play floodlit croquet in front of sizeable spectator crowds.

In Association Croquet a large number of different strokes are used to achieve various aims. Once one ball is struck ('roqueted') it allows two further strokes - the croquet stroke, where the player's ball is placed next to the ball roqueted and both are struck, and a continuation stroke, in which another ball may be roqueted or a hoop run. In this way breaks are established and it is not uncommon for a good player to take a ball through every hoop in one turn. In Association Croquet both of a player's balls have to go through every hoop (that is twelve - each is run in both directions) and hit the peg to win.

At the highest level, Association Croquet has complex tactics that involve 'peeling' the partner ball (where a player's first ball will attempt to strike the second ball through its own hoop). One description of croquet in common use is 'snooker on grass', since the range of skills and tactics, allied to superb hand-eye co-ordination, is similar to that of snooker.

It is Association Croquet that is mainly played at the highest levels. There are regular World Championships and an international team event played irregularly between the top nations (in 2000 Great Britain won, from New Zealand, USA and Australia).

The third variation belongs exclusively to North America, where a significant variation to 'International Rules' evolved. It differs from Association Croquet in the same way that rugby league differs from rugby union. The skills required for both are transferable, with US and Canadian players, hungry for international competition, willing to adopt the standard version.

Croquet owes much of its recent growth in popularity to having a well-developed handicapping system. As in golf, once a newcomer to the sport has grasped the basics he/she will be given a handicap of about 24. The best players will be on scratch or better. Each point on the handicap scales allows a player to claim a free turn (called a 'bisque') at any point during a game. So, two players, be they male or female, 10 years old or 90, fit or disabled, can play each other off their own handicaps, on equal terms, with no quarter given and none taken.

It is perhaps worth noting that both forms of croquet are games where men and women compete on level terms. Because momentum is imparted to the balls by swinging the mallet, physical strength is not a requirement - skill is the main factor.

Your local club, Middlesbrough Croquet Club, is based at Albert Park in Middlesbrough where it has the use of three bowling greens. The season starts in early April but the club also has an indoor facility in Norton, during the winter. If you would like to try the game, contact John Fitzpatrick, 01740 621431 or email johnfitzpatrick@melgrove.freeserve.co.uk

John Fitzpatrick - possibly Sedgefield's most avid croquet player - on 'roqueting' good form last season



Community SAFETY



Sedgefield Village Neighbourhood & Crime Watch Panel

Apologies to Members

It was with much regret that the first Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch meeting this year had to be cancelled at short notice, on the day of the meeting, due to unforeseen circumstance.

Chairman Ken Saiger sends his sincere apologies to all members who regularly attend and especially to anyone who made the trip out who did not receive the Police Telephone / internet message issued to members mid-afternoon, cancelling the meeting. Please be assured that we fully expect to hold the next planned Panel meeting on April 10th, as normal.

In the absence of being able to raise issues directly with the Police, Local & Durham Councils as is normal at our Panel meeting, Chairman Ken Saiger strongly urges everyone – not just members – to raise any and all issues (littering, dog fouling, damage, safety and anti-social behaviour) directly, by telephoning at least, the relevant authority. See contact details below.

For this is the only way to resolve issues around our village; get it recorded!

Useful telephone numbers

To report concerns, seek advice or pass on information to Police, call **101** (Try to keep notes of the conversation & obtain an incident number)

Durham County Council Wardens: 0300 123 70 70 - all reports or complaints need to be logged via Customer Services initially.

Police Community Liaison Officer, Neil Langthorne: 01325 742755

Police Crime Prevention Officer, Mark Pheasant: 01325 742714

Sedgefield Town Council: 621273

Jottings Sedgefield Residents' Forum notes for February 2012

There was no Forum meeting in February as we are now meeting bi-monthly. Issues from January meeting will be updated and progressed at the March Forum. But in the meantime there are a couple of important things to note:

If you read this in time, don't forget the Together Partnership meeting on February 27th at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall where you can have your input into what development is acceptable to our village. Whilst this is particularly in relation to Durham County Councils (DCC) proposals it is important to remember that Livin (formally Sedgefield Borough Homes) is currently consulting on what to do with Thurlow Grange sheltered accommodation. Our whole community needs to consider our future needs and all opinions are important.

The Forum has contacted our AAP (Area Action Partnership) to ask for some up to date information on how Sedgefield has benefited from AAP work since it started in 2009. We hope to have this update for the March meeting, unfortunately, to date, no one from the AAP is able to attend to give any information. There has been information in the press indicating that our AAP are to introduce initiatives to give local people more say in how some of the money is spent. This has been happening in other AAP areas but is reliant on people attending appropriate meetings where they can vote. Watch out for further information, Sedgefield needs input into this process.

DCC have put in a planning application to start tree work on the Cunningham Court/Neville Drive woodland area which they bought with s106 monies. To date we have had no further information from DCC regarding their intentions and the promised consultation with residents.

And finally, a good result in DCC putting a Noise Abatement Notice on the Hunt Ball Event at the Racecourse on February 11th. The noise was controlled and the event did not result in lots of people being disturbed. It just shows that enforcement can work and save a lot of problems. It has been suggested that there should be a noise abatement zone around the village to enable all potential noise disturbances to be better controlled but the Town Council do not agree with this approach – what do you think?

Come along to the next Forum meeting at 7pm on March 5th in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall to hear and discuss issues affecting our village.

PC Todd reports

Recently anti social behaviour has increased, mainly due to the weather. Reports of youths throwing snowballs at moving vehicles/house windows etc. are of concern to us. Young people need to understand the distress they cause to the person on the receiving end, let alone the dangers and damage these ice balls may cause.

Recent crimes include a Burglary of a unit in the industrial estate where their efforts caused a lot of damage and all for an empty cash register! The Hardwick Park Visitor Centre was also a target for burglars.

A word of caution for anyone using **Barclay's Bank Cash Machine** - be careful! On two occasions, only two days apart, a skimming machine has been placed over the cash slot. This prevents money being dispensed. Once you have walked away someone comes over and removes the device allowing the money to come flowing out. If this has happened to you please seek advice from the Bank. If you suspect a cash machine to have any type of skimming device attached, do not use the machine and contact Durham Police on telephone number 101. *

CCTV has been obtained of the males responsible and circulated between police forces.

Two males were arrested in Darlington recently for doing exactly the same thing.

Until next time. Keith.

* The easy new local police contact number. Of course, in a real emergency, call 999.

Pub Watch

A meeting was held recently in Ceddesheld Hall.

One male received a 3 month ban from all member premises for his unacceptable behaviour which included Assault, Damage and verbal abuse. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Two other persons, one male and one female, received warning letters regarding their unacceptable conduct.

P.A.C.T.

At a recent Residents Forum meeting it was agreed that the beat team would continue monitoring vehicles travelling along Spring Lane. You have been warned!

The beginning of our Learning Journey

Children from the Foundation Stage at Hardwick Primary School enjoy some first hand experience at their local Post Office in Sedgefield.

Nursery and Reception have spent this half term learning about the Postal Service. We have used the internet to look at maps of where we live, finding out about the route our postman might take, as well as learning about postcodes and addresses. We posted a letter to ourselves in order to find out how long it would take to return to us, and to get a better understanding of the journey a letter takes. We were fascinated to find out about the different sorting machines!

We would like to thank all the staff at Sedgefield Post Office for their support. They offered all of the children a warm welcome and allowed them to explore behind the scenes in the Post Office where they stamped their own letters and even got weighed! Since then the children have loved playing in our Post Office role play areas, bringing us daily deliveries dressed up as post people.



Big changes to our bus services

After Arriva withdrew or revised some loss making services, Durham County Council Durham County Council has worked with the company to resolve issues where bus users have particular problems. The original changes and subsequent revisions which might affect readers are outlined here.

Service 55 : Durham-Coxhoe-Wheatley Hill-Trimdon-Sedgefield; withdrawn entirely.

Service 57 : Durham-Coxhoe-Kelloe-Cassop-Peterlee fills in some links to and from Durham, principally catering for work and student movements. During morning and afternoon peak times some buses now start from or finish at Fishburn, partly replacing service 55 journeys.

Service 69 : Tudhoe-Spennumoor-Ferryhill-Sedgefield; withdrawn entirely.

Service 33 : Ferryhill-Sedgefield-Hartlepool revised to run via Bishop Middleham, the only community in the area facing the loss of all services except subsidised evening service 56A. This revision ensures direct hourly links are provided, similar to the former service 69 to Ferryhill & Sedgefield (33 continues from Sedgefield to Hartlepool).

Service 33 changes again on 19th March to run **Bishop Middleham-Sedgefield via Fishburn**, restoring a service at Fishburn Terrace where there were lengthy walks to reach a bus. Unfortunately there is insufficient time to route the service via Moorside Crescent (formerly on the route of service 69). The Link2 Dial a Ride service is available to anyone with disabilities or poor health that means they cannot walk to a bus stop, and to anyone where walks are over 600m.

More information available online at www.durham.gov.uk/busservicechanges

Sedgefield in Bloom

This year, Sedgefield has entered Britain, as well as Northumbria, in Bloom. At the recent launch in Norwich, Chairman Howard Smith met the two Britain in Bloom judges who will be coming to Sedgefield in August. Jon Wheatley, chairman of South West in Bloom, involved in horticulture all his life, also writes and broadcasts on gardening and has won several awards at Chelsea and Hampton Court. Local man Rae Beckwith worked for Gateshead Council for 27 years, is chairman of Houghall Agricultural College and knows Sedgefield well. An official at both Gateshead and Harrogate Flower Shows, he also runs a daffodil nursery which has, to date, bred 25 new cultivars.

You may have already noticed Bloomers out and about in the village; weeding, planting, clearing leaves, litter picking, replanting against the newly repaired church wall. Major work has gone into improving paths and raised beds in the community garden at Winterton allotment, soon to be completed with a smart new shed. Behind the scenes, maintenance work continues, plants are ordered, new projects discussed and fund raising planned. Regular Bloom coffee mornings have proved a great success and this month's country and western evening was an instant sell-out.

Sedgefield in Bloom is an important part of celebrations for Sedgefield 700, an opportunity to really show off our beautiful village. In these times of government funding cuts and job losses, voluntary muscle is even more vital. If you would like to help in any way, please ring 620091 or email norma@neal.myzen.co.uk. Or just turn up on Wednesdays at 10am with your trowel and gardening gloves. Spare plants are always very welcome, particularly this year, vegetables to grow on in the community garden. Please hand donations in to the council offices. For details of forthcoming events, see the sponsor board outside the parish hall.

SPORTS UPDATE

Send your sports news to chrisjlines@aol.com

As I type this, Sedgefield is gearing up for this year's Ball Game, for some people the biggest fixture on the sporting calendar. Always an entertaining afternoon, the event is sure to offer a wealth of stories that will do the rounds of the pubs for the weeks that follow.

Looking at Sedgefield's ever busier sporting calendar, I reckon the Ball Game has got more competition than ever for its pre-eminent position. From the increasing number of established sports fixtures, plus new additions like the recent cyclo cross event and the imminent Sedgefield Parkrun, we really are blessed with a huge range of opportunities for participation or spectating. And in 2012, the Sedgefield Village Games will also make their debut, making this a year of unparalleled sporting excitement in this neck of the woods. Bring it on!

Sedgefield Village Games

There was great news for the Sedgefield Village Games in January when the London 2012 Organising committee recognised the events that will take place in Sedgefield this summer with the award of 'Inspire Mark' (see right). This allows the Sedgefield Village Games to associate itself with London 2012 (and use various logos) and for the events to receive recognition as the games draw near. Plans are well underway for events in June and July to celebrate the Sedgefield Village Games. Details of the Olympic torch relay and who will have the honour of carrying the torch through Sedgefield will be announced in March.

There aren't many days left to go! To find out more about the Sedgefield Village Games visit www.sedgefieldgames.com

Sedgefield Village Games committee would like to remind everyone that it needs to hear from anyone under 16, or their parent, grandparent or carer, who is eligible for a memento of this special year to get in touch by e-mailing ean2005@hotmail.co.uk. Details were published in last month's Sedgefield News.

This is particularly important for pre-school children who are not at nursery and who will not be advised via an organisation.

Mementos will mainly be handed out through local schools and clubs.

Football

Sedgefield St. Edmund's F.C. have reached the semi finals of the Durham County Sunday Cup for the first time in the club's history after a thrilling 3-1 victory against Newton Aycliffe WMC. Everyone involved with the club is looking forward to a big game challenge against either Sunderland Plains Farm or Kelloe WMC. Unfortunately, Anthony Smyth won't be available for the rest of the season, after suffering a broken fibia and fractured ankle during a recent match. All at St. Edmund's (and Sedgefield's other Sunday league teams) wish Anthony a speedy recovery.

There's still time to buy tickets for Sedgefield NETPark FC's 10th anniversary celebration, with John Beresford and Eric Gates, at Sedgefield Cricket Club on Friday 30 March.

Tickets for the event are £20 each and include pie, peas and chips. For more information and to buy a ticket contact David Ryder on 07515 020766.

Squash

Sedgefield Squash Club has received funding to run a comprehensive series of coaching sessions throughout the club, for both squash and racketball. The sessions will be open to the whole community and aimed at all ages and levels. It is likely that sessions will be run on Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings (juniors), Saturday afternoons (adults), Sunday mornings (racketball), and hopefully a daytime midweek course (adults).

The courses will last for 16 weeks, with the first six weeks free. More details will be published in next month's Sedgefield News. In the meantime, please contact Chris Rowsby on 621125 to register interest or find out more.

March sees the launch of www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk - the club's revamped website. The site will be regularly updated with news, details of forthcoming events, and results. The club is also commissioning a state-of-the-art electronic court booking system which will allow members to book courts via the website, in addition to booking at the club.

On 24th March, Sedgefield Squash Club will run a number of events to raise money for Sports Relief. In the morning, there will be a squash 'blitz' for junior members. In the afternoon there will be an adult squash 'blitz' using old style wooden rackets (with towelling grips!), and in the evening there will be a quiz and social event at the Nag's Head. Please see the website and club noticeboards for further details.



Croquet is featured on page 3.

If you are involved in any other sports which suffer from poor coverage in the press, we would love to hear from you. Contact

chrisjlines@aol.com

Sedgefield Parkrun

The secret is out. Sedgefield is going to get its own Parkrun, which will make its debut at 9.00am on Saturday 17th March, in Hardwick Park. It won't be a race, it won't be a competition, it will simply be a free, organised run for anyone who turns up. That's the beautiful simplicity of the Parkrun concept. You can run on your own or bring the kids (and/or the dog), and enjoy the experience of a bit of exercise at your own pace (run, jog or walk - it's up to you) in a lovely setting.

The national team behind Parkrun (a not for profit organisation) reckons that we've got a fantastic course in Sedgefield, that's not only perfect for a run for the local enthusiasts, but will also prove popular with Parkrun 'tourists' from far and wide.

And after Sedgefield's first Parkrun, the run will be held every Saturday from then on, at the same time and in the same place, so you can dip in and out (or volunteer to help) as often as you like.

To find out more about Parkrun visit www.parkrun.org.

Sedgefield Harriers

There are number of changes taking place to the senior and junior sessions offered by Sedgefield Harriers, with the intention of improving the coaching and training offered by the club and placing more focus on performance as well as participation. Full details can be found on the Harriers web site - www.sedgefieldharriers.co.uk - under the 'About Us' tab.

This is a really good time for runners to be involved with the club as the Harriers aim to build on the success of the national club awards they won last year with UK and England Athletics. The 2012 London Olympics is also expected to boost participation in athletics and the club is ensuring that it is ready for that.

The Harriers are also focusing on increasing the numbers of volunteers and coaches involved with the club and would particularly like to hear from parents of junior Harriers, students and young people who are looking for a worthwhile volunteering opportunity, and anyone not in work who has time on their hands and may wish to boost their CV. See the 'Opportunities' tab on the web site for more details and to be inspired. There has never been a better time to get involved and help the club build on its recent success.

Meanwhile, runners from Sedgefield Harriers went in three different directions on Sunday 12th February. Some – David Greatorex, Graeme Addison, Ean Parsons, David Walker, Matthew Jones, Gail Bell and Ellen Tipple - took to the fells for the second race in the club's 2012 Grand Prix Series with a run at Castleton Beacon in Eskdale. Some took on the Ann Johnson Absent Friends Race at Coulby Newham – the Harriers' Jonna Baines was second, behind winner James Askew (an Aycliffe Running Club member who is from Sedgefield), while Jason Catterall, Tracy Brown, Sue Smith and Mike Wood also battled the mud. Meanwhile, Clair Budd once again displayed her masochistic tendencies with a run in the rather hilly Liversedge Half Marathon.

Time is ticking away in the run up to the spring marathon season and a number of Harriers are in training for the London Marathon in April and the new Marathon of the North in Sunderland in May. February and March are times when those in training need to build up the miles, taking on long runs, which is always helped by improving light and weather conditions. Anyone hoping to take part in the Great North Run will probably have received confirmation of their place recently and although it is not until September, it is never too early to be planning training and the wide range of sessions that the Harriers has offers a great way to get in the habit of regular running with the benefit of company.

Junior Harriers

Ten junior Harriers made up the lions share of the County Durham Athletics Network Team which competed in the Aviva Sports Hall Athletics competition at Seaburn on 15th January.

Aviva Sportshall Fun in Athletics Festival is a national competition which provides many children with their first major competitive experience. The emphasis is on fun, participation and competing for the team! Representative teams from each of the English counties compete in regional festivals across England. Sportshall is where several Olympians such as Kelly Sotherton started their Athletics career. Ten U11 Junior Harriers helped form the County Durham Team at this Year's Aviva Sportshall North -East final at Seaburn Leisure Centre. Durham were up against Tyne & Wear, Tees Valley and Northumberland and came a close 2nd in both Boys & Girls events. The Junior Harriers who performed so well for the County were Aimee Barlow, Ellie Davison, Eleanor James, Erin Peters, Tom Burkhill, Adam Playle, Tom Nadin, Robbie Till, Jake Tomys and Liam Welsh.

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

Right: Graeme Addison at the Castleton Beacon Fell Race



March Events Diary

March in the Library

World Book Day

Thursday 1st March

Pirate crafts after school FREE

Craft & Chat: 10-12pm

Tuesdays 6th & 20th

Tickle Time: 2.15-3pm

Mondays 12th & 26th

Rhyme Time: 10-11am

Wednesdays 14th & 28th

Public consultation on the future of Sedgefield Library - see page 1

Digital Imaging

Course begins at Ceddesfield Hall, 1.30 – 15.30 pm

Thursday 1st March

Information from Wendy Gill, 620206

Veterans Coffee morning

Friday 2nd March

Including Tombola in the Fletcher Room,

Parish Hall from 10am-12noon

Fundraising towards Sedgefield

Veterans "Spitfire Day" in July

Everyone welcome

Bingo at Ceddesfeld Hall

Saturday 3rd March

Eyes down at 7.30pm

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Saturday 3rd March

8pm start. Presented by Tony McGee

Eddies@4

Sunday 4th March

Informal service for 2-6 year olds

4pm, Welcome Room, St Edmund's

Contact J Rowsby, 621125

Methodist Wives & Friends

Monday 5th March

Cornwall slides - David Rodway

& Monday 19th March

Durham Cathedral talk - Maureen Martin

Local History Society

Monday 5th March

Peter Rowe: From Bogs to Barrows -

Prehistoric Burial Rites

New members welcome

Sedgefield Gardening Club

Tuesday 6th March

7.30pm at Ceddesfeld Hall

AGM and Pie & Peas supper

All welcome

Sedgefield WI

Wednesday 7th March

Parish Hall 7.15pm.

McMillan Nurses: Liz Cook

Members' comp: your best cold remedy

Visitors welcome, fee £2.50

Sedgefield Show

Thursday 8th March

8pm in the Nag's Head

Sedgefield Players

Present "You're Only Young Twice"

a poignant comedy by Ron Aldridge

Thursday 8th - Sat 10th March

Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets £6, concessions £5

from Tickety Boo,

Town Council offices or call 621771

Parish Hall Country Market

Friday 9th March

Farmers' Market

Sunday 11th March

NECP Concertina Workshop

Sundays 11th & 25th March

1pm Ceddesfeld Hall. All levels welcome

Contact 01642 588197

Ladies Club

Tuesday 13th March

Slides by George Nairn on Pickfords

Tuesday 27th March

Durham Cathedral.

Talk by Maureen Martin

Sedgefield Veterans

Thursday 15th March

Bi-monthly meeting in Ceddesfeld Hall

7pm. Everyone welcome

Sedgefield & District U3A

Friday 16th March

Monthly meeting 2pm, Ceddesfeld Hall

Talk by Janet Hume on the work of

Great North Air Ambulance

Come and see what we can offer

New members always welcome

Coffee Morning

and Bring & Buy Book Sale

Saturday 17th March

Methodist Church Hall 10 - 11.30am

Proceeds in aid of RNIB (supporting

Blind and partially sighted people)

Live Music Night

Saturday 17th March

7.45 pm at Sedgefield Cricket Club

Main guest Flossie : also featuring

Copperhead Still, Pat McMahon and

The John Wrightson Band

Admission £10, incl. buffet. Tel 621347

Family History Group

(Branch of Cleveland FHS)

Monday 19th March

Ceddesfeld Hall 7.45pm

A Victorian Asylum: Jack Turton

see www.sedgefieldfamilyhistory.org.uk

for details, or call S Hall on 620367

Visitors always welcome

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club

Tuesday 20th March

7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Davina Briggs demonstrates -

Wild about Weddings

Everyone welcome

This service is free to non-commercial organisations

Sedgefield Wildlife Group

Thursday 22nd March

7.45pm Parish Hall - everyone welcome

For details contact Steve Ashton on

01740 620559 sashton@teeswildlife.org

Sedgefield Inner Wheel

Spring Coffee Morning - Great coffee, delicious scones, tombola & raffle!

Friday 23rd March

10am - 12 noon in the Parish Hall

Regular Events

Bridge Club

Meets every Sunday & Tuesday at 7.30pm in

Ceddesfeld Hall. Beginners welcome. For

more information call Jen - 01740 620434

Winterton Wayfarers

Walking Group - Weekly Sunday walks, from

5 - 10 miles. Contact 620034 or 620434

Sedgefield Pop In Club

for the elderly & disabled at Ceddesfeld Hall

Join us for Tea or Coffee and biscuits on

Tuesdays 9.30 - 12; Wednesdays 10 - 12.30

Thursdays 1 - 3.30

Sedgefield Playgroup

Methodist Church, Mon-Thurs 9:15-11:45.

Spaces for children 2+ years Contact 620923

Sing for Health

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1pm in the

Methodist Church Hall

Sedgefield Handbell Ringers

Wednesdays 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall

(First week of month - Monday)

Beginners welcome, contact 621292

Rotary Club of Sedgefield

Wednesdays 7.15pm, Nag's Head

New members welcome.

Call 629070 or 620562

Round Table

Sporting, social and charitable events.

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays. New members

welcome. Contact Rob on 629079

Ceddesfeld Hall Art Group

Small, friendly group: 10-12 noon, Thursdays

Café@St Catherine's

Friendly chat & latest Fishburn gossip!

Fridays 9.30am - 12noon

Tea, coffee, toast & conversation

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

Cupcake Café

Sedgefield Community College, 10am-12,

term-time Fridays. All profits to charity

Lyrics Choirs

2 choirs welcome new members. Ceddesfeld

Hall, Fridays. 7-18yrs at 6pm; Adults 7.30pm

Please send your

April Diary dates

by 15th March to

sedgefieldnews@hotmail.com

Christmas Sicilian-style

The thought of not making mince pies by the dozen, not making Christmas cake, not agonising over what to eat on Christmas day that wasn't turkey, not cleaning a church, not hoping there was enough food for the family for the holiday period filled me with delight, as Martin agreed to spend December 2010 in Taormina, Sicily, as locum chaplain to the English church. We left on December 4th, in deep snow (-22c in Otterburn) and to the sound of piped carols in shops and flashing Christmas trees since the end of October.

In Taormina Christmas does not begin until the week immediately preceding it; there were no decorations at all on our arrival and no sign of anything until seven days before. Very gradually over the course of the week each day a little more was added to the town's decor until on Christmas Eve the last ladders were removed and the festivities could begin. I cannot really describe the decorations and photographs do not do them justice; tiny alleys were festooned with lanterns, streets were hung from side to side with greenery, trees filled with orange lights and shop windows competed with each other for originality. One which



delighted us most was a Father Christmas who trotted up and down a ladder to a house window with a full, then empty, sack. It was warm, during the day, but many of the decorations featured snow and sledges. I have a rather incongruous photo of us eating outside in the lunch time sun, closely watched by a larger than life size snowman!

As in Sedgefield there was a carol service which the children contributed to, but although it was all in English the children were all Sicilian as their English teacher wanted them to experience an English carol service; there was also an ecumenical service, but that was all in German as the Lutheran community used the English building. The music in the English church was provided, during our stay, by a young English couple of professional musicians who lived nearby, as far as I could see on fresh air and red wine, they "did the occasional concert and a bit of teaching" but appeared to have no regular income and spent much of the time running around in a clapped out old car with friends who came to stay, until they decide to go somewhere else. Their talent and irresponsibility were magnificent. I was consumed with envy - on both counts!

Throughout the week enormous bonfires were being built, one at each end of the town, and at 10pm on Christmas Eve they were lit by a town dignitary, I think it was the mayor. We were particularly amused at the fact that the dean, fully robed, sprinkled each fire with holy water and blessed it before it was lit, not enough to dampen its spirits however. The town was heaving at this point, the largest crowds we had seen up to then, everyone came out to see the bonfires and walked from one to the other through the town. Unlike England, though, nobody seemed at all aggressive as a result of over indulgence.

It was different and we enjoyed it, we even had a Shirley Valentine-type person turn up at church on Christmas morning unsuccessfully attempting to pursue her dream of moving to Sicily. She intended to spend the day walking with an egg in one pocket and a roll in the other, both purloined from her hotel breakfast. Her dream had soured, so she stayed and shared our tiny goose (sourced by our musician



friends who found themselves with three, I think it was) and panetone. I had previously believed panetone to be a rather dry cake and often wondered what the fuss was all about. I now know, and the ones with chocolate in are to die for.

We loved it but I found, despite all, that I missed the mince pies, the Christmas cake, the bustle and the panic, and I missed all my friends and family. We are booked up to return for a month next year, but this time, not at Christmas!

Alison King

YOUR Letters

I would like to thank all the people who kindly volunteered to deliver Sedgefield News to Crispin Court and Rectory Row - that slot is now full, and it's great to have some new deliverers on board.

Volunteers are always welcome to fill in for people who are on holiday, and it's nice not to have to ask the same people every time...thanks!!

Judith Edgoose

SEDGEFIELD DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Corporate & Business Mail

Company Secretary, SDT

7 Melgrove Way, Sedgefield, TS21 2JN

Email: sedgefielddevelopmenttrust@hotmail.co.uk

Sedgefieldweb: email John Fitzpatrick at sedgefieldweb@hotmail.co.uk

Community Lawyers & DIDO:

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

15th March is the DEADLINE for April News

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